



2026 West Virginia Rural Health Conference

Tentative Agenda

Agenda subject to change.

Wednesday, November 11

Opening Session

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Session Type: Opening and Keynote

Session Name: The Book of Synthesis

Speaker: Mike Sexton

Panel Session

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Session Type: Panel

Session Name: AI in Healthcare

Speakers: Jen Giovannitti

Concurrent Session 1

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

25 Years of the West Virginia Area Health Education Centers Program

Speaker: Bri Sheppard

Homegrown Solutions: Findings from an Evaluation of the WV Children's Mental and Behavioral Health System

Speaker: Jennifer Ervin

The Library as a Health Access Point (HIPAA & ADA)

Speaker: Melinda McGuire

Concurrent Session 2

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

West Virginia Faith Community Nursing Network

Speaker: Angel Smothers

Strength Shaped by Hardship

Speaker: Christianne Connelly

When Prevention Policy Holds the Line: Immunization Law, Rural Health Readiness, and System Vulnerability in West Virginia

Speaker: Kaylen Barker

Concurrent Session 3

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Denial Prevention Starts at Admission

Speaker: Jamie Garnes

Beyond the Numbers: Stories of Vision Loss, Resilience, and Avenues for Change in Rural West Virginia

Speaker: Arielle Silverman

Barriers and Facilitators for Accessing Needed Services by West Virginia Veterans: The Need for Greater Access in Rural Counties

Speaker: Joseph Scotti

Concurrent Session 4

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Strengthening Rural Health in West Virginia Through [Title To Be Confirmed]

Speaker: Leasa Novak

The WV Children's In-Home and Community-Based Services Evaluation: Turning Points in Youth's Wellbeing Trajectories

Speaker: Christi Gross

A Decade of Impact: Building West Virginia's Rural Physician Workforce Through the WVU SOM Rural Track

Speaker: Treah Haggerty

Plenary Session 2

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Invited Panel on Veterans Health

Speakers: To Be Announced

Thursday, November 12

Plenary Session 3

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Updates from WV Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Speakers: To Be Announced

Concurrent Session 5

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

WWHWV

Speaker: To Be Announced

RHTP Provider Incentives via the WVIN

Speaker: Shana Phares

Build the Door: A Working Model for Reaching Rural

Speaker: Jake Ross

Awards Luncheon

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

ADA Presentation

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

Diabetes Management in the Community

Speaker: Dan Hager

Concurrent Session 6

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

WWHWV

Speaker: To Be Announced

State Office of Rural Health

Speaker: To Be Announced

Leadership Cooperative

Speakers: Melanie Seiler, Wendy Casteneda, Catherine Campbell, Candus Sutphin, David Roberts

RISE: Pairing Direct Support with Economic Access

Speaker: Samantha McCoy

Concurrent Session 7

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

WWHWV

Speaker: To Be Announced

Building Communities: Rural Prevention Success

Speaker: Daniel Stiles

Opportunity to Decrease WV Medical Student Debt

Speaker: Linda Neild

Concurrent Session 8

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

WWHWV

Speaker: To Be Announced

Put on Your Grown-Up Pants: Have the Chat and Make the Plan

Speaker: Jane Marks

Integrating Hepatitis Treatment Relinkage into Primary Care

Speaker: Leigh Brooks

Friday, November 13

Plenary Session 4

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

To Be Announced

Speakers: To Be Announced

Plenary Session 5

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

NRHA and Federal Policy Update

Speakers: To Be Announced