



2026 Annual Conference

June 23-24, 2026 | French Lick, IN

indianaruralhealth.org/conference



ABOUT

The Indiana Rural Health Association's Annual Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in the state, bringing together physicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health professionals, students, and others committed to improving rural health. This interactive, educational event features insights from both frontline practitioners and national experts on today's most pressing rural and public health issues. Attendees gain valuable updates and practical guidance on the development and management of effective rural healthcare delivery models.

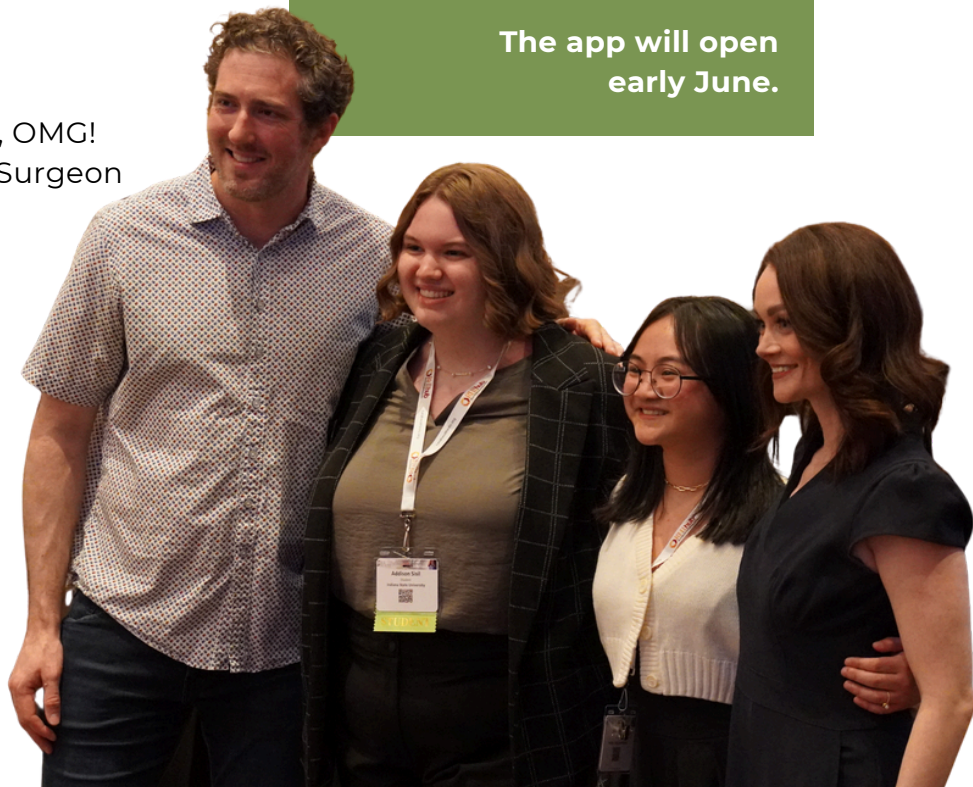
- **Date:** June 23-24, 2026
- **Location:** French Lick Resort Event Center (French Lick, IN)
- **Audience:** Estimated around 600 attendees
 - Including health professionals from the fields of telehealth, public health, maternal health, mental health, and more.
- **Audience Attire:** Business/Business Casual
- **Speaker Attire:** Business
- **Past speakers include:**
 - Dr. Will and Kristin Flanary (The Glaucomflecken)
 - Pandit Dasa
 - Erin Brockovich
 - Billy Riggs, MRE, MDIV, CSP, OMG!
 - Dr. Jerome Adams, Former Surgeon General
 - Dr. Tray Dunaway



Conference App

The IRHA Conference App provides the most up-to-date information throughout the conference. Visit the app store on your mobile device and download the **IRHA Events** app.

The app will open early June.



AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Monday, June 22

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception

► *Windsor Ballroom*

Open to paid conference attendees only.

Tuesday, June 23

8:00-8:55 a.m.

Registration/Breakfast/Exhibitor
Networking

► *Hoosier Ballroom*

8:55-9:20 a.m.

Welcome

► *Hoosier Ballroom*

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions I

10:45-11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions II

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lunch and Exhibitor Networking

► *Hoosier Ballroom*

12:40-2:00 p.m.

Keynote Address

***"Beyond Coping: A Candid Conversation
about Resilience, Connection, and
Happiness in the Workplace"***

Johnny Crowder

► *Windsor Ballroom*

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions III

3:15-5:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Reception

► *Hoosier Ballroom*

5:00-5:30 p.m.

Door Prize Drawings

Wednesday, June 24

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

► *Windsor Ballroom*

8:00-8:45 a.m.

General Membership Meeting and
Award Presentations

► *Windsor Ballroom*

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions IV

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions V

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Plenary Address Luncheon

► *Windsor Ballroom*

1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

**Please note: The agenda is subject to change.*

Last updated on February 2, 2026.



2026 KEYNOTE

Johnny Crowder

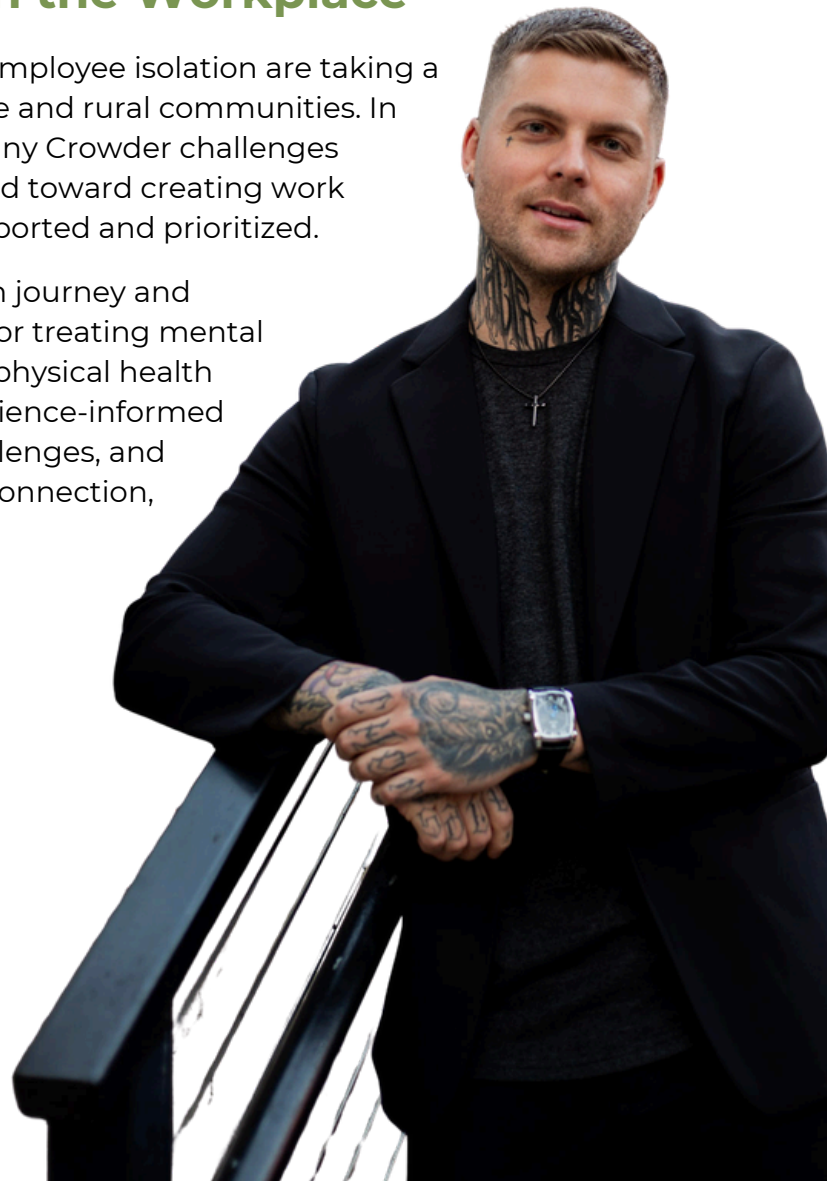
Johnny Crowder is a mental health, resilience, and workplace culture expert and the Founder & CEO of Cope Notes, a text-based mental health platform providing daily support to users in more than 90 countries. A suicide and abuse survivor, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, TEDx Talks speaker, and touring musician, Johnny brings a rare blend of lived experience, clinical insight, and authenticity to every stage he steps on.

With a psychology degree from the University of Central Florida and more than a decade of clinical treatment, peer support, and public advocacy experience through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Johnny has impacted millions worldwide through his work. His refreshingly candid approach to mental health has been featured by *Forbes*, *Entrepreneur Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *CNN World*. Known for his empathy, energy, and unconventional wit, Johnny delivers messages that resonate deeply with leaders and frontline professionals alike.

Beyond Coping: A Candid Conversation about Resilience, Connection, and Happiness in the Workplace

Burnout, absenteeism, compassion fatigue, and employee isolation are taking a toll on today's workforce—especially in health care and rural communities. In this fast-paced and highly relatable keynote, Johnny Crowder challenges organizations to move beyond simply “coping” and toward creating work environments where mental health is openly supported and prioritized.

Drawing from his own decade-long mental health journey and professional experience, Johnny makes the case for treating mental health conversations with the same openness as physical health discussions. Attendees will leave with practical, science-informed strategies to build stronger cultures, reframe challenges, and support emotional wellbeing in ways that foster connection, confidence, and long-term happiness at work.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome Reception

Monday, June 22 | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Windsor Ballroom

Join fellow attendees to kick off the IRHA 28th Annual Conference. This networking event is open to registered attendees and offers a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and meet new partners before sessions begin.

Exhibit Hall

Tuesday, June 23 | Open All Day | Hoosier Ballroom

Explore the Exhibit Hall to connect with vendors, partners, and organizations advancing rural healthcare. Then, join us for the Exhibitor Reception from 3:45–5:00 p.m. to network with peers and exhibitors in a collaborative setting.

22nd Annual 5K Run/Walk

Tuesday, June 23 | 6:00 a.m. | Event Center Entrance

Choose between a 5K route or a 1.5-mile walk option and enjoy a fun, energizing morning with fellow rural health champions.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

Tuesday, June 23
9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session Title	Presenters	Location
Beyond Treatment: Supporting Patients Through Integrated Case Management	Zak Bushue, MSW, LCSW Jade Schuman, BS, MS <i>Valley Professionals Community Health Center (VPCHC)</i>	Truman 201
Close the Gap and Save Your Bottom Line	Khrista Boster, MBA <i>Woodlawn Health</i>	Roosevelt 202
Small Teams, Big Impact: Onboarding Strategies that Strengthen Compliance and Safety in Rural Facilities	Tawnya Brock, BSN, RN, BSPH <i>Advent Health</i>	Kennedy 203
Behavioral Health and the Judiciary	Brittany Kelly, JD, MSW, LSW <i>Office of Behavioral Health, Office of Judicial Administration</i> Stephanie Campbell, JD <i>Fountain County Circuit Court</i>	Eisenhower 204
RHCs Billing and Cost Reporting Changes	Charles James, <i>North American HMS</i>	Johnson 206

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

Tuesday, June 23
10:45-11:45 a.m.

Session Title	Presenters	Location
Building a Client-Centered Continuum: Measurable, Cross-Sector Collaboration in Rural Behavioral Health is Possible	Jason Haglund, MS, CADC Renee Schulte, MA, LMHC <i>Rural Policy Partners</i>	Truman 201
Elevating Revenue Cycle Performance: How Leadership Alignment Drives Cash Collections	Amy Graham, MBA, CRHCP <i>Stroudwater</i>	Roosevelt 202
The Power of Partnership: Unlocking Potential through Strategic Partnerships	Charlotte Gabet Maddie Haffner <i>Parkview Health</i>	Kennedy 203
Managing Social Services In Healthcare	Nicole Adams, PhD, RN <i>Purdue University</i> Mike Shepard <i>Leto Tech, PBC</i>	Eisenhower 204
RHC Surveys and Compliance	Amanda Dennison, CPC, MBA, CRHCP, RH-CBS <i>Blue & Co., LLC</i>	Johnson 206

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

Tuesday, June 23
2:15-3:15 p.m..

Session Title	Presenters	Location
Building Sustainable Surgical Access Through Rotating Surgeon Models	Quinn Wang, MD <i>Doctors in Network</i>	Truman 201
Connected Care and Sustainability: Leveraging RPM and APCM to Strengthen Rural Health	Kathy Boedeker, <i>Carematix, Inc</i>	Roosevelt 202
Value-based Care Facility Design: Spaces That Support Population Health in Rural Communities	Andy Mitchell, AIA, ACHA Zach Benedict, AIA, LEED AP, RID Allison Vanderhorst, EDAC <i>MKM architecture + design</i>	Kennedy 203
Telehealth Compliance for Rural Providers: Navigating Legal Risks & Maximizing Benefits	Suzannah Wilson Overholt <i>Amundsen Davis</i>	Eisenhower 204
Maximizing RHC Revenue	Charles James <i>North American HMS</i>	Johnson 206



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV Wednesday, June 24. 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Session Title	Presenters	Location
Bringing Medicare Support Close to Home: SHIP's Partnership with Rural Health Providers	Megan Rogers <i>SHIP</i>	Truman 201
Moving from Closure Risk to Resilience	Jeff Sommer <i>Stroudwater Associates</i>	Roosevelt 202
Top 10 Employment Law Issues Facing Healthcare Employers in 2026	Amy Adolay, Attorney Jenna Shives, Attorney <i>Krieg DeVault</i>	Kennedy 203
Pathways to Rural Practice: How AHEC Scholars Shape the Future Health Workforce	Jennifer Taylor, DHEd, MPH <i>Indiana University School of Medicine</i> Jeff Hartz, MA <i>East Indiana Area Health Education Center</i> Jackie Mathis, MS <i>Landsbaum Center for Health Education</i>	Eisenhower 204
RHC Key Performance Indicators; Benchmarking for RHC Success	Charles James <i>North American HMS</i>	Johnson 206



CONCURRENT SESSIONS V

Wednesday, June
10:15-11:15 a.m.

Session Title	Presenters	Location
Connecting Care in Rural Communities: Paramedicine and Maternal-Child Health	Jessica Martin, RN <i>IU Health System Health Solutions</i> Tammy Fitter, RN, BSN <i>IU Health</i> Courtney Ellis, Paramedic <i>Keeping Pace/IU Health</i>	Truman 201
Rural Hospitals 2026: Navigating the Legal and Financial Shifts Ahead	Brandon Shirley, Attorney Brian Heaton, Attorney <i>Krieg DeVault, LLP</i>	Roosevelt 202
How to Build Sustainable Rural Physician Staffing Models – Tips from a Physician	Joseph Pazona, MD <i>VirtuCare</i>	Kennedy 203
How Rural Health systems can use podcasts to power their content and AI searches	Khrista Boster, MBA <i>Woodlawn Health</i> Bill Klaproth <i>Doctor Podcasting</i>	Eisenhower 204
Building Better Access and Patient Experience in Underserved Rural Communities	Bill Ledger, AIA, ACHA, NCARB, EDAC, LEED AP, LSSGB <i>Design Collaborative</i> Joyce Geis, FNP-BC, MHA, FACHE <i>Rush Memorial Hospital</i>	Johnson 206



SPONSORSHIPS

The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) invites organizations to support its Annual Conference, the premier event of the year for Indiana's rural health community. This highly anticipated gathering offers sponsors an unparalleled opportunity to connect with healthcare leaders, providers, and stakeholders from across the state.

With several sponsorship levels available, your organization can choose the level of involvement that best aligns with your goals, gaining valuable visibility and making a meaningful impact on rural health. Join us in advancing healthcare in rural Indiana by becoming a proud sponsor of this flagship event.

*Each sponsorship, other than the speaker sponsors, receives **one** complimentary registration.*

Break Sponsor - \$1,000

Internet Sponsor - \$1,000 (limit 1)

Awards Sponsor - \$1,500 (limit 1)

Student Network Event - \$2,000

Breakfast Sponsor (Tuesday or Wednesday) - \$2,500

Lunch Sponsor (Tuesday or Wednesday) - \$2,500

Speaker Sponsor - \$7,500 (limit 2)

Exclusive Speaker Sponsor - \$10,000 (limit 1)

[Learn more about each sponsorship opportunity here](#)

HOTEL INFORMATION

French Lick Resort

From the time they were established in the mid-1800s, **French Lick Resort's** grand hotels have been a preferred destination for guests looking to relax and rejuvenate in comfort and style. The resort offers activities and facilities for the entire family - with everything from pools and bowling to shopping and a spa, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



Make Your Reservation Today!

Hotel Room Block Deadline – **May 25, 2026**

Room rate: \$169/night

Book your room before the block sells out!

BOOK NOW

Group Code: 0626IRH

Attendee Password: 0626IRH

(group code and password are the same for everyone; once logged in, click the "book now" button on the group landing page)

Or call (888) 936-9360 and use contract code 0626IRH

Reminder: IRHA does not cancel your French Lick room reservations for you, and French Lick does not cancel registrations to attend the IRHA Annual Conference. You must contact both organizations, or you will be responsible for fees incurred by both organizations.



French Lick Cuisine

With everything from **1875 Steak House** to **O'Hana Hawaiian Grill**, there is food available to suit every pallet. Whether you stay on site or visit the town, you'll be sure to find something to enjoy.

DINING OPTIONS





The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) is a nonprofit organization representing a diverse statewide membership consisting of individuals and organizations committed to the improvement of health and resources for rural Hoosiers. IRHA seeks to provide a meaningful forum for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the health and safety of rural communities in Indiana. IRHA seeks to provide educational programs that focus on the unique needs of the residents of rural Indiana and the providers who serve them. IRHA also works to educate the public on relevant issues and focus unified efforts to bring about the necessary changes in public and private policies to ensure that all rural Hoosiers have access to quality healthcare in their own communities.

www.indianaruralhealth.org