



California Rural Healthcare Symposium 2026

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

UC Student & Policy Center, Downtown Sacramento +
Livestream via Zoom

California legislators and stakeholders are invited to this free educational event to examine rural healthcare delivery in California, with a focus on access to anesthesia care, workforce sustainability, and policy strategies that strengthen health equity in underserved communities.

OVERVIEW: HR 1 & THE STATE OF RURAL HEALTH

9:00 AM

Welcome: Kristen Roman, DNAP, CRNA, President, California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Moderator: Joshua Carr, PhD, DNP, CRNA, President-Elect, California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Speaker: Tracy Young, MSNA, MBA, CRNA, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, Essential Anesthesia Management

HEAR FROM LEGISLATORS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

10:00 AM

Speakers:

- Assemblymember Heath Flora;
- Assemblymember Heather Hadwick;
- Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
- Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom;
- Assemblymember Corey Jackson

BREAK FOR LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:00 PM

REALITIES OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN RURAL AREAS

1:00 PM

Moderator: Monica Miller, Sacramento Advisors

Speakers:

- Suzie Newell, DNP, CRNA, FAANA, University of Cincinnati & Newell Anesthesia
- Dianna Heikkila, PhD, CRNA, FAANA
- Holly Smith, CNM, MPH, FACNM, Legislative Coordinator, California Nurse-Midwives Association
- Paris Maloof-Bury, CNM

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OBSTACLES & SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

2:00 PM

Moderator: Daniel Bell, DNP, CRNA, Trustee - Board of Directors, California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Speakers:

- Mark Farouk, Vice President of State Advocacy, California Hospital Association (CHA)
- Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor, California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAi)
- Lauren Still, Chief Administrative Officer, Glenn Medical Center - Willows, CA

OPTIMIZING EFFICIENCY IN RURAL HEALTHCARE

3:00 PM

Moderator: Melanie Rowe, CRNA, Practice Director, California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Speakers:

- Alan Bowles, CRNA
- Rod Hoover, DNAP, MS, CRNA, Lieutenant Commander, US Navy (ret)

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3:45 PM



Event Recording
Visit www.canainc.org

Presented by the California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology



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