



# 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

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## **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

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## **BREAK FOR LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**12:00 PM**

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## **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

# AGENDA

## 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)

## ADJOURN

3:45 PM



**Event Recording**  
Visit [www.canainc.org](http://www.canainc.org)

Presented by the California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology



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