PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

November 19 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. | CRG Event Center, Plainfield, IN

MEET THE PRESENTERS

Grant Achenbach



Grant Achenbach is an attorney and lobbyist in Krieg DeVault's Governmental Affairs and Public Advocacy Practice. He represents clients before the Indiana General Assembly and state agencies, with significant experience advancing healthcare legislation and regulatory initiatives. Drawing on strong relationships with legislators, stakeholders, and policymakers, Grant helps clients navigate complex public policy issues across healthcare, gaming, cannabis, civil law, and other regulated industries. In addition to his lobbying practice, Grant advises hospitals, physician groups, ambulatory surgical centers, and long-term care providers on healthcare regulatory matters. Before joining Krieg DeVault, he served as Director of Government Relations for the Indiana State Medical Association, where he led legislative strategy and advocacy efforts on behalf of physicians statewide. He began his career with the Indiana House of Representatives, staffing the House Public Health Committee and analyzing public health legislation.

Mitch Roob



Mitch Roob serves as Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), where he leads one of the state's largest and most complex agencies, overseeing programs that impact more than 1.5 million Hoosiers. In this role, he manages a multi-billion-dollar budget and directs initiatives spanning Medicaid, behavioral health, aging services, disability support, and social assistance. Widely recognized as the architect of the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Secretary Roob designed and implemented the nation's first consumer-driven Medicaid demonstration waiver. This groundbreaking model introduced health savings account–style features into Medicaid, empowering beneficiaries to take a more active role in managing their healthcare while promoting cost-conscious decision-making. HIP has since served as a blueprint for other states seeking to modernize their Medicaid programs through innovation and personal responsibility.
A seasoned executive with decades of experience in both the public and private sectors, Secretary Roob is known for translating policy vision into operational results. He has championed innovations in program integrity, provider engagement, and data-driven decision-making, and has led transformative reforms to improve efficiency and outcomes across FSSA's programs. Prior to leading FSSA, Secretary Roob held senior leadership positions in healthcare administration, economic development, and state government operations, giving him a unique perspective on the intersection of health policy, fiscal stewardship, and service delivery. His career reflects a consistent commitment to improving outcomes for vulnerable populations while ensuring responsible use of public resources.

Brock Slabach



Brock joined National Rural Health Association (NRHA) in 2008. He is NRHA's Chief Operating Officer. He was a rural hospital administrator for more than 21 years and has served on the board of the NRHA and the regional policy board of the American Hospital Association. Brock specializes in rural health system development that encompasses population health and the varied payment programs moving rural providers into value-based purchasing models. He serves on the Board of Commissioners of Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) and Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Organization (RHRCO). He is the 2015 recipient of the Calico Quality Leadership Award of the National Rural Health Resource Center, received the American Society of Healthcare Pharmacists (ASHP) Board of Directors' Award of Honor for 2018 and the NRHA's President's Award in 2023. He earned a master of public health degree in health administration from the University of Oklahoma and is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Dr. Lindsay Weaver



Dr. Weaver was reappointed State Health Commissioner by Governor Mike Braun on Jan. 13, 2025, having been named to the position by Governor Eric J. Holcomb in June 2023. She brings to the role a passion for improving the health of Hoosiers through a focus on prevention, data-informed programming, and access to care in all corners of the state. As state health commissioner, Dr. Weaver leads the implementation of GROW: Cultivating Hoosier Health, which focuses on rural health, and Health First Indiana, an initiative aimed at improving the health of all Hoosiers through an investment in prevention and delivery of core public health services.

Brandon Shirley



Brandon W. Shirley is a Partner at Krieg DeVault and advises healthcare providers on complex Medicare and Medicaid compliance, reimbursement, and regulatory matters. Brandon has extensive experience with Medicaid and managed care laws, audits, overpayment disputes, administrative appeals, internal investigations, and government sanctions. His practice also includes pharmacy and 340B issues, telehealth, licensure, surveys, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Brandon is particularly experienced in healthcare fraud and abuse matters, including Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute compliance. He represents clients in government investigations, qui tam actions, self-disclosures, and Corporate Integrity Agreement compliance, helping organizations navigate significant regulatory and enforcement challenges.

Sarah Heppner



Sarah Heppner serves as the Associate Director of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, Sarah provides programmatic, policy, and operational support for the Office. FORHP has an annual budget of $418 million and administers a range of technical assistance, research, and capacity-building grant programs that serve rural communities. It is also charged with advising the HHS Secretary on rural health issues. Sarah has been with FORHP since 2012, serving as the Research Coordinator, the Deputy Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, and the Director of the Policy Research Division. She has an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Wells College and a Master's in Clinical and Translational Sciences with a concentration in Research Management from the University of Vermont.

Dan Hardesty



Dan Hardesty, MPA, serves as the Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Indiana Rural Health Association. His work centers on amplifying the voice of rural health providers to elected officials and other stakeholders. In this role, Dan, has worked alongside experts in the healthcare industry to advance advocacy goals for rural health providers. Issues he has worked on include federal funding, commercial Medicare plans' impact on rural hospitals, Medicaid funding, and redesigning the prior authorization process. Prior to joining the Indiana Rural Health Association, he worked at the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health. Dan lives and raises his three children with his wife in Parke County, Indiana, and serves on the board of his church.