

Ohio Rural Health Conference

August 6–7, 2026 | OSU Wooster

DAY 1 – AUGUST 6

8:30 AM – Welcome

Dr. Beth Kluding, ORHA Board President, Chief Nursing Officer/ Chief Operating Officer, Hocking Valley Community Hospital

Dr. Andy Thomas, Chief Clinical Officer, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

9:00 AM – Opening Keynote | John Hanson

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

11:00 AM – Breakout Sessions Begin

Session 1: Auditorium

Session 2: Fisher North

Session 3: Fisher 111

Session 4: Fisher 121

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 Terri Flood and 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 – 2:00 PM

Lunch Keynote – Exact Sciences

Visit Vendors | Visit Research Posters

1:00 – 1:45 PM - Critical Access Hospital Meeting, Troy Brown, Chartis Group

2:00 – 2:45 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

3:00 – 3:45 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

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
RHC Best Practices Checklist – Operational Performance Nicole Thorell, Wintergreen	Strengthening Rural Health Through 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 at The Ugly Duck (Drinks + Hot Appetizers)

3331 Lincoln Way E, Wooster, OH 44691

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*