



THIRTY YEARS STRONG: HONORING OUR PAST, SHAPING OUR FUTURE

30th Annual Conference Overview

November 20-22, 2024 The Marriot Hotel • Knoxville, TN

Wednesday, November 20

8:00 am Pre-Conference

Coordinated School Health, Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Behavioral and Mental Health, and Public Health

11:00 am Break, Visit Exhibits

11:30 am Opening Welcome and Luncheon

Barry Cooper, RHA President

12:30 pm Break, Visit Exhibits

12:45 pm Plenary Session

- Comparing the Health Status of Tennessee's Rural and Urban Counties

Randy Wykoff, MD East Tennessee State University

1:45 pm Break, Visit Exhibits

2:00 pm Breakout Sessions:

- From Clinic to Home: Enhancing Rx Access and Chronic Disease Management for Older Adults in Under-Resourced Communities
- Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Disparities in Tennessee
- Southern Health-spirituality: Ways to Meaningfully Engage BIPOC Families in Rural Health
- Hidden in Plain Sight
- Integration of Mental and Medical Healthcare in Rural Areas of Tennessee
- Utilizing opioid settlement funds in rural communities

3:00 pm Break, Visit Exhibits

3:15 pm Breakout Sessions:

- Value-Based Opportunities for Rural Providers and Communities
- Improving Access to Maternal Healthcare in Rural Tennessee
- Variation of Syringe Service Programs by Community Characteristics
- Giving Center

4:30 pm School Health Coalition Meeting

Thursday, November 21

8:30 am Breakout Sessions:

- Therapy Dog Programs: "Howl" They Can Improve Mental and Physical Health
- ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center
- Cybersecurity Best Practices
- Partnering with the Community to Examine Rural Food Insecurity in Childbearing Families
- Dental – the Gateway to Improving Health Outcomes in Charitable Care in Rural Communities

9:30 am Break, Visit Exhibits

9:45 am Plenary Session

- Empowering Rural Health: Collaborative Strategies and SDoH Insights

Commissioner of Health Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP, Tennessee Department of Health

10:40 am Break, Visit Exhibits

10:55 am Breakout Sessions:

- Developing an Age-Friendly Ecosystem: Leveraging Academic and Public Health Collaboration
- Drums Alive! Cardio Drumming for the Mind, Body, and Soul
- Fatal and Nonfatal Overdose Patterns in Rural Tennessee
- A T.I.E.R. (Trauma-Informed, Equity-Centered, and Resiliency-Focused) Approach
- The Intersection of Motherhood and Substance Use Disorder

11:50 am Break, Visit Exhibits

12:05 pm Awards Luncheon

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

1:15 pm Break, Visit Exhibits

1:30 pm Breakout Sessions

- Lactation Consultation in Clinical Settings: Successes and Best Practices
- Systems of Support (SOS) – Driving Equity, Delivering Value, Improving Lives
- Addressing Nutrition Security through Interventions in Rural Grocery Stores
- Launching a Comprehensive Opioid Intervention in One Rural Tennessee County- Successes, Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Outcomes
- Age-Friendly Health Systems in Rural Communities - Person-Centered Care for Older Adults

2:40 pm Plenary Session

- Care Labor in Appalachia

Jessica Wilkerson, PhD, Author of To Live Here, You Have to Fight: How Women Led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice

3:35 pm Plenary Session

- Tackling Healthcare Challenges in Rural Communities: Workforce, Equity, Finance, & Operations

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

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

Friday, November 22

8:30 am Plenary Session

- The Art of Grant Writing: Strategies for Securing Funding

Jacy Warrell, MPA Rural Health Association of Tennessee

10:30 am Adjourn Conference