



**California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) Program
RURAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL (RHPC)**

MEETING #1 AGENDA

Date:

Tuesday, July 28, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (PDT)

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)

301-715-8592

Webinar ID: 899 6440 0095

Passcode: 900473

Item #1

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Landsberg, Director (or designee)

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Item #2

CalRHT Program

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Lemeneh Tefara, MD, MSc, Chief Medical Officer and
Deputy Director for Clinical Innovation (or designee)

Item #3

Council Orientation

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Item #4

Council Perspectives

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Item #5

Public Comment

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Item #6

Next Steps & Adjourn

Jennifer Hernandez, CalRHT Program Director (or designee)

Rural Health Policy Council Members:

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

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

Hernando Garzon, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Emergency Medical Service 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
Chief Administrative Officer, Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley
Representing rural hospitals

Lori Link, CNM, MSN
Director of Midwifery, Plumas District Hospital
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 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
Representing rural clinics

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

James Schlund, MD
Radiologist, Tahoe Forest Hospital
Representing providers

Monica Soni, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Covered California
Representing state government

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

Sarah Steenhausen
Deputy Director, California Department of Aging
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, Assistant Director

Jennifer Hernandez, Director, California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) Program

Lemeneh Tefara, MD, MSc, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Clinical Innovation

Peggy Wheeler, Senior Advisor, California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) Program

Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor, Health Workforce Development

Marni Sager, Chief Impact Officer

Matthew Ortiz, Manager