



## Macon County Public Health

Emily Ritter,  
Health Educator  
1830 Lakeside Drive  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Voice: 828-349-2437  
eritter@maconnc.org

### Press Release

Wednesday, November 20th, Macon County Public Health and Macon County Public Library will be hosting a documentary screening and discussion with educators, providers, and community stakeholders about the changing landscape of healthcare in rural areas.

The Health Department and Library are hosting **this event ahead of National Rural Health day on November 21st**, a day focused on the challenges and opportunities providers face in rural areas like western North Carolina. Macon County has had to adapt to these changes in the last several years with a growing opioid epidemic, a health provider shortage, and an aging population. The speakers will offer their insights on how they are adapting and learning to care for our population.

**The event is free to the public, and will be held at Macon County Public Library. The documentary screening starts at 6 pm with the panel discussion to follow at 7:30.**

For more information, please call Emily Ritter at 349-2437.

About the Documentary: ***The Providers*** gives a very human face to the physician shortage and opioid epidemic in rural America, following three healthcare professionals who are doing everything they can to make a difference in northern New Mexico at El Centro, a group of safety-net clinics that offer care to anyone who walks through the doors. Amidst personal struggles that reflect those of their patients, the journeys of the providers unfold as they work to reach those who would otherwise be left out of the healthcare system. With intimate access, the film shows the transformative power of providers' relationships with marginalized patients, as physicians try to make a difference against overwhelming odds.

###

