



RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION — 2026 SUMMIT —

Office of Rural Health Transformation (ORHT)

March 18, 2026

Agenda

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

- 7:30 AM ● *Registration Opens*
- 8:15 AM ● **Welcome**
Alina Czekai, MPH, Director, ORHT
- 8:20 AM ● **Remarks from the HHS Secretary and CMS Administrator**
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Dr. Mehmet Oz
- 8:30 AM ● **Keynote Address**
Dr. Caprice Knapp, Principal Deputy Director, CMCS
- 8:45 AM ● **Introduction to the Office of Rural Health Transformation**
Jason Berry, Division Director, ORHT
- 9:15 AM ● **Panel 1: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Future: A MAHA Approach to Rural OB**
Moderator: Julia Interrante, PhD
Panelists: Lemeneh Tefera, MD (CA), Heidi Hedberg (AK), Jessica Bax, MPA (MO),
Josue Macias, MPA (AZ)
- 10:00 AM ● *Break*
- 10:15 AM ● **Panel 2: Homegrown Health: Building Rural Workforces from the Ground Up**
Moderator: Dwain Harris
Panelists: Anna Johnson (ND), Theresa Lampkin Tamura, MHA (WA), Elisa Wrede
(NM), Stephanie Jarem, MA, MPA (OR)
- 11:00 AM ● **Panel 3: Unified Front: Coordinating Legislative and Executive Branch Priorities for Lasting Change – North Carolina and Oklahoma's Experiences**
Moderator: Sandra Wilkness, PhD
Panelists: Clay Bullard (OK), Debra Farrington (NC)
- 11:30 AM ● **Group Activity: Facilitated by Jason Berry**
- 11:45 AM ● *Lunch and State Networking*
- 1:15 PM ● **Panel 4: Rural Connections: Bridging the Care Gap with Technology**
Moderator: Kathy Wibberly, PhD
Panelists: Victoria Grady (TX), Cindy Garza Moore, MA (HI), David Chorney, JD (NH),
Julie Foster Hagan, MBA, MA (LA)
- 2:00 PM ● **Panel 5: Beyond the Clinic Walls: Scaling Place-Based Care for Maximum Impact**
Moderator: Alana Knudson, PhD
Panelists: Devdutta Sangvai, MD (NC), Bobbi Krabill (OH), Kevin Myers, MPP (DE),
Brad Nye, JD (AR)
- 2:45 PM ● **Summit Closing Session Facilitated by Jason Berry & Chris Salyers**
- 3:30 PM ● **Summit Ends**