34TH ANNUAL WV RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

ROOTED IN RURAL HEALTH

SUCCESSES, SOLUTIONS, & STORIES

# 2026

# West Virginia Rural Health Conference

## Agenda

Final.Agenda

## Wednesday, November 11, 2026

### Opening Session

**8:30 AM – 9:30 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
Panelists: Quality Insights, WVU Law, and a clinician

### 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

**Podium & Poster Presentations**
Hosted by WVRHA

## 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 Targeted Technical Assistance**
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**

**Updates to Medicaid Work Requirements and Eligibility Determinations for 2027**
Presenter: WVU Health Affairs Institute

# Thursday, November 12, 2026

## Plenary Session 3

**9:00 AM – 10:15 AM**

**Updates from the West Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**
Speaker: Dr. Carrie Jeffries

## Concurrent Session 5

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Community Health Improvement: Bridging Healthcare and Housing: Lessons Learned Developing West Virginia's First Medical Respite Care Program**
Speakers: Marissa Rhine and Kim Tieman

**RHTP Provider Incentives via the WVHIN**
Speaker: Shana Phares

**Build the Door: A Working Model for Reaching Rural Men**
Speaker: Jake Ross

## Awards Luncheon

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Hosted by WVRHA

## 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**

**Community Health Improvement: Refresh Appalachia**
Speakers: Kelsey Mills and Robert Trombley

**WVRHA Leadership Cooperative**
Speakers: Dave Roberts, Melanie Seiler, Candus Sutphin, Wendy Castaneda, and Catherine Campbell

**RISE: Pairing Direct Support with Economic Access**
Speaker: Samantha McCoy

## Concurrent Session 7

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

**Community Health Improvement: Roane General Hospital Transportation Program**
Speakers: Christine Dempsey, Leah James, and Cassandra Hildreth

**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**

**Community Health Improvement: Built to Last: Sustaining & Evolving Community Health Improvement Plans**
Speakers: Amy Hannah and Jennifer Hudson

**Put on Your Grown Up Pants: Have the Chat and Make the Plan**
Speaker: Jane Marks

**Integrating Hepatitis Treatment Relinkage Into [TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED]**
Speaker: Leigh Brooks

# Friday, November 13, 2026

## Plenary Session 4

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Growing Healthier Communities: Provider Recruitment and Retention in Rural West Virginia**
Speakers: Jaclyn Foster and Alexis Gannon
Organization: State Office of Rural Health

## Plenary Session 5

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM**

**NRHA and Federal Policy Update**
Speakers: Zil Joyce Dixon Romero and Dexter Glasgow

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