

# RCPAA 2026 Training Conference

## Rehabilitation: Stacking the Deck for Success

### Wednesday, May 20, 2026

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>LOCALE</b>
<b>9:00-9:15</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	Rob Stevens	Ballroom A
<b>9:15-10:15</b>	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Together We Can Change the World	Mike O'Brien	Ballroom A
	<b>Break</b> Please visit the vendors		
<b>10:40-11:40</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArKAHEAD	Pull Up a Chair: Networking Opportunity	ArKAHEAD Board	Ballroom C
RCPAA	Counselors Assisting Veterans Engage In Services (CAVES): A Partnered Approach for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide	Laura Watlington Angie Waliski Monica Matthieu Jack Suarez LaKiesha Kemp Michael Jaques Leonard Burgest Sr. Rev. Harold Armstead Jr. Darrell Gentry	Ouachita/Hamilton
<b>ETHICS</b>	Ethical Implications of Working with Clients Living with Chronic Pain	Julie Hill	Ballroom A
RCPAA	School Based Enterprises: A Scoping Review	Amillia Oswalt Brent Williams	Catherine/DeGray

# Lunch 11:45-1:00-Networking/Visit Vendors

## Wednesday, May 20, 2026

<b>TIME</b> <b>1:00-2:00</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>LOCALE</b>
ArkaHEAD	Learning Disability Experience	Vanessa Hollowell Whiteleigh Wilhelmi	Ballroom C
RCPAA	Community Engaged Chaplaincy: Promoting Whole Health and Wellness as a Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide	Leonard Burgest Sr. Rev. Harold Armstead Jr. Darrell Gentry LaKiesha Kemp Angie Waliski	Ouachita/Hamilton
RCPAA	Career Counseling, Information and Referral (CCIR) for Submission Wage Recipients in Arkansans: A Status Update & Recommendation for Future Success	Brent Williams JoAnn Benson	Catherine/DeGray
RCPAA <b>ETHICS SESSION</b>	Ethics and Leadership in Rehabilitation Counseling	Keith Vire	Ballroom A

## Break 2:00-2:20

<b>2:20-3:20</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD (Hour One)	Service Skills Are Not Intuitive: Mentoring the New Workforce	Ashlee Leavell Mark Kessler Leann Watson	Ballroom C
RCPAA	The Impact of Finances on Mental Health among Veterans	Darrell Gentry Leonard Burgest Sr. Rev. Harold Armstead Jr. Angie Waliski	Ouachita/Hamilton
RCPAA	Trauma Lens of TBI	Hannah Schweitzer Laura Rohm	Ballroom A
RCPAA	Empowering Community Integration with Technology Driven Support	Chelsea Loy	Catherine/DeGray

## **BREAK 3:20**

### **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

<b>3:40-4:40</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD (Hour Two)	Service Skills Are Not Intuitive: Mentoring the New Workforce	Ashlee Leavell Mark Kessler Leann Watson	Ballroom C
RCPAA	The Armory Project (TAP): Partnering with Firearm Retailers to Promote Secure Firearm Storage	LaKiesha Kemp Angie Waliski	Ouachita/Hamilton
RCPAA	Centers for IL, Ticket to Work, Work Incentives	Howard Funkhouser	Catherine/DeGray
RCPAA	Poster Presentations	Students/Scholarship Winners	Ballroom A

## Thursday, May 21, 2026

<b>TIME</b> <b>8:00-9:00</b> <b>ArkaHEAD</b>	<b>Keynote</b> Advancing Access to Post-Secondary Opportunities to People with Disabilities	<b>Presenter</b> <b>Melanie</b> <b>Thornton</b>	<b>Locale</b> <b>Ballroom</b> <b>A</b>
<b>TIME</b> <b>9:00-10:00</b>	<b>Concurrent</b> <b>Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD	Building Strong Faculty Partnerships	DeAnna Tracy	Ballroom C
ARCA	Biophilia: Practical Benefits of a Therapy Garden	Kelly Lammers	Catherine/ DeGray
RCPAA	SET for Success Pre-ETS, ACCE Program, Hire, & Phase 2 Young Adult Program	John Baldwin	Ballroom A
RCPAA	The Impact of Ehlers- Danlos Syndrome (EDS) on Mental Health	Julie Hill Brigit Ritchie	Ouachita/ Hamilton

<b>10:20-11:20</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaAHEAD	ArkaAHEAD Annual Business Meeting	ArkaAHEAD Board of Directors	Ballroom C
ARCA	Diagnosis and Treatment Considerations for people with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder	Ginny Reding	Catherine/DeGray
RCPAA	Integrating Business Engagement into Rehabilitation Services	Mary DiBiase	Ouachita/Hamilton

## **11:30-1:00 Awards Luncheon Thursday, May 21, 2026**

<b>1:00-2:00</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaAHEAD	Who has the Mic? Navigating the Shared Responsibility of Access Work	Dominique White Melanie Thornton	Ballroom C
RCPAA <b>ETHICS</b>	Use of AI for Rehabilitation Counselors	Mike O'Brien	Ballroom A
RCPAA	Keeping Work in the Cards: A Collaborative Stay at Work/Return to Work Model for VR Professionals	Yvonne Rowland Chalese Anderson-Sylar	Ouachita/Hamilton
<b>1:00-2:30</b>			
ARCA (Panel Presentation)	Advocating for Ourselves and for our Clients	Tresvil Pack Lindsay Keeter Raysha Clark Jessica Kitchens	Catherine/DeGray

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

<b>2:15-3:15</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD (Hour One)	Accommodate This! A Game Show-Style Exploration of Accommodation Scenarios	Ashlee Leavell Julie Shelby	Ballroom C
RCPAA	Tech Talk: Tools for Vocational Success	Melinda Davis Lauren Satterfield Jana Treat	Ballroom A
RCPAA	Pre-ETS in Arkansas: A Status Update & Lessons Learned from Seamless Transitions for Arkansas (STAR)	Brent Williams Anne Thomas Medsen	Ouachita/ Hamilton

## **BREAK 3:15**

<b>3:30-4:30</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD (Hour Two)	Accommodate This! A Game-Show Style Exploration of Accommodation Scenarios	Ashlee Leavell Julie Shelby	Ballroom C
RCPAA	A New Approach to Building a Stronger Foundation for Rehabilitation	Kriste Bryant	Ballroom A
RCPAA	Preparing for the CRC Exam	Julie Hill	Ouachita/ Hamilton
<b>3:30-5:00</b>			
ARCA	Infusion of Creativity in Counseling Supervision: Moving Beyond Talk-Only Therapy in Traditional & Telehealth Settings	Tresvil Pack Anita Martin Ashley Clifton	Catherine/ DeGray

## Friday, May 22, 2026

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>LOCALE</b>
<b>8:30-9:30</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>		
ArkaHEAD	AI and Accessibility	Zachary Singleton	Ballroom C
RCPAA	Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injuries	Whitney Allen Joshua Finney	Ballroom A
AROTA	Making Meaning: An OT Intervention to Address Spiritual Well-Being in Individuals with Chronic Illness	Melissa Ross Bowen	Catherine/ DeGray
RCPAA	Clinically Speaking: The Power of Prevention	Caitlin Miller	Ouachita/Hamilton
<b>9:45-10:45</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkaHEAD	Innovation Exchange: Access vs. Success	Guided Discussion	Ballroom C
AROTA	Photo Voice with Adults with Intellectual Disabilities	Emily French Hannah Masingale	Catherine/ DeGray
RCPAA <b>ETHICS</b>	The Intersection of Disability and Poverty	John Sassin	Ouachita/Hamilton
RCPAA (90 Minute Workshop)	When Addiction Wounds the Soul: Using ACT to Treat Moral Injury in Substance Abuse Disorders	Susan Smith	Ballroom A

**BREAK 10:45**

## FRIDAY, May 22, 2026

<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ArkAHEAD	Innovation Exchange: Housing Accommodations	Guided Discussion	Ballroom C
AROTA	Expanding Access to Constraint Induced Therapy Through a Hybrid Student-Led Fieldwork Model	Holly Hertzberg Noah Hansen	Catherine/ DeGray
RCPAA	When Addiction Wounds the Soul: Using ACT to Treat Moral Injury in Substance Abuse Disorders	Susan Smith	Ballroom A
RCPAA	Career Transitions Caused by Chronic Illness: A Career Construction Perspective	Julie Hill	Ouachita/ Hamilton

<b>12:15-1:15</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions/Titles</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ARCA	Informed Consent and Cultural Awareness	Dr. Audrene Ellis	Ballroom A
AROTA	History of OT in Mental Health	Noah Hansen	Catherine/ DeGray
RCPAA	Maintaining Independence: Progressive Diagnosis & Mobility Considerations	Caitlin Miller	Ballroom C
RCPAA	Symptoms of Schizophrenia in Persons with Congenital Deaf-Blindness	Robert (Rob) Stevens Sandra Torkelson	Ouachita/ Hamilton