

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Sunday, September 27, 2026: Conference Check-In

For descriptions of the sessions, visit bit.ly/narmhsessions.

Time	Title	Location
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Registration Open	Eldorado Ballroom Foyer

Monday, September 28, 2026: Conference Day 1

Time	Title	Location
7:00 am	Registration Open	Eldorado Ballroom Foyer
7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast Available	Eldorado Ballroom
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome Dance & Opening Remarks	Eldorado Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Keynote Presentation <i>Nicholas Palmisano, Clinical Services Operations Manager, Health Care Authority, Behavioral Health Services Division</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
10:00 – 11:00 am	Preparing the Workforce: Training, Supervision, and Support for Behavioral Health Aides to Promote Effective Care <i>Xiomara Owens, Tonya Horn, Bernice Nisbett, Amanda Gentz, Dennis Mohatt</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
11:00 – 11:30 am	Break, Sponsor Exhibits, & Poster Presentations <i>Break Sponsor:</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch & Awards <i>Lunch Sponsor:</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Key Legislative Updates in Rural Mental Health <i>Jonah C. Cunningham, President/CEO NACBHDD - National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Break & Sponsor Exhibits <i>Break Sponsor:</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
1:45 – 2:45 pm	Breakout Sessions A <i>Track Sponsor:</i>	
1A	Bridging the Rural Gap: Building a Collaborative Virtual Learning Community for Mental and Behavioral Health Practice Change <i>Adelaide Murray, Ashlie Micucci</i>	Eldorado A

Monday, September 28, 2026: Conference Day 1 (Continued)

Time	Title	Location
2A	Using Storytelling and Narrative Therapy to Decrease Mental Health Stigma in Rural Appalachia and other Rural Communities <i>Elizabeth Slaven</i>	<i>Anasazi North</i>
3A	The Role of Peer Support as an Indigenous Practice <i>Vesper Moore</i>	<i>Anasazi South</i>
4A	Collective Effort to Building the Behavioral Health Workforce in Rural Settings: Impact of The Learning to Practice Mini Grant <i>Kathleen Gibbons, Denise Moore, JoAnn Cooke, Student Guest</i>	<i>Zia A</i>
5A	Use of Contingency Management in Rural Areas: A Scoping Review of the Literature (1:45 – 2:15 pm) <i>Kathi Trawver, Michael Baldwin</i> Rural Youth Mental Wellness: Empowering the Next Generation in Rural America (2:15 – 2:45 pm) <i>Jeff Winton</i>	<i>Zia B/C</i>
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Break & Sponsor Exhibits <i>Break Sponsor:</i>	<i>Eldorado Ballroom</i>
3:15 – 4:15 pm	Breakout Sessions B <i>Track Sponsor:</i>	
1B	Strengthening Rural Crisis Systems Through Mental Health Urgent Care <i>Laura Vaughn, Ashley Kjos, Jinny Palen, Tanya Wozniak</i>	<i>Eldorado A</i>
2B	Balancing Data and Community Realities: Lessons from an Evaluation Learning Team Supporting Rural Mental Health Collaboratives <i>Alfiya Shaikh Mohd Rafiq, Heather Clark, Sara Mendez, Felicia N. York, David Matarrita-Cascante</i>	<i>Anasazi North</i>
3B	Project AWARE New Mexico: Building an Integrated, School-Based Behavioral Health System and Five-Year Outcomes (2021–2026) <i>David Lardier</i>	<i>Anasazi South</i>
4B	Training Clinics as Access Points: Bridging Gaps in Rural Mental Health Through Innovation and Ethics <i>Becca Kall</i>	<i>Zia A</i>
5B	Balancing the Head and the Heart: Strategy and Communication for Rural Nonprofits <i>Dixie Casford</i>	<i>Zia B/C</i>
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Networking Reception (<i>All conference attendees welcome to hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.</i>)	<i>Eldorado Ballroom</i>

Tuesday, September 29, 2026: Conference Day 2

Time	Title	Location
7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast Available & Sponsor Exhibits	Eldorado Ballroom
7:45 – 8:30 am	NARMH Membership Meeting	Eldorado Ballroom
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Eldorado Ballroom
Keynote Presentation		
9:00 – 10:00 am	<i>Jac Charlier, Chief Executive Officer, PTACC, Executive Director, TASC's Center for Health and Justice (CHJ)</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
10:00 – 11:00 am	Listening First: Rural People Responding to Loneliness and Social Well-Being <i>Bill Jaeger, Strategic Initiatives Officer, LOR Foundation</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
11:00 – 11:30 am	From Data to Action: Advancing Rural Mental Health Through Screening Insights <i>America Paredes, Chief Social Impact Officer, Mental Health America</i>	Eldorado Ballroom
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Break & Sponsor Exhibits	Eldorado Ballroom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Eldorado Ballroom
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Breakout Sessions C	
1C	Ethics in Rural Clinical Settings <i>Catherine Jones-Hazledine, Michael Steube, Lauren Steube, Ryan Lovell</i>	Eldorado A
2C	From Data to Cultural Competence: A Research-Based Model for Strengthening Veteran-Ready Rural Systems <i>Jon Parker, Heidi Radunovich, Michelle Parisi, Maria Rossi</i>	Anasazi North
3C	Grief in the Middle of Nowhere: Supporting Rural Grieving Children <i>Kris Fulkerson</i>	Anasazi South
4C	Mental and Behavioral Health in Agriculture Communities: Qualitative and Quantitative Data from Families and Producers <i>Melissa Fenton, Morgan Valley, Christina Welch</i>	Zia A
5C	Transcending Trauma for Families: A Community-Driven Approach to Addressing the Impact of Historical Trauma <i>Teresa Gomez, Jennifer Nanez, Natalee Price, Deidre P. Yellowhair</i>	Zia B/C
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Break & Sponsor Exhibits	
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Breakout Sessions D	
1D	Diagnosing and Addressing Appalachian Eco-grief - Mental Health and the Environment <i>Larry Merkel, Theresa Burriss</i>	Eldorado A
2D	Reimagining Access: Geospatial-Based Catchment Areas for Rural Behavioral Health <i>Ellysse Boughey</i>	Anasazi North
3D	Beyond Recruitment: Addressing Pay Parity to Sustain the Rural Behavioral Health Workforce <i>Tracie Self, Darcie Davis-Gage, Paul Mackie, Marnie Werner</i>	Anasazi South
4D	MOConnect: Creating a Statewide Mobile Crisis Response System in Missouri <i>Armen Arevian, Drew Burnett</i>	Zia A
5D	Bridging the Head and the Heart: Integrating Data-Driven Care and Compassion in Rural Behavioral Health Systems <i>Ashunte Claybrooks, Brenda Cibulas, Rachael Holloman, David Newton</i>	Zia B/C
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Closing	Eldorado Ballroom