

NCIOM ANNUAL MEETING - DRAFT SCHEDULE

This is a draft schedule. Confirmed speakers are listed below; a final agenda will be available by Thursday, November 21.

REGISTRATION

beginning at 8:00 am

8:00 - 9:00 am

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Assorted muffins, mini burritos, fruit, coffee, hot water, and tea

PLENARY SESSIONS

9:00 - 9:10 am

WELCOME

Michelle Ries, MPH, President and CEO, North Carolina Institute of Medicine

Adam Sholar, JD, Chair of the Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine and President and CEO of the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association

9:15 - 10:00 am

KEYNOTE:

Investing in Direct Care Workers: A Critical Step Toward a Sustainable Long-Term Care System

Robert Espinoza, MPA, CEO of the National Skills Coalition and Board Chair of the American Society on Aging

Robert Espinoza, MPA, is a prominent advocate and thought leader in the fields of workforce, aging, and caregiving. As CEO of the National Skills Coalition, Robert promotes access to inclusive, high-quality skills training so that more people have access to a better life, and more local businesses see sustained growth.

Prior to his role at the National Skills Coalition, Robert served as the Executive Vice President of Policy at PHI, the nation's foremost organization focused on the direct care workforce. For nearly a decade, he directed the organization's award-winning national advocacy, research, and public education division. Under his leadership, the division produced over 100 original publications and launched multiple high-profile national and state-based initiatives. Since 2023, he has hosted *A Question of Care*, an award-winning podcast exploring the many challenges facing our country's caregiving system.

Robert was selected for the inaugural CARE100 list in 2020, recognizing him as one of the most forward-thinking individuals reshaping the landscape of caregiving in America. Robert also serves as board chair for the American Society on Aging.

10:00 – 11:00 am

PLENARY PANEL: *Ensuring Robust Long-term Services and Supports for a Changing State*

Moderated by **Paul L. Delamater, PhD**, Faculty Fellow, Sheps Center for Health Services Research and Associate Professor of Geography, UNC Chapel Hill

Erin Kent, PhD, MS, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research in Health Policy and Management, UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health

Sabrena Lea, BS, Deputy Director, NC Medicaid and LTSS, Division of Health Benefits, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Tracy Hayes, JD, Chief Executive Officer, Vaya Health

11:00 - 11:15 am

BREAK

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Direct Care Workforce

Moderated by **Andy MacCracken, MPA**, Director, NC Center on the Workforce for Health, NC AHEC

Trish Farnham, MFP, NC Coalition on Aging

Kezia Scales, PhD, Vice President of Research & Evaluation, PHI

Denise Lugo, CNA, Home Health Aide, Progressive Home Health Care

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Improving Delivery and Experience of Care

Moderated by **Corye Dunn, JD**, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights NC

DJ Oliver, MPH, Executive Director, Liberty Medicare Advantage

Julie Ghurtskaia, MPH, Vice President, Population Health, Carolina Complete Health

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Caregiving

Moderated by **Mark Hensley, MA**, Associate State Director, NC AARP

Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, PhD, Professor of Sociology and Gerontology, School of Social Work, UNC Charlotte

Amanda Biggs, Specialist, Project C.A.R.E. ("Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty"), Mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

INVITATION-ONLY SESSION for members and staff of the NCGA: *Investing in a sustainable long-term care system with Robert Espinoza, MPA*

LUNCH & NETWORKING

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Lunch buffet includes grilled chicken, steak kabobs, falafel, basmati rice, baked veggies, Greek salad, hummus, tzatziki, and baklava. Please visit the NCIOM website for allergy and dietary restriction-specific information.

Please join us at 12:50 for remarks about NC DHHS efforts to support and sustain a robust LTSS system.

1:15 - 1:30 pm

BREAK

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Home- and Community-based Services

Moderated by **Shannon Pointer, DNP, RN, CHPN**, Senior Vice President of Hospice and Home Health Services and Professional Development Director, Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina (AHC)

Jenny Hobbs, Board Chair, Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC

Ursula Robinson, MSW, Executive Director and Program Director, Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) of the Triad

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Rural Issues in Long-Term Services and Supports – Discussions to foster collaboration and policy opportunities

Workforce Challenges and Solutions

Food Access and Nutrition Support

Transportation and Infrastructure

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Funding and Financing Innovations

Moderated by **Courtney Van Houtven, PhD**, Professor, The Department of Population Health Science, Duke University School of Medicine and Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy

Alicia Stokes, MHA, VP, Strategy, Planning, & Performance - Government Markets, Blue Cross NC

Bill Lamb, Executive Committee Member, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care

CLOSING SESSIONS

2:45 - 3:45 pm

Legislative Roundtable

3:45 - 4:00 pm

Closing Remarks and Next Steps for North Carolina

Michelle Ries, MPH, President and CEO, North Carolina Institute of Medicine