



2025 Annual RHAU Conference

The Rural Advantage: Collaboration, Community, and Innovation

Dixie Convention Center

St. George, Utah

November 12-13, 2025

RHAU Pre-Conference Workshop

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
11:30 a.m.	Registration Opens		North Registration Desk
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Welcome & Lunch	Kasey Shakespear	Ballroom
12:30-3:30 p.m.	Track 1: Maternal Health Access Road Map	Anna West, Melanie Beagley, Sandra DeBry	Sunbrook A
	Track 2: Telehealth Opportunities to Increase Access and Continuity of Care in Hospitals, Clinics, and Schools: Specialty Care, Remote Patient Monitoring, School-based Telehealth	Sarah Bauman, Aaron Fischer, Shelly Cooper, Nicki Perisho, Tim Lovell, Sami Bushnell, and Donovan Smith	Sunbrook B
	Track 3: Shifting Gears to Shift Paradigms: A Sustainable Approach to Prevent Substance Use in Rural Communities	Logan Reid & Jordan Mathis	Sunbrook C
	Track 4: Rural Health Clinic Practice Manager's Workshop	Julie Quinn	Snow Canyon

RHAU Networking Event

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
4:00 p.m.	Registration & Info Tables Open		North Registration Desk
4:00-5:50 p.m.	Networking, Information Tables, Research Posters and Refreshments		Ballroom & Garden Room
4:30-5:30 p.m.	RHAU Corporate Sponsor Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UHIN (4:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.) ● Utah Prevention Network (4:45 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.) 		Ballroom



5:50-6:00 p.m.	Networking Event Sponsor Message	Ryan Wedig Vasion	Ballroom
----- Rural Health Association of Utah Annual Update Session ----- Sponsored by Vasion			
6:00-6:20 p.m.	Welcome & Introduction of the RHAU Team and Board Members	Kurt Loveless & Kasey Shakespear	Ballroom
6:20-6:45 p.m.	Presentation of RHAU Annual Awards, Rural Health Impact Awards & the Deb Lamarche Telehealth Award	Kurt Loveless, Matt McCullough, Kasey Shakspear, Marc Watterson & Marz Cesarini	Ballroom
6:45-7:30 p.m.	RHAU Annual Update Presentation	Kurt Loveless & Kasey Shakespear	Ballroom

Main Conference
Thursday, November 13, 2025

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
8:00 a.m.	Registration & Info Tables open		North Registration Desk
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast & Sponsor Message	REDi Health	Ballroom
----- Keynote Session ----- <i>Sponsored by Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine</i>			
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Conference Welcome	Kurt Loveless & Matt McCullough	Ballroom
8:45-9:45 a.m.	Morning Keynote Address: Physicians as Firewood or Physicians as Structural Timber	Brandon Hall, MD, FAAFP	Ballroom
9:45-10:00 a.m.	Morning Break - Snacks, Information tables and poster sessions		Ballroom
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Breakout Session 1		Sunbrook A
			Sunbrook B
			Sunbrook C
			Ballroom
11:00-11:15 a.m.	Mid-Conference Break - Snacks, Sponsor Message, Information tables and poster sessions	Utah Tech University	Ballroom
11:15-12:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 2		Sunbrook A



		Sunbrook B
		Sunbrook C
		Ballroom
<p>----- Plenary Session -----</p> <p><i>Sponsored by Utah Office of Primary Care and Rural Health</i></p>		
12:15-12:45 p.m.	Lunch & Sponsor's Message	Utah Marriage Commission
12:45-1:45 p.m.	Lunch Keynote: <i>Mind the Gaps: Leading with Boldness, Creativity and Presence</i>	Janice Brooks, MPA
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Federal & State Perspectives on the Rural Health Transformation Program	Marc Watterson, Ashley Moretz, Ronak Iqbal, Michelle Hoffman, Ray Ward, & Logan Monson
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Afternoon Break - Snacks, Sponsor Message, Information tables, and poster sessions	Nightingale College
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 3	Sunbrook A
		Sunbrook B
		Sunbrook C
		Ballroom
4:00-4:30 p.m.	Awards, Prizes, & Adjourning the Conference	Ballroom

Pre Conference Workshop Details

Pre-Conference Workshop Track 1	
Maternal Health Access Road Map	Sunbrook A
Description: The Maternal Health Access Road Map preconference session won't just be presenters and Powerpoints. Instead, after sharing our data with you, we are looking for a robust discussion with your ideas for improving access to maternal healthcare in Utah. We will then turn your ideas into a "road map" and share it with the public health leaders.	
Speakers: Anna West, MS, Workforce Development Coordinator, Utah DHHS Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Melanie Beagley, MS, Senior Health Research Analyst, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Sandra DeBry, Workforce Program Manager, Association for Utah Community Health	
Pre-Conference Workshop Track 2	
Telehealth Opportunities to Increase Access and Continuity of Care in Hospitals, Clinics, and Schools: Specialty Care, Remote	Sunbrook B



<i>Patient Monitoring, School-based Telehealth</i>	
Description: This pre-conference workshop brings together experts in healthcare, education, and telehealth to explore the expanding role of telehealth in improving access and continuity of care. Focusing on specialty care, remote patient monitoring, and school-based telehealth services, the session highlights innovative programs and technologies that address healthcare gaps in both clinical and educational settings.	
Speakers: Sarah Bauman, MBA, UETN Business Development Department Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network, Aaron Fischer, PhD, BCBA-D, LP, LBA, Professor of Psychology, University of Utah, Shelly Cooper, RN, MPH, Pediatric Telehealth Operations Manager, Intermountain Health, Nicki Perisho, MBA, Program Director, Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center, Sami Bushnell, BSN, RN, NCSN, State School Nurse Consultant, Utah DHHS, Tim Lovell, Direct-To-Consumer Telehealth Director, Intermountain Health and Donovan Smith, RPh, CEO & Pharmacist, Wayne Community Health Center	

<i>Pre-Conference Workshop Track 3</i>	
<i>Shifting Gears to Shift Paradigms: A Sustainable Approach to Prevent Substance Use in Rural Communities</i>	
Description: The current health paradigm, with an emphasis on treatment and harm reduction, is not solving the opioid epidemic. Despite increased efforts, more people are suffering from drug disorders and death rates are rising. Rural communities are not immune, and often approach this problem with even fewer resources to implement and sustain effective programming. This presentation shows science behind how Primary Prevention services can reduce opioid disorders and death, and how rural Utah communities could use the Utah Legislators allocation of opioid settlement dollars to help shift the paradigm to a greater emphasis on primary prevention, which will help local communities shift (their metaphorical bicycle) to a gear that will achieve better results. The key: Community-Centered, Evidence-based primary prevention, (AKA: community coalitions using proven models and proven programs to create positive behavior change). Communities focusing on Primary Prevention will benefit all people across the continuum of care.	
Speakers: Logan Reid, LPS, MS, MSW, Director of Prevention, Southwest Utah Behavioral Health & Jordan Mathis, MOL, Director/Health Officer, Bear River Health Department	Sunbrook C

<i>Pre-Conference Workshop Track 4</i>	
<i>Rural Health Clinic Practice Manager's Workshop</i>	
Description: The Practice Management workshop will cover the nuances of managing an RHC. We will look at each area of the RHC rules and regulations and provide practical tools and insight on how to meet the requirements of the program.	
Speakers: Julie Quinn, Principal, VP of Compliance and Cost Reporting, Health Service Associates	Snow Canyon



Breakout Session Details

Track A: Rural Health Workforce & Systems Innovation

Track B: Frontiers in Clinical Knowledge & Practice

Track C: Advancing Rural Health: Tools & Strategies

Track D: Pathways to Rural Health & Workforce Growth

Breakout 1		10:00-11:00 a.m.
1A	<i>Bringing Research to Rural Health Clinics and Rural Health Systems: Leveraging Technology for Long-Term Solutions to Improve Health Outcomes</i>	Sunbrook A
	<p>Description: Through real-world case studies this panel will explore how rural health clinics and community-engaged research teams can implement sustainable, technology-driven solutions that improve health outcomes in rural communities. Attendees will learn about new tools and services that enable evidence based practice, enhance clinical trial access, support preventive care, and increase patient engagement. Initiatives highlighted will include Free PubMed Articles, Rural Connections to Research (RCR), and the integration of Health Information Technology (HIT), Electronic Health Records (EHR), and chatbots.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Stacey Peterson, MBA, ND, Rural Research Program Manager, Senior Community Practice Programs Manager, Utah Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI), Kara Kikuchi, ND, Catherine Soehner, MLS, BSN, Executive Director, University of Utah Eccles Health Science Library, & Emily Eresuma, MLS, MBA, AHIP, Manager of Library Services, Intermountain Health, Enterprise</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: UHIN</p>	
1B	<i>Advancing the Science: The Latest in Alzheimer's and Dementia Research</i>	Sunbrook B
	<p>Description: Tremendous gains have been made in the understanding of the science and basic biology underlying Alzheimer's disease, and these advances are leading to great strides in prevention, detection, diagnostics and therapeutic interventions. This session will focus on the latest scientific advancements and progress in Alzheimer's and dementia research.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Christopher Weber, Ph.D., Sr. Director, Global Science Initiatives, Alzheimer's Association</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine</p>	



1C	<p><i>Operationalizing Success - Implementing Medicare's Chronic Care Management Program</i></p>	Sunbrook C
	<p>Description: Successfully implementing Medicare's Chronic Care Management (CCM) Program requires more than understanding the basics—it demands a strategic approach that aligns compliance, workflow optimization, provider support and measurable outcomes. This session will guide participants through the essential components of operationalizing CCM within their organization.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Lindsay Corcoran, MHA, Principal, Stroudwater Associates</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Arch Nexus</p>	
1D	<p><i>Building Healthy Rural Communities through the Healthy Utah Community Designation</i></p>	Ballroom
	<p>Description: Have you heard about the Healthy Utah Community Designation? Get Healthy Utah has designated over 60 Utah cities and towns, including many small, rural communities. The designation focuses on improving physical activity, access to healthy food, and mental wellbeing through community coalitions and strategy implementation. Get Healthy Utah recently released a new Small Community Designation Toolkit, which includes best practices, success stories, and resources for smaller cities and towns. Learn how to engage with city and town leaders and what role you can play to build healthy rural communities!</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Alysia Ducuara, MS, CHES, Executive Director, Get Healthy Utah, Chris Hart, Mayor, Ivins City, Mike Scott, City Council, Ivins City, Marc Christensen, Parks and Recreation Director, Ivins City, Craig Shanklin, Chair, Healthy Ivins Coalition</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Utah Prevention Network</p>	
Breakout 2		11:15-12:15 p.m.
2A	<p><i>Cultivating Rural Health: The Transformative Role of Osteopathic Medicine and Preceptor Systems in Utah</i></p>	Sunbrook A
	<p>Description: This breakout session will examine the vital role of osteopathic medicine in strengthening rural healthcare in Utah, with a focus on the historical and ongoing impact of osteopathic physicians in underserved areas. Participants will explore how collaboration among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community leaders—especially through the preceptor model—can help address rural healthcare shortages. The session will highlight key statistics, real-world examples, and the benefits of preceptorship for both learners and mentors across multiple healthcare professions, offering practical insights into improving access and outcomes in Utah's most underserved counties.</p>	



	<p>Speakers: Laura M Rosch DO, MS, FACOI, Campus Dean, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dan Chappell, DO FAAFP, Assistant Dean of Clinical Education Resources, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Rocky Vista University COM</p>	
2B	<p>Medical Cannabis Law and Program Basics</p>	Sunbrook B
	<p>Description: Join us for an engaging session on Utah's medical cannabis program, where you'll gain a clear understanding of the key laws and regulations that shape access and use. We'll cover everything from dosage forms and qualifying conditions to card requirements, the application process, provider roles, purchase limits, and the vital role of pharmacists at medical cannabis pharmacies. Whether you're a provider, patient, or simply curious, this session will answer common legal questions and provide practical insights into navigating Utah's evolving medical cannabis landscape.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Richard Osborn, MPA, Director, Utah DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Utah Department of Health & Human Services</p>	
2C	<p>Funding Opportunities for Utah's Rural Healthcare Providers: Accessing Grants & Building Grant Readiness</p>	Sunbrook C
	<p>Description: This session provides a comprehensive overview of grant funding options available to rural healthcare providers in Utah, focusing on both government and private sources. It is designed to help organizations increase awareness of available opportunities, improve grant readiness, and ultimately enhance healthcare delivery in underserved rural areas.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Sarah Bauman, MBA, UETN Business Development Department Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network, Kasey Shakespear, MHA, MPH, MA, Executive Director, Rural Health Association of Utah, Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, BA, Government Affairs Manager, National Rural Health Association, Dana Satterfield, President, Learn Design Apply Inc.</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: Rural Health Association of Utah</p>	
2D	<p>Public Health Grand Rounds (Project ECHO)</p>	Ballroom
	<p>Description: Stay informed about public health in Utah! This lecture will help you stay up-to-date on health patterns across the state and learn about concerning trends. We will provide data and insights to help clinicians make well-informed decisions for their patients and communities. The session will be a mix of current emerging issues and</p>	



	<p>long-standing problems.</p> <p>Speakers: Leisha Nolen, PhD, Utah State Epidemiologist</p> <p>Session Sponsor: Southwest Behavioral Health Center</p>	
Breakout 3		3:00-4:00 p.m.
3A	<p><i>Adapting the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Model for Rural Healthcare: Expanding and Strengthening Utah's Primary Care Physician Workforce</i></p>	Sunbrook A
	<p>Description: Utah faces a critical shortage of primary care physicians, especially in rural areas. To address this, the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine has developed a Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model that immerses medical students in rural communities through sustained preceptor relationships, continuity of care, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This session will explore key elements of the program—including site development, curriculum design, student recruitment, and outcome tracking—and share data on student experiences and career intentions. It will also highlight the program's alignment with the Tribal, Rural, Underserved (TRUE) Graduate Certificate, which supports long-term interest in rural health careers.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: David Sandweiss, MD, Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, University of Utah SOM, Sarah Norton MD, University of Utah SOM, Marci Harris, PhD, University of Utah SOM, Rachel Pernick, BS, Student Doctor, University of Utah SOM</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: University of Utah School of Medicine</p>	
3B	<p><i>Burn Care: Initial Assessment and Management</i></p>	Sunbrook B
	<p>Description: Burns represents one of the most common and devastating forms of injury, requiring rapid and effective medical intervention. This lecture will provide a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to the initial assessment and management of burn patients, focusing on early interventions that can significantly impact patient outcomes. Attendees will learn how to perform a rapid and thorough initial assessment, prioritize treatment steps, and manage burn injuries in both pre-hospital and hospital settings.</p>	
	<p>Speakers: Courtney Lawrence, RN, BSN, Community Outreach and Disaster Coordinator, University of Utah Burn Center</p>	
	<p>Session Sponsor: N/A</p>	
3C	<p><i>Financial Literacy as a Prescription for Better Rural Health & Using Motivational Interviewing to Address Vaccine Hesitancy in Rural Utah</i></p>	Sunbrook C



	<p>Description: This session explores the vital link between financial health and overall well-being in rural communities, highlighting how financial stress can impact mental, physical, and community health outcomes. Drawing on the Utah State University Empowering Financial Wellness program, participants will learn practical strategies for building financial resilience, reducing debt, and improving decision-making, with tools like PowerPay and free statewide resources. Additionally, the session will address rising vaccine hesitancy in rural Utah, presenting data on exemption trends and underlying causes. Participants will gain hands-on experience with Motivational Interviewing techniques to build trust, address concerns, and promote vaccine confidence through effective, empathetic communication.</p> <p>Speakers: Aaron Hunt, PhD, MPH, Extension Assistant Professor, USU Extension, Andrea Schmutz, BS, MA, Extension Assistant Professor, USU Extension, Rochelle Allen, Assistant Professor, Health and Wellness Extension Specialist, USU Extension</p> <p>Session Sponsor: Savage Esplin & Radmall, PC</p>	
<p>3D</p>	<p>Exploring the Lived Experience of Nursing Students Completing Capstone Experiences in Rural Health Settings</p> <p>Description: This presentation shares early insights from a study on undergraduate nursing students completing capstone clinical placements in rural Utah, highlighting how these immersive experiences shape clinical skills, professional identity, and workforce readiness. Through diverse, hands-on roles in settings like Blanding, Utah, students gain confidence, cultural competence—especially with Native American populations—and a deeper connection to patients. Unlike urban placements, rural capstones demand greater flexibility and autonomy, offering rich opportunities for interprofessional collaboration and whole-person care that may support long-term rural nurse retention.</p> <p>Speakers: Adrianna Watson, PhD, RN, CCRN, TCRN, Assistant Professor, BYU College of Nursing, Jeanette Drake, Ph.D., PMC-Ed, RN, ACNP-BC, Assistant Professor, BYU College of Nursing, Denise Cummins, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC, CPHQ, Assistant Teaching Professor, BYU College of Nursing & Linda Orchard, BSN, MSN, CHSE, Associate Professor, BYU College of Nursing</p> <p>Session Sponsor: N/A</p>	<p>Ballroom</p>