

2017 | Rural Hospital/Health Advocacy Days
February 20-21
Austin Radisson Hotel & Suites

The Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) will host rural hospital and rural health advocacy days for the 85th session of the Texas Legislature in Austin on February 20-21, 2017.

The event will be comprised of afternoon presentations to attendees on Monday the 20th, about the current status of rural hospitals in Texas, the rural health needs of Texas, the direction of the 85th Texas Legislature, and the priorities for TORCH during the session.

On Tuesday the 21st, attendees will spend the day in the Texas Capitol visiting legislative offices about rural hospital and health issues. This is a must-attend event for hospital CEOs, CFOs, board members, other rural hospital leadership, community leaders, stakeholders, and those that live in rural Texas. With a tight budget expected this session, rural hospitals and stakeholders need to make a strong impression.



Austin Radisson Hotel & Suites
111 East Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 478-9611



RURAL HOSPITAL AND RURAL HEALTH ADVOCACY DAYS IN AUSTIN



AGENDA

DAY ONE: FEBRUARY 20

1:00-5:00 – **Registration**

1:30-1:45 – **Welcome and Opening Comments**

David Pearson, TORCH CEO and David Byrom, TORCH Board Chairman

1:45-2:15 – **Trying to Help Urban Texas Understand the Importance of Rural**

Honorable Pete Laney, former Speaker of the House

He fought the battle for years and still does – trying to get urban Texas to understand rural

2:15-3:00 – **Assessing the 85th Session – The tone and the tenor thus far!**

Brittani Bilse, Government consulting, former legislative staff

Michelle "Missy" Apodaca, Haynes and Boone, health care government relations

Rick Thompson, Texas Association of Counties

An insider's view of the Texas Legislative session – they can tell you what the politicians won't!

3:00-3:15 – **Break**

3:15-3:45 – **Health and Human Services in Texas – A BIG Challenge!!**

Chris Traylor, former Executive Commissioner Texas HHSC

Hear from our former HHSC Commissioner on his thoughts for getting the rural hospital story in front of the Texas Legislature and the health and human services challenges for Texas

3:45-4:30 – **Fighting for Rural Texas – From Inside the Legislature**

Honorable Charles Perry, State Senator

Honorable Travis Clardy, State Representative

Honorable Four Price, State Representative

They will provide their perspective on the key legislative issues facing Texas rural health

4:30-5:00 – **Advocacy 101 – Why we do this! And how to make your office visit count.**

Don McBeath, TORCH Director of Government Relations

A discussion about the importance and impact of properly advocating for rural health issues

5:00-5:30 – **The TORCH Legislative Agenda**

David Pearson, TORCH CEO

Don McBeath, TORCH Director of Government Relations

A presentation of the TORCH advocacy priorities for the 85th State Legislature

5:30-7:00 – **Reception**

DAY TWO: FEBRUARY 21

7:30-8:30 – **Breakfast at the hotel with review of day's activities**

8:30-9:00 – **Travel to capitol**

9:00-3:00 – **Office visits** (Lunch on your own)