North Carolina Rural Health Transformation Program

Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 2-4 p.m.

Location

- In-person: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607, Training Room A&B
- Virtual: YouTube Link

Meeting Objectives

By the end of the meeting, Advisory Committee Members will be able to:

- Identify highlights from the first year of NCRHTP implementation
- Share information about available funding opportunities, including the Rural Health Innovation Fund, with their networks
- Provide feedback on opportunities to engage their networks in NCRHTP, including funding opportunities

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator
2 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks	Dev Sangvai, NC Health and Human Services Secretary (Committee Chair) Debra Farrington, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Health (Committee Co-Chair)
2:05 p.m.	Roll Call	Maggie Woods, NCRHTP Director
2:10 p.m.	Year 1 Highlights and Spotlight on Rural Health Innovation Fund	Maggie Woods, NCRHTP Director

		Alice Pollard, NCRHTP Deputy Director Joseph Watkins, Director, Efficiency and Transformation and NCRHTP Initiative 6 Lead
2:35 p.m.	Questions & Answers	Facilitator: Debra Farrington
2:45 p.m.	Engagement Breakout Discussions* Discussion questions are listed at end of agenda **This portion of the meeting will not be broadcast via YouTube.*	All
3:05 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	Report Outs & Questions from Discussion	Facilitator: Maggie Woods, NCRHTP Director
3:30 p.m.	Public Comment	Members of the public attending in-person will have an opportunity to sign up to offer brief (3 minutes or less) comments to the Advisory Committee. Members of the public attending virtually will have an opportunity to submit comments via an online form to be read to the Committee.
3:45 p.m.	Final Reflections, Next Steps and Closing	Maggie Woods, NCRHTP Director
4 p.m.	Meeting Ends	

Breakout Session Instructions and Questions

During the meeting, we will spend 20 minutes in small groups discussing several topics that will support the NCRHTP team and partners to engage with rural communities and stakeholders.

In-person: In-person committee attendees will be directed to form groups of four participants based on where they are sitting in the room.

Virtual: Virtual attendees will be placed in WebEx breakout rooms.

Groups should move together through the questions below and be prepared to report out any key themes, takeaways, or questions to the larger group. Start with selecting three questions to discuss. If time allows, move on to additional questions.

Questions for consideration:

1. Are you hearing of communities/populations/organizations that should be more engaged in NCRHTP?
2. What are barriers for reaching these communities/populations/organizations?
3. Who are trusted messengers for the community/population/organization?
4. What are the most effective channels to share funding opportunities with communities?
5. What would make a small practice, critical access hospital, CBO or other partner apply for funding? What makes the application process difficult?
6. What is helpful to cover in our future public webinars and in person meeting in February?

Examples of communities and populations you may consider include, but are not limited to: older adults, American Indian tribal communities, refugees, people with limited English proficiency, veterans.

Examples of organizations you may consider include, but are not limited to: primary care providers, rural hospitals, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, community colleges.

Upcoming Meetings

- February 2027, Durham Convention Center
- May 2027, Eastern NC
- August 2027, Western NC
- November 2027, NCDHHS Headquarters

All meetings include a virtual option for attendance.

Members

Listed Alphabetically

- Eric Ager, NC State Representative, D-District 114
- Jason Baisden, Senior Program Officer, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
- Cherry Beasley, Community Member Representative
- Greg Bryant, Chair, North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs
- Leah Catotti, Policy Director, North Carolina Department of Administration
- Leslie Cofie, Assistant Professor, Health Education and Promotion, East Carolina University
- Geoff Coltrane, Senior Director of Government Affairs and Strategy, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- Casey Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
- Philip Cooper, Founder and Chief Change Agent, Operation Gateway
- LaPonda Edmondson, President, North Carolina Healthcare Foundation and Senior Vice President, North Carolina Healthcare Association
- Lotta Crabtree, Chief Administrative Officer of the State Health Plan, Office of the State Treasurer
- Peter Daniel, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of Health Plans
- Chris Estes, Chief Program Officer, North Carolina Rural Center
- Ryan Estes, Chief Operating Officer, Coastal Horizons Center
- Kim Evans, Community Member Representative
- Debra Farrington, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Health (Committee Co-Chair)
- Amy Galey, NC State Senator, R-District 25
- Andrew Gardner, Associate Vice President of Workforce Strategies, North Carolina Community College System
- Vincent Ginski, Senior Director of Workforce Competitiveness, North Carolina Chamber
- Tina C. Gordon, CEO, North Carolina Nurses Association
- Zack Green, Director, High Country Area Agency on Aging
- Jennifer Greene, Health Director, Appalachian District Health Department
- Mike Hawkins, Community Member Representative
- Lacy C. Hobgood, President-Elect, North Carolina Medical Society Foundation
- Celeste Hunt, Program Director, Lumbee Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mary Jones, Director of Client Care and Engagement, El Futuro NC
- Michelle Laws, CEO and Chief Consultant, Symbiotic Strategies
- Mozine Lowe, Executive Director, Center for Energy Education
- Melinda Munden, SHIIP Director and Deputy Commissioner, North Carolina Department of Insurance
- Wallace Nelson, President, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
- Vivianette Ortiz, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Latinos Aventureros
- Lilly Parker, Chair, State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee
- Dave Richard, Senior Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting, NC Association of Public Community Health Plans

- Chilton Rogers, Community Member Representative
- Jordan Rogers, Vice President of Strategy and Growth, NC Telehealth Network Association
- Leighton Roper, Shareholder, Maynard Nexsen
- Dev Sangvai, NC Health and Human Services Secretary (Committee Chair)
- Alex Sepez, Regional Manager, North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Chris Shank, President/CEO, North Carolina Community Health Center Association
- Kandie Smith, NC State Senator, D-District 5
- Reginald Speight, Assistant Secretary of Rural Economic Development, North Carolina Department of Commerce
- Annette Taylor, Senior Adviser to the Secretary for Community Partnerships, North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- Suzanne Wertman, Certified Nurse-Midwife, North Carolina Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives
- Donna White, NC State Representative, R-District 26

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