The Mississippi Rural Health Association conducts workshops, conferences, receptions, webinars and a variety of other opportunities for healthcare professionals to gain valuable education and networking opportunities throughout the year. Go to msrha.org for more details on upcoming events.

**Continuing Education:**

- 6.0 hours of Nursing
- 6.0 hours of ACHE
- 6.0 hours of Nursing Home Admin.
- 6.0 hours of Accounting
- 6.0 Mississippi Rural Health Fellow (MRHF)

The Mississippi Rural Health Association is authorized to award 6.0 hours of pre-approved ACHE Qualified Education credit for this program toward advancement, or recertification, in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Participants in this program wishing to have the continuing education hours applied toward ACHE Qualified Education credit should indicate their attendance when submitting an application to the American College of Healthcare Executives for advancement or recertification.

This activity has been submitted to the Mississippi Nurses Foundation, Inc for approval to award 6.0 contact hours. The Mississippi Nurses Foundation, Inc is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.
**8:30 a.m.**  Opening Keynote  
*Introduction to Population Health*

*Kathy Whitmire, National Rural Accountable Care Consortium*

**9:30 a.m.**  Navigating the World of Quality Reporting: MIPS and More!  
*Mary Smith, Starkville Orthopedic Clinic*

**10:30 a.m.**  Break

**Track 1**

**10:45 a.m.**  Medicare Wellness in the Clinic Setting  
*Dr. Brad Crosswhite, North Mississippi Health Systems*

**11:30 a.m.**  Break

**11:35 a.m.**  Integrating Population Health into a Health System  
*Dr. Brad Crosswhite, North Mississippi Health Systems*

**Track 2**

**10:45 a.m.**  MSDH HIV and Care Services  
*Belinda Havard, Mississippi State Department of Health*  
*Eva Thomas, Mississippi State Department of Health*

**11:30 a.m.**  Break

**11:35 a.m.**  Meeting CMS Guidelines for Emergency Procedures in the RHC  
*Wayne Vaughn, Mississippi State Department of Health*

**12:20 p.m.**  Lunch  
*Legislative Update*

*Ryan Kelly, Mississippi Rural Health Association*  
*Zach Allen, Children’s International Medical Group*

**1:20 p.m.**  Break

**2:00 p.m.**  The What and Why Behind HEDIS Measures  
*Timothea James, United Healthcare*  
*Brian Turnbow, Magnolia Health*

**2:45 p.m.**  Why Integrate PCMH Into RHCs?  
*Diane Bourque, The Compliance Team*

**3:30 p.m.**  Using Telehealth and CCM in the Clinical Setting  
*Tearsanee Davis, DNP, FNP-BC, UMMC Center for Telehealth*

**4:15 p.m.**  Adjourn
Belinda Havard

Belinda Havard, MSN, RN-BC is the Nurse Manager for STD/HIV (including Hepatitis) Testing and Surveillance at the state department of health. She has been a nurse for thirty-six (36) years. She obtained a BSN degree from Tuskegee University and a MSN from Mississippi University for Women. Belinda joined the DOH family April, 2016 with a diversified background as a healthcare provider including Staff Nurse, Assistant Professor as a nursing instructor, Nurse Manager, Director of Allied Health and Education Coordinator in hospital staff development.

Belinda holds membership in the Mississippi Nurses Association and is certified in Nursing Staff Development.

Brad Crosswhite

Dr. Crosswhite graduated summa cum laude from David Lipscomb University in Nashville with a BA in biology and Spanish. He received his medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, where he graduated magna cum laude. He was selected chief resident while completing his residency at NMMC’s Family Medicine Residency Center. He was awarded the degree of Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2013 and is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

Dr. Crosswhite currently works as a family physician at IMA-Tupelo and sees both adult and pediatric patients. His administrative duties consist of serving as the Central Regional Medical Director for NMMC clinics, physician leader of the NMMC Population Health department, and Medical Director for the North Mississippi Connected Care Alliance, an accountable care organization consisting of NMMC clinics.

Brian Turnbow

Brian Turnbow RN, BSN has worked with Magnolia since 2015 as the HEDIS manager. Our team is made up of Quality Improvement Coordinators who work remotely to help providers and members achieve quality outcomes related to preventive services as well as other areas.
Dianne Bourque

Dianne Bourque, RN, CNOR, CASC is a graduate of the Our Lady of the Lake College School of Nursing in Baton Rouge, LA. She has worked as a registered nurse for over 25 years, specializing in ambulatory healthcare since 2004, when she became an administrator for an ambulatory surgery center in Plano, Texas. With a range of experience from hospital management to healthcare consulting, she has gained exposure to many types of accreditation programs, and the special challenges each could represent. After years performing healthcare surveys on ASCs and RHCs across the country, Dianne joined The Compliance Team in 2015, where she has been active as a surveyor, a trainer, and a clinical resource in both the RHC and PCMH accreditation programs. She is a passionate advocate for healthcare quality and accessibility for rural Americans and resides in McKinney, TX.

Eva G. Thomas

Eva G. Thomas earned a Bachelor’s of Business Administration from Jackson State University. She began employment with the Mississippi State Department of Health in 1992. She began working within the Office of STD/HIV December 1992 and the Ryan White Part B Program in April of 1994 – present. She is the MSDH Care and Treatment Division Director (Ryan White Part B/ADAP).

Kathy Whitmire

Kathy Whitmire is the Vice President of Business Development for Caravan Health and National Rural Accountable Care Consortium. After primarily working with rural hospitals for 16 years, Kathy is now working with hospital-based practices, rural health clinics and independent practices engaged in MSSP ACO’s and the CMS funded Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative’s (TCPI) Practice Transformation Network (PTN). Participants receive support, training and resources at no cost through the TCPI program that will allow practices and RHC’s to establish the necessary framework and infrastructure for implementing value-based payment models, improve population health and lower overall costs, while improving the financial sustainability of rural health systems nationwide.

Previously, Kathy served for 16 years as Managing Director for HomeTown Health, LLC, a network of 65 rural hospitals and affiliated practices in Georgia and Florida. Kathy has led over 100 training boot camps and workshops, 28 Rural Hospital Conferences, 250 Medicare and Medicaid Webinars.
She and her team developed HTHU.net, an online healthcare learning web site in 2005, which currently serves the education needs of 15,000+ healthcare employees nationwide.

Kathy received her degree in Business Administration from AIU in 2005 with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration. She is currently a member of the National Rural Health Association and was chosen as a Rural Health Fellow in the Class of 2017, the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and HFMA. Kathy has served on the Board of the Georgia Regional Extension Center (GA-HITEC), GA Medicaid RAC Committee and in Sept of 2013 Kathy received the ONC Rural Hospital Champion Award for her support in helping 50 Georgia rural hospitals achieve MU.

Mary Atkinson Smith

Mary Atkinson Smith, DNP, FNP-BC, ONP-C, is a board certified nurse practitioner with additional certifications in orthopedics and perioperative nursing. Dr. Smith has a background in the utilization of case management and patient-centered care to promote continuous quality improvement and enhance patient safety among the rural elderly and disabled populations. She is a distinguished public policy fellow with the National Academies of Practice and a National Rural Health Association Policy Fellow where she continues to focus on the revision of policy pertaining quality improvement in rural health care. She is published in several nursing journals and a nursing textbook, in addition to authoring clinical practice guidelines for national organizations. Dr. Smith received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Mississippi University for Women, her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Mississippi, and Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama. She is the administrator of Starkville Orthopedic Clinic where she also serves as a nurse practitioner and a first assistant in surgery. Dr. Smith is also an assistant professor and assistant program director for South University Online College of Nursing and Public Health.

Ryan Kelly

Ryan Kelly serves as executive director of the Mississippi Rural Health Association and oversees all activity for the association. Kelly has a large amount of experience in executive leadership, including roles as director of external relations at The University of Southern Mississippi, College of Health, as well as serving as Chief Advancement Officer at William Carey University.
Kelly earned a bachelors of science at The University of Southern Mississippi and a masters of science at Mississippi College. He is involved in more than twenty statewide and national committees / coalitions on health, including two committees with the National Rural Health Association. His involvement in a large number of diverse healthcare organizations has elevated Kelly as a go-to leader for healthcare in the State of Mississippi.

Sarah Hammock

Sarah Hammock, RN, BSN, CCM serves as Population Health Program Director for North Mississippi Medical Clinics, Inc. She has worked with the clinic system since August of 2012. Upon completion of the Geisinger Proven Health Navigator Program in October of 2012, she returned to NMMCI and developed the Population Health program, focusing on high-risk Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi patients. Since this time, the program has expanded to included pay-for-performance programs for local industry employer groups, NMHS Health Plan- Acclaim, and most recently the North Mississippi Connected Care Alliance MSSP ACO. She currently serves as the ACO Champion and is an active member of the Growth Critical Success Factor (CSF) committee, Transitions of Care committee, and the Connected Care Partners (CIN) Core Operations Group. She previously worked for North Mississippi Medical Center Home Health & Hospice and has been a RN for over 20 years. Sarah received her associate’s degree in nursing from Northeast Mississippi Community College, her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women, and her certificate in Case Management from the Commissioner for Case Management Certification.

Tearsanee Davis

Dr. Tearsanee Davis is the Director for Clinical and Advanced Practice Operations for the Center for Telehealth at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. She is responsible for the oversight of all clinical programs in the Center for Telehealth.

With over 19 years of nursing experience, Dr. Davis has worked in various healthcare settings, which include private practice, community health, emergency medicine, and academia. She is a member of numerous professional organizations and participates in committees that promote the profession of nursing and takes great joy in mentoring young nurses.
She is the Principal Investigator for the Mississippi Diabetes Telehealth Network and the Southwest Mississippi Telehealth Initiative.

Dr. Davis received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2010, Master’s degree (MSN) with a focus in Family Nurse Practitioner from Alcorn State University in 2005. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997.

**Timothea James**

Timothea James BSN RN is a dedicated healthcare professional currently serving as Clinical Practice Consultant for United Healthcare Community Plan. Working closely with the quality management team she evaluates and tracks the quality of care provided to specific member population in Mississippi. Partnering with providers, Timothea works to increase provider performance, HEDIS rates to meet expected target rates, and improve comprehensive care by educating providers. Using approved clinical practice guidelines she assists network provider practices with focused clinical education, member outreach, quality compliance/improvement, and gaps in care closure. She also uses her leadership skills to speak on HEDIS, specific state measures, and preventive health topics.

Originally from Madison, Mississippi, Timothea earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of South Alabama following earning her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Belhaven University. She has been Nursing for over 7 years in her community, and she also enjoys traveling with her husband and son.

**Wayne Vaughn**

Wayne Vaughn is the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning and Response (OEPR), for the Mississippi State Department of Health. After spending 28 years in the fire service and working in law enforcement, emergency management, EMS, and homeland security, Wayne went to work for the Mississippi State Department of Health managing OEPR. The office is not only the emergency planning and response entity for the agency, but also oversees the Bureaus of Emergency Medical Services, Acute Care Systems, and Radiological Health as well as administering the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant from the Center for Disease Control, and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant from the

Zach Allen

Zach Allen was born in West Texas but currently resides in Picayune, MS. After high school, Zach joined the Army National Guard where he had the chance to serve his county by participating in Operation Desert Storm. He broadened his cultural perspectives while living in Saudi Arabia. After the Army, Zach attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas where he studied political science.

After finishing college he joined Bristol Hotels and Resorts where he became a Director of Sales and Marketing in the hospital industry and had the opportunity to live in Atlanta, Chicago, Birmingham, Denver, Miami, Jackson, New Orleans, Memphis, and Austin. In August of 2009 Zach joined Children’s International Medical Group, where he now serves as Senior Vice President of Strategy and Business Development.

Zach represents CIMG in numerous events and healthcare associations. Currently, Zach serves as President-Elect of the Louisiana Rural Health Association and as secretary of the Mississippi Rural Health Association. Along with chairing the Legislative Committee of both state’s RHA’s. He is also a member of Alabama and Tennessee’s Rural Health Associations. Additionally, Zach is a member of the National rural Health Association where he takes an active role in federal legislative and regulator policy advocacy. Zach was awarded his fellow of Rural Health by Mississippi Rural Health Association in May of 2016. Zach is also a member of the Louisiana Medical Group Management Association, and has served on the board of directors of the Picayune Chamber of Commerce.