



# DESTINATION 2025

## AGENDA

October 14th through 17th  
Cherokee, NC

# INTEGRATED CARE SUMMIT



DAY 1

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

7:00a

Exhibitor Set-up Opens

10:00a

Registration Opens

1:00p

Integrative Health: A Tribal Approach to Whole Person Care



**CASEY COOPER**

*Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority / Chief Executive Officer*

This session focuses on major historical events in Cherokee history and how history is portrayed thru intergenerational trauma and its impact on the health of the tribe. We will dive into how the Tribe developed their integrated model to address the health disparities and sets the stage for the following presentations regarding tribal specific models to deal with the effects of trauma.

2:00p

Galvgwodiya (“It Is Sacred”)



**DR. FREIDA SAYLOR**

*Analenisgi / Director*

**MICHELLE FRERICH**

*Beauty for Ashes / Program Manager*

The Galvgwodiya model centers on substance use, mental health, interpersonal violence, and child abuse.

2:45p

Snack & Sip Station

*Sponsored by Residential Services, Inc. (RSI)*

Grab some snacks, catch up with your neighbor, and get ready for our next presentation!

3:00p

Innovation in Child Welfare: A Tribal Family Safety Model



**GEORGE ROBINSON STOKELY**

*Analenisgi / Child Services Assistant Manager*

**KANSAS “KANDEE” PARKER**

*Family Safety / Program Manager*

This session shares and outlines the Tribe’s integrated child welfare and behavioral health model.

# INTEGRATED CARE SUMMIT



DAY 1

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

4:00p

## Exhibit Hall Grand Opening (Exhibit Hall)



Join us downstairs for refreshments while you browse the amazing companies that sponsored Destination 2024. You may discover new opportunities for your business, find new or renewed partnerships, and explore the shops of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's artisans.

5:30p

## The Engagement Journey: Visualizing Trends and Cost Outcomes in Tailored Care Management

*Sponsored by: Allies 4 Outcomes, Health Management Associates, SPARC Services & Programs, & Youth Villages*

This Interactive Health Summit will be complemented by an exquisite plated dinner inspired by the culinary traditions of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.



**KAREN MCLEOD**

*Benchmarks / Chief Executive Officer*



**DEBORAH ALDRIDGE**

*Alera / Chief Network Officer*



**PATRICE CLAYTON**

*Alera / Vice President of Network Operations*





# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



## DAY 2

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:30a

### Breakfast

*Sponsored by Exceptional Parenting Magazine, Lutheran Services Carolinas, & Open Minds*

Fresh seasonal sliced fruit & berries; local free-range scrambled eggs with wild forest mushrooms, fresh baby spinach, & herbs; hog sausage & thick-cut Applewood smoked bacon; Riverview Farms smoked Gouda cheese grits; scratch-made buttermilk biscuits with country gravy; vanilla & cinnamon challah bread French toast served with maple syrup & fresh fruit compote; freshly baked assorted muffins, toast, butter & fresh fruit preserves; freshly brewed Starbucks coffee, decaffeinated coffee, & assorted organic hot tea; fresh Florida natural orange juice, apple juice, & cranberry juice

9:00a

### Welcome & Land Acknowledgement



**KAREN MCLEOD**

*Benchmarks / Chief Executive Officer*

**TARA LARSON**

*Cansler Collaborative Resources (CCR) / Managing Principal*

9:15a

### Honoring Traditions, Embracing New Futures



**CHIEF MICHELL HICKS**

*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians / Chief*

9:45a

### The Warriors of AniKituhwa Performance

*Sponsored by Cansler Collaborative Resources (CCR)*

The Warriors of AniKituhwa bring to life the Cherokee War Dance and Eagle Trail Dance, as described by Lt. Henry Timberlake in 1762. They also perform Cherokee social dances, including the Bear Dance, Beaver Hunting Dance, and Friendship Dance and talk about the significance of the dances, their clothing, and Cherokee history and culture. They have been designated as the official cultural ambassadors by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and sponsored by the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.





# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



## DAY 2

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:30a

### Vendor Visits & Vittles (Exhibit Hall)

*Sponsored by Aetna, Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center, Community Care of North Carolina, Healthy Blue, & United Healthcare*

Snag some milk & cookies! Don't miss Ryan O'Donnell's (Your Case Plan) and Gaile Osborne (FFA NC) presentation **"Why Foster Parents are Closing Their Homes?"** in the exhibit hall while you snack!

11:00a

### Keynote Address by Afterburner: Flawless Execution; The Fighter Pilot Mindset

*Sponsored by Molina Healthcare*



**BOBBI "FLASH" DOORENBOS**

*Afterburner*

**MAXIMO "MONEY" NAVARRO**

*Afterburner*

12:15p

### Italian Pranzo Luncheon & Networking

*Sponsored by Exceptional Parenting Magazine, Lutheran Services Carolinas, & Open Minds*

Risotto tomato & pesto salad; caprese: layered tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, & basil pesto, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil; cavatappi pasta pomodoro; Tuscan style vegetables; chicken breast with portabella mushrooms and marsala wine; warm extra virgin olive oil focaccia bread; mini cannoli & chocolate eclairs



# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



DAY 2

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

2:00p

Focused Sessions

|               | NC DHHS   | Provider Innovation   | Child Welfare  | Workforce   |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| 2:00p - 2:40p | <p><b>Health Care Fraud: What it is and the Impact on Your Medical Care</b></p> <p>Rae Elliott, NC Medicaid, Office of Compliance &amp; Program Integrity</p> | <p><b>NCDHHS Samantha R Update</b></p> <p>Kelly Crosbie, Director, Division of MH/DD/SUS &amp; Corey Dunn, Disability Rights, Director of Public Policy</p>   | <p><b>Evidence-Based Program Increases Placement Stability for Children with Prenatal Substance Exposure</b></p> <p>Sarah Moser, Training Developer, Creating a Family</p> | <p><b>Ensuring Health Equity and Care for All: Improving Outcomes in Whole-Person Care.</b></p> <p>Tara Larson, Managing Principal, Revella Nesbit, Senior Consultant, CCR, &amp; Shante Vines, Clinical Director, Support Incorporated</p>   |
| 2:00p-2:40p   |   | <p><b>Supporting Caregiver Regulation - A Practical Approach to Managing the Chaos of Parenting: (Note: this session will be hosted in the Exhibit Hall)</b></p> <p>Michelle Wingate, Learning Ambassador, Omni Family Institute &amp; Mindy Kiser, President/Executive Director, Omni Family Institute</p> |  |   |
| 2:50p - 3:30p | <p><b>Emergency Disaster</b></p> <p>David Leonard, NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management</p>                                       | <p><b>Navigating Complex Care - A Holistic Approach to High-Acuity Youth &amp; Families</b></p> <p>Meredith Newman, Executive Director, Rapid Resource for Families &amp; Rashel Lauret, Deputy Director, Rapid Resource for Families</p>   | <p><b>Hope Centered Caregiving</b></p> <p>Keonte Jenkins, Hope Ambassador, Omni Family Institute</p>   | <p><b>Community Colleges' Action Plan for Disrupting Our Workforce Crisis</b></p> <p>Dr. Kara Finch, Dean of Public Services, Program Head of Social &amp; Human Services, Stanly Community College &amp; Betsey Zook, Program Coordinator &amp; Professor, Human Services Technology</p> |



# DESTINATION 2025

## EVENT ITINERARY



### DAY 2

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

3:30p

### Treats & Treasures (Exhibit Hall)

*Sponsored by Aetna, Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center, Community Care of North Carolina, Healthy Blue, & United Healthcare*

Grab some popcorn, candy bars, root beer or Cheerwine as you shop and network with exhibitors and each other.

4:00p

### Strategic Insights: Leveraging Advocacy for Vulnerable Populations to Drive Business Success with NC Elected Officials



*North Carolina General Assembly*

**HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN CHESSER**

**HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE GRANT CAMPBELL**

**HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DONNIE LOFTIS**

**HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY REEDER**

5:30p

### The Gallery of Ideas: Poster Presentations with Bites & Beverages (Exhibit Hall)

#### The Gallery of Ideas: Poster Presentations

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Hope Centered Caregiving<br><i>Omni Family Institute</i> | Effectively Infusing Family Voices<br><i>Children's Home Society, Institute for Families</i>                          | Beyond Trauma-Informed to Trauma-Responsive<br><i>Keeping it Easy: The Trauma Informed Academy</i>                        | Increasing Capacity in Therapeutic Foster Homes through Collaboration<br><i>Foster Family Alliance</i> |
|  | Navigating Complex Care - A Holistic Approach to High-Acuity Youth & Families<br><i>Rapid Resource for Families Y</i> | Supporting Caregiver Regulation - A Practical Approach to Managing the Chaos of Parenting<br><i>Omni Family Institute</i> |  |



# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



## DAY 3

Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:30a

### Breakfast

*Sponsored by Exceptional Parenting Magazine, Lutheran Services Carolinas, & Open Minds*

Fresh seasonal sliced fruit & berries; local free-range scrambled eggs with wild forest mushrooms, fresh baby spinach, & herbs; hog sausage & thick-cut Applewood smoked bacon; Riverview Farms smoked Gouda cheese grits; scratch-made buttermilk biscuits with country gravy; vanilla & cinnamon challah bread French toast served with maple syrup & fresh fruit compote; freshly baked assorted muffins, toast, butter & fresh fruit preserves; freshly brewed Starbucks coffee, decaffeinated coffee, & assorted organic hot tea; fresh Florida natural orange juice, apple juice, & cranberry juice

9:00a

### Keynote Address by Torsten Gross: Crashing Through Barriers



#### TORSTEN GROSS

*Just Hands Foundation / Founder / Racecar Driver / Maverick*

10:00a

### Unity in Action: Amplifying Impact in Community Health Collaboration with NC Department of Health and Human Services & NC Department of Public Safety Leadership



#### EDDIE BUFFALOE

*NC Department of Public Safety / Secretary*

#### KELLY CROSBIE

*NC DHHS / Director of the Division of MH/DD/SUS*

#### DEBRA FARRINGTON

*NC DHHS / Deputy Secretary / Chief Equity Officer*

#### JAY LUDLAM

*NC DHHS / Deputy Secretary of NC Medicaid*

#### MICHAEL LEIGHS

*NC DHHS / Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being*

# DESTINATION 2025

## EVENT ITINERARY



### DAY 3

Thursday, October 16, 2025

11:00a

### Refuel & Refresh (Exhibit Hall)

*Sponsored by Aetna, Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center, Community Care of North Carolina, Healthy Blue, & United Healthcare*

Stretch your legs and head down to the exhibit hall for networking, chips, dip, and beverages! Snack away while you tune in to our **Sponsorship Showcase presentation: "How Technology Can Speed Up Permanency & Improve Case Collaboration"** by Ryan O'Donnell (founder, serial tech entrepreneur, former foster parent AND Guinness World Record holder) .

11:30a

### How National Healthcare Initiatives Shape Your Local Landscape



**THOMAS ENGELS**

*US DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration/ Administrator*

**KIRK A. LEW**

*DOL Office of Disability Employment Policy/Director of Youth Initiatives & Acting Director of Workforce Systems*

12:30p

### French Déjeuner Luncheon & Networking

*Sponsored by Exceptional Parenting Magazine, Lutheran Services Carolinas, & Open Minds*

Baby spinach, roasted walnuts, pickled red onions, herb roasted croutons, heirloom tomatoes, olives, bleu cheese crumbles, and champagne tarragon vinaigrette; grilled vegetables, tri colored cous-cous, garlic tomato, and sherry vinaigrette; dauphinoise potatoes; ratatouille; roasted chicken with bordelaise sauce; grilled salmon with lemon dill beurre blanc; chocolate mousse and French petit fours

2:00p

### The AI Promise: Opportunities and Challenges for Healthcare Leaders in Behavioral Health



**JOSE CASTILLO**

*Alera / Chief Information Officer*

3:00p

### Nosh & Network (Exhibit Hall)

*Sponsored by Aetna, Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center, Community Care of North Carolina, Healthy Blue, & United Healthcare*

Time to give those legs a little stretch and treat yourself! Head on down to the exhibit hall for some networking, chips, dips, and beverages. Think of it as a tasty little adventure—because who said business and snacks can't be the perfect combo? Snack away while you tune in to our **Sponsorship Showcase presentation: "Empowering Independence in a Residential Setting with Safe Technology"** by Christian Brucculeri, Bark, VP of Community.

# DESTINATION 2024 EVENT ITINERARY



**DAY 3**

Thursday, October 16, 2025

3:30p

## Embracing Integration for the Future: Standard Plan vs Tailored Plan Concepts for Care



**KAREN MCLEOD**

*Benchmarks / Chief Executive Officer*

**DAVE RICHARD**

*McGuireWoods Consulting / Senior Vice President*



**ROB ROBINSON**

*Alliance Health / Chief Executive Officer*

**LIBBY MCCRAW**

*Partners Health Management / Chief Executive Officer*

**JOY FUTRELL**

*Trillium Health Resources / Chief Operating Officer*

**TRACY HAYES**

*Vaya Health / Area Director / Chief Executive Officer*



**DR. NERISSA PRICE**

*AmeriHealth Caritas / Behavioral Health Medical Director*

**CHRIS E. PATERSON**

*Carolina Complete Health / Chief Executive Officer*

**DR. B. STEVEN BENTSEN, MD, MPA, DFAPA**

*Healthy Blue / Behavioral Health Medical Director*

**DR. BARBARA WISE**

*United Healthcare / Behavioral Health Medical Director*

**ERIC HARBOUR**

*WellCare / Behavioral Health Director*

5:00p

## Evening Reception on the Terrace with NC Health Plans

*Sponsored by North Carolina Association of Public Community Health Plans & NC Association of Health Plans*

Join us for a hosted bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres that include Lamb Lollipops, Jumbo Sea Scallop Confit, Braised Pork Belly, Roasted Pear, & a carving station featuring Prime Rib of Beef with Horseradish Cream & Au Jus carving station.



# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



## DAY 4

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:30a

### Breakfast

*Sponsored by Exceptional Parenting Magazine, Lutheran Services Carolinas, & Open Minds*

Fresh seasonal sliced fruit & berries; local free-range scrambled eggs with wild forest mushrooms, fresh baby spinach, & herbs; hog sausage & thick-cut Applewood smoked bacon; Riverview Farms smoked Gouda cheese grits; scratch-made buttermilk biscuits with country gravy; vanilla & cinnamon challah bread French toast served with maple syrup & fresh fruit compote; freshly baked assorted muffins, toast, butter & fresh fruit preserves; freshly brewed Starbucks coffee, decaffeinated coffee, & assorted organic hot tea; fresh Florida natural orange juice, apple juice, & cranberry juice

9:00a

### The Changing World of Juvenile Justice: Partnering to Create Safer Communities



#### **WILLIAM LASSITER**

*Department of Public Safety / Deputy Secretary for Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

10:00a

### Pause & Patisserie (Exhibit Hall)

*Sponsored by Aetna, Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center, Community Care of North Carolina, Healthy Blue, & United Healthcare*

Don't miss your last chance to swing by our amazing exhibitors during the most delicious break of the week: Chocolate Decadence which includes assorted dark and white chocolate cake pops; rocky road brownies; chocolate mousse and strawberry parfait; mini double chocolate muffins; mini chocolate and orange tartelette. Grab a snack, chat, and see what surprises they've got in store. Trust us, your future self (and your stomach) will thank you!



# DESTINATION 2025 EVENT ITINERARY



DAY 4

Friday, October 17, 2025

10:30a

## Fireside Chat with Billie Lourd

*Sponsored by Molina*

*Interview with Sharron Roberts, Benchmarks' Principal Consultant*



12:00p

Farewell & Raffles

let's get in touch

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(919) 828-1684

[www.benchmarksn.org](http://www.benchmarksn.org)

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Save The Date



DESTINATION 2026

October 13-16, 2026

Cherokee, NC

### *about benchmarks*

*Benchmarks is a non-profit association of provider agencies advocating for quality and accountability among human service providers so that North Carolina's children, adults and families can realize their full potential, contribute to their communities and live healthy lives.*