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 *Breakfast Sponsor:* ***MyAdvisor, LLC***	*Eldorado Ballroom*
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome by Steven Bluehorse, Dancers, & Opening Remarks by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (*pending confirmation*)	*Eldorado Ballroom*
9:00 – 10:00 am	**Keynote Presentation** *Nick Boukas, Director, New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division*	*Eldorado Ballroom*
10:00 – 11:00 am	**Preparing the Workforce: Training, Supervision, and Support for Behavioral Health Aides to Promote Effective Care** *Xiomara Owens, Tonya Horn, Bernice Nisbett, Amanda Gentz, Dennis Mohatt*	*Eldorado Ballroom*
11:00 – 11:30 am	Break, Sponsor Exhibits, & Poster Presentations	*Eldorado Ballroom*
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch & Awards *Lunch Sponsor:* ***Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Center for Rural Behavioral Health***	
1:00 – 1:30 pm	**Key Legislative Updates in Rural Mental Health** *Jonah C. Cunningham, President/CEO NACBHDD - National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors*	*Eldorado Ballroom*
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Break & Sponsor Exhibits	*Eldorado Ballroom*
1:45 – 2:45 pm	**Breakout Sessions A** *Track Sponsor:* ***Central Appalachia Network of Mental Health Advocates***	
1A	**Bridging the Rural Gap: Building a Collaborative Virtual Learning Community for Mental and Behavioral Health Practice Change** *Alyssa Carlisle, Ashlie Micucci, Melissa Schoemmell*	*Chapel*

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

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*
9:00 – 9:40 am	**Keynote Presentation** *Rupi Legha, President, Rupinder K Legha, Antiracist MD*	*Eldorado Ballroom*
9:40 – 10:00 am	Awards (*continued*)	*Eldorado Ballroom*
10:00 – 11:00 am	**Listening First: Rural People Responding to Loneliness and Social Well-Being** *Daniel Read, Cassandra Stauch, Amy Engle, Maddy Butcher, LOR Foundation*	*Eldorado Ballroom*
11:00 – 11:30 am	**From Data to Action: Advancing Rural Mental Health Through Screening Insights** *America Paredes, Chief Social Impact Officer, Mental Health America*	*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** *Catherine Jones-Hazledine, Michael Steube, Lauren Steube, Ryan Lovell*	*Chapel*
2C	**From Data to Cultural Competence: A Research-Based Model for Strengthening Veteran-Ready Rural Systems** *Jon Parker, Heidi Radunovich*	*Anasazi North*
3C	**Grief in the Middle of Nowhere: Supporting Rural Grieving Children** *Kris Fulkerson*	*Anasazi South*
4C	**Mental and Behavioral Health in Agriculture Communities: Qualitative and Quantitative Data from Families and Producers** *Melissa Fenton, Christina Welch*	*Zia A*
5C	**Transcending Trauma for Families: A Community-Driven Approach to Addressing the Impact of Historical Trauma** *Teresa Gomez, Jennifer Nanez, Natalee Price, Deidre P. Yellowhair*	*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** *Larry Merkel*	*Chapel*
2D	**Reimagining Access: Geospatial-Based Catchment Areas for Rural Behavioral Health** *Ellysse Boughey, Miriam Sessions*	*Anasazi North*
3D	**Beyond Recruitment: Addressing Pay Parity to Sustain the Rural Behavioral Health Workforce** *Tracie Self, Darcie Davis-Gage, Paul Mackie*	*Anasazi South*
4D	**MOConnect: Creating a Statewide Mobile Crisis Response System in Missouri** *Xuan Tran, Drew Burnett*	*Zia A*
5D	**Bridging the Head and the Heart: Integrating Data-Driven Care and Compassion in Rural Behavioral Health Systems** *Ashunte Claybrooks, Brenda Cibulas, Rachael Holloman, David Newton*	*Zia B/C*
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Closing	*Eldorado Ballroom*