



## NEVADA RURAL COMMUNITIES SUMMIT: How Providers in Rural Nevada are Increasing Community Resilience

**October 28-29, 2024 | Fallon, NV**  
Churchill County Fairgrounds, Rafter 3c Arena  
227 Sheckler Road, Fallon, Nevada 89406

Day 1 - Monday, October 28	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Registration – Main Entrance</b> <b>Vendor Hall Open – Arena Floor</b>
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions – Arena Stands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon Ernst, Social Services Director, Churchill County</li> <li>• Jim Barbee, County Manager, Churchill County</li> <li>• Pete Weldy, Regional Administrator, Region 9, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</li> <li>• Cheryl Donald, Director, Office of Regional Operations, ACF, HHS</li> </ul>
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Framing Remarks: Why this gathering and why now? – Arena</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (Nevada DHHS) and Event Emcee</li> </ul>
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Town Hall – Part 1 – Arena Stands</b> <u>Panelists</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerald Ackerman, Assistant Dean, Rural Programs, University of Nevada-Reno, School of Medicine</li> <li>• Sara Hunt, Executive Director, BeHERE Nevada</li> </ul>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Break</b> Treats will be provided. <b>Thank you, Nevada Association of Counties!</b>
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	<b>Town Hall – Part 2 – Arena Stands</b> <u>Panelists</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie Coleman, Communications Director, Nevada Rural Housing</li> <li>• Frankie Ortiz, Food Bank of Northern Nevada</li> <li>• Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Child, Family and Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada DHHS</li> </ul>

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>What to expect tomorrow? – Arena Stands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III, Nevada DHHS and Event Emcee</li> </ul>
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<b>Dinner – Arena Floor</b> Networking BBQ hosted by Churchill County Social Services and County Manager Jim Barbee. <b>Thank you, Churchill County!</b>

## Day 2 – Tuesday, October 29

8:30 am – 9:00 am	<b>Refreshments – Arena Floor</b> To be enjoyed throughout the day. <b>Thank you, Silver Summit Health Plan!</b>
9:00 am – 9:10 am	<b>Day 2 Framing Remarks – Arena Stands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III, Nevada DHHS and Event Emcee</li> </ul>
9:15 am – 10:30 am	<b>Breakout Session #1</b> <b>A. Food Insecurity – Buckland Room</b> The story of one rural provider trying to mitigate food insecurity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stacy York, Director, Storey County Health and Community Services (SCHCS)</li> <li>Sara Cannon, Virginia City Senior Center Coordinator, SCHCS</li> </ul> <b>B. Early Childhood Care and Education – West End B</b> Head Start Services at a Nevada Community Action Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leslie Colbrese, Executive Director, Community Services Agency (CSA) –</li> <li>Valeria Koss, Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K Director, CSA</li> </ul> <b>C. Mental Health – East End A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Yanez, Executive Director, Western Nevada, National Alliance of Mental Illness – Innovative use of peers and Community Health Workers</li> </ul>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Breakout Session #2</b> <b>A. Food Insecurity – Buckland Room</b> Innovative food pantry services in rural Nevada. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wendy Madson, Executive Director, Health Communities Coalition</li> <li>Traci Rothman, Food Pantry Lead, Healthy Communities Coalition</li> </ul> <b>B. Early Childhood Care and Education – West End B</b> Innovative early childhood education services in rural Nevada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael-Ann Lazzarino, Chief Operating Officer, Community Chest, Inc. (CCI)</li> <li>Sarah Dillard, Rural Program Director, CCI</li> <li>Peach Coons, Youth Programs Director, CCI</li> <li>Kirsten Day, Program Coordinator, CCI</li> </ul> <b>C. Affordable Housing – East End A</b> What does affordable housing look like in Nevada rural communities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Katie Coleman, Communications Director, Nevada Rural Housing</li> <li>Beth Dunning, Community Development Director, Nevada Rural Housing</li> <li>Maurice Page, Executive Director, Nevada Housing Coalition</li> </ul>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch – Arena Floor</b> <b>Thank you, Mayor Tedford and the City of Fallon!</b>
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	<b>Breakout Session #3</b> <b>A. Food Insecurity – Buckland Room</b> Efforts and initiatives to increase food security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frankie Ortiz, Health Equity Manager, Food Bank of Northern Nevada</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Gotcher, Retail Manager, Food Bank of Northern Nevada</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Mental Health – West End B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shayla Holmes, Director, Lyon County Human Services</li> <li>• Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Nevada Association of Counties – Innovations regarding County-provided services</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Affordable Housing – East End A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adrienne Babbitt, Nevada Field Office Director, U.S. Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development (HUD) – HUD 101</li> <li>• John (Jack) Paul Holtgreive, Neighborhood and Community Investment Specialist, HUD – Main Street Program &amp; other resources</li> <li>• Sarah Olson, Lead Grants Management Specialist, Southwest Office of Native American Programs, HUD – Working with Tribes</li> </ul>
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	<p><b>Breakout Session #4</b></p> <p><b>A. Food Insecurity – Buckland Room</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Child, Family and Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada DHHS – Council on Food Security, WIC resources and objectives</li> <li>• Rachel Dahl, Supervisory Community Liaison, USDA Rural Development</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Early Childhood Care and Education – West End B</b></p> <p>The impact of ARPA spending in rural areas as well as current and future initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marty Elquist, Chief Programs Officer, The Children’s Cabinet</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Mental Health – East End A</b></p> <p>Conversation on regional trends and concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valerie Haskin, Coordinator, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board</li> </ul>
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<p><b>Next Action Steps and Summary – Arena Stands</b></p> <p>Discussion with all attendees on what comes next.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III, Nevada DHHS and Event Emcee</li> </ul>

Thank you to our generous sponsors for donating food, beverages, and tote bags!

