

# Improving Rural Health Together: INSIGHTS TO IMPACT

May 13 - 14, 2026

Atlanta, GA

www.ruralhealthlink.org



**SPEAKER  
BIOS**

**WEDNESDAY  
May 13**

## Post-Conference Guide

Time	Session	Title	Speaker(s)	Links
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Welcome and Grantee Keynote	<p><b>Meeting the Moment in Rural Health</b></p> <p>This opening session will ground the meeting in the strengths and realities of rural communities. Drawing on years of experience within the FORHP network, speakers will reflect on what makes rural communities unique and why that matters now more than ever. They will invite grantees to engage fully in the meeting, connecting with one another, with FORHP staff, and technical assistance partners to learn, share, and strengthen the work ahead.</p>	<p>Alexa Ofori, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)</p> <p>Mellie Boagni, Arkansas Rural Health Partnership</p> <p>Loretta Wilson, Rural Alabama Prevention Center</p>	
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Plenary Session	<p><b>Communicating with Purpose: Strengthening Collaborative Conversations</b></p> <p>Improving rural health often involves multiple partners with different priorities, perspectives and information. When conversations lack structure, these differences can slow progress and limit shared understanding. This engaging plenary introduces a clear and practical approach for engaging in focused conversations that help participants clarify perspectives, surface relevant information, and support more informed decision-making. Led by experienced GHPC subject matter experts, the session provides practical tools that participants can immediately apply to strengthen collaboration, improve communication, and support effective solutions in complex environments. Participants will leave better prepared to engage productively, ask stronger questions, and support shared understanding across diverse stakeholders.</p>	<p>Leigh Alderman, DrPH, JD, MPH, GHPC</p> <p>Chris Parker, MBBS, MPH, GHPC</p> <p>Moderator: Rachel Campos, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>BREAK</b>			
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Grant Program	Concurrent Breakout Session Title	Speaker(s)	Room
	Care Coordination	<b>Care Model Value Showcase: Developing a Value Proposition for Sustainability</b>	Andrew Park, FORHP	<a href="#">Slides</a>

		This session will support grantees in clearly articulating the value of their care models to advance sustainability. Grantees will refine a concise problem statement, define the solution, and identify evidence and impact that demonstrate why their work matters. The session will also guide grantees in developing a clear, compelling sustainability “ask” aligned with funder, partner, and organizational priorities.	Roxanne Elliott, DHSc and Ann Abdella, GHPC	
	Delta States	<b>Getting Connected: Reflecting, Planning and Moving to Action</b>  This session provides time for grantees to reflect on key learnings from previous year(s), identify priorities, and translate insights into clear next steps for action.	Diana Alatorre, FORHP  Rachel Campos and Amanda Phillips-Martinez, GHPC	<a href="#">Handout</a>
	Quality Improvement	<b>Quality Improvement in Action: What’s Working, What’s Hard, What’s Next?</b>  During this session quality improvement grantees will have the opportunity to reflect on their grant journeys to date. In small groups they will share quality improvement successes, barriers and challenges, project adaptations, and key goals being prioritized for the next year.	Kristi Martinsen and Joe Mills, FORHP  Traici Brockman, John Butts, Eric Baumgartner, Catherine Liemohn, GHPC	<a href="#">Slides</a>
	RMDMS & Delta MCC	<b>Cohort-based and Cross Program Peer Learning</b>  This session brings awardees together for an interactive peer learning discussion, highlighting experiences and lessons learned from implementation and planning. Through roundtable conversations, participants will explore practical approaches to strengthening rural maternity care systems and improving patient access.	Alexa Ofori, Niki Patel, Sandali Chandradasa, Erika Chen, Anna Feins, and Greta Stuhlsatz, FORHP  Tanisa Adimu, Kelsey Duff and Kenna Ho, GHPC	<a href="#">Slides</a>
<b>12:15 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch</b>				
<b>1:30 PM – 2:20 PM</b>	Networking	<b>Peer Learning Exchange: Connecting Practice Across Programs</b>  This session creates space for peer learning and knowledge sharing with a grantee peer kicking off the conversation by sharing their experiences and lessons learned. The conversation then opens for questions, reflection and idea exchange across programs and communities. Grantees will have the option to choose from the following six topics described below.		
		<b>Using Technology to Enable Access to Care</b>  Technology can play a critical role in expanding access to care in rural communities, where distance, transportation, and workforce shortages often create barriers. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how a Zoom-based call center that sends text messages and makes outbound calls has improved productivity and strengthened care coordination efforts.	Amber Bryant, Missouri Primary Care Association  Moderator: Roxanne Elliott, DHSc, GHPC	
		<b>Operationalizing Data Dashboards</b>  Data dashboards can help rural programs move beyond tracking activities to understanding real impact, especially when data from different sources are brought together to tell a more complete story. By integrating community-based data with clinical information,	Nathan Theng, Kaweah Health  Moderator: Eric Baumgartner, GHPC	

		programs can better monitor outcomes, identify gaps, and inform decision-making. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how they have shifted from process measures towards impact and outcomes to build a more meaningful dashboard.		
		<p><b>Leveraging Community Assets</b></p> <p>Leveraging community assets is key to strengthening access and coordination in rural communities, helping programs build on existing resources rather than starting from scratch. Maintaining up-to-date knowledge of available services and partners can improve referrals, collaboration, and overall impact. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how they have sustained and updated their community asset mapping beyond the initial deliverable, with a CHW offering perspective on how this work supports day-to-day connections and care.</p>	<p>Jakaycee Standridge, Duncan Regional Hospital</p> <p>Moderator: Coleman Tanner, GHPC</p>	
		<p><b>Coordinating Across Diverse Partners</b></p> <p>Coordinating across diverse partners is essential in rural communities, where collaboration between healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and other sectors helps address complex needs with limited resources. Strong coordination can improve communication, reduce duplication, and create more seamless experiences for patients and families. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how they used a collaborative process and input from partners to determine areas of focus and strategies for their grant-funded program.</p>	<p>Heidy Pelayo and Bryna Koch, Mariposa Community Health Center</p> <p>Moderator: Amber Jefferson, GHPC</p>	
		<p><b>Leveraging Clinical Reimbursement Opportunities</b></p> <p>Leveraging clinical reimbursement opportunities can help rural programs sustain and scale efforts to address upstream drivers of health, particularly when clinical and nonclinical services are coordinated effectively. Aligning services with reimbursement pathways, such as Medicare, can support long-term impact while strengthening integration across care teams. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how they are positioning their program to bill Medicare for this work, including how they are coordinating clinical and nonclinical services and key considerations in making this approach viable.</p>	<p>Megan Brown, Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.</p> <p>Moderator: Ann Abdella, GHPC</p>	
		<p><b>Centering Rural Voices in Decision-Making</b></p> <p>Centering rural voices in decision-making is critical to ensuring programs and policies reflect the realities of rural communities, where needs and resources can differ significantly from urban settings. Elevating local perspectives can lead to more responsive strategies, improved access to services, and stronger overall care. A grantee will kick off the conversation by sharing how they prioritize listening and responding to rural community needs within a large health system, while also educating state-level decision makers to better align policies and resources with those needs.</p>	<p>Krystal Richards, Intermountain Health</p> <p>Moderator: Catherine Liemohn, GHPC</p>	
<p><b>2:20 PM – 2:30 PM Break</b></p>				
<p><b>2:30 PM – 3:10 PM</b></p>	<p>Plenary</p>	<p><b>Community Sparks Showcase</b></p>	<p>Diana Alatorre and Niki Patel, FORHP</p>	<p><a href="#">Slides</a></p>

		This is an interactive session designed to highlight innovative, community-driven solutions from across FORHP's grantee portfolio. Awardees will deliver brief, high-impact presentations showcasing creative strategies, key lessons learned, and measurable outcomes from their programs to their peers. This session will offer attendees practical insights and replicable approaches to address rural health challenges. The showcase aims to spark new thinking, strengthen connections, and elevate promising practices that can be adapted and scaled in rural communities nationwide.		
<b>3:10 PM – 3:20 PM Break</b>				
<b>3:20 PM – 3:50 PM</b>		<b>Community Sparks Showcase (continued)</b>		
<b>3:50 PM – 4:50 PM</b>	Plenary Panel	<p><b>Rural Health Transformation Program Panel Discussion: Experiences Learned from the Field</b></p> <p>This session, moderated by a FORHP senior advisor, will feature three grantees who will discuss their initial experiences with Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) planning and discussions and describe how the program is being developed and implemented at the state level. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask grantee panelists questions and share any experience they have with RHTP implementation as well.</p>	<p>Kristi Martinsen, FORHP</p> <p>Mellie Boagni, Arkansas Rural Health Partnership</p> <p>Denae Hebert, Louisiana Rural Health Association</p> <p>Dr. Kimberlee McKay, Avera McKennan</p>	
<b>4:50 PM – 5:00 PM</b>		<b>Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Closing Remarks</b>	Niki Patel and Andrew Park, FORHP	

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**THURSDAY**  
**May 14**

# Post-Conference Guide

Time	Session	Title	Speaker(s)	Room
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM		<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	Tanisa Adimu, GHPC	
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Plenary	<b>Community Sparks Showcase</b>	Erika Chen and Greta Stuhlsatz, FORHP	
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>BREAK</b>			
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM		<b>Concurrent Breakout Session Title</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
		<p><b>Using Data to Drive Impact and Tell Your Story</b></p> <p>Data can drive impact and support sustainability but is often a challenge for teams. This session will discuss strategies to focus grantee data collection and measurement plans to ensure data is used effectively to monitor progress and support sustainability.</p>	<p>Karla Weng, Stratis Health</p> <p>Moderator: Deana Farmer, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
		<p><b>Building a Healthier Organization from the Inside Out</b></p> <p>This breakout session will explore three key dimensions of organizational wellness. Structural wellness focuses on how policies, practices, and resources reflect your organization’s commitments. Relational wellness looks at how people work together – examining relationships, power dynamics, and how care is shared within teams and with community and partner organizations. Intrapersonal wellness centers on individual mindset, helping staff recognize and shift automatic thought patterns to strengthen psychological safety and reduce compassion fatigue.</p>	<p>Ashley Stewart, PhD, MSSW, LCSW, C4 Innovation</p> <p>Moderator: Carla Freeman, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
		<p><b>Mastering Change Style Indicators for Effective Leadership in Rural Health Programs</b></p> <p>This interactive session will help participants understand how change style indicators shape responses to shifting priorities, funding requirements, and leadership challenges. Participants will identify their own style, recognize style differences in team members and partners, and consider strategies to apply their learning to their own program, strengthening their ability to guide programs and communities through ongoing change.</p>	<p>Dorothy Cilenti, DrPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</p> <p>Moderator: Amanda Phillips- Martinez, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
		<b>Insights on Partnering to Improve Rural Health</b>	Roger Chaufournier, CSI	<a href="#">Slides</a>

		This breakout session will introduce a framework for partnering across health care organizations and community-based organizations to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. In addition, multiple tools and “hacks” (techniques) will be presented to make partnering more effective and sustainable.	Moderator: John Butts, GHPC	
<b>11:15 AM – 11:30 AM BREAK</b>				
<b>11:30 AM – 12:45 PM</b>	<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Concurrent Breakout Session Title</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	Care Coordination	<p><b>Care Model Value Showcase: Developing a Value Proposition for Sustainability (continued)</b></p> <p>Grantees will share their draft sustainability value propositions and have the opportunity to reflect on which components are well developed and which areas require strengthening.</p>	<p>Andrew Park, FORHP</p> <p>Roxanne Elliott, DHSc and Ann Abdella, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
	Delta States	<p><b>RFI Review, DCP Reminders, Year 4 Deliverable Schedule &amp; Sustainability Plan Template</b></p> <p>Hear from your FORHP Delta States Project Officer on the RFI, updates to the Deliverable Schedule and reminders for upcoming DCP reporting. Additionally, during this time, your TA team will review the Sustainability Plan Template and provide instructions for completion.</p>	<p>Diana Alatorre, FORHP</p> <p>Rachel Campos and Kelsey Duff, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
	Quality Improvement	<p><b>Advancing Quality: Strategizing for the Final Grant Year</b></p> <p>During this session grantees will have the opportunity to share thoughts on perceived opportunities, challenges, and technical assistance needs for the final year of grant support.</p>	<p>Kristi Martinsen and Joe Mills, FORHP</p> <p>Traici Brockman, John Butts, Eric Baumgartner, Catherine Liemohn, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
	RMOMS & Delta MCC	<p><b>Mission Analytics and Key Learnings</b></p> <p>Day 2 features a presentation led by Mission Analytics, <i>Making Your Electronic Health Record (EHR) Work for You: Tools for Care Coordination and Data Insights</i>. This session highlights practical tools and features that streamline care coordination and help you better track and understand your data.</p> <p>Participants will then share key takeaways across programs and conclude with recognition of the 2022 RMOMS awardees.</p>	<p>Alexa Ofori, Niki Patel, Sandali Chandradasa, Erika Chen, Anna Feins, and Greta Stuhlsatz, FORHP</p> <p>Ellie Coombs and Anna Allison, Mission Analytics</p> <p>Tanisa Adimu and Kenna Ho, GHPC</p>	<a href="#">Slides</a>
<b>12:45 PM Adjourn Box Lunches</b>				