

2025 Chronic Disease Forum Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
8:30-8:45 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Izzy Montgomery, MPA, <i>Chronic Disease Coordinating Council Chair</i> • Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, <i>Director of the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas State Health Officer</i>
8:45-9:45 AM	Oral Health in Arkansas: Current Issues and Opportunities (Panel Discussion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Niki C. Carter, <i>Dental Director, Delta Dental of Arkansas</i> ○ Dr. Ashley McMillan, <i>Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, Lyon College School of Dental Medicine</i> ○ Dr. Rachel Sizemore, <i>Director of the Arkansas Department of Health Office of Oral Health</i> • Moderator: Sandra McGrew, <i>Director of External Relations, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement</i>
10:00-11:00 AM	The Impact of Environmental and Social Factors on Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Elizabeth Cleveland, <i>CEO and Founder, Fusion Center Network</i>
	From National Strategy to Local Impact: The American Heart Association's Public Health Advocacy Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Oberembt, <i>Arkansas Government Relations Director, The American Heart Association</i> • Rica Trigs, <i>Vice President of Advocacy, American Heart Association</i>
11:15-12:15 PM	Lunch and Awards Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic Disease Coordinating Council Executive Committee
12:30-1:30 PM	Achieving Sustainability of Chronic Disease and Prevention Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy McNeill, RN, MPH; <i>Chief Executive, Freedmen's Consulting</i>
	Growing Healthy Futures: Insights from the Child Health Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Wessel, JD, MPH, <i>Co-Chair of the Child Health Advisory Committee and Interim Health Policy Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement</i> • Shannon Borchert, MS, CHES, <i>Child Health Advisory Committee Representative and School Health Director, Arkansas Department of Health</i>
1:45-2:45 PM	Beyond the Diagnosis: Improving Alzheimer's and Dementia Care through Policy in Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Cook, <i>Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Alzheimer's Association, Arkansas</i>
	Clearing the Air: Local Smokefree Policies Make a Difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellie Lamb, <i>Senior Program Manager in Tobacco Control, American Cancer Society</i>
3:00-4:00 PM	Health Policy in Review: Reflections from the 2025 Legislative Session (Panel Discussion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative Lee Johnson, <i>District 47</i> ○ Representative Aaron Pilkington, <i>District 45</i> ○ Representative Fred Allen, <i>District 77</i> • Moderator: Roby Brock, <i>CEO of Talk Business & Politics</i>
4:00 PM	Closing and Evaluation	Izzy Montgomery, <i>Chronic Disease Coordinating Council Chair</i>