



## **GHA CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH CHARTER**

**Purpose:** To provide strategic, policy and educational guidance on rural health care in the state of Georgia. The Center will work with various internal and external stakeholders to explore challenges for rural hospitals and rural health care, identify future trends, raise awareness of rural health issues, and recommend to the GHA Board of Trustees public policy strategies to support rural hospitals.

**Objectives:** Promote and enhance the practice of hospital administration in a small rural hospital setting.

Work with the State Office of Rural Health and other state agencies or partners on rural initiatives.

Provide education and other activities for its members that will help develop skills in administration, quality and safety improvement, community engagement and rural health network development.

Provide a forum on rural health care issues and explore and explain the impact of these issues to GHA for purposes of advocacy and education.

Provide a communication vehicle for GHA and other relevant stakeholders to disseminate information on best practices to improve rural hospitals and the local and statewide healthcare infrastructure.

Provide GHA advice and counsel regarding ways to protect rural Georgians' access to patient-centered, quality care.

Support GHA Research and Education Foundation (GHAREF) with appropriate grant activities.

Work with GHA, the American Hospital Association, and the National Rural Health Association, as appropriate, to provide input and guidance on federal rural health issues.

**Members:** Members shall consist of acute care and critical access hospitals which are members in good standing of GHA and meet the following criteria:

- be located in a county with a population of seventy-five thousand (75,000) persons or fewer; or
- have an average daily hospital census of seventy-five (75) or fewer; or
- be designated as a critical access hospital; or
- be recognized as rural by the State Office of Rural Health; or
- be eligible for the Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program; or
- be approved for membership by the Center's Executive Committee.

Member organizations shall be represented by their respective CEO or an individual who is designated by the Member and who is in a position to represent the entire organization.

The Center shall have an Executive Committee consisting of nine (9) to twelve (12) individuals who will be elected by the Center membership in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Center.