

Committee on Rural Health

Tuesday, December 16th, 2025 11 am-12 pm ET

Virtual Meeting MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENT: Next CRH meeting will be Tuesday, January 20th, from 11 am – 12 pm ET

Present: Tess Kilwein, Douglas Knutson, Christianne Connelly, Mary Louise Cashel, Ashley Norwood Strickland, Reed Maxwell, Christine McKibbin, Royleen Ross, Calista Kern-Lyons, Chelsea Wallen, Maddie Boening (APA Staff Liaison), Andrew Strickland (APA Advocacy Staff), Mary Ann McCabe (BOD liaison), Emily Selby-Nelson (Division 31 Rural Health Section)

1.) Update on APA Proposed Rural Health Resolution

The 30 day public comment period opened on December 9th, 2025, and will close on January 8th, 2026. The proposed resolution, as well as the system for providing comments, is available here: <https://commentinggov.apa.org/>

2.) CRH Leadership Transition

Thank you to Dr. Tess Kilwein for serving as the 2025 CRH Chair, and Dr. Douglas Knutson for serving as the 2025 Vice Chair. Dr. Christianne Connelly is stepping in as the 2026 Chair, and Dr. Ashley Norwood Strickland is the 2026 Vice Chair.

3.) 2027 Nomination Period is now open

CRH is now accepting nominations to fill two slates (Research Psychologist and Early Career Psychologist) for three-year terms starting on January 1st, 2027. Nominations are due by January 30th, 2026. Consider reaching out to your SPTA and nominating individuals who may be interested.

4.) 2026 Meeting Schedule

CRH will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 11am Eastern time.

5.) Next Steps for Rural Health Toolkit

The group discussed the importance of creating a sustainable and livable toolkit for training the next generation of psychologists. Emphasis was placed on building a model that can evolve and can be built upon. Training should prepare future psychologists to



work effectively across clinical, academic, and advocacy settings, ensuring well-rounded professional development and long-term impact.

Considerations:

- Stigma
- Meeting folks where they are
- Billing & reimbursement

This could be in the form of:

- Resources for SPTAs
- Community-based interventions

Possible sections of the toolkit:

- Section of interdisciplinary collaboration (integrating medical/religious organizations/schools/primary care) – split, different domains of integration
- Reduced access, limited awareness of community resources
- Empower providers
- Primary prevention
- Understanding Rural Contexts
- Clinical Care in Rural Sections
 - o Same day access
 - o Telehealth
- Workforce & Training Pipeline
 - o Recruitment & Retention strategies
 - o Resilience and perspective of care
- Policy, Advocacy & Systems-Level Change
- Community Partnership

Next steps: Develop content for sections 1 – 3 (subcommittee members have been assigned to develop content for each section). The next subcommittee meeting will take place in February, APA staff will send a doodle poll to schedule.