

## EVENT SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Check-in and on-site registration

### WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Daniel Derksen, MD, Associate Vice President for Rural Health Workforce Development Initiatives, University of Arizona Health Sciences, Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health, Senior Advisor, Arizona Area Health Education Centers Program, Professor of Public Health, Medicine & Nursing

### GENERAL SESSIONS

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

**State Level Policy Update**

Meaghan Kramer, Health Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

**Looking Forward: 2026 Public Health Law & Policy Impacts and Key Supreme Court Cases**

James G. Hodge, Jr., JD, LL.M., Professor, ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Leila Barraza, JD, MPH, Director, Arizona Area Health Education Centers Program; Associate Professor, Public Health Practice & Translational Research; Interim Department Chair, Public Health Practice & Translational Research, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

**Networking and Exhibitor Break**

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Auditorium Medicaid Updates**

Marcus Johnson, Deputy Director, Community Engagement & Regulatory Affairs, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

**Room 2206**

**Policy Implications for Seasonal Farmworkers**

Emma Torres, MSW, Executive Director, Campesinos Sin Fronteras

Liliana Cruz, BFA, Raíces de Bienestar Project Director, Campesinos Sin Fronteras

**Room 2208**

**Extreme Heat Impacts**

Mona Arora, PhD, MsPH, Assistant Research Professor, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, Multiple PI, Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change & Health (SCORCH)

Marisol Penuelas, PCMH, CCE, CEHRS, CCMMA, Regional Center for Border Health /San Luis Walk In Clinic, Operation Clinic Director

Jennifer Botsford, MPH, Bureau Chief for Environmental Health, Arizona Department of Health Services

### AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSIONS

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Luncheon with Brief Presentation**

**Engaging with the Arizona Rural Health Association**

Carrie Foote, BA, BS, AzRHA President-Elect and Foote Forward Health Strategies, healthcare Strategy Consultant

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**The Status of Vaccine Access in Arizona**

Doug Campos-Outcalt, MD, Director, MD/MPH Dual Degree Program, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix

2:15 – 3:00 p.m.

**Policy Impacts on County Health Departments**

Diana Gomez, MPH, President, Arizona Local Health Officers Association

Melissa Palmer, MAdm, BS, MCHES, CPM, Health Director, Mohave County Department of Public Health

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**Networking and Exhibitor Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA) Policy Update**

Will Humble, MPH, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**Traditional Healing Access Program**

Kim Russell, MHA, Policy Advisor, Navajo Health Foundation, Sage Memorial Hospital

Melinda White, MSN, RN, Chief Executive Officer, Sage Memorial Hospital

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Networking Reception**

Please join us in the Canyon of the Health Sciences Education Building for light refreshments and an opportunity to reconnect with legislators, colleagues, community leaders, and build new connections.

**For full session descriptions, presenter bios and further information, please visit our website**



*Thank you* for joining us at the 2026 Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum. We value all of your unique perspectives and hope to continue the conversation. You are invited to share your thoughts below and return this portion to our staff.

### We want to hear from you!

■ What public health topics would you like to see included in future conferences?

■ Which populations, communities, or perspectives should be prioritized or more intentionally included in future programming?

■ Which resources, speakers, organizations, or sectors do you believe would add value to future discussions?

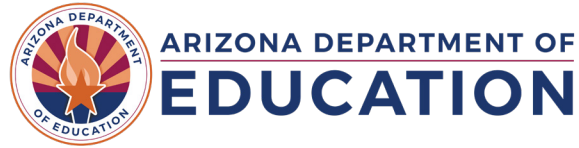
■ What connections would be most helpful to you right now? Let us know how CRH can support your work by connecting you with partners, organizations, or resources in public health.

Name (Optional)

email address (Optional)

Please contact Mariah Erhart merhart@arizona.edu with any additional responses.

## EXHIBITORS



Please take 2-5 minutes to provide your feedback on the Policy Forum. Your feedback is important to us and will be used to inform the planning for future events.

\*If you would like to receive Continuing Education Credits you *must* complete the last question in the survey\*



# SAVE THE DATE

# 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL Arizona Rural Health Conference

Now accepting presentation proposals

JUNE 2-3, 2026

High Country Conference Center  
201 West Butler Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001



Tuesday, February 17

# 2026

ARIZONA RURAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY FORUM

*Virginia G. Piper Auditorium, Phoenix, Arizona*



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health