

# INDIANA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



# PUBLIC POLICY FORUM



November 18, 8:30am to 3:00pm  
Embassy Suites, Plainfield

## MEET THE PRESENTERS

### 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 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 National Rural Health Association 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 re-appointed as State Health Commissioner by Governor Mike Braun on January 13, 2025. She served in this capacity under Governor Eric J. Holcomb from June 1, 2023, to present. 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.

Dr. Weaver is also an assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine and continues to practice emergency medicine at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. She earned her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Kentucky and graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She received residency training in emergency medicine and fellowship training in hospice and palliative medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, and she completed a fellowship in ethics at the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at Indiana University Health. Dr. Weaver and her husband have five daughters.



## Dan Hardesty

Dan Hardesty, MPA, serves as the 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, Mr. Hardesty, 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, Mr. Hardesty worked at the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health. Mr. Hardesty lives and raises his three children with his wife in Parke County, Indiana, and serves on the board of his church.



## Sarah Heppner

Sarah Heppner is the Associate Director of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she is part of the senior leadership team guiding the Office's efforts to advise the HHS Secretary on rural health issues and to strengthen health care delivery in rural communities nationwide. She helps oversee an annual budget of \$364 million that supports a wide range of state- and community-level capacity-building, analysis, and technical assistance programs tailored to rural needs.



Sarah Heppner is the Associate Director of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she is part of the senior leadership team guiding the Office's efforts to advise the HHS Secretary on rural health issues and to strengthen health care delivery in rural communities nationwide. She helps oversee an annual budget of \$364 million that supports a wide range of state- and community-level capacity-building, analysis, and technical assistance programs tailored to rural needs.

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