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Alabama Rural Health Annual Conference

April 28-29, 2022 | Embassy Suites | Hoover, AL

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

11:00 a.m. **Registration / Vendor Discovery**

Noon  **Lunch / Annual Business Meeting**

This session is the annual business meeting for the Alabama Rural Health Association. All conference members, attendees and vendors are welcome to participate.

1:30 p.m. **Break / Vendor Discovery**

2:00 p.m. **The Blueprint for Optimizing Your Telehealth Program**

Speaker: Zak Willis, ENA

At the onset of the pandemic, many healthcare organizations had to quickly deploy virtual telehealth programs to serve their patients. While these programs offered a great short-term solution, it is critical that healthcare organizations now assess their technology infrastructures to provide both their on-site and telehealth patients a seamless, secure, and highly satisfactory user experience. This session will provide attendees a blueprint for building a multi-faceted wireless infrastructure that not only enables your staff and organization to deliver excellent patient care inside and outside the building, but also keeps staff and patients safe with built-in features such as contact tracing. Attendees will also discover how they can leverage a managed service partner to gain the Wi-Fi engineering expertise and assistance they need while freeing up their IT staff to focus on more critical projects.

3:00 p.m. **Strategies for Lowering Preterm Birth Rates in Alabama**

Speaker: Dr. John McDonald, University of Alabama; Mrs. Trendel Samuel, Director of Region II ( West Alabama) State Perinatal Advisory Committee ADPH

Alabama has the second highest pre-term birth rate in the nation. When babies are born before 37 weeks, they can have problems with breathing, digestion, brain bleeds and long-term developmental delays. However, it is estimated that more than 50% of pre-term births are preventable. This session will examine the causes and solutions to pre-term birth rates in the state.

4:00 p.m. **Break**

4:15 p.m.. **Here Today and Gone Tomorrow**

Speaker: Heidi Smith, Dir. of Marketing and Business Development, Ivy Creek Healthcare

Amidst COVID 19, employee retention is in the mind of all Health Care Employers. Retaining nurses, as well as staff, has been a challenge we are all fighting. This is a discussion/presentation on tackling turn over and engaging employees in hopes of keeping them on your payroll.

5:15 p.m.  **Break**

5:30 p.m. **Rural Health Reception**

This is an open reception in the hotel lobby. All in-person conference attendees and guests are welcome.

**Friday, April 15, 2022**

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 a.m. **National Rural Health Update**

Speaker: Brock Slabach, National Rural Health Association

This session will feature NRHA Vice President Brock Slabach as he details important federal updates and opportunities. Such will include COVID-19 funding, new and innovative hospital and healthcare delivery systems, telehealth and more.

9:30 a.m. **Lean Six Sigma**

Speaker: Mickey Trimm, PhD

10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **Opportunities with the National Rural Health Resource Center**   
Speaker: Bethany Adams, National Rural Health Resource Center; Shannon Saari, National Rural Health Resource Center

This presentation will feature existing and new resources available to rural health facilities through the National Rural Health Resource Center.

11:45 a.m.  **Adjourn Conference**

**Breakout Sessions**

Each of these sessions are pre-recorded, on-demand downloads for both in-person and virtual attendees to access.

. **Stroke and Health Literacy in Alabama**   
Speaker: Kunwal Molwani Scott, DNP, BSN, RN, FNP-C

This presentation will discuss information related to stroke statistics, risk factors, and health literacy’s effects on education among Alabama’s population with regard to stroke.

**Rural Health Clinic Certification Update**

This session from the Alabama Division of Medicaid will discuss rural health clinic certification updates from the state perspective.

**Opportunities for Alabama Students in Rural Health**

Speaker: Earl Johnson, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Shernita Taylor, Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council

This session will discuss healthcare opportunities in rural areas of the State of Alabama, and how students can best prepare for these job opportunities.

**Addressing the Suicide Crisis Among Our Youth**

Speaker:Dannette Bivins, LPC, LMFT, NCC, JSOCC

The suicide rate among teenagers and young adults is increasing at an alarming rate. This session will address the likely causes of the increase in suicide rates and detail what providers can do to assist in its reduction.