

North Carolina Community Health Center Association

2026 Annual Primary Care Conference *Moving Health Forward*



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Office of Rural Health



NORTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL-BASED
HEALTH ALLIANCE

Healthy Children, Healthy Teens, Healthy Schools

[Schedule](#)

NC Community Health Center Association 2026 Annual Primary Care Conference

Schedule Overview

**June 3-5, 2026, Washington Duke Inn & Golf Course
Durham, NC**

This draft agenda is current as of May 12, 2026. There may be changes to sessions before the Primary Care Conference. Please check the registration website for the latest updates. All sessions are at the Washington Duke Inn unless otherwise indicated.

Note: Northwest AHEC designates this activity for up to 12.0 Contact Hours.

Credit Breakdown:

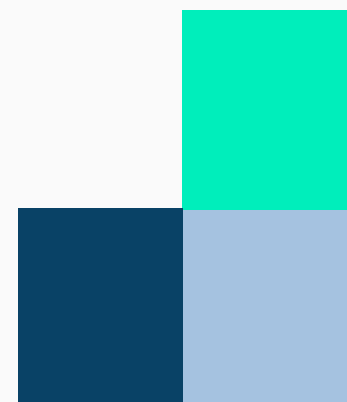
- June 4: 6.75 Contact Hours*
- June 5: 5.25 Contact Hours*

Participants must attend approved sessions and complete required evaluations. Certificates are issued electronically after verification.



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Wednesday, June 3

Pre-Conference Meetings

8:00-2:00 pm	Meeting and Conference Registration <i>Conference registration on Wednesday is open for attendees at pre-conference meetings and Sponsors/Exhibitors.</i>
9:00-12:00 pm	Office of Rural Health Grantee Meeting, Invitation Only <i>This meeting is for grantees of ORH's Rural Health Center program and other invited guests. Please contact Justin Kearley for additional details.</i>
10:00-11:30 am	CMHN Founding Members Meeting, Invitation Only
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch for Pre-Meeting Attendees
1:00-5:00 pm	NCCHCA Board of Directors Meeting, Invitation Only
1:00-5:00 pm	Board Training for Community Health Center Boards, Separate Registration Required
4:00-6:00 pm	School-Based Health Alliance Board Meeting, Invitation Only
6:30-8:30 pm	Health Center Leader Reception, Invitation Only Sarah Duke Gardens <i>*Shuttle service will be provided from the Washington Duke Inn to Duke Gardens*</i>



Thursday, June 4

Conference: Day 1

9:50 - 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	(A) Forces Shaping Care Delivery Dr. Sachin Gupta UNC Health Medical Group	(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron	(B) Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions Gary Campbell Impact2Lead	(B) Rural Health Transformation Program: What's Next for NC Debra Farrington NC Department of Health & Human Services
Tracks C and D	(C) Decision Science for FQHC Leaders: A Practical Framework for Better Executive Choices Under Uncertainty Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting	(C) Strategic Planning: Ownership and Pre-Work Tammy K. Rogers Become More	(D) Finding Your Revenue Leaks Steve Weinman FQHC Associates	(D) Financial Resilience in Challenging Times Becky Regan Capital Link
Tracks E and F	(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership	(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved	(F) State of the Child NC: The Role of School-Based Health Centers Neal Harrington & Kaitlyn Richards NC Child	
10:45 - 11:00 am	Transition Break			



11:00 am -12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	(A) Forces Shaping Care Delivery Dr. Sachin Gupta UNC Health Medical Group	(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron	(B) Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions Gary Campbell Impact2Lead	(B) Best Practices for Executive Dashboards Don Holloman Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Center
Tracks C and D	(C) Executive Decision Making in a Volatile Environment: Leading Through Funding, Policy, and Operational Risk Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting	(C) Strategic Planning: Visioning Tammy K. Rogers Become More	(D) Revenue Opportunities & Cost Reduction Blind Spots Steve Weinman FQHC Associates	(D) Financial Resilience in Challenging Times Becky Regan Capital Link
Tracks E and F	(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership	(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved	(F) Learning from South Carolina School Based Health: Best Practices for Growth and Integration Dr. Janice Key & Sarah Piwinski Medical University of South Carolina	

12:00 - 12:15 pm	Transition Break
12:15 -12:45 pm	<p>Lunch (<i>Note that lunch will be served from 12:15pm to 12:45pm.</i>)</p> <p>Spotlight Presentation</p> <p><i>LabCorp</i> <i>Presidents Ballroom</i></p>
12:45 -2:00 pm	<p>Lunch Plenary: Moving Health Forward: Value-Based Care and the Future of Primary Care</p> <p>"Primary care is at the center of healthcare transformation, and value-based care is reshaping how practices deliver, coordinate, and sustain care for the communities they serve. As health systems, payers, policymakers, and providers navigate changing payment models, workforce pressures, technology adoption, and growing patient treatment complexity, primary care leaders are being challenged to innovate while preserving access and quality. This dynamic plenary panel will bring together healthcare leaders and frontline experts to explore the current state of value-based care in primary care settings and what lies ahead. Panelists will discuss emerging trends, lessons learned from implementation efforts, strategies for improving outcomes and patient experience, and opportunities to strengthen financially sustainable, team-based care models. Attendees will gain practical insights into how primary care organizations can continue moving health forward while advancing quality, equity, and whole-person care in an evolving healthcare landscape."</p> <p>Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW Assistant Secretary for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services</p> <p>Dr. Asad Bandealy, MD, MPH, FAAP Director, Office of Quality Improvement Health Resources and Services Administration</p> <p>Dr. Shannon Dowler, MD, CPE, FAFAP Family Physician and Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians</p> <p><i>Presidents Ballroom</i></p>
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Transition Break

2:15 - 3:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	(A) Forces Shaping Care Delivery Dr. Sachin Gupta UNC Health Medical Group	(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron	(B) Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions Gary Campbell Impact2Lead	(B) Weight Management Support and Value-Based Care Dr. Jamie Kane Luro Health
Tracks C and D	(C) Executive Decision Making in a Volatile Environment: Leading Through Funding, Policy, and Operational Risk Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting	(C) Strategic Planning: Strategic Initiatives Tammy K. Rogers Become More	(D) Political Landscape & Vulnerabilities Steve Weinman FQHC Associates	(D) Financial Resilience in Challenging Times Becky Regan Capital Link
Tracks E and F	(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership	(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved	(F) Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Health in NC Susanne Schmal School Health Partnerships and Policy Consultant NC Department of Public Instruction	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Transition Break			

3:45 - 4:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	<p>(A) Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls</p>	<p>(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care</p> <p>Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron</p>	<p>(B) Best Practices & Implementation: Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions</p>	<p>(B) Getting to the HEART of It: Scaling CHW Success Through Sustainable Funding, Disease-Specific Programming, and Future Collaboration</p> <p>Sharon Brown-Singleton, Amy Kryston, & Hannah Pait MedNorth Health Center</p>
Tracks C and D	<p>(C) Conference Office Hours: HRSA Compliance, OSV Readiness, and Executive Technical Assistance</p> <p>Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting</p>	<p>(C) Strategic Planning: Prioritization and Success Statements</p> <p>Tammy K. Rogers Become More</p>	<p>(D) Board Dynamics & Strategy Approval</p> <p>Steve Weinman FQHC Associates</p>	<p>(D) Growth in a Changing Environment: Focus on New Market Tax Credits</p> <p>Steve Weingarten Vital Health Care Capital</p>
Tracks E and F	<p>(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders</p> <p>Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership</p>	<p>(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams</p> <p>Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved</p>	<p>(F) Managing Burnout and Self-Care for School Based Health Center Staff</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Diaz Stransky Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Duke University School of Medicine</p>	

4:45 - 5:00 pm	Transition Break
5:00 - 5:45 pm	Day 1 Closing Plenary Chris Paterson CEO Carolina Complete Health <i>Presidents Ballroom</i>
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Welcome Reception Award Presentations <i>Presidents Ballroom</i>



Friday, June 5

Conference: Day 2

Registration Open . . . 7:00 am – 1:00 pm

7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast & Networking <i>Location</i>
8:00 - 9:30 am	Welcoming Remarks: Updates from the Health Resources and Services Administration <i>HRSA's Director of the Office of Quality provides strategic updates from the Health Resources and Services Administration.</i> Dr. Asad Bandealy Director, Office of Quality Improvement Health Resources and Services Administration Morning Plenary: NC Healthcare Hot Topics: A Legislative Conversation on the Future of Care <i>Healthcare in North Carolina continues to evolve at a rapid pace, with policymakers, providers, and communities navigating critical issues that will shape the future of care delivery across the state. From Medicaid transformation and workforce shortages to behavioral health access, rural healthcare sustainability, and emerging policy priorities, today's decisions will have lasting impacts on patients and providers alike.</i> <i>Presidents Ballroom</i>
9:30 - 9:50 am	Transition Break

9:50 - 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	<p>(A) Operationalizing Responsible, Ethical, and Equitable AI at a Large, Multi-State Health System</p> <p>Dr. Justin Kramer Wake Forest University School of Medicine</p>	<p>(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care</p> <p>Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron</p>	<p>(B) Best Practices & Implementation: Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions</p>	<p>(B) Panel: Moving Maternal Health Forward</p>
Tracks C and D	<p>(C) Conference Office Hours: HRSA Compliance, OSV Readiness, and Executive Technical Assistance</p> <p>Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting</p>	<p>(C) Strategic Planning: Project Planning and Staff Engagement</p> <p>Tammy K. Rogers Become More</p>	<p>(D) Health Center Advocacy 101</p> <p>Devin Ross NCCHCA</p>	<p>(D) Medicaid Alternative Payment Methodology: Update & Strategic Planning</p> <p>David Fields Forvis</p>
Tracks E and F	<p>(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders</p> <p>Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership</p>	<p>(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams</p> <p>Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved</p>	<p>(F) Vaccine Confidence</p> <p>Pfizer</p>	
10:45 - 11:00 am	Transition Break			

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	(A) Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls	(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron	(B) Best Practices & Implementation: Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions	(B) Care Management and Community Health Workers: A Rural Health Center's Experience Dr. Shelly Lowery Scotland Health
Tracks C and D	(C) Conference Office Hours: HRSA Compliance, OSV Readiness, and Executive Technical Assistance Ernia Hughes EP Hughes Consulting	(C) Strategic Planning: First Draft and Board Approval Tammy K. Rogers Become More	(D) Investing in Outreach and Enrollment to Support Patients and the Health Center Bottom Line April Morgan NCCHCA	(D) Modeling Financial Outcomes Under Multiple Scenarios David Fields Forvis
Tracks E and F	(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership	(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved		

2:15 - 3:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions			
Tracks A and B	(A) Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls	(A) Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos Huron	(B) Best Practices & Implementation: Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions	(B) Panel: Starting or Expanding School Based Behavioral Health Services Takina Jones-Thomas (Blue Ridge Health) Emily Roberts (MAHEC) Cristen Williams (Coastal Horizons) Madison Strickland (Kintegra Health)
Tracks C and D	(C) Leadership & Strategy: Leading Through Uncertainty	(C) Strategic Planning: Strategic Execution -- Ensuring That Initiatives Get Done Tammy K. Rogers Become More	(D) How to Build an Advocacy Core Team in Your Institution Devin Ross NCCHCA	(D) Chief Financial Officers Forum David Fields Forvis
Tracks E and F	(E) Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders Dexter Nolley On Pointe Leadership	(E) Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams Suzanne Speer Association of Clinicians for the Underserved		

3:30-3:45 pm

Transition Break

Closing Panel

Executive Roadmap Briefing & Next Steps

3:45-4:15 pm

Presidents Ballroom

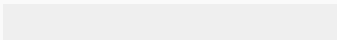
Tracks and Sessions

We are celebrating 47 years of the Annual Primary Care Conference in 2026. Over those 47 years, the conference has grown and expanded to support the health care safety net in NC. We are proud to be the premier conference for those who work in and care about access to quality, community-led health care for all North Carolinians.

This year, in response to reviews from past attendees, we've created an innovative conference program that will allow attendees to dive deep into areas affecting safety net health care and leave with concrete skills and tools to implement in their work.

During each concurrent session time, attendees will get to choose from among 10 to 11 session options. Each session follows a thread within a larger topical track. Sessions within each thread build on one another so that attendees who go through all seven sessions within a thread will leave the conference with knowledge, skills, tools, and connections that allow them to immediately implement new practices within their organization. While the sessions in a thread are best experienced all together, attendees can move between tracks and threads as they wish. Certain tracks will include a certificate of completion for attendees who attend all sessions.

Additional information about sessions within tracks will be available later.





Track A

Innovation and Emerging Trends

Explore the forces reshaping safety-net health care, from emerging technologies to evolving care delivery models. Attendees will gain forward-looking insights and practical ideas to anticipate change, adapt quickly, and leverage new opportunities to improve access, quality, and outcomes.

Thread 1: Forces Shaping Care Delivery

Across sessions, participants will examine the key trends and external pressures transforming safety-net care. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and tools to navigate disruption and respond effectively to emerging challenges.

Thread 2: Technology and Artificial Intelligence Adoption

Sessions will explore the operational and clinical impact of new technologies, including AI-driven tools. Attendees will gain practical guidance on evaluating, implementing, and scaling technology solutions within resource-constrained environments.

Innovation and Emerging Trends

Track A

Thursday Morning – Session 1

Forces Shaping Care Delivery

Dr. Sachin Gupta, UNC Health Medical Group

Across three sessions, physician leaders from UNC Health Care will examine the key trends and external pressures transforming health care, including artificial intelligence. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and tools to navigate disruption and respond effectively to emerging challenges.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

Integrating AI into healthcare's core functions can decrease costs, improve revenue growth, transform care, enhance consumer experience, and mitigate clinician burnout. Its value, however, depends on knowing how to put what's possible into practice. In the first of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff. Participants will understand what is needed to create an enterprise-wide AI strategy and building an operating model that supports it.

Thursday Morning – Session 2

Forces Shaping Care Delivery

Dr. Sachin Gupta, UNC Health Medical Group

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Innovation and Emerging Trends

Track A

Thursday Afternoon – Session 1

Forces Shaping Care Delivery

Dr. Sachin Gupta, UNC Health Medical Group

Across three sessions, UNC Health Care physician leaders will examine the key trends and external pressures transforming health care, including artificial intelligence. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and tools to navigate disruption and respond effectively to emerging challenges.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

Integrating AI into healthcare's core functions can decrease costs, improve revenue growth, transform care, enhance consumer experience, and mitigate clinician burnout. Its value, however, depends on knowing how to put what's possible into practice.

In the third of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff. Participants will understand what is needed to create an enterprise-wide AI strategy and building an operating model that supports it.

Thursday Afternoon – Session 2

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls

As the population of older adults in NC grows, safety net systems must strategize on how best to support older adults and their families. PACE Without Walls provides comprehensive medical, social, and long-term care services to seniors in their own homes instead of nursing facilities. Learn more about opportunities to implement PACE Without Walls.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

Integrating AI into healthcare's core functions can decrease costs, improve revenue growth, transform care, enhance consumer experience, and mitigate clinician burnout. Its value, however, depends on knowing how to put what's possible into practice.

In the fourth of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff. Participants will understand what is needed to create an enterprise-wide AI strategy and building an operating model that supports it.

Innovation and Emerging Trends

Track A

Friday Morning – Session 1

Operationalizing Responsible, Ethical, and Equitable AI at a Large, Multi-State Health System

Dr. Justin Kramer, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

As health systems rapidly adopt artificial intelligence, questions of ethics, equity, trust, and accountability are moving from theory into day-to-day operations. This session describes how a large, multi-state health system has built an enterprise AI governance framework that prioritizes human oversight, risk stratification, and equity informed evaluation of AI solutions; reviews lessons from testing clinical and patient-facing AI tools and developing accessible, culturally responsive AI information for diverse patient populations; and highlights practical insights relevant to community health centers navigating similar pressures.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

In the fifth of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff.

Friday Morning – Session 2

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls

As the population of older adults in NC grows, safety net systems must strategize on how best to support older adults and their families. PACE Without Walls provides comprehensive medical, social, and long-term care services to seniors in their own homes instead of nursing facilities. Learn more about opportunities to implement PACE Without Walls.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

Integrating AI into healthcare's core functions can decrease costs, improve revenue growth, transform care, enhance consumer experience, and mitigate clinician burnout. Its value, however, depends on knowing how to put what's possible into practice.

In the sixth of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff. Participants will understand what is needed to create an enterprise-wide AI strategy and building an operating model that supports it.

Innovation and Emerging Trends

Track A

Friday Afternoon – Session 1

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Without Walls

As the population of older adults in North Carolina grows, safety net systems must strategize on how to best support older adults and their families. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a highly effective model to providing care to the most vulnerable older adults. PACE Without Walls provides a model for operating in a home-based model, providing comprehensive medical, social, and long-term care services to seniors in their own homes instead of nursing facilities. This model enables frail adults to receive care—including therapy, transportation, and nutrition—while staying safe, independent, and connected to their communities. Learn more about opportunities to implement PACE Without Walls.

Practical Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

Mike Darlington & Dr. George Mastorakos, Huron

Integrating AI into healthcare's core functions can decrease costs, improve revenue growth, transform care, enhance consumer experience, and mitigate clinician burnout. Its value, however, depends on knowing how to put what's possible into practice.

In the seventh of seven sessions, Huron's expert artificial intelligence consultants will weave together first-hand health care experience and technical AI knowledge to share a practical guide for organizations to discern the right AI use cases for their environment, launch AI governance models, integrating AI into core functions, and train staff. Participants will understand what is needed to create an enterprise-wide AI strategy and building an operating model that supports it.

Track B

Best Practices and Implementation

Focus on what works in safety-net settings. This track highlights proven strategies, care models, and operational approaches that improve outcomes and can be adapted across diverse organizations.

Thread 1: Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions

Participants will explore effective approaches to managing complex and high-risk conditions in the context of uncertain funding and resource constraints. Sessions will emphasize implementation strategies within large, complex systems.

Thread 2: Program Innovation and Impact

Learn from real-world examples of programs and interventions that have demonstrated measurable success. Attendees will gain practical tools and insights to replicate and scale effective solutions in their own settings.

Track B

Best Practices and Implementation

Thursday Morning – Session 1

Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions

Gary Campbell, Impact2Lead

As the current CEO of Johnson Health Center, Gary and his team received the honor of becoming the nation's first federally qualified health center to be named an employer of choice in 2016 and in 2017. In this three-session series, participants will explore how to create a culture of excellence and be an impactful leader in the context of uncertain funding and resource constraints. Participants will take away tools and strategies for engaging and motivating team members in today's climate.

Rural Health Transformation Program: What's Next for NC

Debra Farrington, NC Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded NC over \$213 million in federal funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which provides one-time funding to help rural communities improve health care access, quality, and outcomes. It's designed to help states transform rural health care delivery systems by investing in innovation, infrastructure, partnerships, and workforce development. NC's initiative focuses on community-rooted care networks, prevention and chronic disease management, behavioral health expansion, workforce development, financial sustainability, and technology and innovation. Learn about NC's RHTP progress, rest-of-year plans, and the role of safety net health care providers in RHTP.

Thursday Morning – Session 2

Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions

Gary Campbell, Impact2Lead

As the current CEO of Johnson Health Center, Gary and his team received the honor of becoming the nation's first federally qualified health center to be named an employer of choice in 2016 and in 2017. In this three-session series, participants will explore how to create a culture of excellence and be an impactful leader in the context of uncertain funding and resource constraints. Participants will take away tools and strategies for engaging and motivating team members in today's climate.

Best Practices for Executive Dashboards

Don Holloman, Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Center

Track B

Best Practices and Implementation

Thursday Afternoon – Session 1

Strategies for High-Stakes Conditions

Gary Campbell, Impact2Lead

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Weight Management Support and Value Based Care

Dr. Jamie Kane, Luro Health

This session explores how effective weight management strategies can improve patient outcomes while supporting the goals of value-based care. Participants will examine evidence-based approaches to obesity prevention and treatment, including lifestyle interventions, patient engagement, care coordination, and the use of multidisciplinary support systems. The discussion will also highlight how providers can align weight management programs with quality measures, population health goals, and cost-effective care delivery.

Thursday Afternoon – Session 2

Getting to the HEART of It: Scaling CHW Success Through Sustainable Funding, Disease-Specific Programming, and Future Collaboration

Sharon Brown-Singleton, Amy Kryston, & Hannah Pait
MedNorth Health Center

MedNorth Health Center will present lessons learned from their CHW program; new developments in a CHW-led cardiac care initiative; information about the program's history and development as well as the structure that allows for sustained braided and blended funding; best practices for disease-specific programming; and the cost-effectiveness of CHW programs.

Track B

Best Practices and Implementation

Friday Morning – Session 1

Panel: Moving Maternal Health Forward

North Carolina's maternal mortality rate is 78% higher than the national goal. How can safety net health care providers promote maternal health in North Carolina? This panel presentation will discuss strategies safety net providers have used to move the needle on maternal health.

Friday Morning – Session 2

Care Management and Community Health Workers: A Rural Health Center's Experience

Dr. Shelly Lowery, Scotland Health

Community Health Workers are trusted members of the community who serve as liaisons between individuals and health care or social services. Their mission is simple: to help people thrive. Learn how Scotland Health has built an effective CHW team and how they are sustaining this workforce.

Track B

Best Practices and Implementation

Friday Afternoon – Session 1

Panel: Starting or Expanding School Based Behavioral Health Services

Takina Jones-Thomas, Blue Ridge Health

Emily Roberts, MAHEC

Cristen Williams, Coastal Horizons

Madison Strickland, Kintegra Health

School-based health center leaders will discuss the importance of behavioral health services in schools, how interest organizations can get started providing this service, and strategies for overcoming common challenges. Attendees will walk away with practical tips for implementing, expanding, or improving behavioral health in school-based settings.



Track C

Leadership and Strategy

Build the leadership capabilities needed to guide organizations through uncertainty. This track focuses on strategic planning, adaptive leadership, and change management in the face of shifting policy, funding, and operational pressures.

Thread 1: Leading Through Uncertainty

Sessions will equip participants with frameworks and tools to make informed decisions in complex, rapidly changing environments, while maintaining organizational stability and mission focus.

Thread 2: Strategic Planning and Scenario Analysis

Explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. Attendees will learn how to prepare for multiple futures and align strategy with evolving realities.

Leadership and Strategy

Track C

Thursday Morning – Session 1

Decision Science for FQHC Leaders: A Practical Framework for Better Executive Choices Under Uncertainty

Ernia Hughes, EP Hughes Consulting

This interactive breakout introduces decision science as the study of how people and organizations make choices—and how to make better choices in the presence of uncertainty, complexity, and competing values. Using a memorable six-part “Decision Harmony” metaphor anchored in Take 6’s “Harmony,” the session translates the six links of decision quality into tools leaders can use immediately: a decision statement, criteria and weights, an alternatives menu, an assumption log, a lightweight decision matrix, and a decision record. Participants will work through a realistic FQHC case and learn how decision scientists use structured methods to support high-stakes executive decisions, as well as how Google Sheets and Gemini AI can help leaders organize assumptions, compare options, and develop data-informed recommendations without overcomplicating the process.

Strategic Planning: Ownership and Pre-Work

Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Thursday Morning – Session 2

Executive Decision Making in a Volatile Environment: Leading Through Funding, Policy, and Operational Risk

Ernia Hughes, EP Hughes Consulting

Part 1 of this workshop focuses on the executive realities of decision making in an unstable external environment with a narrow margin for error. Built for CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CMOs, board leaders, and cross-functional senior teams, the session explores how strong leaders make choices when funding scenarios are moving targets, policy direction is unclear, and operational pressure is intense. Participants will work through a volatility-tested decision process that combines decision framing, values-based criteria, scenario planning, rapid sensitivity checks, and a commitment to follow-through. The session also weaves in content on decision bias—including false consensus, confirmation bias, and rationalization—to show how pressure can distort judgment and how executive teams can counter those distortions through structured dialogue, assumption testing, and decision records.

Strategic Planning: Visioning

Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Leadership and Strategy

Track C

Thursday Afternoon – Session 1

Executive Decision Making in a Volatile Environment: Leading Through Funding, Policy, and Operational Risk

Ernia Hughes, EP Hughes Consulting

"Part 2 of this workshop dives deeper into the executive realities of decision making in an unstable external environment with a narrow margin for error. Built for CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CMOs, board leaders, and cross-functional senior teams, the session explores how strong leaders make choices when funding scenarios are moving targets, policy direction is unclear, and operational pressure is intense. Participants will work through a volatility-tested decision process that combines decision framing, values-based criteria, scenario planning, rapid sensitivity checks, and a commitment to follow-through. Attendees will leave with a practical set of tools for prioritizing options, improving cross-functional alignment, and leading with steadiness in uncertain times."

Strategic Planning: Strategic Initiatives

Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Thursday Afternoon – Session 2

Conference Office Hours: HRSA Compliance, OSV Readiness, and Executive Technical Assistance

Ernia Hughes, EP Hughes Consulting

During this open office hours, conference participants can visit with the experts! Get one-on-one support on issues such as HRSA compliance, operational site visit readiness, and executive leadership.

Strategic Planning: Prioritization and Success Statements

Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Leadership and Strategy

Track C

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Strategic Planning: Project Planning and Staff Engagement
Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Friday Morning – Session 2

Strategic Planning: First Draft and Board Approval
Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Leadership and Strategy

Track C

Friday Afternoon – Session 1

Strategic Planning: Strategic Execution -- Ensuring That Initiatives Get Done

Tammy K. Rogers, Become More

Across seven breakout sessions, participants will go through interactive exercises to explore best practices in strategic planning, including scenario modeling and contingency planning. The sessions is designed to walk attendees through the entire strategic planning process.

Track D

Policy, Finance, and Compliance

Understand the policy and regulatory landscape shaping safety-net health care, with a focus on financial sustainability and compliance. This track connects policy changes to real-world operational and financial impact.

Thread 1: Financial and Regulatory Strategy

Sessions will examine key policy developments and regulatory requirements, offering strategies to maintain compliance while optimizing financial performance.

Thread 2: Financial Resilience and Revenue Cycle Management

Participants will gain insights into strengthening financial health through effective revenue cycle practices, cost management, and long-term financial planning.

Track D

Policy, Finance, and Compliance

Thursday Morning – Session 1

Finding Your Revenue Leaks

Steve Weinman, FQHC Associates

Teaches the six-metric diagnostic system that predicts FQHC financial health. Attendees learn to identify Days in AR, denial rates, no-show impact, payer mix trends, 340B optimization, and collection rates. Includes hands-on completion of their Revenue Cycle Scorecard.

Financial Resilience in Challenging Times

Becky Regan, Capital Link

Participants will gain insights into strengthening financial health through effective revenue cycle practices, cost management, and long-term financial planning. Presenters will also share anticipated financial impacts to health care organizations as a result of HR 1 and other policy changes.

Thursday Morning – Session 2

Revenue Opportunities & Cost Reduction Blind Spots

Steve Weinman, FQHC Associates

Identifies revenue opportunities most FQHCs overlook and cost reduction strategies that improve rather than compromise operations. Covers 340B optimization, payer contract improvements, service line expansion, operational efficiencies, and strategic partnerships. Attendees complete opportunity assessments for their organization.

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Track D

Policy, Finance, and Compliance

Thursday Afternoon – Session 1

Political Landscape & Vulnerabilities

Steve Weinman, FQHC Associates

Maps current policy pressures affecting FQHCs and provides vulnerability assessment framework. Covers federal budget trends, 340B scrutiny, Medicaid politics, and HRSA signals. Includes scenario planning exercise for policy disruption scenarios.

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Thursday Afternoon – Session 2

Board Dynamics & Strategy Approval

Steve Weinman, FQHC Associates

Teaches board persuasion choreography for financial strategy decisions. Covers presentation packaging, three-scenario modeling, objection anticipation and response, and meeting dynamics. Includes practice sessions with provided scenarios.

Growth in a Changing Environment: Focus on New Market Tax Credits

Steve Weingarten, Vital Health Care Capital

Learn to leverage New Markets Tax Credits for your capital projects. Gain practical insights to secure flexible, low-cost financing.

Track D

Best Practices and Implementation

Friday Morning – Session 1

Health Center Advocacy 101

Devin Ross, NC Community Health Center Association

This foundational training session introduces participants to key community organizing universals, advocacy "Do's and Don'ts," along with practical strategies for making sure your health center's priorities are heard by key state and federal decisionmakers. This session was designed for participants with limited advocacy experience. Participants will leave with concrete tools to strengthen advocacy efforts on behalf of their health centers.

Medicaid Alternative Payment Methodology: Update & Strategic Planning

David Fields, Forvis

The Medicaid Alternative Payment Methodology transition is largely complete—but operational execution still matters. Through this session, participants will be able to understand current Medicaid APM, identify key financial implications for the methodology, and recognize future opportunities.

Friday Morning – Session 2

Investing in Outreach and Enrollment to Support Patients and the Health Center Bottom Line

April Morgan, NC Community Health Center Association

Recent and upcoming changes included in the 2025 Reconciliation Bill (H.R. 1) could potentially impact patients' insurance status, resulting in changes to health center payer mix and potential increases in uninsured patients. Outreach and enrollment efforts can support health centers and their patients with navigating these changes and minimize coverage losses experienced by patients. Hear how health centers have invested in their outreach and enrollment programs and learn how those investments have supported patients and health center finances.

Modeling Financial Outcomes Under Multiple Scenarios

David Fields, Forvis

Community health centers will need to adapt to a changing environment and understand financial implications of decisions they are making now for the future. This session will explore industry changes, provide tools for modeling financial outcomes, and highlight best practices for sustainability.

Track D

Best Practices and Implementation

Friday Afternoon – Session 1

How to Build an Advocacy Core Team in Your Institution

Devin Ross, NC Community Health Center Association

This advanced training session is designed to help participants build a Core Team of leaders who can move their health center into effective advocacy action. Grounded in proven community organizing universals, this session will help participants strengthen relationships, develop internal leadership, and build the internal infrastructure needed to help advance policy solutions and protect what matters most to their health center.

Chief Financial Officers Forum

David Fields, Forvis

Join NCCHCA's CFO Workgroup for a facilitated conversation about the top financial issues facing community health centers. This session will help the CFO Workgroup establish community for mutual support.



Track E

Skills and Professional Development

Invest in the people who lead and sustain safety-net organizations. This track focuses on executive development, leadership effectiveness, and workforce strategies to build strong, resilient teams.

Thread 1: C-Suite Growth and Executive Skills

Designed for current and aspiring executives, this thread explores the evolving role of senior leadership. Sessions will focus on strategic thinking, decision-making, communication, and leading with clarity and resilience in complex environments.

Thread 2: Strategic Talent and High-Impact Team Leadership

Learn how to attract, develop, and retain talent while building high-performing, mission-driven teams. Sessions will address leadership practices, culture, and workforce strategies that drive engagement and results.

Skills and Professional Development

Track E

Thursday Morning – Session 1

Growth and Skills for Executive Leaders

Dexter Nolley, On Pointe Leadership

Designed for current and aspiring executives, these seven sessions will explore the evolving role of senior leadership. Sessions will focus on strategic thinking, decision-making, communication, and leading with clarity and resilience in complex environments.

Building, Recruiting, and Retaining Highly Effective Teams

Suzanne Speer, Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

Strong safety net organizations are built by great teams, but creating and sustaining high-performing teams requires more than hiring talented individuals. Across seven sessions, leaders will explore practical strategies for attracting top talent, cultivating a strong team culture, and retaining employees in an increasingly competitive and evolving workforce landscape. Attendees will learn how to identify the qualities that drive team effectiveness, implement recruiting practices that align with organizational values and goals, and foster environments where employees feel engaged, supported, and empowered to grow.

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Track F

School-Based Health

Examine the critical role of school-based health centers in supporting children, adolescents, and families. This track highlights emerging issues affecting school age children and their families.

Track F

School-Based Health

Thursday Morning – Session 1

State of the Child NC: The Role of School Based Health Centers

Neal Harrington & Kaitlyn Richards
NC Child

During this session, presenters will share key indicators of child health and well-being in North Carolina. Attendees will engage in strategic discussion about how school-based health centers can help move the needle on the trends.

Thursday Morning – Session 2

Learning from South Carolina School Based Health: Best Practices for Growth and Integration

Dr. Janice Key & Sarah Piwinski
Medical University of South Carolina

During this presentation, leaders in the South Carolina school-based health landscape will provide an overview of the wellness and other school-based initiatives in South Carolina. Participants will be able to learn from successful SC initiatives and best practices for growth.

Track F

Thursday Afternoon – Session 1

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Health in NC

Susanne Schmal, NC Department of Public Instruction

The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child is CDC's framework for addressing health in schools. The WSCC model is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices. Learn about NC's work on the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child and how school-based health centers play a key role in supporting implementation.

School-Based Health

Thursday Afternoon – Session 2

Managing Burnout and Self-Care for School Based Health Center Staff

Dr. Andrea Diaz Stransky, Duke University School of Medicine

Working in school-based health centers can be deeply rewarding, but the demands of supporting students, families, and communities can also lead to stress and burnout. This session will focus on recognizing the signs of burnout, compassion fatigue, and workplace stress while exploring practical self-care strategies that promote resilience and well-being. Participants will learn techniques for maintaining healthy boundaries, improving work-life balance, fostering team support, and creating a culture of wellness within their organizations.

Track F

School-Based Health

Friday Morning – Session 1

Vaccine Confidence

This session will explore strategies to build and sustain vaccine confidence through trusted communication, community partnerships, and patient-centered communication and decision making. Real-world examples and actionable tools will help attendees support informed decision-making among patient populations.



Brief Speaker Bios



Dr. Asad Bandealy

Office of Quality Improvement Director, Health Resources and Services Administration

Dr. Bandealy excels in team building, innovative practice development, and using data to improve health care. He aims to transform health conditions, eliminate disparities, and achieve health equity, evident in his oral health initiatives and efforts to reduce school absenteeism. He incorporates community-oriented primary care, addressing social determinants of health. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Sharon Brown-Singleton

Chief Strategy Officer, MedNorth Health Center

Prior to her current role, Sharon led the implementation of the Community Health Worker (CHW) program, having experience in implementing various CHW programs: maternal/child health, substance use, obesity and empowerment program for low-income, minority women, and infant mortality. As past chair of the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health, she led the Council to provide recommendations on issues concerning Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Gary Campbell

*Founder and Owner, Impact2Lead
President and CEO, Johnson Health Center*

Gary has keynoted all over the country for a variety of organizations, associations and events. He has successfully coached numerous executives to reach their full potential and has helped organizations develop strategy, leadership and culture on their own path to success. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Kelly Crosbie

*Assistant Secretary for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services
NC Department of Health and Human Services*

Kelly brings more than 30 years of experience leading public systems that support individuals, families, and communities across multiple states, including North Carolina. Over the past 13 years at NC DHHS, Kelly has held several senior leadership roles, including Assistant Director of Behavioral Health and Chief Operating Officer at NC Medicaid. A licensed clinical social worker with lived experience, she is deeply committed to advancing equitable, person-centered care. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Mike Darlington

Director, Huron

[Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Shannon Dowler

Family Physician

Shannon is a family physician living in the Appalachian mountains of North Carolina with a national reach and expertise in health policy, public payers, and health equity, with a special interest in advancing sexual health and reducing sexually transmitted infections. She blends clinical time with consulting with regional, state, and national partners to advance the health of the population with action-oriented innovation. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Debra Farrington

Deputy Secretary for Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Debra manages the Division of Public Health and the offices of Rural Health, Minority Health, and Olmstead/TCL, along with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services. She was previously the Chief of Staff for NC Medicaid, where she helped guide program vision, leadership, and strategic direction. She is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience in community-based behavioral health services. [Click here](#) for longer bio



David Fields

Partner, Forvis Mazars

David has served community health centers for more than 20 years, routinely consulting with CHCs on a variety of financial and strategic matters. He also manages audits and works with CHCs on their FQHC Medicare and Medicaid cost report and other reimbursement issues. In this capacity, he has assisted state primary care associations and has worked with many states on FQHC Medicaid cost report revisions, changes in scope process, and other critical issues. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



State Senator Amy Galey

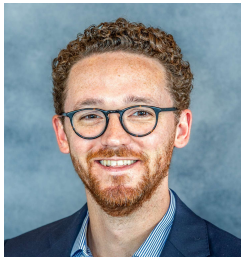
[Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Sachin Gupta

Chief Medical Officer Primary Care/Statewide for the UNC Health Medical Group

Sachin is the Chief Medical Officer Primary Care/Statewide for the UNC Health Medical Group and practicing primary care physician at UNC Family Medicine and Pediatrics at Panther Creek. He is board-certified in Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is experienced in managing physician relations and working to build successful clinical teams to create positive patient outcomes. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Neal Harrington

Senior Director of Policy and Research, NC Child

Neal leads NC Child’s policy research and data analysis efforts. Previously he worked for the Labor & Economic Analysis Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and for a research and public relations consulting firm in Jackson, Mississippi. He sits on the board of SwingPals, a Durham nonprofit that teaches social-emotional regulation skills to under-resourced students in Durham Public Schools. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Don Holloman

Chief Executive Officer, Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers

As CEO of Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers, Don leads efforts to deliver accessible, high-quality primary care to the region. He focuses on patient-centered care, operational excellence, and community strategies addressing clinical and social health factors. With significant experience in FQHC leadership, organizational development, and health system operations, he is recognized for building collaborative partnerships and enhancing financial and operational sustainability. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Ernia Hughes

Principal, EP Hughes Consulting

As a former longtime director at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Ernia possesses more than two decades of national leadership at the intersection of health care, philanthropy, and community development. As a former federal funder overseeing over \$7 billion in capital and operational investments, she has led the planning and execution of hundreds of infrastructure projects across a nationwide network of Federally Qualified Health Centers. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Takina Jones-Thomas

School-Based Health Director of Operations, Blue Ridge Health

Takina has a long history with nonprofit, community-based services. After working in therapeutic in-home support, she became Associate Director and then Hospital Director for an agency that provided school-based health, behavioral health, and transitional services. She then became a Clinic Manager for six FQHCs. At Blue Ridge Health, she aids in the development and expansion of additional school-based health sites. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Diana Kander

Innovation Consultant, Entrepreneur, Best-Selling Author

Diana has launched and sold millions of dollars' worth of products and services. She is an innovation consultant, keynote speaker, and *New York Times* bestselling author whose books have been taught in more than 100 universities. As a consultant, she has helped create multi-billion-dollar products, coached boards and executive committees on innovation best-practices and implemented culture transformations. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Jamie Kane

Co-Founder, Chief Medical Officer, Luro Health

As co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Luro Health, Dr. Kane offers obesity medicine services to underserved populations at FQHCs and CHCs. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and leads its Obesity Medicine section. He also directs Northwell Health's Center for Weight Management, which operates at nine sites in the Greater New York City area with 12 clinicians. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Janice Key

Medical Director, Boeing Center for Children's Wellness, Medical University of South Carolina

A sociologist by training, Dr. Kramer focuses on the use of digital health interventions in clinical settings—specifically how they might be leveraged to improve care delivery, patient engagement, and clinical workflow efficiencies. Most recently, he collaborated on a research study which developed and pilot-tested a patient-facing app to better assist both patients and care teams in navigating Hospital at Home admission processes. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Justin Kramer

Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

A sociologist by training, Dr. Kramer focuses on the use of digital health interventions in clinical settings—specifically how they might be leveraged to improve care delivery, patient engagement, and clinical workflow efficiencies. Most recently, he collaborated on a research study which developed and pilot-tested a patient-facing app to better assist both patients and care teams in navigating Hospital at Home admission processes. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Amy Kryston

Program Evaluator, MedNorth Health Center

Amy brings expertise in global public health, research, evaluation, and management. Her adjunct assistant professorship is within UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's Department of Public Health Leadership & Practice. She previously worked at Partners in Health, a global health organization that provides health care to, and advocates for, poor and underserved communities worldwide. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Shelly Lowery

Chief Medical Officer, Scotland Health

[Click here](#) for bio information.



Dr. George Mastorakos

Director of AI Transformation, Huron

Dr. Mastorakos is a physician focused on how we measure, validate, and safely deliver health signals through technology, spanning neurological, and cognitive health. His expertise includes clinical AI validation, neuroscience, FDA approval processes, and clinical data management. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



April Morgan

Outreach & Enrollment Manager, North Carolina Community Health Center Association

April has been with the NC Community Health Center Association since 2016 and serves as the Outreach and Enrollment Manager. In her role, she provides training and technical assistance to health center outreach and enrollment staff around Medicaid and Marketplace issues and leads a team of Regional Support Specialists who connect North Carolinians to health coverage.



Dexter Nolley

Founder & CEO, On Pointe Leadership

Dexter has more than 25 years of experience working with leaders in academic medical centers, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, higher education, state government, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations, providing executive coaching and leadership consulting on topics such as performance coaching conflict management, employee relations, team building, and leadership development. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Hannah Pait

Community Health Worker Coordinator, MedNorth Health Center

[Click here](#) for bio information.



Chris Paterson

Chief Executive Officer, Carolina Complete Health

[Click here](#) for bio information.



Sarah Piwinski

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Becky Regan

Chief Executive Officer, Capital Link

Becky joined Capital Link in 2022 as Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Center Capital Fund, Capital Link's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) lending affiliate. She has 25 years of experience working in community development to drive social sector change, with a background in management, strategy, leadership, finance, and capital raising. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Kaitlyn Richards

Health Policy Manager, NC Child

Kaitlyn has dedicated her career to advancing policies that improve the lives of children and families. She most recently served as the Government Affairs Liaison at South Carolina First Steps, where she led the agency's legislative initiatives and coordinated the work of the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council. She also possesses a Juris Doctorate from Penn State University. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Brendan Riley

Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, North Carolina Community Health Center Association

As the Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs at the North Carolina Community Health Center Association, Brendan leads the Association's advocacy and policy efforts. Previously he worked as a Senior Health Policy Analyst at the North Carolina Justice Center. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Emily Roberts

Director of Behavioral Health, Mountain Area Health Education Center

Emily leads initiatives at Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) to enhance health outcomes through workforce development, education, and community collaboration. Her efforts align with MAHEC's mission to bolster the healthcare workforce and ensure access to high-quality, equitable care in western North Carolina. She is skilled in partnership development, program coordination, and integrating healthcare, education, and community needs. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Tammy K. Rogers

Founder and CEO, Become More

Tammy is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, master facilitator, storyteller, and author of five books, including her newest release, *Think: The Road Less Traveled*, which she debuted at SHRM25. With more than 30 years of executive leadership experience, Tammy brings rare credibility, insight, and real-world perspective to every stage she steps onto. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Devin Ross

Policy and Engagement Director, North Carolina Community Health Center Association

A community organizer in North Carolina for more than a decade, Devin has built powerful nonpartisan organizations, trained civic leaders, and guided high-stakes issue campaigns. Prior to joining NCCHCA in 2025, Devin supported campaigns that, in a single year, secured nearly \$11 million in public investment for affordable housing, rural transit, and behavioral health services. He now leads advocacy and leadership development strategies at NCCHCA that help community health centers build effective relationships with lawmakers and advance key policy priorities at the state and federal levels. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Susanne Schmal

School Health Partnerships and Policy Consultant, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Susanne is a public health practitioner with more than 20 years in chronic disease prevention, wellness, and school health. She is part of the Healthy Schools team at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and works with North Carolina school districts, community partners, as well as state and national partners to support their policy and practice efforts to build on successes addressing the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Suzanne Speer

Vice President, Workforce Development, Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

Suzanne oversees the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved's National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP), the STAR² Center. She works directly with community health centers, state Primary Care Associations (PCAs), and other NTTAPs across the nation, addressing important issues related to workforce. She has worked with community health centers since 2013, first by recruiting providers at the Virginia Community Healthcare Association. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Dr. Andrea Diaz Stransky

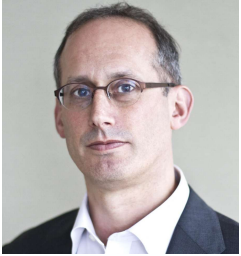
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine

Andrea's research has focused on childhood mental health spanning from genetics to neuroimaging and clinical trials. As an assistant professor in the Child & Family Mental Health & Community Psychiatry Division of Duke University School of Medicine, her main interest is developing interventions to overcome barriers to care among vulnerable populations in order to improve the mental health of children and their families. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Madison Strickland

Kintegra Health



Steve Weingarten

Chief Executive Officer, Vital Health Care Capital

Steve leads the V-Cap team with a passion for strengthening community-based healthcare through V-Cap's financial toolkit and resources. He previously led the SEIU Capital Development Group, which developed double-bottom line investment vehicles across multiple asset classes with a focus on healthcare and workforce impact; provided financial and social impact analysis to U.S. and global institutional investors. He also served as Industrial Development Director for the trade union UNITE. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Steve Weinman

Principal, FQHC Associates

Steve has been actively involved in the national CHC movement since 1988. He brings extensive experience in board training, strategic planning, IT, grant writing, staff development, and a host of other services to CHCs and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) across the country. As a noted expert in topics including finance, operations, managed care, IT, and governance, he is particularly well known for his work with FQHC Medicare/Medicaid policy and strategy, the 340B Drug Program, and development of FQHC-focused integrated delivery systems. [Click here](#) for longer bio.



Marcus Whitney

Venture Capitalist, Entrepreneur, and Best-Selling Author

Marcus is a founding partner of Jumpstart Health Investors (JHI), the most active early-stage healthcare venture capital firm in America. He leads Jumpstart Nova, JHI's institutional, strategic healthcare seed fund. Additionally, he is an Aspen Health Innovators Fellow and serves on many boards, including the Healthcare Finance Management Association. He is also the author of the Amazon #1 bestselling book *Create and Orchestrate*, about claiming one's creative power through entrepreneurship. [Click here](#) for longer bio.

