

# Rhode Island Conference & Tradeshow

*Be a Changemaker in Aging Services.*



# About the Conference

## Change Makers

We are innovators, catalysts, advocates, and visionaries. Across our state we are not just responding to change—we are leading it. Together we challenge assumptions, remove obstacles, and drive meaningful change across aging services.

This year's conference theme—Changemakers—celebrates the bold spirit that drives aging services forward. It's about those who dare to ask what's possible and then roll up their sleeves to make it real. It's about pushing past what has been to create what can be—for our organizations, our teams and the people we serve. We are advancing careers, strengthening communities, and reimagining aging services with courage and purpose.

Where do changemakers gather to recharge, refocus, and rise to what's next?

 **The Crowne Plaza | Warwick, RI**

 Thursday, April 9, 2026

This is your moment to connect with fellow trailblazers, share bold ideas, and gain inspiration to fuel your mission. Join us—and be part of shaping the future of aging.

## Registration Information

**LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island Members: \$135**

**Non-Members: \$200**

- Registration is a commitment to pay in full
- CEU credits will be available to attendees post conference.

### **Registration includes:**

- A full day of education, networking and recharging
- Continental breakfast and lunch
- An unforgettable aging services and senior living tradeshow experience
- Prizes, games, and awards

Join colleagues from across the field for a day designed to spark ideas, strengthen connections, and leave you motivated for the year ahead.



# Conference Schedule

**Registration will begin at 8:00 am**

## **Breakfast, Awards, & Keynote**

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Start your morning with a continental breakfast while we celebrate the 2026 Award of Excellence winners and hear an inspiring keynote from Jack York.



## **Education Track A**

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Attend the first set of breakout sessions, select the presentation you'd like to attend, and gain new insights from industry experts.



## **Education Track B**

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Attend the second set of breakout sessions, select the presentation you'd like to attend, and gain new insights from industry experts.



## **Tradeshow**

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Visit the tradeshow floor to discover new solutions, meet exhibitors, play games, and grab a t-shirt while connecting with colleagues.

## **Lunch & Raffles**

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Enjoy a plated lunch while we announce the vendor raffle winners and connect with colleagues.

## **Education Track C**

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Attend the final set of breakout sessions, select the presentation you'd like to attend, and gain new insights from industry experts.

## **Keynote Presentation: *Wisdom on Wheels Journey***



**Presenter: Jack York**, Chief Storyteller, TaleGate

The Wisdom on Wheels Journey is a one-of-a-kind session that encapsulates the essence of adventure, human connection, and storytelling. This session will present the idea and purpose of the journey, and discuss the lessons learned of resiliency, joy, gratitude and faith among the elders interviewed. The Wisdom on Wheels Journey is a powerful message to deliver to the dedicated senior living profession. Almost everyone working within communities has a connection to an elder that got them into the profession in the first place, this session recreates those connections. By sharing this heartwarming and enlightening journey, we hope to inspire senior living leaders to ensure that capturing the stories of the elders becomes an expectation within their communities.

# Educational Tracks

## Educational Track A: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

### **A1: The Do's and Don'ts of Documentation**

**Presenter:** Jamie Belezarian, Innovations Healthcare

Session description will be available soon.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 Nursing or 1.0 RI NHA](#)

### **A2: The Changing Face of Seniors: Who Will Fill Tomorrow's Communities**

**Presenter:** Jessica Ruhle, Creating Results

By 2030, one in five Americans will be over 65, driving major cultural changes in senior living. Using proprietary research and national data, this session examines four forces shaping the future: increasing diversity, working seniors, a growing LGBTQ+ population, and evolving family dynamics. Attendees will gain actionable insights into how these trends are changing resident expectations, demand, and decision-making. Through data and real-world examples, participants will learn how to adapt design, services, and marketing to create inclusive, flexible, and future-ready communities—while strengthening their brand, financial sustainability, and sense of belonging.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 RI NHA](#)

### **A:3 From Tension to Trust: Communication Skills for Healthcare Professionals**

**Presenter:** Lisa Wasson, HopeHealth

This dynamic session for long-term care professionals focuses on strengthening communication skills and navigating complex family dynamics. Participants will learn to recognize common communication challenges between clinicians, patients, and families, as well as understand emotional, cultural, and decision-making factors that influence family interactions. The session will also demonstrate practical, evidence-based techniques to improve communication, manage difficult situations, reduce conflict, and enhance patient outcomes and family satisfaction.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 RI SW](#)

## Educational Track B: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

### **B1: Nursing Home Regulatory Updates and Survey Trends for 2026 - Part 1**

**Presenter:** Pam Bibeault, Tirad Consulting

Are we ready for survey? It's a question all nursing homes have to ask, even facilities that are continually assessing their own systems for quality improvement. From resident care, medication management, and infection prevention to food service and emergency preparedness, every survey area brings its own set of criteria, and keeping up with changes from year to year can be challenging. This 2-hour session is designed to review survey "hot topics" and trends. You will learn about frequently cited tags and gain tips and strategies to help you achieve an optimal survey outcome. Scope and Severity will be reviewed as well as the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) and Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR) processes.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 Nursing](#)

# Educational Tracks

## **B2: Crisis Management: Handling Media and Community Relations in a Crisis - Part 1**

**Presenter:** Sarah Dell, Advocacy Solutions

Session description will be available soon.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 RI NHA](#)

## **B3: Managing Problem Behaviors in Dementia Care**

**Presenter:** Pamela Atwood, LPC, MA, CDP/CADDCT, Atwood Dementia Group

Understanding behavioral expressions as a form of communication is essential for maintaining well-being in dementia care. This session will help participants understand the scientific background of behavioral manifestations and common causes of emotional distress. The presenter will also share her JAGUAR! approach, an effective approach to redirecting people living with dementia and minimizing behaviors.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 RI SW](#)

## **Education Track C: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

## **C1: Nursing Home Regulatory Updates and Survey Trends for 2026 - Part 2**

**Presenter:** Pam Bibeault, Tirad Consulting

Are we ready for survey? It's a question all nursing homes have to ask, even facilities that are continually assessing their own systems for quality improvement. From resident care, medication management, and infection prevention to food service and emergency preparedness, every survey area brings its own set of criteria, and keeping up with changes from year to year can be challenging. This 2-hour session is designed to review survey "hot topics" and trends. You will learn about frequently cited tags and gain tips and strategies to help you achieve an optimal survey outcome. Scope and Severity will be reviewed as well as the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) and Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR) processes.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 Nursing](#)

## **C2: Crisis Management: Handling Media and Community Relations in a Crisis - Part 2**

**Presenter:** Sarah Dell, Advocacy Solutions

Session description will be available soon.

[Available CEUs: 1.0 RI NHA](#)

## **C3: How to Put Your Data to Work: Data Analytics for Aging Services Providers**

**Presenter:** Matthew Anderson and Sarah Taylor, CliftonLarsenAllen (CLA)

Aging services providers are collecting more data than ever, but are you using it to its full potential? As analytics tools become more advanced, organizations can turn raw data into actionable insights that improve care quality, increase efficiency, and support smarter decision making. This session explores key data types including clinical, financial, claims, and administrative data and how they can be leveraged to personalize care, streamline operations, and allocate resources more effectively, featuring a case study of a LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island member that successfully advanced its digital strategy through data analytics. [Available CEUs: 1.0 RI NHA](#)

# Registration Form

Rhode Island Conference & Tradeshow

April 9

The Crowne Plaza | Warwick, RI

## Contact Person at Organization

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact at Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 Rhode Island Conference & Tradeshow Pricing

LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island Provider Members: \$135

Non-members: \$200

## Registration Deadline is April 2, 2026.

Please note that registration is a commitment to pay in full. However, if your organization is undergoing a health inspection survey on the day of the conference, LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island will provide a refund. **We will not be able to provide refunds for any other reasons after April 2nd.**

## Registration Options:

1. Register online at [www.leadingagectri.org](http://www.leadingagectri.org): click on Meetings and Events, RI Conference & Tradeshow tab, and complete the required information.
2. Mail in the completed form to LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, 110 Barnes Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492.
3. Email completed forms to Nurka Carrero at [ncarrero@leadingagectri.org](mailto:ncarrero@leadingagectri.org).

**Please indicate your choice of sessions by checking the appropriate boxes. Reservations for sessions are first come first serve basis.**

Name	Title	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3

Please share how many of your attendees require gluten free food options: \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo Consent Disclosure

I understand that my photo may be taken at this conference, and that said material may be used in future conference materials. By submitting this registration form, I grant full permission for organizers to use photos and quotations from me in legitimate accounts and promotions of this event.

**If you have any questions, please contact Nurka Carrero at [ncarrero@leadingagectri.org](mailto:ncarrero@leadingagectri.org) or call us at (203) 678-4477.**

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