

RURAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

This conference is intended for leaders of rural healthcare who are involved in strategic planning, operations, and leading teams. The sessions cover both federal and state-specific topics that are relevant to healthcare within our state. This intimate event facilitates in-depth discussions, idea sharing, and ample networking opportunities with colleagues from across the state.

Attendees can earn 3 face-to-face ACHE credits and 11.2 continuing education hours are approved for nursing home administrators.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience includes C-suite executives, directors, and managers of hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living, home health, and hospice organizations.

REGISTRATION

Register online at <https://members.sdaho.org/events/2025-rural-health-leaders-conference>

- SDAHO member - \$200
- Non-member - \$350
- ACHE pre-conference session - \$50

SDAHO Refund/Cancellation Policy

Policies regarding the refunding of registration fees for SDAHO's Rural Health Leaders Conference are

- 1) Full Refund if cancellation is received 2 weeks (June 11 or earlier) prior to SDAHO's Rural Health Leaders Conference;
- 2) NO REFUND if cancellation is received less than 2 weeks prior to (June 12 or later) to the SDAHO Rural Health Leaders Conference;
- 3) NO REFUND for "No Shows." Exceptions to this policy may be made in unusual circumstances at the discretion of the SDAHO President.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Conference Location

All conference events will take place at the Drifters Event Center in Fort Pierre, SD.

Lodging

SDAHO is offering a special hotel rate at:

- My Place Hotel in Fort Pierre - click [here](#).

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RURAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

AGENDA All times are central time

June 25

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Pre-Session - Navigating Key Legislative Issues | Panel (Additional Fee)

***Sponsored by ACHE of South Dakota - 1.5 ACHE credits**

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Opening Remarks | Governor Larry Rhoden

12:40 PM - 1:40 PM

Be the Best Part of Their Day: Supercharging Communication with Values-Driven Leadership | David Schreiner, Ph.D.

1:50 PM - 3:20 PM

The Cybersecurity Threat Landscape and Its Impact on Health Care | Scott Gee, American Hospital Association & Ryan Thousand, Dahl Memorial Healthcare

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

EMS in SD: Future Strategies and Building the Next Generation of Paramedics | Panel

4:40 PM - 5:10 PM

South Dakota Health Care Policy Update | SDAHO Staff

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Vendor Social

June 26

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

A View From Washington: The State of Rural Health Policy | Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, National Rural Health Association

9:10 AM - 10:50 AM

Sustainable Strategies to Support Well-Being for Healthcare Professionals | Panel

***Sponsored by ACHE of South Dakota - 1.5 ACHE credits**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

A Peek Behind the Curtain of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit | Amanda Miiller, Deputy Attorney General

STRENGTHENING RURAL

RURAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

June 25

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM CST

Pre-Session (Additional Fee) - Navigating Key Legislative Issues | Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Avera Health; Teri Jacobs, Avera Health; Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA; Tim Rave, SDAHO

Numerous public policy and legislative issues around healthcare delivery and public health affect healthcare organizations and demand involvement of their leaders to respond and adjust organizational policies and procedures. These issues often relate to improving population health, access and coverage through Medicaid and other programs, improving value, addressing consumer issues and workforce shortages, and more. Learning these issues and being involved in policy and organizational responses is important for healthcare leaders, regardless of how directly they may be involved. *1.5 ACHE credits*

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM CST

Opening Remarks: Governor Larry Rhoden

12:40 PM - 1:40 PM CST

Be The Best Part of Their Day: Supercharging Communication with Values-Driven Leadership | David Schreiner, Ph.D.

Drawing from the insights in his book, Dr. David L. Schreiner inspires attendees to lead with greater purpose, connect more authentically, and elevate everyday interactions into extraordinary moments. Through a blend of storytelling, data, and reflective exercises, participants will discover the transformative power of asking meaningful questions, listening without the urge to fix, and leading with a mission-driven mindset.

1:50 PM - 3:20 PM CST

The Cybersecurity Threat Landscape and Its Impact on Health Care | Scott Gee, American Hospital Association & Ryan Thousand, Dahl Memorial Healthcare

As cyber threats grow in sophistication and frequency, the health care sector faces increasing risks to patient safety, data integrity, and care delivery. In this session, experts in healthcare IT security will explore the evolving cybersecurity threat landscape and discuss the real-world implications of cyberattacks on hospitals and health systems. Learn how health care organizations can strengthen their defenses and protect critical infrastructure to ensure the continued delivery of safe, high-quality care.

3:30 PM - 4:40 PM CST

EMS in SD: Future Strategies and Building the Next Generation of Paramedics | Marty Link, SDDOH Office of EMS and Trauma; Alyssa Olson, Brookings Health System; Bryan Breitling, Avera Health; Margaret Hansen, SDBMOE; Tim Rave, SDAHO

This panel will explore the evolving landscape of Emergency Medical Services in South Dakota, examining key challenges such as funding shortages, staffing limitations, and service closures. The discussion will highlight state-led initiatives focused on workforce development, streamlined licensing, and expanded training opportunities. Presenters will share data on recruitment efforts, available grant programs, and the return on investment for paramedic support. Looking ahead, the session will cover strategies for long-term sustainability, regional collaboration, and strengthened partnerships at the community level. It will also spotlight the next generation of EMS professionals, including expanded roles, educational pathways, and the integration of Community Health Workers. The session concludes with a forward-looking vision for EMS and a call to action for stakeholders across the healthcare system.

4:40 PM - 5:10 PM CST

South Dakota Health Care Policy Update | Tim Rave and Jacob Parsons, SDAHO

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM CST

Exhibitor Social

RURAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

June 26

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM CST

A View From Washington: The State of Rural Health Policy | Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

In this session, NRHA State Government Affairs Manager Zil Joyce Dixon Romero will provide a comprehensive overview of current federal and state rural health policy development. This will include updates from the 119th Congress and the Trump administration. Attendees will gain insights into key legislative priorities, proposed budget impacts on rural programs, workforce shortages, including South Dakota's critical primary care gaps and threats to the rural health safety net. The presentation will also highlight resources and opportunities for advocacy and engagement with your federal officials.

9:10 PM - 10:50 PM CST

Sustainable Strategies to Support Well-Being for Healthcare Professionals | Mary Wolf, Veritree Partners; Marla Dziedzic, Avera Health; April Crago, Rural Health Care, Inc.; Stephanie Rissler, SDAHO

In recent years, challenges related to healthcare professional burnout have only accelerated, exacerbating pre-existing issues within the workforce. This has resulted in significant difficulties for healthcare workers and their loved ones, as well as workforce shortages that are putting a strain on the healthcare system. Additionally, adverse patient events have been linked to healthcare staff experiencing sleep disturbances, reduced job satisfaction, impaired behavior, and anxiety. These factors contribute to more severe consequences such as burnout, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal ideation. Healthcare leaders often struggle to find long-term solutions to address this critical yet personal issue for both their staff and their organizations. During this panel, participants will learn sustainable strategies and approaches to support well-being and resiliency for healthcare professionals in today's healthcare environment. Even when leaders acknowledge this challenge, they are frequently faced with conflicting information or quick-fix solutions that fail to create lasting change and can sometimes foster cynicism among employees. During this panel, participants will explore the importance of supporting and sustaining well-being for healthcare professionals in today's healthcare environment. *1.5 ACHE credits*

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

A Peek Behind the Curtain of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit | Amanda Müller, Deputy AG

Medicaid Fraud Control Units investigate and prosecute Medicaid provider fraud, abuse or neglect of residents in hospitals, health care facilities and board and care facilities, and instances of drug diversion. In this session, Deputy Attorney General Amanda Müller will provide an overview of the SD Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, discuss the different mechanisms by which an investigation may be triggered, and provide valuable insights into achieving favorable outcomes short of litigation. Attendees will gain an understanding of what goes into making prosecution decisions, and what steps CEOs and C-suite leaders can take to protect their institutions and strengthen community trust.

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