

Rural Health Association of Tennessee presents:



Rural Resilience: The road to recovery

**26th Annual Conference
November 18-20, 2020**

Pre-Conference November 10-12, 2020

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Vision

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Mission

To improve the health of rural Tennesseans through advocacy, communication, education, and legislation.

Values

Promote equitable access to appropriate and comprehensive health services for rural Tennesseans.

Embrace a holistic approach to health which recognizes the interrelations between social, physical, and emotional well-being.

Maintain a diverse membership that represents all Tennesseans.

Empower members to assist the community in identifying and resolving their own unique health care needs through grassroots efforts.

RHA of TN receives partial funding from the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Rural Health.

It is the policy of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee to provide equal opportunity to all members, board members, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and volunteers regardless of any individual's race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or any other protected class status in accordance with applicable federal law. In addition, it is the policy of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee to comply with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination.

In support of this policy, the Rural Health Association of Tennessee expressly prohibits any form of harassment based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or an individual's status in any class protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.



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Welcome from the President

Distinguished Guests, Colleagues and Friends:



On behalf of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's (RHA of TN) Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 26th RHA of TN Annual Conference. This year's theme of "Rural Resilience: The Road to Recovery" can give us so much hope for the future of Rural Health.

Even in unknown times as we try to meet the Coronavirus pandemic needs, we can see how things like Broadband and Telehealth have become a necessity when delivering services not only to those in rural areas, but all of Tennessee and even worldwide. These are just some of the topics you as members and our lobbyist, Bill Dobbins, has always advocated for rural Tennessee.

As I start the process of stepping down and handing the gavel over to your next President, Dana Cobb, I know that the organization is in good hands. As President this year, I had the distinct pleasure of working with our new Executive Director, Jaci Warrell. I applaud Jaci and our Executive Assistant, Angie Britt who have worked diligently to bring you the 1st ever RHA of TN Virtual Conference! I cannot be prouder of the work of these two ladies and the Conference Committee. We have topics that will provide our diverse membership with much needed information and with that, a heartfelt thank you to all the speakers, vendors and sponsors. Thank you! Thank you for being a member and for attending this conference and working in and for rural health. This is your organization!

While 2020 has been a challenging year with heavy burdens, duties and responsibilities, it has been a year for much growth. I was once told by my mentor, Connie Hall Givens, "When you are green you grow and when you are ripe you rot!" May we always be green!

I am indebted to all the Board Members and Past Presidents, as I leaned on them as I navigated through this year. Growing up in rural Stewart County with two older brothers, I thought I was tough, but was very thankful for all the support given me.

Thank you for attending the 2020 Annual RHA of TN conference. I hope that you thoroughly enjoy the variety of sessions that are provided at this year's conference and I encourage you to consider joining a committee, speaking at next year's conference and to especially, tell others about the RHA of TN. It has been an honor to serve as your 2020 President of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee and thank you for making rural the best place to live.

Sincerely,

Elaine Jackson, MS
RHA of TN 2020 President



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The **Tennessee State Office of Rural Health** encourages you to transform **National Rural Health Day (NRHD)** into a yearlong commitment to: "Celebrate the **#powerofrural** and showcase partnerships that work to keep our rural communities healthy across Tennessee.

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Agenda At-a-Glance

PRE-CONFERENCE, All Times Central

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *Mental Health, Addiction, and Rural Tennessee*

Speaker: Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Session: *Suicide Prevention in Rural TN*

Speakers: Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW, Director, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network; Joanne Pearly, MPH, Suicide Prevention Project Manager, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Lynn Wood, PAC Certified, Caregiver Support Coordinator, MHA of the MidSouth

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Session: *Rural Health Clinic Education*

Speakers: Scott Robbins, Manager of Clinic Development & Research, Midwest HealthCare, Inc.

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *Education, Health, and Tennessee's Schools Through COVID-19*

Speaker: Commissioner Penny Schwinn, PhD, Tennessee Department of Education

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Session: *Delivering academically linked nutrition, physical activity and healthy living content using online technology*

Speaker: Michelle Lombardo, DC, Owner OrganWise Guys

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Session: *Rural Health Clinics and Telehealth – Policy and Practice*

Speakers: Marshall Busko, Intalere; Kerry Palakanis, Intermountain Healthcare; Nathan Baugh; Director of Government Affairs; National Association of Rural Health Clinics

Thursday, November 12, 2020,

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *Addressing Health Disparities Among Tennessee's Medicaid Population*

Speaker: Deputy Commissioner Stephen Smith, JD, Tennessee Division of TennCare

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Session: *Communicating with Those Living with Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease*

Speakers: Lynn Wood, PAC Certified, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Mental Health America of the MidSouth; Sally Pitt, Director Patient Care Advocacy, Tennessee Department of Health; Pat Caron, Regional Director, Alzheimer's Tennessee;

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Session: *Everything has changed: Updates every RHC needs to know*

Speakers: Shannon Haynes, MBA, Consultant, Emmaus Consulting, Mark Lynn, CPA, Consultant Healthcare Business Specialists, Scott Robbins, BA, Manager of Clinic Development & Research, Midwest Healthcare

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Agenda At-a-Glance

CONFERENCE, All Times Central

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *COVID-19 – Navigating a Global Pandemic in Tennessee*

Speaker: Commissioner Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, Tennessee Department of Health

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Session: *Telehealth and Collaborations: A case study between Lee University and Tennessee Schools*

Speaker: Brenda Jones, PhD, MSN, CNM, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Lee University School of Nursing

1:00–2:00 pm

Session: *Addressing Rural Community Opioid Crisis Through Nurse Practitioner Residency Program*

Speaker: Patricia Vanhook, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAAN, ETSU College of Nursing

2:15 pm–3:15 pm

Session: *Talking Vaccines in a World of Vaccine Disinformation*

Speakers: Michelle D. Fiscus, MD FAAP, Medical Director, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, and Immunization Program,

Thursday, November 19, 2020

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *Leading Through Crisis – Lessons from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center*

Speaker: Johnny Stephenson, Director, Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Session: *Development and Healthcare in the Pandemic - Survive and Thrive Through Research and Community Collaboration*

Speakers: Michael Aikens, MPS, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Office of Research and Innovation, Tennessee Tech

Thursday, November 19, 2020 (continued)

1:00–2:00 pm

Session: *Lessons Learned from COVID at an Academic Medical Center*

Speakers: Ashish Shah, MD, Department of Cardiac Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Daniel Munoz, MD, MPA, Co-Director for Clinical Affairs, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2:15 pm–3:15 pm

Session: *Leveraging Community Strengths and Assets to Improve Rural Health and Well-Being in Tennessee*

Speakers: Michael Meit, MA, MPH, Director of Research and Programs, ETSU Center for Rural Health Research; Kate Beatty, PhD, Faculty Researcher, ETSU Center for Rural Health Research

Friday, November 20, 2020

10:00–11:00 am

Plenary: *Workforce Development, Health Equity, and Rural Tennessee*

Speaker: Assistant Commissioner Kenyatta Lovett, PhD, Workforce Services, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Rural Health Association of Tennessee Membership Meeting

1:00–2:00 pm

Session: *Broadband in Tennessee: Broadband in Tennessee: Increasing connectiveness for better health*

Speakers: Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development; Evann Freeman, Director of Government Relations, Electric Power Board (EPB) of Chattanooga; Anne Turner, MPA, Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs at Education Networks of America (ENA); Laura Berlind, MPA, Executive Director, Sycamore Institute

2:15 pm–3:15 pm (Option A)

Session: *Preventing Burnout Among Caregivers and Public Health Professionals* **Speakers:** Tom Starling, EdD, CEO of Mental Health America of MidSouth; Jim Kendall, LCSW, CEAP, Manager Work/Life Connections, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm (Option B)

Session: *Prevention and Screening Strategies for Youth and Adults*

Speakers: Amanda Johnson, MPH, RN, School Nurse Educator, Tennessee Department of Education; Lauren Barca, RN, BSN, MHA, VP for Clinical Services, United Health Care; Joe Florence, MD, Director of Rural Programs, ETSU



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Pre-Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Rural Resilience: *the road to recovery*

Tuesday, November 10, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am

Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW,
Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Mental Health, Addiction, and Rural Tennessee during COVID

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services envisions a Tennessee as a state of resiliency, recovery and independence in which Tennesseans living with mental illness and

substance use disorders thrive. Commissioner Williams will discuss innovations the department is leading to meet this goal as well as how COVID has impacted Tennessee.

Objectives

- Understand the prevalence of mental health and substance abuse disorders in Tennessee
- Connect the ways in which COVID has impacted Tennesseans to mental health and substance abuse disorders and programs that support recovery
- Discover resources available to Tennesseans with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders, as well as to providers and support persons

Moderator: Angie Dotson, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, RHA of Tennessee, West Tennessee Vice President

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 (continued)

11:30–12:30 pm Suicide Prevention in Rural Tennessee

Speakers: Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW, Director, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, Joanne Pearly, MPH, Suicide Prevention Project Manager, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Lynn Wood, PAC Certified, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Mental Health America of the MidSouth

Session Description

This session will describe what efforts the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is making in Rural TN regarding Suicide Prevention, reducing the stigma around mental health and wellness, and provide resources for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Objectives:

- Participants will understand the prevalence of suicide in rural TN
- Participants will understand what efforts are currently happening to reduce and eliminate suicide in rural TN
- Participants will understand what resources are available in rural TN

Moderator: Elizabeth Ball, LCSW, Integrative Health Centers

1:00–2:00 pm Rural Health Clinic Education

Speakers: Scott Robbins, Manager of Clinic Development & Research, Midwest HealthCare, Inc.

Session Description

Explore the fundamental nuances of a Rural Health Clinic from inception to current standards. We will discuss requirements ranging from location and feasibility to compliance and reimbursement methodologies.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of Rural Health Clinic benefits, location requirements and feasibility.
- Learn or refresh knowledge of fundamental Rural Health Clinic compliance standards.
- Discuss different Rural Health Clinic services and reimbursement methodology.

Moderator: Brian Katsetos, COO, TeleMate Health

Pre-Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Wednesday, November 11, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am
Commissioner Penny Schwinn, PhD,
Tennessee Department of Education

Education, Health, and Tennessee's Schools Through COVID-19

Tennessee Department of Education works to guarantee all students will have access to high-quality education, no matter where they live and that schools are equipped to meet the needs of the whole child. Commissioner Schwinn will discuss

departmental updates including how public education is adapting in the era of COVID

Objectives

- Make the connection between public health and education and how COVID has impacted Tennessee students and educators
- Discover resources available to support both academic and non-academic needs of students
- Understand the Best for All Campaign

Moderator: Elaine Jackson, MS, Rural Health Association of Tennessee, Board President

#PowerOfRural

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 (continued)

11:30–12:30 pm Delivering academically linked nutrition, physical activity and healthy living content using online technology

Speaker: Michelle Lombardo, DC, President, OrganWise Guys

Session Description

Creating good health behaviors at a young age and having these behaviors supported and reinforced provides a sustainable prescription for the long-term health of children. This presentation highlights an evidence-based nutrition, physical activity and healthy living program that is correlated to state-specific standards in math, science, language arts and health/PE and national STEM standards, with a focus on literacy improvement.

Objectives:

- Understand the importance of consistency of message and access to easy-to-understand content in a virtual setting
- Explore the research that shows how programmatic interventions can result in statically significant improvements in children's BMI percentiles, blood pressure and standardized test scores
- Connect the importance of physical health to academic success

Moderator: Cathy Jennings, Coordinated School Health Director, Hamilton County Schools

1:00–2:00 pm Rural Health Clinics and Telehealth – Policy and Practice

Speakers: Marshall Busko, Intalere; Kerry Palakanis, Intermountain Healthcare; Nathan Baugh; Director of Government Affairs; National Association of Rural Health Clinics

Session Description

COVID-19 has been a disruptive force for rural health clinics, accelerating its use in unforeseen ways. This session will provide the latest policy updates that will impact RHC's ability to utilize telehealth technologies and offer technical advisories on digital health and operation improvements.

Objectives:

- Understand the current policy landscape impacting rural health clinics ability to utilize telehealth technologies
- Identify common challenges in successful operationalization of telehealth and resources to support strong digital health
- Develop recommendations for next stage implementation and security.

Moderator: Yvette V. Windham, Principal, W-Squared Consulting & Implementation

Pre-Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Thursday, November 12, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am

Deputy Commissioner Stephen Smith, JD,
Tennessee Division of TennCare

Addressing Health Disparities Among Tennessee's Medicaid Population

Tennessee's Division of TennCare is the state's Medicaid program that provides health care for approximately 1.4 million Tennesseans who are primarily low-income pregnant women, children, and individuals who are elderly or have a disability.

Deputy Commissioner, Stephen Smith, Director of TennCare will discuss how this program has been impacted by COVID and various provider and participant programs available to support eligible families and individuals.

Objectives

- Understand the ways in which TennCare helps improve the health of Tennesseans
- Connect the impact of COVID with the impact on low-income families
- Discover resources available to both providers and eligible participants to access care, including mental health services

Moderator: Jeffrey J. LeBoeuf, CAE, MHA, MBA, Chief of GME, Lincoln Memorial University

#PowerOfRural

Thursday, November 12, 2020 (continued)

11:30–12:30 pm Communicating with Those Living with Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease

Speakers: Lynn Wood, PAC Certified, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Mental Health America of the MidSouth; Pat Caron, Regional Director, Alzheimer's Tennessee; Sally Pitt, Director of Patient Care Advocacy, Tennessee Department of Health

Session Description

This presentation will break down the changes with language in the brain. These changes affect the way in which the person living with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia communicates with their care partners. Which means that the care partners must adjust their communication habits as well. We will also learn how to use all our senses to communicate and gets to tool and tips to help others navigate this journey.

Objectives:

- Communication Do's & Don'ts
- Visual & Audio changes and effects on communication
- Use of all senses for communication

Moderator: Ana Alvarez Amaya, DSW, Community Relations Advocate, Molina Healthcare

1:00–2:00 pm Everything has changed: Updates every RHC needs to know

Speakers: Shannon Haynes, MBA, Consultant, Emmaus Consulting, Mark Lynn, CPA, Consultant Healthcare Business Specialists, Scott Robbins, BA, Manager of Clinic Development & Research, Midwest Healthcare

Session Description

COVID has changed the way rural health clinics do business because of COVID-19, funding, compliance, and telehealth. This session, led three RHA of TN Members who support rural health clinics, will cover the things you may have missed, future opportunities, and other need-to-know-now topics for rural health clinics and their providers.

Objectives:

- Identify policy and practice changes that have impacted rural health clinics
- Explore opportunities for rural health clinics to better serve their communities
- Understand the policy issues that rural health clinics, providers, and advocates should be following in the months and years ahead

Moderator: Nathan Baugh; Director of Government Affairs; National Association of Rural Health Clinics



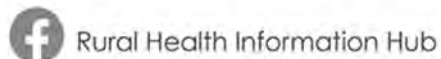
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Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Wednesday, November 18, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am

Commissioner Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA,
Tennessee Department of Health

COVID-19 – Navigating a Global Pandemic in Tennessee

Tennessee's Department of Health's mission is to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. This session will provide updates on Tennessee's COVID response as well as other efforts to improve population health.

Objectives

- Understand the most recent data on COVID spread and the success of various mitigation strategies, particularly in rural areas
- How to support public health efforts through consistent messaging and education
- Discover resources available to providers and public to improve health of Tennesseans

Moderator: Angie Allen, Director, State Office of Rural Health

11:30–12:30 pm Telehealth and Collaborations: A case study between Lee University and Tennessee Schools

Speaker: Brenda Jones, PhD, MSN, CNM, FNP/BC Assistant Professor of Nursing, Lee University School of Nursing;

Session Description

This presentation will delve into the basics of telehealth, the benefits and limitations of using telehealth with patients, and how a rural university has successfully partnered with local school systems to train nursing students.

Objectives:

- Understand the benefits of using telehealth in a rural setting, as well as limitations
- Present a model of integrating telehealth into nursing school curriculum
- Leveraging partnerships between nursing school programs and coordinate school health

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 (continued)

1:00–2:00 pm Addressing Rural Community Opioid Crisis Through Nurse Practitioner Residency Program

Speaker: Patricia Vanhook, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAAN, ETSU College of Nursing

Session Description

This session will present the East Tennessee State University College of Nursing's PREPARE Nurse Practitioner Residency program. The program facilitates transition to practice for FNPs and PMHNPs with sub-specialty focus on substance use disorder in rural communities.

Objectives:

- Describe the current state of opioid abuse in Tennessee
- Articulate the need for healthcare providers skilled in substance use disorder identification, management, referral, and interprofessional approach to care
- Implement practice change to incorporate nurse practitioner residency partnerships

Moderator: Ashley Lemons, MS, Ed, Area Vice President for Intalere

2:15-3:15 pm Talking Vaccines in a World of Vaccine Disinformation

Speaker: Michelle D. Fiscus, MD, FAAP, Medical Director, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Tennessee Department of Health

Session Description

Vaccine disinformation was on a steady rise before COVID and will be a problem in the effort to stop the spread of COVID once a vaccine is developed. This session will help providers, school health professionals, and others understand where bad information comes from, the importance of vaccines, and how to talk about vaccines with patients and families.

Objectives:

- Understand the process of vaccine development, testing, and release, including how vaccine safety is carefully monitored after its use.
- Understand the difference between vaccine hesitancy and aggressive vaccine disinformation campaigns and how to refute common misinformation
- Understand the current plan for COVID-19 vaccine allocation and distribution, as well as challenges in gaining public trust and participation in pandemic vaccination efforts.

Moderator: Kathryn Kranitzky, LMSW, Quality Management Director, Amerigroup

Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Thursday, November 19, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am

Johnny Stephenson, BSE, Director, Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Leading Through Crisis – Lessons from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

The landscape of rural health care is changing rapidly as providers and facilities explore new delivery models, school health and social workers are seeing more families with more needs, and all communities are

picking up the pieces after COVID has left many in financial crisis. This session will discuss how to lead through challenging times.

Objectives

- Explore various definitions of leadership and the importance of situational leadership.
- Identify necessities in building trust such as transparency and consistency.
- Connect leadership theories to practice for rural health leaders

Moderator: Bill Auxier, PhD, Founder, Rural Health Leadership Radio

11:30–12:30 pm Development and Healthcare in the Pandemic - Survive and Thrive Through Research and Community Collaboration

Speaker: Michael Aikens, MPS, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Office of Research and Innovation, Tennessee Tech

Session Description

As such, TCRI has closely monitored the economic impact of COVID on Tennesseans and how using data and community partnerships, the state can recover and thrive moving forward.

Objectives:

- Understand the economic and health impact of COVID on Tennessee, particularly in rural communities.
- Review ways to leverage strategic partnerships to recover and strengthen rural communities through workforce development and innovation.

Moderator: Tyler Sutphen, Director of Business Development, Concord Medical Group

Thursday, November 19, 2020 (continued)

1:00–2:00 pm Lessons Learned from COVID at an Academic Medical Center

Speakers: Dan Munoz, MD; Ashish Shah, MD

Session Description

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools, healthcare facilities, nursing homes, and medical academic centers to make rapid decisions on providing care, protecting employees and customers, and various policies. This session will provide a case study of lessons learned at an academic medical center, both successes and missteps.

Objectives:

- Explore the various areas that needed to change in the face of COVID
- Review a case study of an academic medical center's COVID response including the time it took to make key changes, who had to be involved, and outcomes.
- Reflect on lessons learned and how they should be applied to other institutions

Moderator: Tracey Chadwell BSN, RN, CVAHP, HACCP, Senior Director, Medical Surgical Advisory Solutions, Intalere

2:15-3:15 pm Leveraging Community Strengths and Assets to Improve Rural Health and Well-Being in Tennessee

Speakers: Michael Meit, MA, MPH, Director of Research and Programs, ETSU Center for Rural Health Research; Kate Beatty, PhD, Faculty Researcher, ETSU Center for Rural Health Research

Session Description

On this National Rural Health Day, we will celebrate the things that make rural communities strong and provide examples of how to leverage those strengths to improve the health of Tennesseans. Additionally, we will share tangible resources and replicable ideas for providers, school health professionals, and others working to mitigate rural health inequities

Objectives:

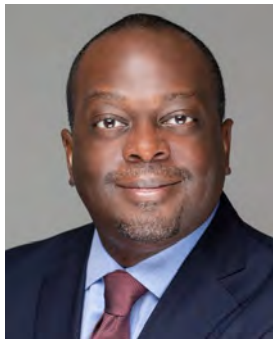
- Understand rural health inequities in Tennessee and contributing social determinants of health.
- Describe rural strengths and assets and how those may be leveraged to improve rural health and well-being.
- Learn about ETSU's efforts to improve rural health through its Center for Rural Health Research and recently awarded HRSA Rural Health Research Center grant.

Moderator: Alicia Calloway, Chief Operating Officer, OPYS

Conference Agenda

All Times Central

Friday, November 20, 2020



10:00am – 11:00am

Assistant Commissioner Kenyatta Lovett, PhD,
Workforce Services, Tennessee Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Workforce Development, Health, and Rural Tennessee

The need for primary care and specialty health professionals in Tennessee's rural counties continues to grow. This session will discuss the importance of workforce development to improving access to

healthcare in rural Tennessee and how afterschool, healthcare providers and facilities, and other community partners can come together to advance workforce development goals.

Objectives

- Identify the ways in which workforce development impacts access to healthcare.
- Learn the needs for healthcare professionals by region and programs available to promote workforce development.
- Discover the resources and programs available to support healthcare workforce development in rural Tennessee.

Moderator: Bill Jolley, MPA, Senior Vice President, Rural Health Issues, Tennessee Hospital Association

11:30–12:30 Rural Health Association of Tennessee Membership Meeting

Agenda:

- Welcome and Sponsor Recognition, Elaine Jackson, Rural Health Association of Tennessee, Board President
- National Rural Health Updates, Alan Morgan, CEO, National Rural Health Association
- Rural Health Association of Tennessee Updates, Jacy Warrell
- Announcement of New Board Members, Aaron Haynes, RHA of TN Past President
- Policy Updates, Bill Dobbins, RHA of TN
- Raffle Prizes, Angie Britt, RHA of TN

Friday, November 20, 2020 (continued)

1:00–2:00 pm Broadband in Tennessee: Increasing connectiveness for better health

Speakers: Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development; Evann Freeman, Director of Government Relations, Electric Power Board (EPB) of Chattanooga; Anne Turner, MPA, Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs at Education Networks of America (ENA); Laura Berlind, MPA, Executive Director, Sycamore Institute

Session Description

Much progress has been made to improving broadband access in Tennessee, however COVID has shown are there many still in need of critical technologies. This session will provide an update on access issues and showcase how providers, schools, and technology partners can work together to promote greater access to care.

Objectives:

- Define the meaning of Digital Equity and how it relates to the health of rural Tennesseans
- Understand access to broadband in Tennessee currently and the need for expanded access
- Review success stories of how digital inclusion has been advanced in Tennessee and what policies and resources are needed to continue improving.

Moderator: Bill Dobbins, RHA of TN Lobbyist

2:15-3:15 pm (Option A)

Preventing Burnout Among Caregivers and Public Health Professionals

Speakers: Tom Starling, EdD, CEO of Mental Health America of MidSouth; Jim Kendall, LCSW, CEAP, Manager Work/Life Connections, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Moderator: Elizabeth Ball, LCSW, Integrative Health Centers

2:15-3:15 pm (Option B)

Prevention and Screening Strategies for Youth and Adults

Speakers: Joseph Florence, MD, Director of Rural Programs, ETSU; Amanda Johnson, MPH, RN, School Nurse Educator, Tennessee Department of Education; Lauren Barca, RN, BSN, MHA, VP for Clinical Services, United Health Care

Moderator: Carolyn Sliger, MSEH, Rural Programs Coordinator, ETSU

See you next year!



Save the Date
November 17-19, 2021

Next year's annual conference will be back at the Music Road Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee!



The ETSU Quillen College of Medicine Medical Library is happy to sponsor and be a part of this year's Virtual Rural Health Association of Tennessee Conference!

Check us out at: etsu.edu/com/medlib

We also recommend you to take a look at two of these great resources for research.

MedlinePlus: a free, reliable source of health information from the NLM. It is patient-friendly and ad-free!

MedlinePlus URL: medlineplus.gov

RHI Hub: a network of rural health information of all kinds.

RHI Hub URL: ruralhealthinfo.org



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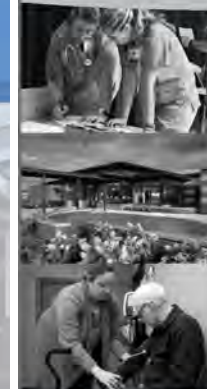
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