



2026 RHAU Tech Summit

Convening Rural Health and Technology to Shape a Shared Vision

Vasion Headquarters

432 S Tech Ridge Dr, St. George, UT 84770

April 9-10, 2026

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens		Gymnasium
12:00-1:10 p.m.	Networking, Vendors and Refreshments		Gymnasium
1:10-1:20 p.m.	Welcome and overview of the RHAU Tech Summit Purpose and Goals	Kasey Shakespear Rural Health Association of Utah	Mainstage
1:20-1:30 p.m.	Welcome on behalf of Governor Cox and Utah DHHS	Tracy Gruber Utah Department of Health Human Services	Mainstage
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Keynote: The Healthcare Cyber Threat Landscape: Risk, Impact and Preparedness	Scott Gee American Hospital Association	Mainstage
2:30-3:00 p.m.	BREAK: Vendor Booths & Networking		Gymnasium
3:00-3:30 p.m.	State Endorsed Digital Identity & Its Potential in Rural Healthcare	George McEwan Utah Office of Data Privacy	Mainstage
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Empower AI Innovation in Rural Utah	Zach Boyd Utah Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy	Mainstage
4:00-4:30 p.m.	HIPAA Compliance & Cybersecurity in Today's Breach Driven World	Mark Stauffer IT Services of Utah, Inc.	Mainstage
4:30-5:00 p.m.	BREAK: Vendor Booths & Networking		Gymnasium
5:00-5:45 p.m.	Utah Updates for the Rural Health Transformation Program	Jackie Patel & Kyle Lunt Utah Department of Health & Human Services	Mainstage
5:45-6:15 p.m.	Town Hall: Planning for Years 1 & 2 of RHTP	Led by Utah DHHS	Mainstage
6:15-6:30 p.m.	Dinner Sponsor Message	Ryan Wedig Vasion	Mainstage
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Dinner, Vendor Booths & Networking		Gymnasium



Friday, April 10, 2026

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast & Sponsor Message		Gymnasium
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Advancing Interoperability in Rural Utah	Navina Forsythe UHIN John Poelman One Utah Health Collaborative	Mainstage
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Modernize, Secure, Automate: A Technology Response to the Rural Health Funding Crisis	Corey Ercanbrack Vasion	Mainstage
9:30-10:00 a.m.	BREAK: Vendor Booths & Networking		Gymnasium
10:00-11:00 a.m. (15 Minute Sessions starting at 10:00 a.m., 10:20 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.)	Group Discussions/Shared Vision Development		
	Artificial Intelligence	Preston Marx & Alan Olive	Secret Sauce
	Cybersecurity & HIPAA Compliance	Mark Stauffer	Zen
	Interoperability	Navina Forsythe & John Poelman	Paradise Rim
	RFPs/Vender selection/Business Agreements	Sarah Bauman & Jason Cox	Main Stage
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Kasey Shakespear	Mainstage

Welcome and Overview of the RHAU Tech Summit Purpose and Goals

Kasey DeLynn Shakespear, MHA, MPH, MA, Executive Director, Rural Health Association of Utah

Description: This welcome will highlight the vision and momentum behind the RHAU Tech Summit and showcase how RHAU is building a dynamic, ongoing forum where rural healthcare and technology leaders come together to collaborate. Attendees will learn how this initiative is fostering meaningful dialogue around the unique needs of rural Utah and identifying emerging technology trends and resources that can transform care delivery. Together, we are creating new opportunities to strengthen access, innovation, and outcomes for rural Utah communities.

Welcome on behalf of Governor Cox and Utah DHHS

Tracy Gruber Utah Department of Health Human Services

Description: Tracy Gruber, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, will provide opening remarks on behalf of the department and Governor Cox, highlighting how the convening of rural health and technology leaders supports and advances the State of Utah's current priorities.



The Healthcare Cyber Threat Landscape: Risk, Impact and Preparedness

Scott Gee, American Hospital Association

Description: Cyberattacks against hospitals and health systems have surged in recent years, with nation-state and criminal actors targeting healthcare organizations at unprecedented levels. These intrusions often involve the theft of vast amounts of patient data and medical research. Even more alarming, high-impact ransomware attacks are increasingly disrupting hospital operations—shutting down critical systems, delaying care, and creating serious risks to patient safety.

Join the American Hospital Association's Scott Gee, Deputy National Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk and veteran of the U.S. Secret Service, as he shares national and international insights on today's most pressing cyber threats. He will explore risks driven by geopolitical tensions, third-party vendors, and supply-chain vulnerabilities, and outline how healthcare organizations can best prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptive cyber incidents at the local, regional, and national levels.

Scott will also highlight recent cybersecurity policy and legislative developments and offer practical guidance tailored to the unique challenges faced by rural hospitals.

As he often reminds audiences: "It's not a matter of if you experience a cyber incident—it's a matter of how well you are prepared to recover."

State Endorsed Digital Identity & Its Potential in Rural Healthcare

George McEwan, MSM, Privacy Architect for the State of Utah, Utah Office of Data Privacy

Description: Learn more about SB 275 and its proposal to create a state-endorsed digital identity that individuals own and control. This secure credential would allow residents to verify their identity for both remote and in-person services while protecting privacy and enhancing security. Similar to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' "Blue Button" tool, which enables veterans to securely access and share selected medical records, a digital identity could streamline identity verification and speed the transfer of records to new providers. It could also support professional licensure, certifications, and other services requiring trusted verification—making processes more efficient while strengthening safety and privacy.

Empower AI Innovation in Rural Utah

Zach Boyd, Ph.D., Director of OAIP, Artificial Intelligence, Utah Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy

Description: This session will introduce the Utah Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy and provide an overview of Utah's approach to AI policy and recent legislative efforts shaping the state's innovation landscape. Attendees will learn about the Regulatory Relief Program, which enables healthcare providers to responsibly deploy AI in novel ways that benefit Utahns while reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers that could impede thoughtful innovation. Dr. Boyd will highlight practical examples, including Doctronic's program where AI supports prescription refill processes. The session will conclude with a discussion of what these developments mean for Utah's healthcare workforce and how AI can be strategically leveraged to strengthen access, efficiency, and capacity across the state.

HIPAA Compliance & Cybersecurity in Today's Breach Driven World

Mark Stauffer, BA, Chief Executive Officer, IT Services of Utah, Inc.

Description: Small and rural healthcare organizations are common targets for cybercriminals, and HIPAA liability applies regardless of practice size. This session will explore modern threats such as AI-enhanced phishing and spear-phishing attacks that rely on end-user deception. Participants will learn why advanced endpoint protection alone is not sufficient and why staff awareness, training, and response protocols are critical. The session will also address security considerations for cloud platforms such as Microsoft 365 and Google environments, including proper backup configuration, encryption, and Business Associate Agreements (BAAs). Additional topics will include network segmentation for medical and connected devices, as well as best practices for responding quickly to suspicious activity. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to help protect patient health information (PHI), reduce cybersecurity risk, and strengthen organizational security.



Utah Updates for the Rural Health Transformation Program

Jackie Patel, Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Kyle Lunt, Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Description: This session will feature Jackie Patel and Kyle Lunt who will provide a timely update on Utah's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). Attendees will receive an overview of the current status of funding approval and distribution from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as insight into how the state plans to structure and administer the release of funds in alignment with its approved state application. The session will clarify next steps, anticipated timelines, and what stakeholders can expect as Utah moves toward implementation.

Town Hall: Planning for Years 1 & 2 of RHTP

Jackie Patel, Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Kyle Lunt, Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Description: This session offers attendees a structured opportunity to engage directly with Utah DHHS and provide meaningful feedback on the first year of the Rural Health Transformation Program. Discussion will focus on participant experiences, successes, and challenges encountered during implementation, as well as lessons learned. Attendees will also have the opportunity to inform planning for year two by sharing recommendations, identifying ongoing needs, and helping to guide future program direction.

Advancing Interoperability in Rural Utah

Navina Forsythe, Ph.D., M.P.A., C.I.P.M., Chief Data & Privacy Officer, UHIN

John Poelman, MPH, Director of Innovation, One Utah Collaborative

Description: This session will highlight the value of healthcare interoperability through real-world stories and data, with a focus on rural impact. Presenters will outline the core elements of successful interoperability, explain how data is exchanged across local, state, and national networks, and share updates on current progress, including rural-specific insights from surveys and data-sharing trends. The discussion will address key barriers—particularly those affecting rural communities—and conclude with practical next steps to strengthen collaboration, improve data availability, and encourage shared commitment. Attendees will be invited to continue the conversation during breakout discussions.

Modernize, Secure, Automate: A Technology Response to the Rural Health Funding Crisis

Corey Ercanbrack, BS, AS, Chief Technology Officer, Vasion

Description: In this session, Corey Ercanbrack, Chief Technology Officer at Vasion, will explore how rural healthcare systems can adapt to this new environment. Attendees will learn how cloud migration and intelligent automation can help reduce administrative burden, strengthen defenses against cybersecurity threats, and improve operational efficiency. The presentation will also discuss how organizations, even those with lean IT teams, can position themselves to take advantage of federal transformation funding opportunities while preparing for the future of healthcare technology and service delivery.