

# Ohio Rural Health Conference

August 6–7, 2026 | OSU Wooster

**DAY 1 – AUGUST 6**

8:30 AM – Welcome

9:00 AM – Opening Keynote | John Hanson

10:00 AM – State of Rural | Troy Brown, Chartis Group

11:00 AM – Breakout Sessions Begin

**11:00 – 11:45 AM**

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Compliance Reimagined: Turning RHC Regulations into Results Kate Hill, The Compliance Team	Beyond the Hospital Walls: How Rural Health Systems Can Lead Workplace Wellness Robyn Feitshans, Wayne HealthCare	Repaving a Path to Profitability Nick Smith, Wipfli LLP	Rural Health, Real Impact: Evidence-Based Communication Strategies Emily Bennett, Shiftology

**11:45 AM – 1:45 PM**

Lunch Keynote – Exact Sciences

Visit Vendors | Visit Research Posters

**12:45 – 1:30 PM** - Critical Access Hospital Meeting, Troy Brown, Chartis Group

**1:45 – 2:30 PM**

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
RHC Behavioral Health Integration Nicole Thorell, Wintergreen	Employment Matters Affecting Rural Healthcare Providers in Ohio Daphne Kackloudis, Shumaker	Promoting Safe Medication Practices with Generation Rx Emilee Drerup and Kelsey Schmuhl The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy	Extended Poster Time

**2:30 – 3:15 PM**

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Beyond the Visit: Improving Outcomes, Enhancing Lives, & Increasing Revenue Kristen Ogden, The Compliance Team	Personalizing Nurses' EHR Workflows Saves an Estimated 1,600 Hours Annually Eric Gasser, Wooster Community Hospital Health System	Building Pediatric Readiness in Ohio: Strengthening Care Across Hospital and Prehospital Systems Kyle Smith, Ohio EMS for Children State Partnership Program	Navigating Ohio and Federal Regulations for International Healthcare Staffing Amber Sprengard, Health Carousel

**3:15 – 4:30 PM**

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
RHC Best Practices Checklist – Operational Performance Nicole Thorell, Wintergreen	Strengthening Rural Health in Ohio: Rural Emergency Hospitals and Targeted Technical Assistance Leasa Novak, Rural Health Redesign Center	Health Workforce Ohio Richard Hodges, Ohio University	From Confusion to Clarity: Type 2 Diabetes Doesn't Have to Be a Life Sentence J. Kevin Whitt

**5:30 PM – Networking Event**

## DAY 2 – AUGUST 7

### 9:00 – 9:45 AM

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
RHC Billing and Coding Update 2026 Charles James, North American HMS	Miles From Care: Maternal Health in Rural Ohio's Desert Ashley Kovacs	Closing the Distance: How Angel Flight East Expands Access to Lifesaving Care for Rural Patients Jess Ames, Angel Flight East	Rural Appalachian Pharmacy Service-Learning: Building Up Rural Electives Rebecca Lahrman, Christopher Hernandez, and Jennifer Rodis, OSU College of Pharmacy

### 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

#### Advocacy Presentation

Zil Romero, National Rural Health Association  
Carly Salamone, President, Vantage Healthcare of Ohio

*\*Agenda subject to change*