EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO TRANSFORM RURAL HEALTH

Grantee Reverse Site Visit

September 15 - 16, 2026

Atlanta, GA

HRSA Health Resources & Services Administration

Georgia Health Policy Center

MONDAY
September 14

Pre-Event Workshop

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Slides
1:30 – 2:00 pm	**Registration**		
2:00 – 5:00 pm	**Sustaining Rural Health Systems: Financial & Operational Best Practices** This interactive, in-person workshop is designed to help rural hospitals and health systems strengthen their financial and operational performance. Through expert-led discussions, practical tools, and peer learning opportunities, participants will explore proven strategies to improve organizational sustainability, optimize operations, and position grant-funded initiatives for long-term success. **NOTE:** *This workshop is only for attendees who indicated participation during registration. For those who did sign up, refer to the confirmation email recently sent out for additional details.*	**Eric Shell** Board Chair *Stroudwater Associates*	Slides Handout

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TUESDAY
September 15

Participant Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Slides
8:00 – 9:00 am	**Registration and Breakfast**		
9:00 – 9:30 am	**Welcome & Opening Remarks** • Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) • Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC)	**Katherine Lloyd** Deputy Director, Community-Based Division *FORHP* **Coleman Tanner & John Butts,** TA Leads *GHPC*	
9:30 – 10:15 am	**Stronger Connections, Stronger Rural Communities** Creating healthier rural communities requires connecting the people, organizations, and resources that influence health both within and beyond the traditional health sector. This opening plenary will explore how integration, partnerships, and strategic investments in capacity and workforce can strengthen rural health efforts and support lasting community impact. *Moderator: Katherine Lloyd, FORHP*	**Melanie Ramsey** Deputy Director, Office of Rural Health *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)*	Slides
10:15 – 10:30 am	**15-Minute Break**		
10:30 – 11:45 am	**Program-Specific Breakout Sessions**	**Speaker(s)**	**Slides**
Outreach Program	**From Ideas to Impact: Learning Together** Rural health grantees are making a meaningful impact in communities across the region, often facing similar challenges and opportunities along the way. This interactive peer-sharing session provides a space for grantees to connect, learn from one another, and showcase the innovative work happening through their projects.	**Mew Pongsiri,** Outreach Program Coordinator *FORHP* **Coleman Tanner & Carla Freeman,** TA Team Outreach Program *GHPC*	Slides
Northern Border Program	**Reflecting on Progress and Learning Across the Cohort** This interactive session will provide an opportunity for Northern Border grantees to reflect on their experiences, accomplishments, and lessons learned to date. Through facilitated discussion and collaborative activities, participants will share strategies related to partnerships, adaptations, community impact, and future goals among others. The session is designed to surface practical	**Erika Chen** Northern Border Program Coordinator *FORHP* **John Butts & Kaneisha Gaston,** TA Team	Slides

	insights for participants to take away and foster learning across projects and organizations.	Northern Border Program *GHPC*	
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	**Lunch**		
1:00 – 2:15 pm	**Community Exchange: Peer Solutions Lab** This interactive peer-learning session harnesses the collective experience of grantees to address common implementation challenges. Through small-group problem-solving and peer consultation, participants will work together to generate solutions to real-world challenges identified by grantees and have an opportunity to workshop implementation challenges from their own projects. Designed to maximize peer-to-peer learning, this session will provide attendees with actionable ideas, new professional connections, and practical approaches to strengthen their own rural health initiatives.	**Katherine Lloyd** Deputy Director, Community-Based Division *FORHP* **Mew Pongsiri,** Outreach Program Coordinator *FORHP*	Slides
2:15 – 2:30 pm	**15-Minute Break**		
2:30 – 3:30 pm	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**	**Speaker(s)**	**Slides**
	Mobile Health Clinics: Planning and Implementing for Success Mobile health units are increasingly being used to expand access to care in rural communities. Drawing on national trends, this session will explore key considerations for launching, operating, and sustaining mobile care models. Speakers will share practical strategies necessary for implementing and sustaining the service, including an on-the-ground grantee perspective. Participants will leave with actionable insights to inform and strengthen mobile health initiatives in their own communities. *Moderator: Wade Hanna, GHPC*	**Wade Hanna** TA Provider *GHPC* **Mary Kathryn Fallon** Executive Director, The Family Van and Mobile Health Map *Harvard Medical School* **Lena Calvo-Rodriguez** CEO *Todu Guam Foundation*	Slides
	Insights on Partnering to Improve Rural Health This 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: Erika Chen, FORHP*	**Roger Chaufournier** CEO *CSI Solutions*	Slides
	Beyond Behavioral Health Integration 101: Addressing Common Challenges to Sustain Integrated Care in Rural Communities This interactive session will explore common implementation challenges and practical strategies for improving patient engagement, care coordination, warm handoffs, interdisciplinary collaboration, and outcome measurement. Participants will leave with actionable approaches that can be adapted across behavioral health, substance use disorder, maternal health, and care coordination initiatives. *Moderator: Niki Patel, FORHP*	**Amber Murray** Project Director, Technical Expert Lead *JBS International*	Slides
	AI in Healthcare: Practical Applications, Lessons Learned, and What's Next Rural healthcare organizations face unique workforce, access, and resource challenges that may be addressed through thoughtful use of AI. This session will provide an overview of the AI landscape, discuss current healthcare applications, examine risks and opportunities, and explore future developments. Attendees will also hear from a rural hospital leveraging AI-powered clinical decision support to strengthen local care delivery.	**Michael Barker** Senior Faculty *Georgia Institute of Technology* **Jana Richards,** Director of Grants & Development;	Slides

	Moderator: Traici Brockman, GHPC	**Katie Butler**, Director of Innovation & Research *Community Care Partnership of Maine*	
3:30 – 3:45 pm	**15-Minute Break**		
3:45 – 4:45 pm	**RHTP Panel: Experiences and Learnings from the Field** This session features 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. *Moderator: Mew Pongsiri, FORHP*	**Jennifer Sandt** *Star Community Health* **Sarah Andersen** *Oregon Health and Science University* **Emma Petersen** *Partnership for Public Health*	Slides
4:45 – 5:00 pm	**Closing Remarks and Announcements**	**FORHP & GHPC**	

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WEDNESDAY September 16

Participant Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Slides
7:45 – 8:45 am	**Breakfast**		
8:45 – 9:45 am	**Welcome & Opening Remarks** **Communicating with Purpose: Strengthening Collaborative Conversations** Successful rural health initiatives depend on effective engagement with community members, partners, providers, and other stakeholders who bring different perspectives and priorities to the table. When conversations lack structure, these differences can slow progress and limit collaboration. This engaging plenary introduces a practical approach for leading purposeful conversations that build trust, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and support informed decision-making. The session will provide tools participants can apply to facilitate productive dialogue, strengthen partnerships, and foster shared understanding across stakeholders. Participants will leave better prepared to ask stronger questions, navigate complex discussions, and advance collaborative rural health solutions. *Moderator: Carla Freeman, GHPC*	**Leigh Alderman** Assistant Project Director *GHPC*	Slides
9:45 – 10:00 am	**15-Minute Break**		
10:00 – 11:15 am	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**	**Speaker(s)**	**Slides**
	Data to Drive Impact and Tell Your Story 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. *Moderator: Anna Feins, FORHP*	**Sophia Brasil** Senior Research Analyst *Stratis Health*	Slides
	Building a Healthier Organization from the Inside Out 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. *Moderator: Diana Alatorre, FORHP*	**Ashley Stewart** Director of Strategic Transformation *C4 Innovations*	Slides

	Billing for Team-based Care Coordination Leveraging clinical reimbursement opportunities can help rural programs sustain and scale efforts to address barriers to chronic disease self-management, particularly when clinical and non-clinical services are coordinated effectively. Aligning services with reimbursement pathways, such as Medicare, can support long-term impact while strengthening integration across care teams. This session will provide grounding in what is needed to position programs for reimbursement in team-based care, including real-world examples of grantees coordinating clinical and non-clinical services, and key considerations in making this approach viable. *Moderator: Andrew Park, FORHP*	**Roxanne Elliott** TA Provider *GHPC*	Slides Handout
	Mastering Change Style Indicators for Effective Leadership 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. *Moderator: Amanda Phillips-Martinez, GHPC*	**Amy Mullenix** Deputy Director, National MCH Workforce Development Center *UNC Chapel Hill*	Slides
11:15 – 11:30 am	**15-Minute Break**		
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	**Program-Specific Breakout Sessions**	**Speaker(s)**	**Slides**
Outreach Program	**Positioning for Sustainability** This session will begin with an overview of Year 2 program deliverables presented by the Outreach Program Coordinator, providing grantees with key expectations, timelines, and priorities for the upcoming project period. Participants will then be introduced to the Georgia Health Policy Center's Sustainability Framework 2.0 and Sustainability Assessment, practical tools designed to help organizations evaluate and strengthen their long-term impact. Through this session, grantees will gain a deeper understanding of the critical factors that contribute to program sustainability and learn how to apply these concepts to assess their current efforts, identify areas for growth, and develop strategies to sustain and expand their work beyond the grant period.	**Mew Pongsiri** Outreach Program Coordinator *FORHP* **Coleman Tanner & Carla Freeman,** TA Team Outreach Program *GHPC*	Slides Slides
Northern Border Program	**Looking Ahead: Year 3 and Planning for Sustainability** As grantees prepare to enter the final year of funding, this session will focus on sustainability planning and long-term impact. Participants will exchange ideas on sustaining services, strengthening partnerships, strategies for diversification of resources, and identifying concrete next steps for the year ahead. Program updates and Year 3 expectations will also be shared to support successful project implementation.	**Erika Chen** Northern Border Program Coordinator *FORHP* **John Butts & Kaneisha Gaston,** TA Team Northern Border Program *GHPC*	Slides
12:45 pm	**Adjourn**		

Attendee Contact List

Speaker Bios