



*Georgia House of Representatives*  
*2021-2022 House Rural Development Council*

**CHAIRMAN RICK JASPERSE**  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 11  
218 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
(404) 656-7153  
rick.jasperse@@house.ga.gov

**VICE-CHAIR JOHN CORBETT**  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 174  
614 CLOB  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
(404) 656-3949  
john.corbett@house.ga.gov

**CHAIRMAN SAM WATSON**  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 172  
245 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
(404) 463-2246  
sam.watson@house.ga.gov

**2021-2022 House Rural Development Council**  
**Barriers & Economic Development**  
**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**  
**Hampton Inn Conference Room**  
**Blue Ridge**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

- 1:00 – 1:05** Welcome by Co-Chairs Rick Jasperse and Sam Watson
- 1:05 – 1:30** Local Welcome
- Donna Whitener, Mayor, Blue Ridge
  - Fannin County Chamber of Commerce
  - Speaker David Ralston, Georgia House of Representatives
- 1:30 – 1:50** Revisiting Georgia's Agriculture Cooperative Law
- David Bridges, Interim Director, Georgia Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation; President, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- 1:50 – 2:50** Cooperation: Food and Health
- David Bridges, Interim Director, Georgia Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation; President, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
  - Jimmy Lewis, CEO, HomeTown Health, LLC.
  - Robin Rau, CEO, Miller County Hospital
- 2:50 – 3:00** *Break*
- 3:00 – 3:50** Development Authorities

- David Bridges, Interim Director, Georgia Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation; President, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Jimmy Lewis, CEO, HomeTown Health, LLC.

**3:50 – 4:20**

Oncology Care Close to Home

- Ray Williams, Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- Pat Brown, Assistant Vice President, Business Development, Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- Michael Azzolin, President and CEO, PharmD on Demand

**4:20 – 4:50**

Anesthesiology

- Dr. Rebecca Downey, Vice President, Clinical Services, Southeast Region, North American Partners in Anesthesia

**4:50 – 5:20**

AllHealth Choice

- Ray Cross, President, AllHealth Choice

**2021-2022 House Rural Development Council  
Health Care  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
Hampton Inn Conference Room  
Blue Ridge**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

- 8:00 – 8:45**      Right-to-Farm
- Will Bentley, President, Georgia Agribusiness Council
  - Jacob Matthews, Governmental Affairs Specialist, Public Policy Department, Georgia Farm Bureau
  - Mike Giles, President, Georgia Poultry Federation
  - Andres Villegas, President, Georgia Forestry Association
- 8:45 – 9:30**      Emerging Industry: Oyster Hatcheries
- Thomas Bliss, Director of Shellfish Research Lab, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Office, UGA Cooperative Extension
  - Bryan Rackley, Co-Owner, Kimball House
  - Doug Haymans, Director, Coastal Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources
- 9:30 – 9:40**      *Break*
- 9:40 – 11:10**      Mental Health in Rural Georgia
- Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
  - Kim Jones, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness Georgia
  - Abdul Henderson, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Georgia
  - Judy Payne, CEO, Turning Point Hospital
  - Jessica Rivenbark, Executive Director, Colquitt Medical
- 11:10 – 11:20**      *Break*
- 11:20 – 12:20**      Rural Georgia's Health Care Workforce
- Dr. Jean Sumner, Dean, Mercer University School of Medicine
  - Dr. Shawn Little, President, Atlanta Campus, Chamberlain University

- 12:20 – 12:30**      *Break/Boxed Lunch Provided for Council Members*
- 12:30 – 1:00**      Rural Georgia's Health Care Workforce
- Anna Adams, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Georgia Hospital Association
- 1:00 – 1:45**      Nursing Homes in Crisis
- Pam Clayton, Vice President, Quality Advancement and Regulatory Affairs, Georgia Health Care Association
- 1:45 – 2:15**      Pulsara: Uniting Care Teams
- James Woodson, CEO, Pulsara
- 2:15 – 2:45**      Infant Mortality: Scan of Rural Georgia
- Jacob Warren, PhD, Mercer University School of Medicine; Director, Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities

**2021-2022 House Rural Development Council  
Report and Recommendations  
Thursday, December 9, 2021  
Hampton Inn Conference Room  
Blue Ridge**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**8:30 – 10:00**      Committee Report and Recommendations