

AMDPA 2026 Scientific Session Program

June 5–6, 2026 | Mayor Joyce Ferguson Civic Center
212 West Polk Ave, West Memphis, AR

Theme: The New Reconstruction of Rural Healthcare: Rebuilding the Workforce and Advancing Quality Care by Centering Providers, Patients, and Community Voice

Friday, June 5, 2026

Pre-Conference

1:00-3:00 PM

East Arkansas Family Health Center - Site Tour

900 North 7th Street, West Memphis, AR

5:00 -6:00 PM

AMDPA Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers

6:00 – 7:00 PM

2026 AMDPA Scientific Welcome Reception

7:00 – 8:00 PM

The New Reconstruction of Rural Healthcare: Rebuilding the Workforce and Advancing Quality Care by Centering Providers, Patients, and Community Voice

Kenya Eddings, MPH

Director

Arkansas Minority Health Department

Mandy Thomas

Health Center Manager

DHP Administration

Arkansas Health Department

Sharanda Williams, MA, BA

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

UAMS College of Medicine

Mayor Marco McClendon

13th Mayor, West Memphis, AR

Description: Examines strategies to strengthen rural health systems by investing in the workforce, improving care delivery, and elevating the voices of providers, patients, and communities in shaping sustainable solutions.

Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00 – 9:15 AM

Closing the Cancer Gap in Rural America: Screening, Access, and Survival (Breakfast Session)

Ronda Henry Tillman, MD, UAMS

Muriel Balsam Kohn Chair in Breast Surgical Oncology
Professor & Executive Vice-Chair, Department of Surgery, College of Medicine
Division Chief, Breast Surgical Oncology
Director of Health Initiative and Disparities Research, Department of Surgery
Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Jonathan Laryea, MD

Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Colon & Rectal Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Karen Crowell, MD

Physician Educator and Clinical Coordinator
Department of Surgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Olivia Wilson, MS, CHES

Project Director, Office of Health Initiatives and Disparities Research
Division of Breast Surgical Oncology
Department of Surgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Susan Ward Jones, MD

Chief Executive Officer
East Arkansas Family Health Center

Description: Improving early detection, access, and outcomes for cancer in rural communities.

9:20 – 10:05 AM

The State of Rural Oral Health: Access, Workforce, and Community Realities

Caleb Stanton

Executive Director, Arkansas Oral Health Coalition

Marie Walsh, DDS

Dentists

East Arkansas Family Health Center

Description: Explores oral health's impact on chronic disease and integration into care

10:05 – 10:20 AM Break

10:20 – 11:05 AM

The Impact of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Rural Healthcare

Lanita S. Shaverd, PharmD (Moderator)

Chief Executive Officer
Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.

Susan Ward Jones, MD

Chief Executive Officer
East Arkansas Family Health Center

Sandra J. Brown, MPH, MSN, RN

Chief Executive Officer
Jefferson Comprehensive Care System, Inc.

Allan Nichols

Chief Executive Officer
Mainline Health Systems, Inc.

Description: Highlights FQHCs as access points and drivers of integrated care

11:10 – 11:55 AM

At the Frontlines of Care: The Role of Pharmacists in Rural Healthcare Delivery

Marlene Battle, PharmD, Moderator

President, AMDPA

Freda Barnett, PharmD

Pharmacist

Dewitt Hill, PharmD

Pharmacist
East Arkansas Family Health Center

Description: Explores pharmacist roles in chronic care, prevention, and coordination.

11:55 AM – 1:00 PM

Good Health Doesn't Happen: How Barbershops Are Changing Men's Health (Lunch Session)

Tiffany F. Haynes, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education
Assistant Dean for Culture and Engagement

Jennifer Coopwood

Community Health Coordinator
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Justin Johnson

Barbershop Owner

Timmy Perry

Barbershop, Owner

Description: Explores how trusted community spaces like barbershops are helping advance men's health by promoting prevention, health education, screening awareness, and stronger connections to care.

1:00 – 1:45 PM

Birthing Equity in Rural America: Strengthening Maternal Care Across the Continuum

William Greenfield, MD, MBA

Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Kay Chandler, MD

Arkansas Surgeon General
Women's Health Medical Director, DHA Family Health | ADH

Description: Strategies to improve maternal health outcomes in rural communities.

1:50 – 2:35 PM

Reconstructing Cardiovascular Care in Rural America: Advancing Prevention, Access, and Outcomes

Shaletha Jones, MD

Hospitalist

Anthony Fletcher, MD

President

Association of Black Cardiologists

Description: Interprofessional approaches to reducing cardiovascular disease.

2:35 – 2:50 PM Closing Remarks