California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) Program

RURAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL (RHPC)

MEETING #2 AGENDA

Date:

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (PDT/PST)

The CalRHT program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $233,639,308.46 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of CalRHT and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Location:

Virtual – Zoom Meeting

Zoom Meeting Link for Participation for Members of the Public

Call in (audio only)

+1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 81375721889

Passcode: 212341

Item #1	**Welcome** *Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting*
Item #2	**CalRHT Program Updates** *Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)*
Item #3	**Budget Period 1 CalRHT Program Grants** *Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)*
Item #4	**Planning for Budget Period 2 CalRHT Program Grants** *Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting*
Item #5	**Public Comment** *Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting*

Item #6 **Next Steps & Adjourn**

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Rural Health Policy Council Members:

Ana Acton
Assistant Deputy Director, California Department of Aging
Representing state government

Raul Ayala, MD, MHCM
Ambulatory Medical Officer & DIO, Central California Network
Representing rural hospitals

Joy Dockter, JD
Senior Attorney, Western Center on Law and Poverty
Representing consumers

Martin Entwistle, M.B., Ch.B., FRCSEd
Interim Chief Executive Officer, Marshall Medical Center
Representing rural clinics

Kirk Fermin
Director of Provider Network, Inland Empire Health Plan
Representing Medi-Cal managed care plans

Hernando Garzon, MD
Chief Medical Officer, California Emergency Medical Services Authority
Representing state government

Orvin Hanson
Chief Executive Officer, Indian Health Council, Inc.
Representing tribal partners

Virginia Q. Hedrick, MPH
Chief Executive Officer, California Rural Indian Health Board
Representing tribal partners

Haady Lashkari, FACHE
Chief Administrative Officer, Community Memorial Hospital– Ojai
Representing rural hospitals

Lori Link, MSN, CNM
Director of Midwifery, Plumas District Hospital and Rural Health Clinic
Representing providers

Julia Logan, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer, CA Public Employees' Retirement System

Representing state government

Alma Martinez
Policy Advocate, Center on Race Poverty & the Environment
Representing consumers

Rita Nguyen, MD
Assistant State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health
Representing state government

Jeffrey Norris, MD
Value-Based Payment Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services
Representing state government

Tim Rine
Chief Executive Officer, North Coast Clinics Network
Representing rural clinics

Colleen Rodriguez MSW, MPH
Public Health Director, Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency
Representing county public health

James F. Schlund, MD, FACR
Director, Healthy Rural California, Tahoe Forest Hospital
Representing providers

Monica Soni, MD
Health Equity and Quality Transformation Division Lead, Covered California
Representing state government

Dan Southard
Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Managed Health Care
Representing state government

Colleen Townsend, MD
Regional Medical Director, Partnership Health Plan
Representing Medi-Cal managed care plans

Ryan Witz
Executive Director, District Hospital Leadership Forum
Representing district and municipal public hospitals

HCAI Staff

Elizabeth Landsberg, Director

Michael Valle, MPA, Assistant Director

Jennifer Hernandez, MPP, Director, Rural Health Transformation Program

Lemeneh Tefera, MD MSc, Chief Medical Officer & Deputy Director for Clinical Innovation

Andrew Flynn, Chief Medical Officer, CalRHT Program

Peggy Wheeler, MPH, Senior Advisor, Rural Health Transformation Program

Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor