



DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIUM

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Acting Deputy Director**

**Office of Rural Health Transformation Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD
January 21st, 2026, 3:00 PM, Knott Hall B03**

Zoom link : <https://loyola.zoom.us/j/81031149427>

Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 810 3114 9427

Passcode: mathstat

Data-Driven Healthcare Policy: Rural Transformation and State-Led Innovation



Abstract

Federal policymakers rely on data to inform, evaluate, and refine policies that shape the American healthcare landscape. At the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), data sits at the heart of improving healthcare delivery for over 130 million Americans who depend on Medicare and Medicaid. Given CMS' influential role as a trendsetter in the insurance industry, the agency's policy decisions create ripple effects that extend far beyond its beneficiaries —other insurers frequently follow CMS' lead, amplifying the impact of evidence-based innovations. This session explores two groundbreaking examples of data-driven policy making in action. First, discover how rigorous data analysis informed the development of a \$ 50 billion rural health transformation project, addressing critical healthcare access challenges in underserved communities. Second, learn how comprehensive evaluations from state-based multi-payer models provided the evidence foundation for the AHEAD Model —one of the most ambitious and far-reaching healthcare pilot programs ever undertaken.

This talk is specially meant for students.

Refreshments will be served.

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