

# Agenda

chicago 2026  
**summit**  
quality in action 

**\*\*This agenda is being finalized and may be subject to change. Updated Feb 17, 2026\*\***

## MONDAY, APRIL 27

7:00–4:00 PM	Pre-Summit Field Trips – <i>Space is limited and filling quickly.</i>
1:00–7:00 PM	Registration
1:00–2:30 PM	Board Meeting
3:00–4:30 PM	Innovation Roundtable
5:00–6:30 PM	Welcome Reception – <i>Offsite location. Venue to be announced.</i>

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## TUESDAY, APRIL 28

7:30 AM	Registration
7:45 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM	<b>Summit Kickoff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diana Franchitto, President and CEO, HopeHealth, Board Chair, NPHI</li><li>• Mary Kay Sheehan, CEO, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care</li><li>• Tom Koutsoumpas, Founder &amp; CEO, NPHI</li><li>• Carole Fisher, President, NPHI</li></ul>
8:10 AM	<b>Quality in Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tom Koutsoumpas, Founder &amp; CEO, NPHI</li><li>• Carole Fisher, President, NPHI</li></ul>
8:30 AM	<b>Keynote: Dr. Whyte, CEO, American Medical Association</b>
9:15 AM	<b>Three Member Spark Rounds: <i>Dementia Care</i></b>
9:30 AM	<b>Presentation of the <i>NPHI Healthcare in Action Innovation Award</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accepted by: Ab Brody, Founder, Aliviado Health, NYU School of Nursing.</li><li>• Keynote: <i>The Courage to Evolve: Why Innovation is the New Standard for Excellence in Serious Illness Care</i></li></ul>
10:00 AM	Networking Break
10:30 AM	<b>Panel Session: <i>Driving Quality and Consistency: NPHI Pediatric Care Patient &amp; Caregiver Guide</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allison Kuchar, VP, Pediatric Services, Chapters Health System &amp; Executive Director, Children's Programs, Capital Caring Health</li><li>• Elizabeth Rocha, AVP, Pediatrics and Nursing Practice, NorthStar Care Community</li><li>• Third panelist TBA – awaiting confirmation</li></ul>

*\*All times listed in CT; Times/Sessions/Speakers may change as agenda is finalized*

11:15 AM

Moderated by: Dr. Cameron Muir, Chief Medical & Innovation Officer, NPHI  
**Plenary Session: Care Management Update – An Interdisciplinary Endeavor**  

- Ellen Fink-Samnick, Principal, EFS Strategies

*Introduction: Robin Shultz, VP for Member Programs and Engagement, NPHI*

11:45-1:00 PM

**Lunch**

1:00 PM

**Keynote: Professor Richard Harding**, *Executive Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care at King's College London*

1:45 PM

**Networking Break**

2:15-3:30 PM

**Breakout Sessions:**

- Hospice Regulatory Audit Insights**
  - Howard Young, Partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
- Rural Provider Collaborative: Unique Perspectives of Rural Providers**
  - TBA*Moderated by: Kilty Brown, Executive Director, Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions*
- Showcase!**  
 (3 short, focused segments highlighting ideas, tools, and innovations relevant to members)
  - Unlikely Partners Making an Impact Together**
    - Kent Anderson, CEO, Ohio's Hospice
    - Patrick Miller, CEO, NorthStar Care Community
  - The Silent Financial Drain: Rethinking DME's Impact on Hospice Margins**
    - Hall Thorp, Co-Founder & Chief Strategy Officer, Qualis
  - Defensible Documentation in the Age of AI**
    - Michelle Barlow, Director of Clinical & Regulatory Excellence, Homecare Homebase
- Leading Practices in Governance for Today's Hospice Boards: Empowering Boards to Increase Engagement and Drive Productivity**
  - Steve Smith, CEO, Association Management Center (AMC)
- Global Care/ Impact – Title of presentation TBA**
  - Lacey Ahern, Director, Global Partners in Care
  - Richard Harding, Executive Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care at King's College London
  - John Mastrojohn III, President & CEO, Center for Hospice Care

3:30 PM

**Break**

3:45-5:00 PM

**Breakout Sessions:**

- Hospice Regulatory Audit Insights**
  - Howard Young, Partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
- GIP Best Practices**
  - Ed Martin, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, HopeHealth
- Innovative Strategies in Education: Gamification, AI, and Learner Engagement**
  - Donna Fahey, Director of the Boccolini Institute at Samaritan
- Home Based Primary Care & Current Strategies with Care Delivery**
  - Hank Ross, MBA, FAAHCM – Board President C6, American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM)
  - Kristofer L. Smith, MD, MPP, Co-founder, President and CMO Ruby Health
- Sales, Marketing, & Communications Collaborative – title & topic TBA**
  - Presenter TBA shortly

**6. Creating Sustainability: Leveraging our Organizational Strengths**

- Presenters TBA shortly

5:00-6:00 PM

**Happy Hour**

6:30-8:00 PM

**Chief Medical Officers & Medical Leaders Gathering**

6:30-8:00 PM

**Chief Financial Officers Gathering**

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## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

7:30 AM

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30 AM

**Opening Announcements**

- NPHI Leadership

8:40 AM

**Keynote:** Dr. Oz has been invited or another senior CMS leader in his place

9:00 AM

**Member Spark Rounds: *Service Line Diversification***

9:15 AM

**Panel Session: *Service Line Diversification (final title & speakers TBA)***

*Moderated by: Ray Quintero, Senior Strategic Advisor, NPHI*

9:45 AM

**Networking Break**

10:15 AM

**Panel and Discussion: Articulating Value Using the Quality Dashboard**

11:00 AM

**Plenary Session: *NPHI Policy and Strategy Update***

- Quin Lyons, Policy Analyst, NPHI
- Ethan McChesney, Senior Policy Director, NPHI

12:00-1:30 PM

**Lunch & Networking for Collaboratives  
CEO Working Lunch**

1:30 PM

**Keynote: *Yes, And: Improvisation as a Superpower***

- Kelly Leonard, VP of Creative Strategy & Innovation, Second City

2:15 PM

**Panel Session: Program Integrity Developments & NPHI Resources**

- CPI Deputy Director(s)
  - Member Listening Session attendees from CMS Site Visit
- Moderated by: Ethan McChesney, NPHI, Senior Policy Director*

3:00 PM

**Plenary Session: A Song for You**

- Emily Cavanagh, Singer, Songwriter, Founder, A Song for You

*Introduced by: Deb Shumway, Executive Director, Hospice of the Valley (NPHI Board Vice Chair) & Lisa Maddock, Social Worker, Hospice of the Valley*

3:30 PM

**Reflections on Quality in Action**

- Tom Koutsoumpas and Carole Fisher

3:00 PM

Main Summit Closing

3:15-4:00 PM

Clinical & Operational Leaders Collaborative Gathering

## WEDNESDAY EVENING: 5:30-9:00 PM



# Summit Celebration

AN EVENING DEDICATED TO YOU

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>

Cocktail Hour & Red-Carpet Photos  
5:30-6:30 PM

Dinner & Awards  
Entertainment by *The Second City*  
6:30-8:30PM

Conversation, Cocktails & Music  
8:30 PM

Executive Partners



An additional fee of \$85 for the *Summit Celebration* covers the **cost of dinner**.  
All other expenses for this event are paid for by sponsor support and NPHI.