

# Agenda At-a-Glance

**RHA of TN 30th Annual Conference  
Pre-Conference November 20, 2024  
Conference November 20-22, 2024**

*30 Years Strong: Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future*

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024**

## **Pre-Conference**

### **More information to come on pre-conference sessions:**

**8:00-11:00am**            **Coordinated School Health**  
**8:00-11:00am**            **Maternal Health**  
**8:00-11:00am**            **Rural Hospitals**  
**8:00-11:00am**            **Rural Health Clinics**  
**8:00-11:00am**            **Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral Health**  
**8:00-11:00am**            **Public Health**

**11:00am**                    **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**11:30-12:30pm**            **Opening Welcome and Luncheon- Barry Cooper, RHA Board President**

**12:30pm**                    **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**12:45-1:45pm**                    **Keynote: Comparing the Health Status of Tennessee’s Rural and Urban Counties**  
**Presenter: Randy Wykoff, MD East Tennessee State University**

This talk will present a framework for understanding and addressing the health challenges facing the people of Tennessee. It will identify the various factors that cause Tennesseans to be less healthy than people in other states, including factors related to behaviors, access to healthcare, poverty, education, and other factors. The talk will then compare these factors between Tennessee’s most rural and most urban counties.

### **Objectives:**

- What is the health status of Tennesseans compared to people in other states?
- How does the health status of Tennesseans differ between rural and urban counties?
- What steps should I take, and who can I collaborate with, to improve health and well-being in my district?

**Location: Ballroom**

**1:45pm**                    **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**2:00 – 3:00pm**      **Topic:** From Clinic to Home: Enhancing Rx Access and Chronic Disease Management for Older Adults in Under-Resourced Communities

**Presenter:** Suzanne Bailey, PsyD & Stacy White, PharmD Cherokee Health Systems

**Description:** Consistent access to prescribed medications is essential for optimal management of chronic health conditions. Older adults living in low resource communities experience disparities related to prescription medication access. This disparate access contributes to increased morbidity and health burdens for older adults, their families, and the health system as a whole. This presentation will outline the implementation of a prescription delivery program utilizing virtual clinical pharmacy and community health workers identify and address unmet social needs that impact health, functioning, and quality of life.

**Objectives:**

- Describe the disparities impacting prescription medication access for older adults.
- Outline the core components of a prescription delivery program for older adults.
- Describe 3 lessons learned and 1 area for further development.

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic/FQHC

**Location:** Hope

**2:00 – 3:00pm**      **Topic:** Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Disparities in Tennessee  
**Presenter:** Kristyn Long, MPH & Yoshie Darnall, MSN, APN, ANP-BC, WHNP-BC Tennessee Department of Health

**Description:** The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is committed to advancing innovative solutions to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity and reduce disparities. Participants will receive an overview of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) and mortality among rural/urban populations in Tennessee. The overview will highlight the current state of SMM and mortality while showcasing TDH's maternal health initiatives. The session will delve deeper into recent trends and racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities in SMM and maternal mortality.

**Objectives:**

- By the end of the session, participants will gain insights into the prevalence of SMM and mortality among both rural and urban populations in Tennessee, as well as understand geographic and demographic disparities in maternal health outcomes and access to care.
- By the end of the session, participants will identify potential interventions and strategies for reducing the incidence of maternal morbidity and mortality rates while improving overall maternal health outcomes.
- By the end of the session, participants will explore opportunities for collaboration to address or reduce maternal health disparities.

**Audience:** Maternal Health

**Location:** Milani

**2:00-3:00pm**      **Topic:** Southern Health-spitality: Ways to Meaningfully Engage BIPOC Families in Rural Health  
**Presenter:** Ashlie Bell-Siebers, MSW & Tonya Bowman, MS Family Voice of Tennessee

**Description:** This presentation will discuss barriers faced by BIPOC families in rural communities (including hospital closures, lack of transportation, and Medicaid expansion), strategies to meaningfully engage BIPOC families in rural health, and feature stories from people with lived experience navigating rural healthcare.

**Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to name common barriers faced by BIPOC families in rural areas.
- Participants will gain new strategies to use when interacting with BIPOC families in rural communities.
- Participants will learn through firsthand story-telling how being BIPOC impacts health in rural communities.

**Audience:** Public Health

**Location:** Wiley

**2:00-3:00pm**

**Topic:** Hidden in Plain Sight

**Presenter:** Rodney Satterfield, AS, EMT-P IC & Angie Bowen, MPS, RN, CPEN, NRP IC Jefferson County EMA/EMS

**Description:** Kids aren't just experimenting with vaping. Many use these products daily, a sign they're becoming addicted. Increasingly, these devices contain drugs & chemicals that are of public health concern. Many of these devices are disguised as everyday objects & can be difficult to spot by teachers, parents, and medical responders/providers. Come learn about the public health issues facing our children, see what these disguised devices look like, & discuss collaborative efforts occurring in our communities.

**Objectives:**

- Discuss the health risks associated with vaping & electronic delivery devices, including the pervasive public health crisis in the pediatric population.
- Identify the unique, and often disguised, delivery methods for various chemical substances being marketed to the public, with an emphasis on youthful consumers.
- Describe strategies that can be used to identify & mitigate the use of these agents.

**Audience:** School Health

**Location:** Clark

**2:00-3:00pm**

**Topic:** Integration of Mental and Medical HealthCare in Rural Areas of Tennessee

**Presenter:** Robert Merritt, MSN, RN Myrtle Recovery Center

**Description:** In this session we will discuss the feasibility of adding behavioral health services in critical access hospitals. The literature suggests an overwhelming need for proximity in all behavioral health services to rural communities. Distance is a major contributing factor for treatment hesitation. Adding these needed services will improve your community's access to appropriate treatments, while also enhancing overall revenue to the facility.

**Objectives:**

- Discuss disparities of access to behavioral health care in rural communities.
- Review requirements to utilize rural hospital space for those added services
- Strategies to develop and implement a rural coalition utilizing the critical access hospital as a hub for total community healthcare.

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic/FQHC

**Location:** Royston

**3:00pm**                      **Break - Visit Exhibits**

**3:15 – 4:15pm**

**Topic:** Utilizing opioid settlement funds in rural communities

**Presenter:** Courtney Collier, LADAC II, CADC I, MBA, CPRS

**Sarah McCall, MPH, CHES, Trevor Henderson** UT IPS SMART Initiative Statewide

**Description:** Rural communities with limited opioid settlement funds may easily feel overwhelmed by using these funds appropriately and effectively. In this workshop, we will discuss strategies that rural communities can apply to make the most out of their settlement dollars. These strategies outline actionable and collaborative steps among stakeholders to examine timely data, identify spending priorities, and fund projects to strengthen the substance use disorder system of care at the local level.

**Objectives:**

- Summarize opioid settlement fund spending guidelines, strategies, and resources to develop a foundation for decision-making
- Explain strategies to utilize relevant local and programmatic data to effectively set spending priorities and monitor project effectiveness
- Discuss considerations and actions that rural communities are pursuing to ensure that opioid funds are being spent effectively

**Audience:** Mental & Behavioral Health

**Location:** Hope

**3:15-4:15pm**

**Topic:** Value-Based Opportunities for Rural Providers and Communities

**Presenter:** Michael T. Sandwith, MBA & Carl Mueller Health

Management Associates

**Description:** For many, many years, the term "value-based" or "value-based programs" has been introduced as healthcare's "next big thing". The introduction has been all over the place in terms of payment models, risk, cost savings and improved quality of care but now with the cost of care increasing, impact of social determinants of health and health equity, and pressure to improve health outcomes, the growth of such initiatives has taken front stage. This presentation will walk you through the current models, opportunities for designing, and understanding the potential financial incentives but will focus on its impact on rural providers and communities.

**Objectives:**

- Awareness of Value-Based Programs and Opportunity to Participate
- Ability to Design Value-Based Programs for Addressing Your Community Needs
- Understanding the Financial Provider Incentive Opportunities

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic/FQHC

**Location:** Milani

**3:15-4:15pm**

**Topic:** Improving Access to Maternal Healthcare in Rural Tennessee

**Presenter:** Rhonda Williams & Michael Smith East Tennessee State

University

**Description:** Most complications that result in maternal death are preventable. This session summarizes from input women across the state about maternal health in rural Tennessee. Findings from focus groups with women aged 18 and older revealed gaps that contribute to limited access to maternal healthcare services; these gaps include but are not limited to knowledge about available services and the unavailability of nearby birth facilities. Discussion will also include ways to move toward closing these gaps.

**Objectives:**

- To identify barriers to accessing essential maternal healthcare services in rural Tennessee
- Discuss ways in which identified barriers might be addressed
- Identify and discuss resources for addressing identified barriers

**Audience:** Maternal Health

**Location:** Wiley

**3:15-4:15pm**

**Topic:** Variation of Syringe Service Programs by Community Characteristics

**Presenter:** Nathan Dockery, BS Center for Rural Health Research

**Description:** The purpose of this cross-section study was to examine the location of syringe service programs across the United States and estimate associations with community characteristics associated with the presence and number of programs. Urban counties have significantly higher odds of containing at least one Syringe Service Program when compared to rural counties, with 30% of urban counties and 12% of rural counties containing at least one such program.

**Objectives:**

- Layout the details of the cross-section study and its geographical importance
- Estimate the amount of syringe service programs in the United States and examine them by rurality
- Determine community characteristics that predict the odds of having a syringe service program in any given county

**Audience:** Mental and Behavioral Health

**Location:** Milani

**3:15-4:15pm**

**Topic:** Giving Center

**Presenter:** Heather Ledbetter, Ed.D. Maryville City Schools

**Description:** Through partnerships of Coordinated School Health, Family Resource Center, Adventure Club, and Second Harvest, Maryville City Schools offered food bags during the summer. This presentation shares our why, the logistics, and results of the program, Giving Center.

**Objectives:**

- Discuss ways to reduce food insecurities during non-school times.
- Discuss ways to expand current partnerships.
- Discuss ways to set up a Giving Center in your school district.

**Audience:** School Health

**Location:** Royston

**4:30-5:00**

**School Health Coalition Meeting**

**November 21st**

8:30 – 9:30am  
Health

**Topic:** Therapy Dog Programs: “Howl” They Can Improve Mental and Physical

**Presenter:** Leslie Brasfield, RN, Lou Paschall,  
LAPSW, & Randall Robinson, NCSSW Manchester City Schools

**Description:** Session attendees will learn about the impacts of animal-assisted activities on physical and mental health. Panel members will describe the process of beginning and maintaining the therapy dog program in the Manchester City Schools. Funding sources and partnerships essential to the success of the program will be discussed.

**Objectives:**

- Session attendees will learn about the benefits of animal-assisted activities in health and educational settings.
- Session attendees will evaluate an example of the implementation of animal-assisted activities in a public-school setting.
- Session attendees will evaluate readiness to implement animal-assisted activities in their specific setting

**Audience:** School Health

**Location:** Hope

8:30 – 9:30am

**Topic:** ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center (RHERC)

**Presenter:** Michael Meit, MA, MPH ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity  
Research Center

**Description:** Evidence-based interventions are often developed and implemented in populated, urban centers and later adapted to fit rural communities. This session will present findings from a study examining the benefits and challenges of piloting and evaluating programs in rural communities. Findings will expand the evidence base for rural-specific programming as a critical step in reducing health disparities and improving health in rural communities.

**Objectives:**

- Describe potential benefits of piloting and evaluating programs in rural communities.
- Describe potential challenges to piloting and evaluating programs in rural communities.
- Identify strategies to enhance the feasibility of piloting and evaluating programs in rural communities.

**Audience:** Public Health

**Location:** Clark

8:30 – 9:30am

**Topic:** Cybersecurity Best Practices

**Presenter:** Mark Branstetter, BS Hall Render Advisory Services

**Description:** Healthcare data is valuable to criminals which is why there have been so many high-profile cybersecurity events in 2024. Arm yourself with practical knowledge and best practices to lower your hospital or clinic’s profile for cybersecurity attacks.

**Objectives:**

- Healthcare cybersecurity attacks are on the rise.
- Practical advice to lower your risk profile.
- Prepare to recover quickly when bad things happen.

**Audience: Hospital/Clinic/FQHC**

**Location: Wiley**

8:30 – 9:30am  
Childbearing Families

**Topic:** Partnering with the Community to Examine Rural Food Insecurity in

**Presenter: Sarah Rhoads, PhD, DNP, APRN** University of Tennessee  
Health Science Center & **Liane Ventura, MPH** East Tennessee State University

**Description:** A University of Tennessee research team partnered with their Community Advisory Board to examine food accessibility and improving health outcomes for all Tennesseans. This partnership led to a convening meeting to develop innovative solutions surrounding food insecurity and to develop a roadmap of future research studies to compare these innovative solution’s impact on maternal and child health. This presentation will discuss the results of the convening and best practices when partnering with rural stakeholders.

**Objectives:**

- Identify best practices for collaborating with rural communities to address food insecurity in maternal child health.
- Describe lessons learned when gathering stakeholders in rural communities to address food insecurity in maternal child health.
- Discuss ways to build trust when collaborating with the community to address food insecurity in maternal child health.

**Audience: Maternal Health**

**Location: Clark**

8:30 – 9:30am  
Childbearing Families

**Topic:** Partnering with the Community to Examine Rural Food Insecurity in

**Presenter: Amy Mosely & Brea Burke, CCHW** Healing Hands Health

**Description:** 80% of patients who access care at Healing Hands Health are requesting dental care only. Dental pain often shows up earlier in the life span than a medical issue. Utilizing Community Health Workers, our dental patients are now screened for SDOHs, primary care needs, and mental health and SUDs. CHWs then walk with the patient to assist them in meeting health goals and prioritizing healthcare, which is improving the overall health of our community.

**Objectives:**

- Dental care is often the first healthcare many people with limited resources seek. The importance of screening dental patients for social determinants of health and connecting the patient to a Community Health Worker if the patient screens to have high unmet needs.
- The opportunity dental clinics have to bring comprehensive health care to their patients.
- The “magic” of improving health outcomes when a Community Health Worker is connected to a patient.

**Audience: Public Health**

**Location: Royston**

**9:30am**

**Break - Visit Exhibits**

**9:45 – 10:40am**

**Topic:** Empowering Rural Health: Collaborative Strategies and SDOH Insights

**Presenter:** Commissioner of Health Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP, Tennessee Department of Health

**Description:** This session will discuss ways in which the Department of Health is partnering with rural communities to expand opportunities in enhancing access to healthcare when and where it is needed. This session will provide updates on TDH's efforts to improve population health and more about what resources are available, and how Social Drivers of Health (SDoH) significantly influence health results, especially in our rural areas.

**Objectives:**

- Participants should understand the social drivers of health (SDOH), such as housing, food security, and education access, which drive health outcomes - particularly those unique circumstances faced by rural populations when it comes to assessing and addressing the SDOH.
- Participants should better understand the resources available from the Tennessee Department of Health
- Participants should better understand the potential impact of local, cross-sector collaboration – such as County Health Councils – which can improve the social drivers of health in rural communities.

**Location:** Ballroom

**10:40am Break- Visit Exhibits**

**10:55-11:50am Topic:** Developing an Age-Friendly Ecosystem: Leveraging Academic and Public Health Collaboration

**Presenter:** Kristina Wick DNP, FNP-BC, GS-C University of Tennessee Chattanooga School of Nursing and Rochelle Roberts, MOL Tennessee Department of Health

**Description:** Rural health providers, legislators and community stakeholders must recognize the looming health crisis related to the care of older adults and caregivers in Tennessee, 88% of which report a desire to age in place. There is a critical need to develop a Cross-Sector, Age-Friendly Public Health Ecosystem. This presentation will cover the key aspects of academic and public health collaborative partnerships which improve older adult health outcomes and contribute to successful aging for all.

**Objectives:**

- Identify the 3 keys to cross-sector age-friendly collaborative care
- Analyze the opportunities academic partnerships present to support and enhance public health
- Demonstrate how age-friendly, rural and public health collaboration will impact successful aging for older adults and caregivers in Tennessee

**Audience:** All Population Health

**Location:** Hope

**10:55-11:50am Topic:** Drums Alive! Cardio Drumming for the Mind, Body, and Soul

**Presenter:** Tracy Chandler University of Tennessee Extension- Unicoi County

**Description:** Cardio drumming is a whole body approach to better health, physically and mentally. It is an evidence-based program that can benefit all ages and abilities. Cardio drumming uses rhythm of music and movement to improve overall health. It is especially beneficial for those with cognitive issues, aggression issues, ADHD, and children with behavior problems.

**Objectives:**



- To provide an overview of the inception and history of Drums Alive
- To inform of the benefits of Drums Alive for all ages and abilities
- To offer the audience a chance to experience a Drums Alive routine

**Audience:** School Health

**Location:** Milani

**10:55-11:50am**

**Topic:** Fatal and Nonfatal Overdose Patterns in Rural Tennessee

**Presenter:** Jessica Korona, MPH and Edward Onyango, PhD, MPH

Tennessee Department of Health

**Description:** This presentation will focus on describing the drug overdose landscape in rural Tennessee. We will discuss sociodemographic and toxicological fatal and nonfatal trends from 2013-2022.

Additionally, we will show prescription and drug related incarceration trends among people who had an overdose event and determine which factors put rural Tennesseans at an elevated risk for an overdose event. We will also highlight how to access publicly available drug overdose data and how to request additional data.

**Objectives:**

- Understand trends in fatal and nonfatal overdoses in rural TN with a focus on geographic variation, demographic characteristics, and the circumstances surrounding the overdoses (such as bystander reactions, active prescriptions, and mental health history)
- Learn about publicly available drug overdose data, both from the Tennessee Department of Health and other sources
- Learn ways to utilize data sources in prevention efforts, and how the TN Department of Health can assist in finding, using, and translating data for action.

**Audience:** All-Population Health

**Location:** Wiley

**10:55-11:50am**

**Topic:** A T.I.E.R. (Trauma-Informed, Equity-Centered, and Resiliency-Focused) Approach

**Presenter:** Rachel Stiltner and Maria Mitchell Ballad Health

**Description:** Ballad Health integrates trauma-informed, equity-centered, and resiliency-focused care, fostering a culture of compassion and equity. This approach improves patient engagement, treatment adherence, health outcomes, and staff wellness, all while reducing avoidable care and costs. Our session will share insights and practical tools for implementing the T.I.E.R. approach, highlighting its impact on organizational culture and healthcare delivery.

**Objectives:**

- Incorporate evidence-based, best, and promising practices to meet the needs of healthcare professionals, colleagues, and patients
- Understand how a cultural shift from "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?" supports long-term health outcomes.
- Address turnover, retention, compassion fatigue, and burnout through trauma-informed practices

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic, Coordinated School Health, Rural Provider, All-Population Health

**Location:** Clark

**10:55-11:50am**

**Topic:** The Intersection of Motherhood and Substance Use Disorder

**Presenter:** Savak Millis, LPC-MHSP Renewal House

**Description:** In 2021 SUD was the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in TN. In 2023 14,175 TN children were in DCS custody by adjudication and between 2011 and 2021 more than 320,000 children in

the US lost a parent to overdose. Mothers need specialized care that supports them and their children TOGETHER. Here we will delve into the importance of removing barriers to treatment, treating mothers alongside their children and the impact this has on ACES.

**Objectives:**

- Identify the benefits of providing treatment to mothers with substance use disorders alongside their children..
- Identify the impact of stigma and preconceived notions regarding pregnancy and parenting while using substances and how this impacts treatment enrollment.
- Describe ways in which the state economic system is affected by providing treatment to mothers with their children.

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic, Coordinated School Health, Rural Provider, All-Population Health

**Location: Royston**

**11:50-12:05pm**      **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**12:05m- 12:45pm**      **Awards Luncheon**

**12:45 – 1:15pm**      Presentation of Awards and Poster Contest – Conference Committee

**1:15 – 1:30pm**      **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**1:30 – 2:30pm**      **Topic:** Lactation Consultation in Clinical Settings: Successes and Best Practices  
**Presenter: TBD**

**Description:** This session will explore the vital role of lactation consultants in healthcare environments. Attendees will learn about proven strategies for supporting breastfeeding mothers, overcoming common challenges, and promoting optimal lactation outcomes. Participants will gain insights into best practices that enhance both patient satisfaction and clinical effectiveness.

**Objectives:**

- Identify the key components of successful lactation consultation in clinical settings
- Analyze case studies to understand common challenges and effective solutions in lactation support
- Implement best practices to improve breastfeeding outcomes and patient satisfaction in clinical environments

**Audience:** Maternal Health, Hospital/Clinic

**Location: Hope**

**1:30 – 2:30pm**      **Topic:** Systems of Support (SOS) – Driving Equity, Delivering Value, Improving Lives  
**Presenter: Stacey Dixon, PhD, MHA & Michelle Baeza, LMSW** Project Transition

**Description:** In Tennessee, Project Transition (PT) is partnered with TennCare, the three statewide MCOs, the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), and local provider agencies to deliver Systems of Support (SOS) services to children and adults with I/DD who also experience behavioral challenges that pose a risk to their safety and stability in the community statewide.

**Objectives:**

- Understand What SOS is.
- When an individual is identified to be at risk and/or in crisis, Project Transition steps in to bridge the gaps of care that may be contributing to the crisis events.
- Understand how SOS supports the Member to meet their life goals fully integrated in the community

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic/FQHC, Coordinated School Health, Rural Provider, All-Population Health

**Location: Milani**

**1:30 – 2:30pm**

**Topic:** Addressing Nutrition Security through Interventions in Rural Grocery Stores

**Presenter: Jennifer Ward, PhD & Cori Sweet, MPH, RDN** The University of Tennessee-Knoxville

**Description:** Rural communities face distinct barriers to affordable, nutritious food including a reliance on small grocery stores. This creates food insecurity and health disparities in rural populations. This session will describe how the SNAP-Ed program at the University of Tennessee has implemented Shop Smart Tennessee in rural retail grocery stores resulting in an increase in the availability of health foods by stores and the purchase of those food items by consumers.

**Objectives:**

- Attendees will understand the unique barriers to healthy food access in rural communities for low-income families
- Attendees will understand how retail interventions both increase health food stocked at small grocery stores and the purchase of those foods by consumers
- Attendees will understand how the SNAP-Ed program for low-income families works to prevent chronic disease and reduce health disparities.

**Audience:** All-Population Health

**Location: Wiley**

**1:30 – 2:30pm**

**Topic:** Launching a Comprehensive Opioid Intervention in One Rural Tennessee County- Successes, Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Outcomes

**Presenter: Cynthia Chafin, PhD** Middle Tennessee State University and **Kahler Stone, PhD** Middle Tennessee State University

**Description:** The opioid crisis presents a significant challenge to rural communities in Tennessee which saw 3,826 overdose deaths in 2022 and once ranked #2 for opioid prescriptions per capita. The presentation outlines a university's collaboration with local partners to create a comprehensive opioid intervention plan for over 4 ½ years, from securing funding to demonstrating impact. It covers processes, successes, challenges, lessons learned, and outcomes, including stigma reduction and personal impact.

**Objectives:**

- State successes, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the project's lifecycle.
- Recognize the changes in community perception towards drug use and stigma over three consecutive years, highlighting the impact of public health efforts.
- Articulate an example of personal impact and its value as a project outcome.

**Audience:** Behavioral & Mental Health

**Location: Clark**

**1:30 – 2:30pm**

**Topic:** Age Friendly Hospitals and Clinics

**Presenter: Elizabeth Hall** Alzheimer's Association

**Description:** Coming Soon

**Objectives:**

**Audience:** Hospital/Clinic/FQHC

**Location: Royston**

**2:30 – 2:40pm**                    **Break- Visit Exhibits**

**2:40 – 3:35pm**                    **Afternoon Plenary:** Care Labor in Appalachia  
**Presenter: Jessica Wilkerson PhD** Author of *To Live Here, You Have to Fight: How Women Led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice*

**Description** This session uses the stories of prominent women organizers in the Appalachian South to consider the history of care labor in the twentieth century. Care labor refers to the many forms of work, paid and unpaid, that go into sustaining people, society, and the environment. In many Appalachian communities, women have long prompted conversations about how our society does and does not value care, and they have argued for the right to care and be cared for.

**Objectives:**

- Define care labor and consider how it has changed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Discuss the various ways women have contributed to the care economy
- Analyze the connections between struggles around care in the past and present

**Audience:** All - Population Health

**Location:** Ballroom

**3:35 – 4:30pm**                    **Afternoon Plenary:** Tackling Healthcare Challenges in Rural Communities:  
Workforce, Equity, Finance, & Operations

**Panelists:** **Paula Masters** Vice President of Health Programs Ballad Health,  
**Stacey Brawner** Macon Community Hospital, **Ruby Kirby** CEO West Tennessee  
Healthcare Bolivar and Camden Hospitals

**Moderator:** **Jacy Warrell** Executive Director, Rural Health Association

**Description:** The Tennessee Rural Health Care Task Force recently released a report to provide recommendations on improving health access and outcomes for rural residents. The task force put forward several strategies, which center on workforce development, access to care, and social drivers of health. Find out what else can be done to improve access in rural areas during this informative panel.

**Objectives:**

- Explain the key elements of effective communication strategies that help reduce social stigma and enhance support for community treatment
- Comprehend the differences in stigma and community treatment support across various rural areas
- Recognize the variations in communication strategies needed for different settings

**Audience:** All-Population Health

**Location:** Ballroom

**4:35pm**                                **End of Silent Auction- Must be present to win.**

**November 22nd**

**8:30 – 10:00 am**                    **Morning Plenary**

**Topic:** The Art of Grant Writing: Strategies for Securing Funding

**Presenter:** **Jacy Warrell, MPA** Rural Health Association of Tennessee

**Description:** Unlock the secrets to successful grant writing in this comprehensive session. Whether you're new to grant writing or looking to refine your skills, we'll cover essential techniques for crafting compelling proposals. Learn how to effectively communicate your project's value, address funder requirements, and enhance your chances of securing funding.

**Objectives:**

- Learn the elements that make up a successful grant proposal, including problem statements, objectives, methods, and budgets
- Gain insights into how to create a compelling story that highlights the significance of your project and demonstrates its alignment with the funder's priorities
- Explore strategies for tailoring your proposal to meet specific requirements and preferences of different funders, increasing chances of approval.

**Location: Ballroom**

**10:30am**

Adjourn Conference

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***Save the Date...***

**November 19-21, 2025**



All Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors here in black and white