

# For Public-Private Collaborations in Rural Health

## Annual Meeting of the Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership

### Enhancing Rural Health Across the Lifespan Through Collaboration and Partnership

Marriott Bethesda Downtown at Marriott HQ  
Grand Ballroom (Second floor)  
7707 Woodmont Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
(Closest Metro Stop: Bethesda 7450 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814)

**Thursday, October 9, 2025**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** **Breakfast and Informal Networking**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

**Alan Morgan**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
National Rural Health Association

**Cara James**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
Grantmakers In Health

**9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** **Taking Action to Share Power for Rural Community Health**  
Solutions are more likely to be successful when the people who are most affected have a voice in shaping them. This session will share strategies for authentically engaging rural communities in shaping priorities and how local resources are used.

**Regan Gruber Moffitt**  
Vice President of Community Investment, St. David's Foundation

**Introduction by Fatima Menendez**  
Strategy Manager, Methodist Healthcare Ministries

**9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** **Group Reaction**  
This structured dialogue will concentrate on the concept of shared power introduced at the beginning of the meeting and will explore the nuances of both public and private funding strategies.

**Alana Knudson**  
NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis

**Cindy Lucia**  
Episcopal Health Foundation

**Craig Glover**  
FamilyCare Health Centers

**10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** **Break and Informal Networking**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **Rural Aging Collaborations**

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This session will emphasize collaborations between philanthropies and rural partners that resulted in projects that support aging populations in rural communities.

***Moderator: Laura Hudson, National Rural Health Association***

**Carrie Henning-Smith**  
University of Minnesota

**Alex Dunlop**  
LOR Foundation

**Rani Snyder**  
The John A. Hartford Foundation

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch (Networking)**  
*Lunch is on your own*

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Empowered Rural Community Partnerships**  
This session will emphasize collaborative initiatives that enhance rural communities by utilizing local resources, promoting community involvement, and improving access to funding and technical assistance.

***Moderator: Colin Pekruhn, Grantmakers In Health***

**Andrew Over**  
Cambia Health Foundation

**Emily Burleson**  
Partners for Rural Transformation

1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Break and Informal Networking**

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Rural Innovation Across the Age Spectrum**  
This session will focus on innovative collaborations and community-driven initiatives addressing rural health challenges and opportunities throughout the lifespan of rural residents. It will feature programs related to aging and end-of-life services, including early childhood initiatives and a noteworthy end-of-life doula project designed to support rural families

***Moderator: Kim Tieman, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation***

**Rebeckah Berry**  
The Roundhouse Foundation

**David Jordan**  
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

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3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Creative Approaches to Health Through Enhanced Food Access**

During this discussion Meals on Wheels America will offer valuable insights into its operation as a public-private partnership aimed at enhancing food access for older adults in rural America. Participants will also hear from the Sunflower Foundation who collaborated with other funders to increase access to food for school-aged children and has developed partnerships with several Native American Nations to develop a Tribal Food System plan.

***Moderator: Kevin Lambing, T.L.L. Temple Foundation***

**L. Carter Florence**

Meals on Wheels America

**Elizabeth Burger**

Sunflower Foundation

4: 00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**2026 Preview: Rural Health Transformation Program Overview**

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicaid Services will share about the new Rural Health Transformation Program.

**Kate Sapra**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Day 1 Wrap-Up**

**Alan Morgan**

National Rural Health Association

5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourns for the Day**

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**Friday, October 10, 2025**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** **Breakfast and Informal Networking**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.** **Welcome Back and Context Setting for Day 2**

**Cara James**  
Grantmakers In Health

**9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** **Rural Health Resource Roundtables\***

This session will provide time for attendees to meet with representatives from several organizations and federal agencies that have programming related to rural health. These informal conversations are an opportunity to identify areas of potential collaboration, discuss strategies to address health disparities, and explore ways to improve health care access in rural communities.

*\*Three 20-minute sessions representatives will be the same for each session.*

**3RNET**  
**AgriSafe**  
**Build Healthy Places Network**  
**Partners for Rural Transformation**  
**Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub)**  
**Rural Health Research Gateway**

**10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** **Break and Informal Networking**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.** **Policy Considerations Across the Age Spectrum**

As the U.S. population grows older and more diverse, and as new challenges and opportunities emerge, the policy considerations surrounding the Older American Act (OAA) are more critical than ever. This session will highlight the 60th anniversary of the OAA and its influence on rural families followed by a discussion on how policy can enhance access to care for rural communities.

*Moderator: Cara James, Grantmakers In Health*

**Alice Burns**  
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

**Jennifer Goldberg**  
Justice in Aging

**Mark Holmes**  
University of North Carolina

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** **Key Takeaways and Continuing the Conversation**