

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

*Specific meeting room locations will be announced in early July.*

REGISTER AT: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthCentralHCSummit>

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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

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| 8:00AM | Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking  |
| 9:00AM | Welcome to Conversations on Overcoming Regional Rural Health Care Challenges<br>Moderator: Rick Esch, President, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford |
| 9:10AM | Informing Decisions Through Data<br>Moderator: Debra Bogen, MD, Secretary of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health                                |
| 9:45AM | Orientation to Work Groups and Transition<br>Moderator: TBD   |

### 10:00AM Breakout Sessions: Work Group Conversations

*These are discussions led by local experts in 4 selected topic areas. When you register, please choose the breakout group you would like to participate in.*

1. Workforce and pipeline development (nurse and MD recruitment, tuition assistance)
2. Women's health and maternity care /birthing centers
3. Access to care and services (pharmacy services, telemedicine, and broadband)
4. Emergency Medical Services/Transportation (including EMS and Emergency services)

For priority areas identified, work groups are preparing in advance of the meeting:

The vision/ goal for the topic area:

- Barriers that exist to achieving the goal(s) (legislative, regulatory, promotion, funding) and list them clearly
- Strategies for achieving each goal (bills passed, regulations promulgated, partners engaged, philanthropic commitment)

### 11:00AM Work Group Report Outs and Recommendations

Moderator: TBD

- Each work group has 15 minutes for report
- Elected official thoughts and reactions after each topic report (5 minutes)

### 12:15PM Get Lunch and Join Us for the Lunch Panel: Health System Reactions to the Work Group Recommendations

Moderator: President of Hospital Association of PA

- Hospital/Health Policy Leaders (Kaleida, Penn Highlands, UPMC)

### 1:15PM Expert Panel Provide Response and Input to the Work Group Recommendations

Moderator: Secretary Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH

- Lisa Davis, PA Rural Health Center
- Phillip Jones, Federal Reserve Bank
- George Garrow, Primary Health Network

### 2:15PM Break and Transitions

### 2:30PM Reconvene in Work Groups

- Finalize action plans and next steps

### 3:15PM Next Steps for Meeting the Needs of Rural Communities

Moderator: TBD

### 3:45PM Adjourn