

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.
Breakout Session

- Integrating Incentives in Rural Provider Compensation
- ▲ Freestanding Birth Center to Hospital Perinatal Transfers of Care: A Multi-Method Study of Outcomes and Experiences in Arizona
- Video AI to Transform Nursing Forever

3:45 – 5:00 p.m. <i>Reception</i>	Research and Community Engagement Poster Session
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All conference attendees are cordially invited to the reception in the exhibitor area. Offerings include hors d'oeuvres and a self-pay bar.

Day 2 – Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. *Check-in and on-site registration*


7:30 – 9:00 a.m. *Continental Breakfast*

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. <i>General Session</i>	Unique Challenges of Maternal Mental Health Care in Rural Settings
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9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
Breakout Session

- Personalized Medicine in Practice: Leveraging Pharmacogenetics for Optimized Medication Therapy in Complex Patients
- ▲ The Power of Using a Closed Loop Referral System to Address SDOH
- Telemedicine Optimization, Reimbursement, and Policy Updates

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. <i>General Session</i>	Arizona's 2025 Legislative Session: Policy Bridges Over Troubled Water
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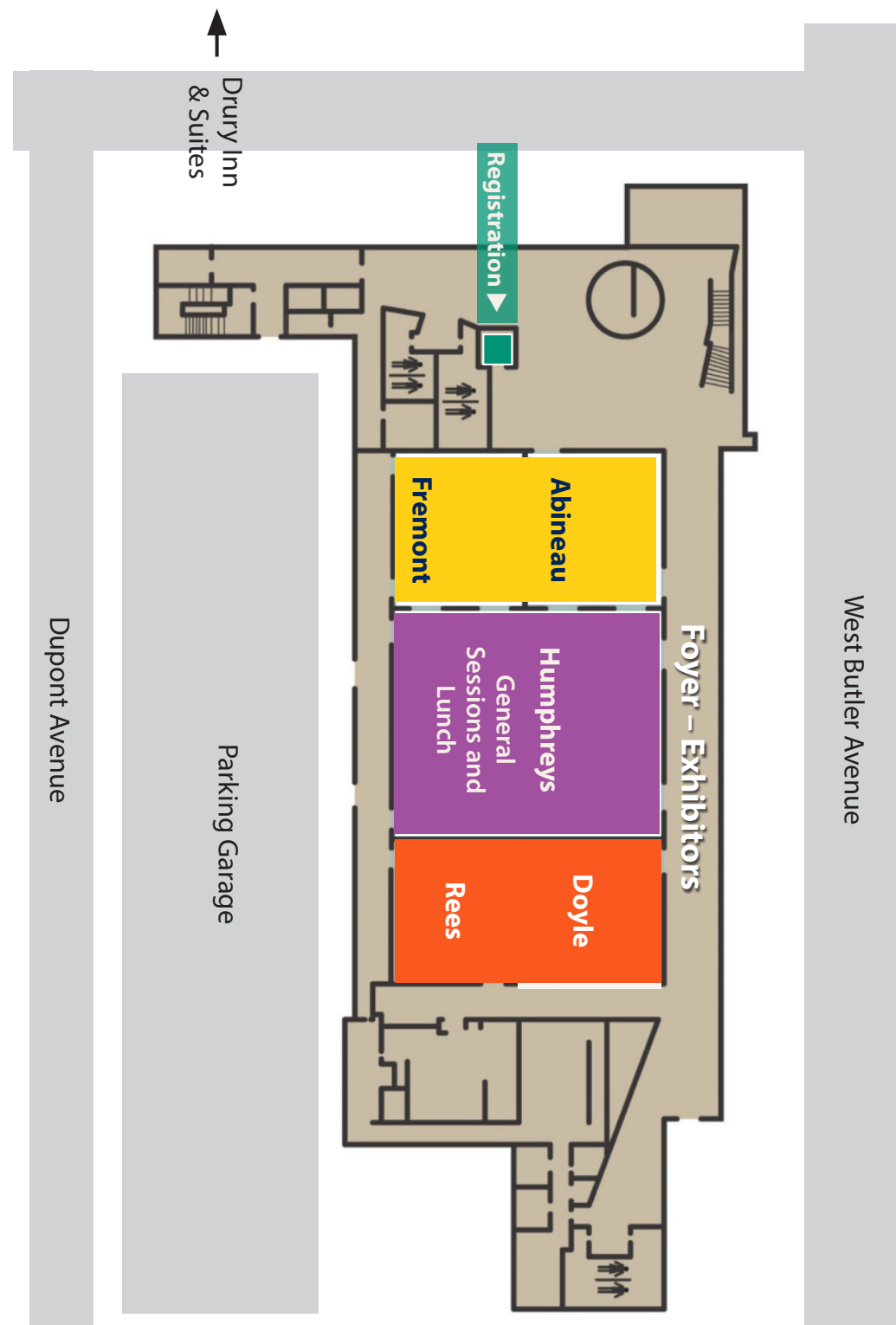
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.  The Elev8 Initiative

Breakout Session

-  Multi-System Responsiveness, Vicarious Trauma, and Missed Handoffs - How System Changes Impact Both Patients and Employee Well-being and Retention
-  Tele-Nephrology at Critical Access Hospitals in Arizona

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. <i>Lunch Session</i>	Extreme Heat and Rural Health: Identifying Risks, Responses, and Collaborative Strategies for Resilience
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1:30 p.m. Closing Remarks



Find full session descriptions and presenter profiles at:
crh.arizona.edu/arizona-rural-health-conference-agenda



51ST Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

JUNE 3-4, 2025
HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER,
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA



Day 1 – Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. *Check-in and on-site registration*

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. *Continental Breakfast*

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome, Blessing, Opening Remarks

Daniel Derksen, MD
Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health

Carlos Gonzales, MD, Assistant Vice President of
Indigenous Affairs, U of A Health Sciences

8:45 – 9:30 a.m. **Arizona Health Care Workforce Initiatives**
General Session

9:40 – 10:25 a.m. *Breakout Session*

- Arizona Center for Rural Health - Health Workforce Data Resources
- ▲ Strengthening Communities to Address Overdose Prevention and Substance Use Care in Rural Arizona
- Moving Systems for Rural Communities

10:25 – 10:45 a.m. *Break & Networking Opportunity*

10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Breakout Session

- Recruiting and Retaining International Medical Graduates to Meet Workforce Needs
- ▲ Navigating Confidentiality In Rural Communities
- Leveraging AI to Mitigate Operational Risks in Rural Healthcare

11:45 – 12:30 p.m. <i>Lunch Session</i>	Arizona AHEC Panel: Support of Clinical Rotations in Rural Communities
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12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
Breakout Session

- An Emergency Department Story of Success with Peer Support “All We Did Was Say Yes”
- ▲ Amplifying Community Voices: Listening Sessions Identify Opportunities and Challenges for Environmental Justice Organizations
- Leveraging Technology-Driven RPM: Enhancing Data, Analytics & Reporting to Advance Rural Healthcare Equity

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.
Breakout Session

- Building a Practice-Based Research Network to Improve Primary Care Practice Across the State
- ▲ What is an Age-Friendly Health Systems (AFHS) and Why Should My Site Become Involved?
- Smart Solutions, Stronger Communities: The Future of Rural Health

General Sessions		Workforce Development		Strengthening Resilience		Systems Innovation	
Day 1	Humphreys	Day 1	Humphreys	Day 1	Doyle/Rees	Day 1	Abineau/Fremont
8:45 – 9:30 a.m.	<p>Arizona Health Care Workforce Initiatives Sheila Sjolander, MSW, Interim Director, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)</p> <p>William A. (Bill) Kennard, Administrator of Healthcare Workforce Development, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)</p> <p>Edith Di Santo, MPH, Arizona Health Care Workforce Initiatives, ADHS</p>	9:40 – 10:25 a.m.	<p>Arizona Center for Rural Health – Health Workforce Data Resources Bryna Koch, DrPH, Assistant Research Professor, Arizona Center for Rural Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona</p>	9:40 – 10:25 a.m.	<p>Strengthening Communities to Address Overdose Prevention and Substance Use Care in Rural Arizona. Bianca SantaMaria, MPH, Research Program Administration Officer II, University of Arizona Center for Rural Health</p> <p>Rocio Torres, MPH, Project Management Assistant III, University of Arizona Center for Rural Health</p>	9:40 – 10:25 a.m.	<p>Moving Systems for Rural Communities David Martinez III, Director, Vitalyst Health Foundation</p>
11:45 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch Session: Arizona AHEC: Support of Clinical Rotations in Rural Communities Moderator: Leila Barraza, JD, MPH, Associate Professor, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, U of A</p> <p>Jennifer Smith, MBA, MS, C.Ped, Executive Director for CERE-AHEC</p> <p>Courtney Madsen, MS, Program Manager for the Colorado Plateau Center for Health Professions (CPCHP)</p> <p>Kristen Natonie, MPH, coordinator, Southern Arizona Area Health Education Center (SAAHEC)</p>	10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	<p>Recruiting and Retaining International Medical Graduates to Meet Workforce Needs Rachel Bus, JD, Managing Attorney, Brelje & Bus Immigration Law PC</p>	10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	<p>Navigating Confidentiality In Rural Communities Carrie Eutizi, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence</p>	10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	<p>Leveraging AI to Mitigate Operational Risks in Rural Healthcare Naren Koka, President, HealthDox</p> <p>Haritha Mogilisetti, Director of Operation, HealthDox</p>
3:45 – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Reception/Research and Community Engagement Poster Sessions</p> <div><div><p>► Addressing Language Barriers in Healthcare: The Impact of Informal Translation and Resource Gaps in Rural Communities</p><p>► CONECTATE: Community Health Workers Improving Community Resilience by Addressing Chronic Disease and Social Connectedness in the Wake of COVID-19</p><p>► Exploring Students' Perceptions and Experiences of Rural Occupational Therapy Practice: A Research Protocol</p><p>► Forensic Nursing at Gila River Health Care</p></div><div><p>► Harm Reduction and Cannabis Conversations in Arizona</p><p>► Multimodal Telerehabilitation of Rural Patients with Metastatic Prostate Cancer</p><p>► Obstetric Simulation Training in Rural Arizona Communities without Birthing Centers</p><p>► Strategies for Workforce Development and Improving Health Outcomes: Practice-Based Research & QI</p><p>► The Elev8 Initiative</p><p>► Practicing Medicine Like an Anthropologist</p></div></div>	12:30 –1:45 p.m.	<p>An Emergency Department Story of Success with Peer Support “All We Did Was Say Yes” Sean Hopler, Director of Emergency Department, Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Lindsay Westbrook, Lead Peer Support Specialists at Summit Regional Medical Center, HOPE Inc.</p>	12:30 –1:45 p.m.	<p>Amplifying Community Voices: Listening Sessions Identify Opportunities and Challenges for Environmental Justice Organizations Georgia Weiss-Elliott, MA, Participatory Evaluation Specialist, Participatory Evaluation Institute, Center for Participatory Prevention, Evaluation and Action Research (PEAR), University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH)</p> <p>Maia Ingram, Center for Participatory Prevention, Evaluation and Action Research (PEAR). Univeristy of Arizona, MEZCOPH</p>	12:30 –1:45 p.m.	<p>Leveraging Technology-Driven RPM: Enhancing Data, Analytics & Reporting to Advance Rural Healthcare Equity Dr. Xiaoxu Kang, CEO and founder, KangarooHealth</p> <p>Dr. Ergi Gumusaneli, CEO and founder, Fitz Ilias</p> <p>Dr. Alan P. Michels, CEO and founder, Ponderosa Family Care</p>
		2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	<p>Building a Practice-Based Research Network to Improve Primary Care Practice Across the State Karen Lutrick, PhD, University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Tucson, Family & Community Medicine</p>	2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	<p>What is an Age-Friendly Health Systems (AFHS) and Why Should my Site Become Involved? Mindy J. Fain, MD, Anne & Alden Hart Professor of Medicine, Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Co-Director, University of Arizona Center on Aging, Director, Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP)</p>	2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	<p>Smart Solutions, Stronger Communities: The Future of Rural Health Tina Burbine, MBA, PMP, PgMP, Founder, Rural Health Community</p> <p>Jay Larson, CIO, Summit Healthcare</p>
		3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	<p>Integrating Incentives in Rural Provider Compensation Opal H. Greenway, Principal, Stroudwater Associates</p> <p>Shad Ritchie, Senior Consultant, Stroudwater Associates</p>	3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	<p>Freestanding Birth Center to Hospital Perinatal Transfers of Care: A Multi-Method Study of Outcomes and Experiences in Arizona Erin K. George, PhD, CNM, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Arizona</p>	3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	<p>Video AI to Transform Nursing Forever Dhruv Joshi, MD, Global CEO, Cloudphysician AI</p>
Day 2		Day 2		Day 2		Day 2	
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	<p>Unique Challenges of Maternal Mental Health Care in Rural Settings Kelly Donohue Cooper, PhD, Chair Postpartum Support International-Arizona</p>	9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	<p>Personalized Medicine in Practice: Leveraging Pharmacogenetics for Optimized Medication Therapy in Complex Patients Mike Tilton, Chief Growth Officer, DecisionRX</p>	9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	<p>The Power of Using a Closed Loop Referral System to Address Social Determinants of Health Ben Fisher, Community Programs Advisor, Contexture</p>	9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	<p>Telemedicine Optimization, Reimbursement, and Policy Updates Carrie Foote BA, BS, Associate Director, Administration, ATP & Program Administrator, SWTRC, AZ Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center</p> <p>Michael Holcomb, BS, Interim Director and Associate Director, Information Technology, ATP & PI, SWTRC, AZ Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center</p>
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.	<p>Arizona’s 2025 Legislative Session: Policy Bridges Over Troubled Water Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association</p>						
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Extreme Heat and Rural Health: Identifying Risks, Responses, and Collaborative Strategies for Resilience Mona Arora, PhD, Co-PI, Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health, Assistant Research Professor, Environmental Health Science, University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health</p> <p>Karina Duenas, LMSW, Research Project Manager, University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health</p>	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<p>The Elev8 Initiative Charlotte Mitchell BS, MPH, AHEC (Elev8) Program Coordinator, Gila River Healthcare</p> <p>Frances Antone, BS, MS, PAC, Physician Assistant, Gila River Healthcare</p> <p>Frances Rios Villescaz, MPH, Medical Education Coordinator, Gila River Healthcare</p> <p>Jennifer Harvey, BBA, MHA Student, Manager, Medical Staff Services, Gila River Healthcare</p>	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Multi-System Responsiveness, Vicarious Trauma, and Missed Handoffs - How System Changes Impact Both Patients and Employee Well-being and Retention Jason Haglund, Senior Consultant, Rural Policy Partners</p> <p>Renee Schulte, Senior Consultant, Rural Policy Partners</p>	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Tele-Nephrology at Critical Access Hospitals in Arizona Rhonda Mason, MSN, COO / CNO, TeleNeph</p> <p>Lori Green, MSN, Vice President/CNO, Mt Graham Regional Medical Center</p>