

# NRHA's 36th Rural Health Policy Institute is Feb. 11-13 in Washington, D.C.

## Monday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

### *Pre-Session Day*

*All times are in EST*

#### **11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Rural Health Fellows Meeting**

*Initial training session for the new 2025 Rural Health Fellows. (Limited to incoming cohort only)*

#### **12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

##### **State Association Council Meeting**

*Meeting of the State Association Council. (Limited to current members only)*

#### **1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

##### **Rural Medical Education Meeting**

*Meeting of the Rural Medical Education Group. Open to RME conference registrants.*

#### **1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**

##### **Government Affairs Committee**

*Meeting of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee. (Limited to current members only)*

#### **2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Board of Trustees**

*Meeting of the NRHA Board of Trustees. (Limited to current Board Members only)*

#### **3:30 – 4:15 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Constituency Group Meetings**

*Meeting of NRHA Constituency Groups. Open to public.*

- *Clinical Constituency Group*
- *Federally Qualified Health Center Constituency Group*
- *Hospital and Health System Constituency Group*
- *Public Health Constituency Group*
- *Research and Education Constituency Group*
- *Rural Health Clinic Constituency Group*
- *Statewide Health Resources Constituency Group*
- *Student Constituency Group*

#### **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Rural Health Congress Meeting**

*Meeting of the NRHA Rural Health Congress. Open to public for observation.*

## Tuesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

### *Informational Sessions Day*

*All times are in EST*

#### **7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

##### **Registration**

#### **7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

##### **Continental Breakfast**

#### **8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**

##### **Your Voice. Louder!**

*Hear from NRHA's 2025 President to learn about the association's priorities in the coming year.*  
Michelle Mills, President, NRHA

#### **8:45 – 9:00 a.m.**

##### **Congressional Speakers**

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

#### **9:00 – 9:15 a.m.**

##### **Welcome**

*Kick off the Policy Institute to learn key advocacy messages for rural health.*  
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

#### **9:15 – 9:45 a.m.**

##### **Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (invited)**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
*Secretarial Nominee*

#### **9:45 – 10:15 a.m.**

##### **Rural Health Outlook under the Trump Administration**

Former Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary  
Eric Hargan

#### **10:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

##### **Associate Administrator Tom Morris**

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

#### **10:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

##### **Break**

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**10:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz (*invited*)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,  
*Administrator Nominee*

**11:00 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Fireside Chat: Looking Into the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Dan Boston, President & CEO, Health Policy Source, Inc.  
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

**11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**TBA**

Health Resources and Services Administration

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Networking Lunch (*optional*)**

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Coverage Panel: Medicaid and the Marketplace**

Lauren Aronson, Keep Americans Covered  
Joan Alker, Georgetown Center for Children and Families

**2:00 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Congressional Speakers**

Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN)  
Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV)  
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Break**

**4:00 – 4:50 p.m.**

**Breakout sessions**

**Cybersecurity for Rural Providers**

TBA

**Rural Emergency Hospitals**

Aaron Herbel, Mercy Hospital  
Mark Holmes, Cecil G Sheps Center for Health Services Research  
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

**Working with State Legislatures**

Asia Riviere, National Governors Association

Zach Snyder, Louisiana Rural Health Association  
Moderator: Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

**Rural Health Portfolio at CMS**

Darci Graves, CMS  
John Hannigan, CMS  
Brian Young, CMS

**5:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Advocacy 101**

NRHA Government Affairs team

**5:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

**State Prep Meetings**

*Time for conference participants meet by state to prepare for Hill visits.*

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**NRHA Rural Health Fellows Graduation and Reception**

*Graduation ceremony and reception to celebrate the 2024 Rural Health Fellows cohort.*

**Wednesday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Advocacy in Practice**

*All times are in EST*

**7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Registration**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:15 a.m.**

**NRHA Priorities and Advocacy Tools**

*Welcome to day two as we take our fight to Members of Congress. Learn messages and tools for advocacy.*  
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

**9:15 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Rural Health Data and Advocacy**

**10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Capitol Hill Advocacy**

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*Opportunities to meet with participants' state delegations on rural health priorities.*

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## **Rural HIT Coalition**

*Meeting of the Rural HIT Coalition. Open to the public.*

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

## **Congressional Reception**

**Thursday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**

## **Rural Health Disparities Summit**

*All times are in EST*

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

## **Continental Breakfast**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

## **Special Interest Group Breakfasts**

- *Behavioral Health*
- *Indigenous Peoples Health*
- *Veterans' Health*

**8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**

## **Rural Health Disparities Summit Kickoff**

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA Chief Policy Officer

**8:45 – 9:30 a.m.**

## **Congressional Speakers**

Rep. Buddy Carter

**9:30 – 9:50 a.m.**

## **Director Diane Hall**

Office of Rural Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**9:50 – 10:00 a.m.**

## **Break**

**10:00 – 10:50 a.m.**

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Rural Aging**

Kari Benson, Administration for Community Living  
Abby Cox, ADvancing States  
Rani Snyder, John A. Hartford Foundation

### **Medicare Advantage**

Jed Hansen, Nebraska Rural Health Association  
Kevin Stansbury, Hugo Medical Center  
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

### **State Telehealth Policy**

TBA

### **Resources for Rural Hospitals**

TBA

**11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Oral Health**

Keith Benson, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Gina Sharps, West Virginia Oral Health Coalition  
Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA  
Moderator:

### **Rural 340B Issues**

Andrew Askew, Essentia Health  
Amanda Nagrotsky, 340B Health  
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

### **Rural Residency Planning & Development**

Emily Hawes, University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
Dr. Bryan Hodge, MAHEC  
Moderator: Julie Wood, American Academy of Family Physicians

### **Future of Rural Health**

JT Douglas, West Health  
Keith Mueller, RUPRI  
Brock Slabach, NRHA