

South Carolina EmPATH Summit

Date: September 29, 2026
Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm
Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center



Welcome

10:00am - 10:05am

Why EmPATH?

10:05am - 10:30am | Speaker:

- Robby Kerr | Former SC DHHS Director
- Jai Kumar | EVP, CaroNova
- Moderated by Thornton Kirby | President and CEO, SCHA

EmPATH on the National Scale

10:30am - 11:00am | Speaker:

- Herb Harman | MD, MBA, VP Psychiatry, Vituity
- Kimberly Walton | MSN, RN, Director Practice Operations, Vituity

Performance in Focus

11:00am - 11:30am | Speaker:

Nic Touchstone | Director, Data and Measurement, SCHA

Lunch

11:30am - 12:00pm

Behavioral Health Workforce

12:00pm - 12:15pm | Speaker:

Lara Hewitt | Senior VP, SCHA

Meeting Patients Where They Are:

12:15pm - 1:30pm | Speaker:

- Laura Aldinger, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Services Association
- Melanie Gambrell, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Jay Hamm, VP Operations, Lexington Medical Center
- Melissa Huffstetler, LPC, Program Manager - Community Partners, Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center
- Moderated by Chris Carr, MD, CPE, FACEP, Senior Medical Advisor, SCHA

Break

1:30pm - 1:40pm

EmPATH Presentations:

1:40pm - 2:50pm | Speaker:

- MUSC University Hospital: Laura McCabe, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Medical Director, Psychiatry Emergency Services
- MUSC Shawn Jenkins: Rakin Hoq, MD, Director of Child Psychiatry Services; Assistant Professor: Child/Adolescent Psychiatry, Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrics; Medical Director, MUSC Shawn Jenkins Emergency Psychiatry and Consult Services
- Lexington Medical Center: Darby Russell, MSN, RN, CEN, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department and EmPATH
- Prisma Health Oconee: Karen Lommel, Enterprise Medical Director, Prisma Behavioral Health Operations
- Prisma Health Tuomey: Shana Davis, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Closing Comments and Adjourn

2:50pm - 3:00pm | Speaker: Melanie Mattney, COO, SCHA