

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

*North Central Pennsylvania Regional Healthcare Summit:*

# Overcoming Regional Rural Health Challenges



LOCATION:



University of Pittsburgh | Bradford

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# *North Central Regional Healthcare Summit*

# Overcoming Regional Rural Health Challenges

THURSDAY JULY 24, 2025

8:00AM - 3:45PM

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

*Bromeley Theatre, Blaisdell Hall*

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## Summit Objectives

- To spark regional collaboration that aligns our limited resources, builds effective partnerships, and creates the healthcare and clinical workforce pipeline needed for lasting rural healthcare and economic vitality.
- To “speak in one voice” as a region in advocating for state and federal policies and legislation that increases access to and/or eliminates barriers to rural healthcare delivery.

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## Agenda

- 8:00AM**      **Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking | Blaisdell Hall**
- 9:00AM**      **Welcome to Conversations on Overcoming Regional Rural Health Care Challenges | Bromley Theatre**  
Speaker: Rick Esch, President, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
- 9:10AM**      **Informing Decisions Through Data | Bromeley Theatre**  
Speaker: Debra Bogen, MD, Secretary of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- 9:45AM**      **Orientation to Work Groups and Transition | Bromeley Theatre**  
Moderator: Debra Thompson, President, Strategy Solutions

**10:00AM Breakout Sessions: Work Group Conversations | Blaisdell Hall**

*These are discussions led by local experts in 4 selected topic areas.*

- » Workforce and pipeline development | Room 138
- » Women's health and maternity care /birthing centers | Room 121
- » Access to care and services | Bromeley Theatre
- » Emergency Medical Services/Transportation | Room 102

*Work groups will be presenting:*

- The vision/ goal for the topic area
- Barriers that exist to achieving the goal(s) (legislative, regulatory, promotion, funding)
- Strategies for achieving each goal (bills passed, regulations promulgated, partners engaged, philanthropic commitment)

**11:00AM Work Group Report Outs and Recommendations | Bromeley Theater**

Moderator: Jim Chorney, North Central Regional Planning Commission

- Each work group has 10 minutes for report
- Elected official thoughts and reactions after each topic report (5 minutes)
  - » Senator Cris Dush, Representative Martin Causer, Brad Moore (Representative Glenn Thompson's office), Staff from Senator Fetterman's office

**12:15PM Get Lunch and Join Us for the Lunch Panel: Health System Reactions to the Work Group Recommendations | Dining Hall**

Moderator: Stephanie Watkins, Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Policy, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

- David Gibbons, SVP, Health Services Division & Regional President, UPMC
- Trina Alba, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Penn Highlands Healthcare

**1:30PM Expert Panel Provide Response and Input to the Work Group Recommendations | Bromeley Theater**

Moderator: Lisa Davis, Director and Outreach Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration, PA Office of Rural Health

- Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- Jason Kavulich, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- George Garrow, CEO, Primary Health Network

**2:15PM Break and Transitions | Blaisdell Hall**

**2:30PM Reconvene in Work Groups | Blaisdell Hall**

- Finalize action plans and next steps
  - » Workforce and pipeline development | Room 138
  - » Women's health and maternity care /birthing centers | Room 121
  - » Access to care and services | Bromley Theatre
  - » Emergency Medical Services/Transportation | Room 102

**3:15PM Next Steps for Meeting the Needs of Rural Communities | Blaisdell Hall**

Moderator: Debra Thompson, President, Strategy Solutions

**3:45PM Closing Remarks: Senator Cris Dush & Adjourn | Blaisdell Hall**