THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

2026 Rural Health Symposium Recap



The 2026 Rural Health Symposium took place September 17–18 at the Thousand Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, New York, set along the scenic St. Lawrence River. The event welcomed 213 registered attendees and featured twenty exhibitor tables, providing sponsors with strong visibility and meaningful access to participants throughout both days.



Sponsorship support was robust, with a number of returning partners Community Financial Systems, Kinney Drugs, GRAIL, Genentech, Binghamton University, and The Compliance Team joined by an impressive slate of first-time sponsors including the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Accenture, Real Interact, KPMG, Spacelabs, HIXNY, Excellus, and HRSA. Additional funding was provided through group sponsorships from FQHCs and Rural Health Networks.



The program featured two distinguished keynote speakers: Karen Madden, Director of the Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development at the NYS Department of Health, and Dr. Diane Hall, Director of the Office of Rural Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A Health Workforce Policy Panel brought together April Miles (FQHC), Carrie Roseamelia (NYSDOH), Richard Merchant (AHEC), and Tosha Grimmer (WIO), facilitated by NYSARH Membership Chair, Melissa Wendland.



Breakout programming included two blocks of four concurrent sessions each, and a Poster Session held alongside the Networking Reception.

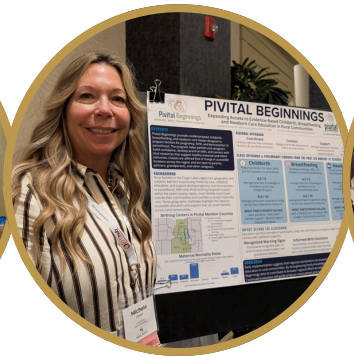


Click Here or Scan the QR Code to Watch the Recap Video!











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Hosted By:

NYS ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

CHES Credits Offered By:

NCHEC
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

Bridging the Gap: Using Hixny Data to Power 30-Day Transitional Care

When: October 15, 2026 at 1pm EST

Speaker:
RuthAnn Craven, MS, Business Development Manager, Hixny



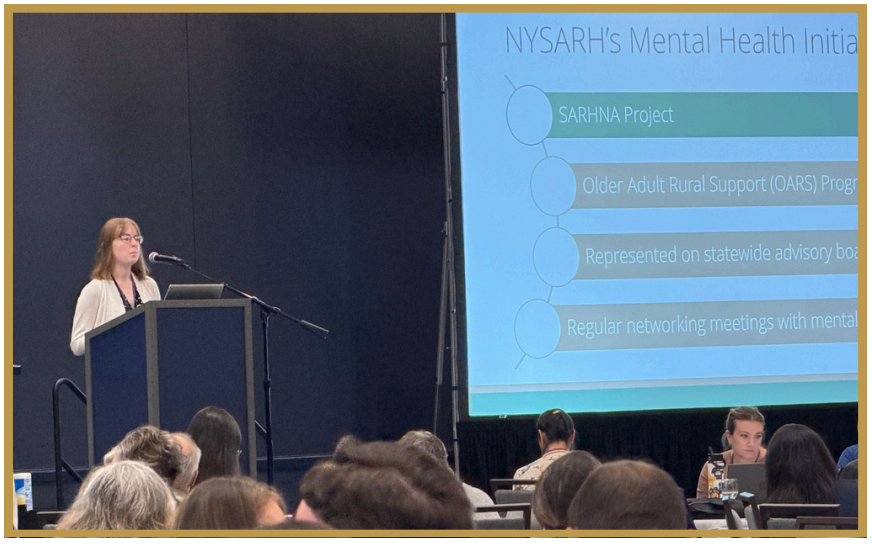
This presentation highlights the vast range of information available in real time and how that information flows among members of the patient's care team to evolve from a fragmented, disease-focused discharge to a unified, patient-centered care plan that addresses each patient's complete needs - clinical, behavioral, and social.

Register Now!

Amanda Horner Presents at Ithaca Conference

On Tuesday, 09/29/2026, NYSARH's Project Manager, Amanda Horner, MPH, CHES®, presented the opening plenary session of the Suicide Prevention Center of New York's conference "Rooted in Action: Innovative Approaches for Rural Suicide Prevention" in Ithaca, NY. Amanda's session, "Suicide Prevention and Crisis Response in Rural New York: Statewide Trends & Resources for Local Action," explored the suicide and crisis response findings and resources for expanding access to behavioral health care identified through the SARHNA Project on rural mental health and wellbeing.





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Every November, National Rural Health Day celebrates the people and programs making a lasting difference in rural communities. NYSARH is seeking nominations for this year's Rural Health Awards.



DEADLINE Extended : Oct. 20, 2026

Nominate Here

Senator Patricia McGee Rural Health Worker Award
Recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding, lasting contribution to the health of rural New Yorkers, continuing Senator McGee's legacy of service and advocacy.

Practitioner of the Year Award
Honors a direct service provider whose dedication to patients, community, and rural health reflects the spirit of the late Dr. Gary Ogden.

Outstanding Rural Health Program Award
Recognizes an innovative, collaborative community, regional, or statewide program that has made a meaningful and lasting impact on rural health.

Do you know an individual or program that goes above and beyond? Nominate a rural health champion whose work is making a lasting difference in rural New York. Nominations are open across all areas of health.

Executive Director's Corner by Jennifer Muthig

As we move into the final quarter of the year, I want to take a moment to recognize someone who has played an important role in NYSARH's work and growth.

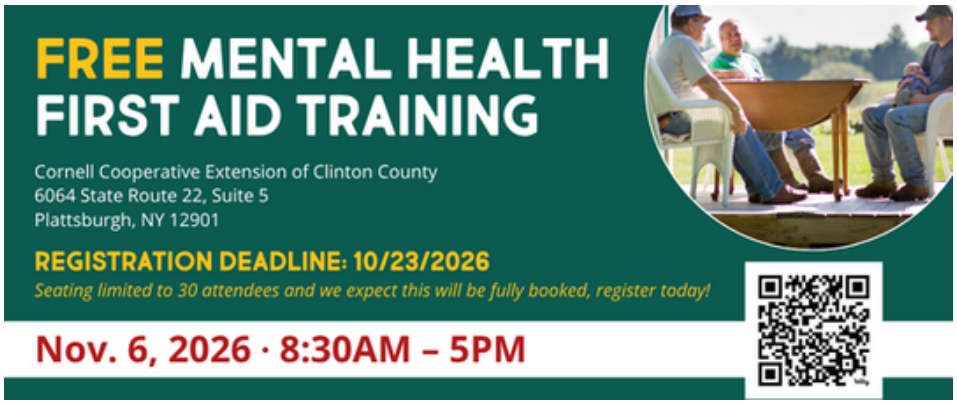
After years of dedication to the organization, Sara Wall Bollinger is stepping away from her role with NYSARH to focus her time and energy on serving as Town Supervisor of Manlius.

Throughout her time with NYSARH, Sara has helped strengthen the relationships, programs, and partnerships that make our association what it is today. Her commitment to rural communities, collaborative spirit, and willingness to take on whatever was needed have contributed to our organization's continued success.

Transitions like these are an opportunity to reflect on the people who have helped shape NYSARH and the importance of the relationships we build along the way. While Sara's day-to-day involvement with the association is coming to an end, the contributions she has made will continue to be part of our work moving forward.

On behalf of NYSARH, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Sara for her dedication, hard work, and the many ways she has supported our members and rural communities across New York.
Sara, thank you for everything you've brought to NYSARH. We wish you continued success in your role as Town Supervisor and look forward to serving you as a member of NYSARH!

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OARS Upcoming Events:

11/06/2026 8:30AM-5PM: Mental Health First Aid Training, Plattsburg, NY
Host: NY FarmNet & Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County
Registration: http://cals.cornell.edu/nyfarmnet/trainings-events
Registration ends 10/23/2026!

10/15/2026 9-10AM: Understanding Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults webinar
Host: Hudson-Mohawk AHEC
Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/V_VuTd8jTvKZva1Qw9L2KA#/registration

10/15/2026 5:30-7:30PM: QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Cazenovia, NY
Host: Madison County Rural Health Council
Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmZySC9t4NUTO-Y3wVPTNqRtzM4THsAzabgRLbebuRzM5aiA/viewform

10/27/2026 12-1PM: Older Adults in Rural Areas: Cognition and Firearm Safety Planning webinar
Host: Central New York AHEC
Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EmZjy1EtTY2Y3XFBkxqkfw#/registration



OARS Online Learning Platform: Access FREE self-paced, on-demand training in rural health, aging, and mental wellbeing topics at https://nysarh.org/oars. CEUs available for select health professions through most training modules. Questions? Contact info@nysarh.org.

CEO Job Opportunity Summary

After more than 10 years of dedicated leadership, **Healthy Community Alliance's CEO, Ann Battaglia**, will be retiring from the organization. As a result, Healthy Community Alliance, is seeking a Chief Executive Officer to advance its mission to improve quality of life in rural communities through broad-based, inclusive partnerships that support wellness and prevention, lead strategic growth, and maintain high standards of operational performance. Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the CEO will offer vision, leadership, and oversight for all operations, programs, and staff. This individual will also serve as a prominent external ambassador, building relationships, leading fund development, and forming community partnerships to strengthen HCA's impact and reputation in addressing rural health disparities.

For additional information about this opportunity and to apply, please email a cover letter and resume to Lynne Scalzo, Lynne Scalzo Consulting, LLC, lms@hcanetwork.org
Interviews with the search committee will begin in November.

Full job profile and directions for applying can be found at: Chief Executive Officer | Healthy Community Alliance | LinkedIn

Honoring Keith Mueller

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Keith Mueller, Past NRHA President, NRHA Foundation Board Member, and RUPRI Director. Keith recently joined as keynote for the RHTP webinar, sharing his expertise and passion for rural health.

For over 30 years, Keith's leadership and dedication shaped rural health policy nationwide. As he reflected, "I'm most proud of my cumulative body of work and activities to improve rural health policy nationally." His impact through research, policy, and mentorship will be felt for years to come.

NRHA CEO Alan Morgan called Keith "a legend in the rural health policy field" whose legacy will endure. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and colleagues.

Funding Opportunity

BJA FY 2026 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

The Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative supports local law enforcement in rural jurisdictions to prevent, respond to, and reduce violent crime. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the DOJ aims to equip rural law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices with the resources necessary to implement a violent crime reduction strategy to solve a specific violent crime. The BJA expects to make 10 awards, each up to $250,000, for a three-year project period.

Apply By Oct 30

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