

# A Bridge to A Secure Future

**Economics • Healthcare • Housing**



**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo**

**October 9th, 2024**



**United  
Healthcare**



## Here for what matters

We're proud to support Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island and all the work they do for their community

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## A Bridge to a Secure Future

### Conference Program

#### Welcome ..... 9:00 AM

Welcome Remarks ..... Diane Santos  
*Senior Agenda Coalition Board Chair*

Greetings from Presenting Sponsor ..... Jennifer Barros  
*United Healthcare*

Keynote Address ..... Sheldon Whitehouse

Special Award Presentation For Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi .. Maureen Maigret  
*Accepting on behalf of Speaker K Joseph Shekarchi Is Representative Lauren Carson,  
Chair of the Legislative Commission to Study Services and Coordination of State Programs  
for Older Adult Rhode Islanders*

#### Break ..... 10:00 AM

#### Panel Presentations ..... 10:30 AM

Economics of Aging ..... Congressman Seth Magaziner

Healthcare ..... RI Attorney General, Peter Neronha

Housing ..... Julie Leddy

#### Call to Action ..... 11:50 AM

Senior Agenda Coalition ..... Carol Anne Costa  
*Executive Director*

## Speaker Profiles



**SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, UNITED STATES SENATOR**  
**Keynote Speaker**

Senator Whitehouse chairs the Senate Budget Committee and the Caucus on International Narcotics Control, while also serving on the Judiciary, Environment and Public Works, and Finance Committees. A Yale and UVA Law graduate, he was Rhode Island's U.S. Attorney and state attorney general before his 2006 Senate election. He and his wife Sandra, a marine biologist, live in Newport and have two adult children.



**SETH MAGAZINER**  
**Economics of Aging Panel Presenter**

Congressman Magaziner who was the former RI General Treasurer, serves on the Natural Resources Committee and is the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Intelligence, and Law Enforcement. He's committed to advocating for Rhode Island and working families nationwide. He and his wife have two energetic children.



**PETER NERONHA**  
**Healthcare Panel Presenter**

Peter Neronha began his public service in 1996 as a Rhode Island Special Assistant Attorney General, later becoming an Assistant Attorney General. Until 2002, he prosecuted various criminal cases in state courts before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, where he held multiple roles, including Chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force.



**JULIE LEDDY**  
**Housing Panel Presenter**

Julie Leddy is the President of the Public Housing Association of Rhode Island and the Executive Director of Coventry Housing Authority. With a long career in housing for older adults, she is actively addressing Rhode Island's housing crisis by developing new housing options.

## The History – The Agenda The Work – The Results

The Senior Agenda Coalition is an independent and diverse coalition of agency and individual members. Our mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through community organizing, public education, advocacy and legislative action.

Founded in 2002, the Senior Agenda Coalition has been a leading organization for working on policy and issues that help older Rhode Islanders maintain choice and dignity in their living and social environments.

We remain focused on the key issues of economic and financial security, healthcare equity, accessible and affordable housing, transportation options and supporting people whether they live at home and the community or in residential facilities.

The Coalition monitors federal and state legislation affecting older adults. We attend hearings, provide testimony, educate policymakers about legislation impacting members and monitor the implementation of laws and development of regulations about

programs and services for older adults.

The Coalition's research and public education efforts have helped win many victories for older adults over the years including maintaining funding for free and reduced bus rides for older adults and persons with disabilities; increasing funding for senior centers, home and community-based services and respite services for caregivers. It also successfully advocated expanding the state property tax relief law and, most recently, worked with community partners to get substantial rate increases for home and community services providers to help address significant wait lists faced by those seeking home care in order to remain living at home.

With the projected growth of the state's older population, growing and strengthening the Coalition and educating the public on issues facing older adults and adults with disabilities is pivotal to fulfilling our mission.

We invite you to join us in helping our coalition grow, to be a part of our ongoing education and advocacy efforts that impact older adults every day.

# The Team

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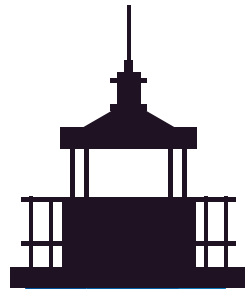
Vincent Marzullo  
Linda A'Vant-Deishinni  
Kamila Barzykowski  
Jeanne Gattegno  
Susan Saccoccia Olson  
Deborah Burton  
Rose Andriole  
Robert Cox  
Terry Fogerty  
Charlene F. Traynum

## STAFF

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## From the desk of Carol Anne Costa

Planning this Conference and Expo has been a wonderful experience. It has presented its challenges, as I only entered my role as the Executive Director in July, but with the amazing support of SACRI Board of Directors and so many community partners who have welcomed and guided me, I remain humbled and honored to do this work. I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone for the opportunity to become a part of this remarkable group of stewards, advocates, members, funders, and workers who move the needle for older adults and persons with disabilities each and every day. Together our collective will, passion and imagination will be unstoppable!

Allow me to share some of what I hope to accomplish for SACRI along with all our community partners as I settle into this role. The word "Coalition" in our name is a powerful one and its strength lies in the weave of its fabric. I want to make that weave tighter, more colorful, and possess a comfort for all those we serve. In doing so all our constituents benefit.

Thank you all for welcoming me, guiding me, and helping get to this day. I am eager to build the coalition, strengthen its fabric and take SACRI and all of us to the next level.

*Carol*





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Senior Digest



**"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like  
wrapping a present and not giving it."**

**- William Arthur Ward**

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of older adults & persons with disabilities.**

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SACRI extends its deepest gratitude to Diane Santos who has led the organization through this year as Board Chair.  
Thank you, Diane your leadership is priceless.