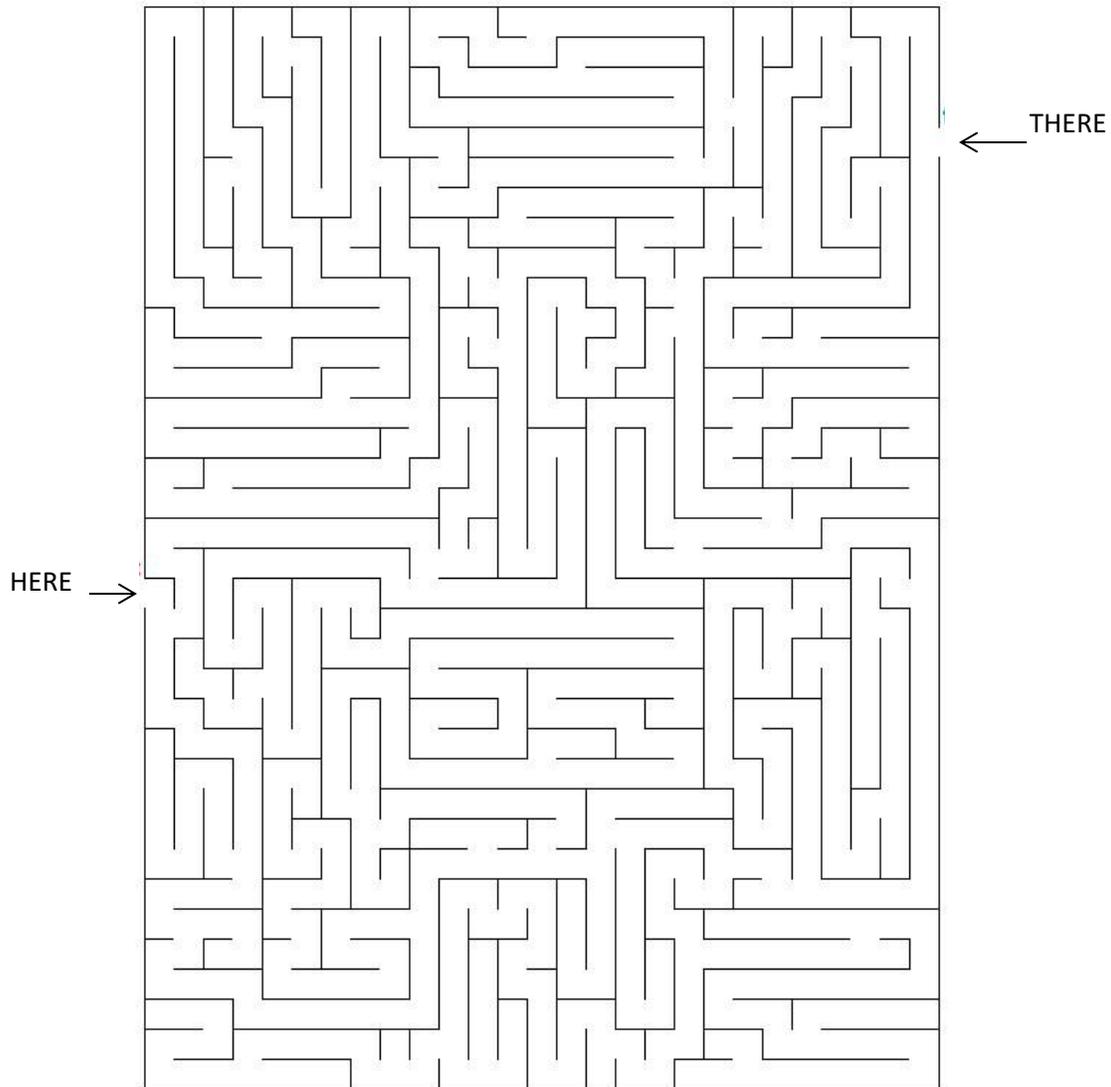


Welcome To Your 2017 Alabama Rural Health Conference



**Rural Health Care Challenge:
How Do We Get From HERE to THERE With So Much Uncertainty?**

Sponsored by the
Alabama Rural Health Association
and the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Alabama Department of Public Health
Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20
Prattville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Prattville, Alabama

The Alabama Rural Health Association Recognizes These Special Partners:



Supporting Alabama's Healthcare Workforce

East Central Alabama AHEC
North Alabama AHEC
Southeast Alabama AHEC
Southern Alabama AHEC
West Central Alabama AHEC



Medical Properties Trust

Welcome to the Future of Healthcare!

Medical Properties Trust, Inc. bridges the gap between the growing demand for high-quality healthcare and the ability to deliver it cost-effectively.

www.medicalpropertiestrust.com



**Community
Hospital
Corporation**

Keeping the H in Hometown®

Community-based hospitals put the “care” in healthcare—offering excellent patient care along with jobs and other types of community support. In order for these hospitals to survive, they must deliver quality care while maintaining their own financial health. CHC offers practical solutions that help community hospitals enhance efficiencies, improve quality and strengthen financial stability—and most importantly, we help preserve and protect community control of the hospital.



**ALABAMA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

Providing educational programming for Alabama's family physicians.
Represent family physicians and their patients in the legislative, regulatory, and public arenas.

www.alabamafamilyphysicians.org



**Alabama Office –
American Association of Retired Persons**

Helping people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthening communities and fighting for the issues that matter most to families — such as health care, employment and income security, and protection from financial abuse.

www.aarp.org



A private, non-profit corporation established in 1983 to insure the availability of quality medical services to all residents of southeast Alabama. SARHA currently provides primary and preventive health services to the residents of Barbour, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike and surrounding counties.

www.sarhaonline.com

**Agenda for 2017 Alabama Rural Health Conference
Friday, May 19 – Saturday, May 20, 2017
Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Prattville**

Continuing Education Units are pending for nurses (7 ½ hours) and approved for nursing home administrators (8 ½ hours) attending this conference. Check at the registration table about the requirements for receiving this credit.

Day 1 - Friday, May 19:

- 10:00- Noon ARHA Board Meeting - Rosewood Boardroom (ARHA Members Welcome)
- 11:00- 1:00 Vendors Setup - Salons CDE
- 3:00 – 5:30 Possible Special Presentations by Vendors - Rosewood Boardroom
- 11:00 – 5:00 Registration
- 1:00 – 2:00 Welcome, Washington Update - Alan Morgan, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Health Association (1.0 Nursing CNEU credit) – Salons AB
- 2:00 – 3:00 Alabama Medicaid Update - Robert H. Moon, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Commissioner Health Systems, Alabama Medicaid Agency (1.0 Nursing CNEU credit) – Salons AB
- 3:00 – 3:30 Break - Salons CDE
- 3:30 – 4:30 Family Medicine Update - John Meigs, Jr., M.D., Bibb Medical Associates in Centreville and President of the American Academy of Family Physicians (1.0 Nursing CNEU credit) – Salons AB
- 4:30 – 5:30 CMS Rural Health Update - Lana R. Dennis, CMS Atlanta Regional Office Rural Health Coordinator (1.0 Nursing CNEU credit) – Salons AB
MACRA – Lee Pearce, MSW, MSHA, Vice President of Quality, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, Birmingham, Alabama – Salons AB
- 6:00 – 7:30 Get Acquainted Social - Salons CDE
- 6:30 – 7:30 ARHA Annual Membership Meeting – Salons AB

Day 2 - Saturday, May 20:

**Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Tract sessions will be in Salons AB
Rural Hospital Tract sessions will be in Grand Oak Room I
Rural Community Health Tract sessions will be in Conference Room I
Student Tract sessions will be in Grand Oak Room II**

- 8:00 – 12:00 Registration
- 8:00 – 9:00 Continental Breakfast - Salons CDE

- 8:00 – 3:00 Possible Special Presentations by Vendors - Rosewood Boardroom
- 9:15 – 10:30 **RHC Tract:** Training on Emergency Preparedness in RHCs - Dianne Bourque, RN, CNOR, CASC, Vice President of Clinical Services, The Compliance Team, Spring House, Pennsylvania (1.25 Nursing CNEU credits)
Rural Hospital Tract: Community Hospital Corporation and the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Efforts to Assist Rural Hospitals, Jim Coleman, MBA, Senior Vice President for Southeast Hospital Operations, Community Hospital Corporation, Plano, Texas
Rural Community Health Track: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Moving from Data to Action, Jan O’Neil, MPPA, Madison, Wisconsin
Student Track: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Behavioral Health Integration, Cynthia Selleck, PhD - Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical and Global Partnerships, University of Alabama at Birmingham, College of Nursing
Poster Session: Salons CDE
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break - Salons CDE
- 10:45 – 12:00 **RHC Tract:** Meaningful Use, MACRA/MIPS, Cathy Radzinski, RN, Management & Medical Consulting Services, Childersburg, Alabama (1.25 Nursing CNEU credits)
Rural Hospital Tract: MACRA and Rural Hospitals – New Population Health Strategies that Bring Millions to the Bottom Line, Kathy Whitmire, BBA, Vice President of Business Development, Caravan Health and National Rural Accountable Care Consortium, Toccoa, Georgia
Rural Community Health Track: Panel on Community Grant/Loan Programs
Teresa Hunkapillar, BA, USDA Rural Development General Field Representative, Huntsville, Alabama
Kelly Chasteen, BSBA, Appalachian Regional Commission Program Manager, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division, Montgomery, Alabama
Crystal G. Davis, MBA, Community Services Unit Chief, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division, Montgomery, Alabama
Kathleen A. Rasmussen, Ph.D. - , Statewide Initiatives Unit Chief, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division, Montgomery, Alabama
Allen Bowen, Program Director for Community and Business Programs, USDA has been invited
Student Track: Part 1 – Establishing a State Program for Student Chapters
Poster Session: Salons CDE
- 12:00 – 12:45 Lunch - Salons CDE
- 12:45 – 1:45 **RHC Tract:** Patient & Family Engagement: How to Incorporate the Patient Voice in Operations, Cheryl Garove, BA, HAS, and Mary Ponder, MSHI, MSHA, Brookwood Baptist Health Care, Birmingham, Alabama (1.0 Nursing CNEU credit)
Rural Hospital Tract: Telehealth for the Rural Hospital
Lloyd Sirmons, Director of the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center, Blackshear, Georgia
Eric Wallace, M.D., Medical Director, University of Alabama at Birmingham Telehealth Services, Birmingham, Alabama
Rural Community Health Track: Coalition for a Healthy Escambia County, Ruth Harrell, RN, MPH, Flomaton, Alabama
Student Track: Part 2 – Establishing a State Program for Student Chapters
Poster Session: Salons CDE

1:45 – 2:00 Break - Salons CDE

2:00 – 3:00 Town Hall Meeting - Open discussion for all attendees on any topics of concern – Salons AB

3:00 Conference Ends

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORM AND LEAVE IT WHERE YOU ARE SITTING OR AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE.

NURSES – REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR EVALUATIONS AND PICK UP YOUR ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE FOR CEUs AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE.

**THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE IN ALABAMA!**

VISIT WITH OUR EXHIBITORS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Absolute Imaging Solutions

Absolute Imaging Solutions specializes in the reliable support and service you need to maintain your molecular imaging systems in top working order. We also sell new and reconditioned molecular imaging systems and parts to efficiently and effectively serve your patients. ISO-compliant installations by OEM-certified field service engineers, an ISO-compliant molecular imaging system reconditioning process and flexible equipment and service contracts that include trial periods, replacement provisions and cancellation clauses means we strive to meet our customer's needs.

Alabama Medical Education Consortium

Since 2005, over 380 students have received their medical school third and fourth year clerkships in facilities throughout Alabama. AMEC's mission is to establish and maintain an osteopathic primary care Physician Pipeline for rural and underserved Alabama. This Pipeline now has more than fifty physicians licensed in Alabama. The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, which evolved from AMEC, trains over 600 medical students a year; members of first class will begin their residencies this summer. AMEC continues its mission with a new challenge—assisting up to twelve Alabama hospitals in starting residency (GME) programs to increase the number of physicians trained in Alabama who statistically are more likely to practice in the State.

Alabama Statewide Area Healthcare Education Centers (AHEC) Program

The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program enhances access to high quality, culturally competent health care through academic-community partnerships to ultimately improve the distribution, diversity, and supply of the primary care health professions workforce who serve in rural and underserved health care delivery sites.

Along with state and local partners, the AHEC programs and centers:

- Recruit and train students from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds into health careers;
- Place health professions students in community-based clinical practice settings - with a focus on primary care;
- Promote interprofessional education and collaborative teams to improve quality of care; and
- Facilitate continuing education resources and programs for health professionals - particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Alabama Vision Coalition

The Alabama Vision Coalition works to:

- **Create strategies** to take successful projects to scale
- **Encourage collaboration** between providers
- **Improve access** to vision care/services
- **Educate** the public on when/how to best access **preventive care**
- Ensure providers are prepared to **accommodate the anticipated increases** in demands for care

Caravan Health

Caravan Health was started by a forward-looking group of community hospital CEOs and physicians who recognized early on the many challenges they would face transforming to value-based payments. They were attracted to the emphasis on the patient and the focus on improving overall community health through operational improvements, staff development, community engagement, regional collaboration, and the effective utilization of useful information based on never-before-available data.

The landscape of healthcare across the nation will continue to change. Caravan Health provides the specific programs you need now, to move your organization from the rapidly fading models of servicing sickness and charging for volume, to the new reality of managing wellness and delivering value. All Caravan Health programs are designed with the flexibility to adapt and to work locally. The **successful model we have deployed** has been validated in hundreds of towns, cities and communities across America. **How do we know? We have the data to prove it.**

Consumer Healthcare Products Association

For more than 135 years, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) has served as an effective and vital advocate for the consumer healthcare products industry.

A member-based trade association, CHPA represents the leading manufacturers and marketers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and dietary supplements. CHPA members' products provide millions of Americans with safe, effective, and affordable therapies to treat and prevent many common ailments and diseases.

The association provides leadership and guidance on regulatory and scientific issues to Congress; state legislatures; and federal, state, and international government agencies. CHPA also shares educational tools and information with partners across the globe to ensure the safe and responsible use of OTC medicines.

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program is collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. We believe America can become a nation where getting healthy, staying healthy, and making sure our children grow up healthy are top priorities. We have a vision of an America where we all strive together to build a national Culture of Health that enables all in our diverse society to lead healthy lives, now and for generations to come.

The goals of the program are to:

- Build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health
- Provide a reliable, sustainable source of local data and evidence to communities to help them identify opportunities to improve their health
- Engage and activate local leaders from many sectors in creating sustainable community change, and
- Connect & empower community leaders working to improve health.

eFibernet, Inc.

eFibernet, Inc. is an MBE/SDB telecommunications, technology and consulting company based in Huntsville, Alabama. eFibernet, Inc.'s diverse portfolio provides a perfect platform to implement, manage and support our clients with highly innovative, cost effective enhancements to their business operations. Our mission is to provide the highest quality of service to our customers with exceptional IT support, solutions and products.

KEY DIFFERENTIATORS:

- Mission Focused and Dedicated
- Peered with over 100 National telecom/IT Providers
- Realtime Instant Quotes
- National and International Footprint

Graduate Nursing Education Primary Care Scholars Program, UAB College of Nursing

GNEPCS focuses on educating more advanced practice nurses to work in underserved areas, and on building networks connecting Alabama's existing rural health care providers with one another and UAB to reach more Alabamians needing primary care.

It creates a pipeline of nurses from rural Alabama counties for recruitment into primary care nurse practitioner programs as Primary Care Scholars.

The primary care nurse practitioner tracks eligible for participation are:

- NP Family
- NP Pediatric Primary Care
- NP Primary/Acute Pediatric
- NP Adult-Gero Primary Care
- NP Adult-Gero/Women's Health

A central theme driving GNEPCS is generating and sharing new knowledge. It is structured to produce new curricula for teaching students, develop best practice models, and establish an annual summit for health care providers across the state to learn and share approaches for helping the medically underserved.

H3C, LLC

H3C is an innovative healthcare solutions company combining exceptional patient-centric care with cutting-edge technology. Our goal is to facilitate earlier interventions, encourage compliance with medication regimens, support lifestyle improvements and reduce the number of hospitalizations, complications and unnecessary clinic and ER visits. H3C has targeted our solution at care coordination for chronically ill individuals and for seniors in independent living arrangements to help facilitate at home and preventative services that can be delivered at a fraction of the cost of acute care.

Inspirien Insurance Company

Inspirien is the spirit of encouragement that drives us to do what is best for our clients. It is what motivates us to guide them, protect them and advocate for the future of their business – to join them in meeting the challenges of an evolving marketplace.

At Inspirien, we offer more than just workers' compensation, professional, general and umbrella liability coverages. We help our customers manage their risk. We understand that it is the people around the policy that make the difference which is why our customer relationships have always set us apart. It is our mission and vision to be a remarkable partner for whatever risk lies ahead by inspiring unique ideas and actions to manage our partners' risk. Find out more at www.inspirien.net.

Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Alabama Department of Public Health

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH), a division of the Alabama Department of Public Health, facilitates and participates in activities which support the access and expansion of primary care for all rural Alabamians, with a special concern for medically underserved and vulnerable populations. This is accomplished partially through a partnership with 3RNet.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to practitioners who desire to practice in rural, underserved areas; acting as the State representative for the National Health Service Corps; and administering the J1 Visa Waiver Program for foreign physicians who have completed their medical training in the United States. The OPCRH is also involved in initiatives such as telehealth, which can provide access to primary care and specialty physicians for those residents who have transportation or other issues preventing in person visits to their health care provider.

Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center (www.setrc.us)

National School of Applied Telehealth – NSAT (www.nsat.us)

The Southeastern TeleHealth Resource Center (SETRC) is one of 14 TeleHealth Resource Centers (12 Regional and 2 National) funded by the federal Office for the Advancement of Telehealth through a grant program to provide support and guidance to TeleHealth programs. Our mission is to serve as a focal point for advancing the effective use of TeleHealth and support access to TeleHealth services in rural and underserved communities in the southeastern region of the United States. We have extensive TeleHealth experience and can provide services, resources and tools to both developing and operating programs.

SETRC's role is complementary to the activities of the telemedicine programs in the Southeast, in that SETRC provides the basis for widespread application of educational and clinical support services and technical advances that have been studied, as well as validated, at the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth (GPT) and its partner sites.

SETRC provides an applied approach to telehealth education and technical assistance services in order to streamline implementation and better utilize telehealth applications and technology in the region. This is accomplished through:

- State TeleHealth Workgroups: To provide insight and direction regarding the advancement of telehealth and to encourage collaboration among existing telehealth networks and programs.
- Provide TeleHealth Education through The National School of Applied Telehealth (www.nsat.us).
- Promote TeleHealth Awareness through Summits/Conferences.

NSAT is the education arm of the SETRC and delivers standardized, accredited, and affordable telehealth instruction. The online Telemedicine / Telehealth Certification courses instruct on the essentials of telehealth and prepare individuals to become valuable members of a telehealth team. Upon completion of the course a certificate with 0.3 CEU/3 credit hours for this course will be awarded.

The Compliance Team

The Compliance Team, Inc. is the accreditation organization known for creating simplified pathways to Rural Health Clinic and Patient Centered Medical Home accreditation. We are a CMS-approved provider for Rural Health Clinics and cater to smaller organizations that have fewer resources, but deliver great care.

The Summit Rehab

The Summit Rehab is the leading provider of physical, occupational, and speech therapy services in the southeastern United States. We offer these services to a number of hospitals, long-term care facilities, outpatient clinics and schools in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. With over sixteen years' experience, we deliver proven outcomes and staffing solutions, as well as therapy management services that provide value-added partnerships.

WHO AM I LISTENING TO?

Alan Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Health Association

Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. He has more than 26 years of experience in health policy development at the state and federal level. He served as staff for former US Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden. Additionally, his experience includes tenures with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and with the Heart Rhythm Society where he established a Washington, DC based government affairs office. Prior to joining NRHA, he served as a federal lobbyist for VHA Inc.

Mr. Morgan's health policy articles have been published in: The American Journal of Clinical Medicine, The Journal of Rural Health, The Journal of Cardiovascular Management, The Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology, Cardiac Electrophysiology Review, and in Laboratory Medicine. He also served as a co-author for the publication, "**Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care,**" and for the publication, "**Rural Populations and Health.**"

He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. In 2014, he was selected by readers of Modern Healthcare Magazine as being among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare.

Robert H. Moon, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Commissioner of Health Systems, Alabama Medicaid Agency

Dr. Moon is the Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Commissioner Health Systems for Alabama Medicaid. He led the work to develop the Patient Care Networks of Alabama (PCNA) which currently coordinate care under a health home model for approximately 170,000 clients. The PCNA work by the Medicaid Agency was recognized by a state university with a "2012 Innovative Alabama Government Award". During 2011-2012 he served as the Chairman of the Medicaid Medical Directors Learning Network (MMDLN). He has participated in studies by the MMDLN. One was a 16 state exploration of

anti-psychotic use in young Medicaid populations and the other was a 16 state study examining readmissions data in state Medicaid programs. Currently, his work focuses on the development of Regional Care Organizations for Alabama Medicaid. Dr. Moon is a board certified family physician with approximately 20 years of practice experience and now over 8 years of experience working with a state Medicaid program.

John Meigs, Jr., M.D., Bibb Medical Associates in Centreville and President of the American Academy of Family Physicians

Dr. Meigs has served the people of Centreville and Bibb County as a practicing family medicine physician since 1982. His outstanding involvement in advancing health care has extended well beyond the walls of his practice. He has served in numerous positions in The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, Alabama Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, and Alabama Board of Medical Scholarships, to name a few. He currently serves on the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Board of Censors; Alabama Board of Medical Examiners; and the Alabama State Committee on Public Health. Dr. Meigs currently serves as the President of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

He is a graduate of Bibb County High School, The University of Alabama, and the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. His residency was completed at the UAB/Selma Family Practice Residency Program where he was the Chief Resident in 1981 and 1982.

He is married to the former Mary Joyce Powe, an OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner. They have two children, Kelley Amanda Norris and Rachel Ashley Meigs.

Lana Dennis, CMS Atlanta Regional Office Rural Health Coordinator

Lana Dennis is the Region IV Rural Health Coordinator for the Centers for the Medicare & Medicaid Services. In an effort to support the providers serving Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas, she is a resource to many, including the State Offices of Rural Health and the Rural Health Associations in CMS Region 4. She works in the Medicare Fee-for-Service payment policy area in the CMS Atlanta Regional Office. Ms. Dennis graduated magna cum laude from Florida State University and worked in the Executive Office of the Governor in Florida before starting her career at CMS in November 2000.

Lee Pearce, MSW, MSHA, Vice President of Quality, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation

Lee Pearce started his healthcare career as a social worker after completing his masters in Social Work from the University of Tennessee in 1996. He worked primarily in the home health environment, but also spent time as the Director of Discharge Planning in an acute care hospital. In 2000, Mr. Pearce went back to school and received his master's in healthcare administration in 2002 where he subsequently went into administration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. His responsibilities over the next decade primarily encompassed oversight of the community based outpatient clinics and the Department of Surgery. In 2011, Mr. Pearce accepted the position of Vice President of Quality at the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation in Birmingham. Since this time, his primary role has been the management of contracts with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Lee also obtained his status as a Fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives in 2014.

Dianne Bourque, RN, CNOR, CASC, Vice President of Clinical Services, The Compliance Team

Dianne Bourque, RN, CNOR, CASC has worked as a registered nurse for over 25 years, where she began her career as a L&D nurse in a rural southern Louisiana hospital. As a nurse manager at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX in 1994, the needs of high-risk populations became the focus of her passion. In 2004, she accepted a position as an ASC Administrator and opened a new center in Plano, TX. With a range of experience from healthcare management to ASC and OBS consulting, she has gained exposure to many types of accreditation programs and the special challenges each could present to an organization. After years performing healthcare surveys on ASCs and RHCs across the country, Dianne joined The Compliance Team in 2015, where she is active as a surveyor, a trainer, and a clinical resource in both the RHC and PCMH accreditation programs. She is a vocal advocate for healthcare quality and accessibility for rural Americans and lives in McKinney, Texas.

Jim Coleman, MBA, Senior Vice President for Southeast Hospital Operations, Community Hospital Corporation

Jim Coleman serves as Senior Vice President of Southeast Hospital Operations for Community Hospital Corporation (CHC, Dallas, TX). CHC is a private, not for profit corporation specializing in consulting and management services for rural hospitals. Jim is based in Chattanooga, Tennessee and, to date, has worked with hospitals in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Louisiana.

Jim has over 25 years of experience in hospital operations, strategic market and partnership development, and physician relations and recruiting. Prior to joining CHC, Jim worked with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) for 10 years, where he was in senior management for Parkridge Medical Center as COO and Interim CEO for Parkridge Valley Hospital. In addition to daily operations, he led strategic business development which resulted in increased market share and top financial performance across five hospitals in Chattanooga.

Prior to HCA, Jim served as System Chief Executive Officer for Cleveland Community Hospital and Bradley Memorial Hospital (now Tennova Cleveland Medical Center), both of Cleveland, Tennessee, where he facilitated the acquisition and merger of the two facilities. Jim has also served in executive leadership positions as Chief Operating Officer of Hutcheson Medical Center, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Executive Vice President of Ultragroup Ventures, Chattanooga, Tenn., and Vice President of Planning and Decision Support for Erlanger Health System, also in Chattanooga.

Jim has MBA and BS degrees from the University of Tennessee.

Jan O'Neil, MPPA, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Program, University of Wisconsin

Jan has been a Community Coach for over five years with the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program, which is a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Jan's role is to provide strategic guidance to communities that want to put the Rankings into action for community health improvement. Jan received a Master of Public Policy & Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin, LaFollette Institute. Her roots are in education, having taught preschool through Masters level courses; she also co-founded a school improvement company still operating today. Her experience includes quality improvement work in healthcare, manufacturing, and government. She currently serves as a board member for a Madison-based early learning center that is taking a two-generation approach to closing the achievement gap.

Cynthia Selleck, PhD - Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical and Global Partnerships, University of Alabama at Birmingham, College of Nursing

Cynthia Selleck is Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical and Global Partnerships at UAB School of Nursing, a position she has held since October 2010. In this role, she oversees practice and partnership initiatives for the School of Nursing, including the school's three nurse-led interprofessional clinics, all of which are focused on providing primary care and chronic disease management for vulnerable and underserved populations that have traditionally used local emergency rooms to access health care. Dr. Selleck also holds an appointment as Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and serves as Director of the Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. The Alabama AHEC Program is focused on recruiting, training and retaining a health professions workforce for rural and underserved areas of Alabama. In addition to her interest in care of medically underserved populations and social justice issues, Dr. Selleck has a particular interest in educating community providers on Veterans and Veteran's health issues. Dr. Selleck received her bachelor's in nursing from Emory University, her master's as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Vanderbilt University, and a PhD in nursing from UAB.

Cathy Radzinski, RN, Management & Medical Consulting Services

Cathy is a licensed nurse with experience in both Medical Office Administration and Project Management. She has worked in a wide variety of medical settings including: orthopedics, dermatology, urgent care, family practice, geriatrics, and pediatrics. Cathy holds a certification through AHIMA in Electronic Health Record Implementation Management. In June of 2016 Cathy earned her certification from NCQA as a Patient-Centered Medical Home Content Expert. Cathy has worked with MMCS since 2011 helping providers in Northern Alabama meet meaningful use. Cathy is also a certified CPR instructor with the American Heart Association and in her spare time teaches classes in the community.

Kathy Whitmire, BBA, Vice President of Business Development, Caravan Health and National Rural Accountable Care Consortium

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.

Teresa Hunkapillar, BA, USDA Rural Development General Field Representative

Teresa is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She has an extensive background in telecommunications and is now working on her 10th year as the Alabama & Mississippi General Field Representative for the Telecommunications Division of USDA, Rural Utilities Service.

She administers not only the telecom infrastructure and broadband loan programs; she is also responsible for both the distance learning telemedicine grant program and the community connect “broadband” grant program.

Among other assignments, she has served on the USDA RUS Telecom Field Advisory Committee, Distance Learning Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program Regulations Review Committee and has served many times on the DLT Application Assessment and Scoring Committees.

She enjoys having an active role in helping rural America.

Kelly Chasteen, BSBA, Appalachian Regional Commission Program Manager, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division

After graduating from Wetumpka High School, Kelly Chasteen enrolled at Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) where she became a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon and Phi Kappa Phi. She graduated in 2006 with a BSBA in Economics. Kelly has been employed by the state of Alabama for sixteen years. She has worked for Alabama’s Department of Environmental Management, Department of Finance, Department of Human Resources and the Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). At ADECA, Kelly is the Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Both the ARC and DRA are state-federal partnerships that work to improve regional economic opportunities by creating jobs, building communities and improving the lives of those who reside in the region(s). Alabama’s ARC program includes 37 counties in North Alabama while Alabama’s DRA program consists of 20 counties across Alabama’s Black Belt region.

Crystal G. Davis, MBA, Community Services Unit Chief, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division

Crystal Davis attended and graduated from Pisgah High School in Pisgah, Alabama. She earned an Associate of Science Degree in Technical and Vocational Education from Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville, Alabama; a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama; and a Master of Business Administration from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. Crystal has been employed by the State of Alabama for fifteen years, twelve of those with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). During her career at ADECA she has worked with numerous federal grant programs and currently holds the position of Community Services Unit (CSU) Chief within the Community and Economic Development Division. The CSU consists of programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, Emergency Shelter Grant, Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority.

Kathleen A. Rasmussen, Ph.D. - , Statewide Initiatives Unit Chief, ADECA, Community and Economic Development Division

Kathleen A. Rasmussen, Ph.D. was born in Hammond, Indiana, graduating from grade school and high school there. She served five years on active duty in the United States Army as a flight operations specialist in its helicopter flight training school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Enterprise State Junior College in Enterprise, Alabama; she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Justice and Public Safety from Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), and she also earned from AUM a Master's Degree in Public Administration, a Master of Science Degree in Justice and Public Safety, and a Master's Degree in Political Science. She earned a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Policy from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, and completed post-doctoral study at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where she earned the Executive Certificate in its "Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration" Program. Kathleen began employment with the State of Alabama at the State Department of Education's Office of General Counsel. She transferred to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and has worked in its Office of General Counsel, its Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, and its Community and Economic Development Division where she currently serves as the Statewide Initiatives Unit Chief overseeing the Community Development Block Grant Program, Disaster Recovery Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Office of Minority Business Enterprise, and the State's Passenger Railway Feasibility Study Program.

She has served as adjunct faculty in AUM's Department of Justice and Public Safety, and she serves on several AUM advisory committees. From 1998 to 2013 she served in board member and officer positions for the AUM Alumni Association. She is a life member of the Auburn University Alumni Association, the AUM Alumni Association, and several honor societies. She is a charter member of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation that is headquartered at Arlington National Cemetery, and she is included in its women veterans oral history program that was sponsored by the United States Department of Defense and Save America's Treasures. She resides in Prattville, Alabama.

Allen Bowen, Program Director for Community and Business Programs, USDA

Cheryl Garove, BA, HAS, Brookwood Baptist Health Care

Cheryl Garove has spent her career developing content and strategic communications for organizations such as the National Guard, NASCAR, IndyCar, colleges and universities, bar and medical associations, and numerous medical practices. Serving as Brookwood Baptist Health's Communications Specialist, Ms. Garove has been recognized by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the creation of compelling and engaging educational healthcare content related to MACRA, MIPS, the Quality Payment Program (QPP), and value-based models of care and payment. She works directly with patients and healthcare clinicians throughout Brookwood Baptist Health's network to promote quality improvement initiatives and messaging relevant to a diverse group of stakeholders.

Ms. Garove is passionate about cultivating an environment in which open, honest, and respectful dialogue about the delivery of healthcare in our communities, state, and nation can ensue, and has been instrumental in developing Brookwood Baptist Health's first Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) in the Talladega, Alabama, market. With the support of Brookwood Baptist Health Executive Leadership, including hospital CEOs and presidents, Ms. Garove has helped to expand the PFAC's reach into Shelby and Jefferson Counties as well. Plans for the establishment of a fourth PFAC in Walker County are well underway.

Raised in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduating from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Ms. Garove looks forward to fostering a continued spirit of collaboration with patients, family members, and caregivers.

Mary Ponder, MSHI, MSHA, Brookwood Baptist Health Care

Mary Chris Ponder, MSHA, MSHI, is originally from Lexington, Kentucky, where she began her career in healthcare at St. Joseph East Hospital, a Catholic Health Initiatives facility, while in college. Ms. Ponder completed her undergraduate studies in Finance/Economics and Philosophy, as well as her collegiate golf career, at Spring Hill College, a small liberal arts school in Mobile, Alabama. She pursued her post-graduate studies in Healthcare Administration and Health Informatics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. While completing her dual master's program, Ms. Ponder spent two years as an intern for the Health Information & Management Systems Society's (HIMSS) Advocacy Department in Washington, D.C. Before graduating, she completed her residency at Baptist Health, a three-hospital health system in Montgomery, Alabama. After moving back to Birmingham with her husband, she worked with numerous primary care and specialty clinicians in both urban and rural settings, including the medical staff at UAB Medical West and Brookwood Baptist Health facilities. Ms. Ponder is currently the Director of Operations for the Brookwood Baptist Health Primary & Specialty Care Network clinics associated with Citizens Baptist Medical Center in Talladega, Alabama. She also works with the Alabama Physician Alliance Practice Transformation Network, a CMS-funded Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative. In her spare time, she and her husband, Brad, enjoy playing golf, trying new culinary experiences, and traveling as much as possible.

Lloyd Sirmons, Director of the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center

Lloyd Sirmons received his Associates Degree in Computer Science from Columbus State University 1998. He immediately began his IT career working with TSYS of Columbus, GA where he worked as a mainframe programmer. He worked a number of years with Columbus Regional as a System's Analyst before entering into full time ministry where he served in pastoral leadership for nearly fourteen years before joining the GPT team in August of 2010 as the BTOP Project Director. He completed his BS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University in 2009. Lloyd not only brings a sound knowledge of IT solutions, but also brings strong leadership and communication skills as the Director of the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center.

Eric Wallace, M.D., Medical Director, University of Alabama at Birmingham Telehealth Services

Dr. Wallace is a native of Alabama. He received his BS in Spanish from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He graduated AOA from medical school at UAB. He completed his residency training at UAB as well after which he served as Chief Medical Resident. He then pursued a nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University and served as Chief Nephrology fellow. There he was awarded the Hugh Jackson Morgan Award for best fellow in the Department of Medicine.

After his fellowship, Dr. Wallace joined the faculty at UAB where he has earned numerous accolades including the C. Glenn Cobbs Award two years in a row for being elected by his peers as one of the top 10 clinicians in the Department of Medicine. Currently, he is the Director of the UAB Home Dialysis Program and co-director of the UAB Fabry Disease Clinic.

Since becoming faculty, his research has been focused on eliminating geographic and socioeconomic barriers which prevents patients from accessing specialized care. Primarily, he has focused on telemedicine in the provision of care in home dialysis and rare diseases such as Fabry disease, a rare genetic disease. He has ongoing research and has published on the role of geography in access to home dialysis, as well as research in providing home dialysis follow up remotely using telemedicine.

Already during this research, he has fully replaced a comprehensive follow up visit for peritoneal dialysis patients using telemedicine, and is studying the effect of this intervention on quality of life. Furthermore, he has published on racial disparities in home dialysis. Using the platform of telemedicine established for his studies on home dialysis, he is focused on creating a network and establishing processes by which physicians at the University of Alabama at Birmingham could provide medical expertise across the state of Alabama using telemedicine thus increasing access to care to patients who due to geographic and/or financial constraints may not be able to travel to UAB.

Due to his research, he was named to the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Health Initiative that is focused on furthering the use of technologies such as telemedicine and telemonitoring to improve the care of patients on home dialysis. It is his hope that with these studies, the physician workforce distribution issues can be addressed and access to care across the country can be improved.

Ruth Harrell, RN, MPH, Coalition for a Healthy Escambia County

Ruth Harrell from Flomaton, Alabama is a registered nurse with 57 years of experience in the health care field in her home state of Alabama. She spent 28 years of her career in Public Health Nursing and was privileged to work at all levels of public health in the state. She spent 7 years of her career as the Director of Public Health Nursing for the State Health Department in Montgomery.

Ruth lives in Flomaton with her husband Johnny. Ruth has chaired the Coalition for Healthier Escambia County for the past twenty years and one of her passions is children's services. She works with the Congregational Health Ministry at Atmore First Assembly of God Church. She holds a BSN from the Medical College of Georgia and an MPH from the University of Alabama, School of Public Health in Birmingham.

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