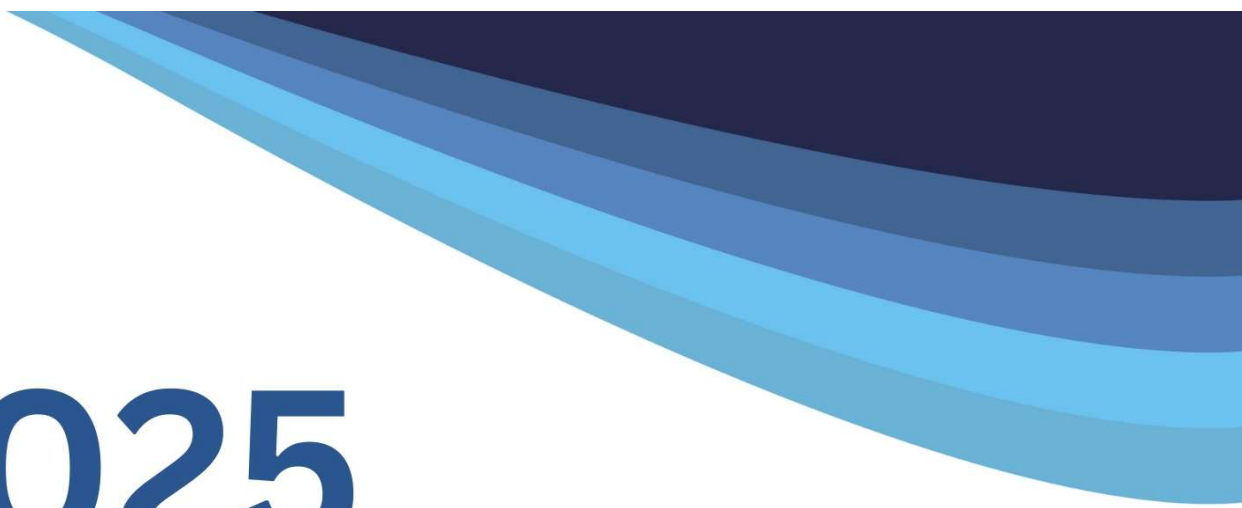




2025

Illinois Pioneer Coalition



**Mobilize the Movement:
Changing the Culture of LTC
in Illinois**





November 19 & 20, 2025

Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center
3280 Northfield Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Registration Information

Registration Fee: \$125 non-members / \$100 IPC members

To Register, visit the link or scan the QR Code below:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/88bt553/lp/ad91cab1-13b8-4a4e-bc19-733be1d1af4f>



To Register as a vendor/exhibitor/sponsor, visit the link or scan the QR code below:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nkbms3u/lp/4194a9a5-711b-4ca4-85d8-552f43d9e32a>



Hotel Information

Room reservations can be directly made with the Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center by calling 217-523-7900. When making reservations mention the Illinois Pioneer Coalition Summit to get the special discount rate of \$110 (plus tax). Please make reservations by November 4th to receive the special rate. Reservations made after the deadline may be subject to availability and regular room rate.

Continuing Education Credits

10.0 Hours of Continuing Education (CE's) are Sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging for the following:

- Licensed Nursing Home Administrators
- Licensed Social / Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Clinical / Professional Counselors
- Licensed Practical Nurses / Registered Nurses
- Certificates of Attendance for all other disciplines

Illinois Pioneer Coalition Summit on Culture Change

Culture Change is a national movement to transform the way we think about and provide care to people, whether they are living independently, in an assisted living community or in a nursing home. The care people receive should be person-directed and there are many accepted practices that foster this.

About the Summit

The Annual Summit on Culture Change is a conference bringing up to date education and advancements in person-centered/directed care practices. Thereby transforming care and improving the quality of life for individuals and staff in various care settings throughout Illinois. This collaborative learning event occurs each year where long-term care communities throughout the state gather to become inspired by leaders in the field.

Who Should Attend

- Direct care staff and teams in long-term care
- Managers, Supervisors, Administrators, and Owners
- Regulators, Surveyors, Those who live in long-term care communities and Family Members
- Leaders, Advocates, Educators, Consultants, Researchers in long-term care

Our Mission

The Illinois Pioneer Coalition advocates for deep system change in long-term care by creating opportunities for communication, networking and learning to facilitate the changing of this culture in Illinois. We do this by providing educational opportunities annually at our Summit and ongoing through our Regional Coalitions.

Culture Change Values and Principles

- Know each person
- Each person can and does make a difference
- Relationship is the fundamental building block of a transformed culture
- Respond to spirit, as well as mind and body
- Risk taking is a normal part of life
- Put person before task
- All elders are entitled to self-determination wherever they live
- Community is the antidote to institutionalization
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- Promote the growth and development of all
- Shape and use the potential of the environment in all aspects: physical, organizational, psycho/social/spiritual.
- Practice self-examination, searching for new creativity and opportunities for doing better
- Recognize that culture change and transformation are not destinations but a journey, always a work in progress

Summit Agenda

Day 1 - November 19

- 9:00am – 9:45 **Coffee and Conversation**
Come early to network and share a cup of coffee with your colleagues.
- 9:45am – 10:00 **Welcome and Opening Message**
Angela Simmons, IPC President, Senior Home Administrator, IL Veterans' Affairs
Bob Eames, Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business, Calvin University
- 10:00am – 10:30 **State of the State**
IDPH, HFS, State LTCOP
- 10:30am – 12:30 **Session I – Transforming Care: Building Person-Centered Teams & Honoring Resident Voices**
Laci Cornelison, Interim Director, Kansas State University Center on Aging & Gerontology Program Chair
- 12:30pm – 1:30 **Lunch and Exhibit / Trade Show**
- 1:30pm – 3:00 **Session II – What Does It Mean to Truly be Person-Directed?**
Panel discussion by providers who have implemented change practices
- 3:00pm – 3:15 **Break**
- 3:15pm – 5:15 **Session III – Pitching the Next Big Idea**
Bob Eames, Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business, Calvin University
- 5:15pm – 6:30 **Happy Hour and Trade Show**
Raffle Prizes / Giveaways



Day 2 - November 20

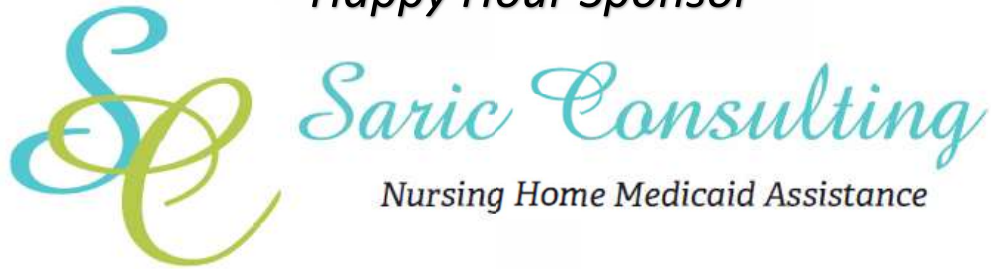
- 8:00am – 12:00pm **Coaching Boot Camp: Find the Leader Within to Support Your Big Ideas!**
Anna Ortigara, RN, MSN, Gerontological Nurse Specialist

Summit Trade Show – Emerald/Jade Room

An integral part of the Summit is exhibitor/vendor participation. The exhibitors help the Illinois Pioneer Coalition offer a reasonably priced and quality event. The Trade Show features an array of products and services from leading suppliers and organizations related to elder care.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors and Vendors!

Happy Hour Sponsor



Neighborhood Sponsor





Illinois Pioneer Coalition Summit Sessions

November 19 & 20, 2025

Day 1

9:00am – 9:45am Coffee and Conversation

Come early to the Summit to network and share a cup of coffee with your colleagues.

9:45am – 10:00am Welcome and Opening Message

Greetings from the Illinois Pioneer Coalition President – Angela Simmons, LNHA, Senior Home Administrator, Illinois Veterans' Affairs

Making the Most of the Summit – Bob H. Eames, Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business, Professor Emeritus, Calvin University

10:00am – 10:30am State of the State

State of the State and Updates from IDPH, HFS and LTCOP

Jonathan Harwood, Division Chief, Long Term Care Field Operations, IDPH

Lisa Gregory, Long Term Care Bureau Chief, HFS

Kelly Richards, Long Term Care Ombudsman, State LTCOP, IDOA

During this session we will be receiving updates from the state entities that are committed to enhancing living in long-term care. We will gain an understanding of how Illinois is supporting those who live in long-term care through their state lens to promote quality of life for all. Topics discussed include the most frequently cited deficiencies, nursing home rate reform, CNA incentive program and supporting the advancement of person directed living in Illinois.

10:30am - 12:30pm Session I

Transforming Care: Building Person-Centered Teams & Honoring Resident Voices

Laci Cornelison, MS, LBSW, ACHA, Interim Director, Kansas State University Center on Aging & Gerontology Program Chair

This session helps leaders shift from traditional management to team facilitation while putting those who live in long-term care communities first. Participants will discover how to build leadership skills across all team members, not just those in formal positions. Using proven methods from the Moving Forward Coalition, attendees will learn practical tools to identify and document what matters most to people – their goals, preferences, and priorities. Through interactive exercises and guided self-reflection, leaders will explore new ways to support their teams and develop personalized action plans. The focus is on empowering every team member to respond authentically to individual needs and ensuring that resident voices drive all care decisions.

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch and Trade Show

1:30pm – 3:00pm Session II

What Does It Mean to Truly Be Person-Directed? *Panel Discussion*

Michael Brave, Administrator, Clinton Manor

Tanya Huston Smith, Administrator, Manteno Veterans' Home

Maggie McDowell, Administrator, Sunny Hill Nursing Home

Rikki Brady, VP of Compliance and Risk Management, Clark-Lindsey Village

Homes and communities throughout the state and country are engaging in person-directed care practices that are changing the lives of those living in long-term care for the better. Learn what and why these communities in Illinois made the changes they have. Be prepared to hear about practices that they have implemented that transformed the care they provide. Hear how they ensure they are listening to what their people need, want and deserve. This session will be full of ideas that you can take back to your own homes and communities.

3:00pm – 3:15pm Break

3:15pm - 5:15pm Session III

Pitching the Next Big Idea: Making Change Happen!

Bob H. Eames, Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business, Calvin University School

How many times have you been inspired at a conference or meeting only to lose that enthusiasm when you get back to work and find your inbox full and your to-do list growing? This session is designed to help you improve your ability to be inspired and motivated to make change happen when you get back to work by learning two things: 1) how to do a better job of capturing and recording the inspiration in the first place, and 2) putting your ideas together in compelling ways and pitching them to your colleagues and your organization to make bold changes for good! Bob will share frameworks and guide you through a process of taking your insights from change practices shared in this conference and turning them into actionable ideas for you to inspire your organization and make change happen!

**5:15pm - 6:30pm Happy Hour and Trade Show
(Raffle Prizes and Giveaways!)**



Day 2

8:00am - 12:00pm Workshop Intensive

Coaching Boot Camp: Find the Leader Within to Support Your Big Ideas

Anna Ortigara, RN, MSN, Gerontological Nurse Specialist

The challenges facing the long-term care workforce demand more than just management—they require leadership that inspires, supports, and empowers. This interactive coaching bootcamp equips leaders, managers, and all staff with the coaching skillset, mindset, and strategies needed to foster a collaborative coaching culture that enhances staff engagement, retention, and resilience. Facilitated by an experienced coaching leader and educator, Anna Ortigara, this hands-on session will focus on practical coaching skills, mindset shifts, and real-world application to help participants lead with curiosity, active listening, and powerful questioning. Through experiential exercises, coaching practice, and guided reflection, attendees will gain the confidence and competence to integrate coaching into their daily leadership approach. By the end of this session, participants will leave with actionable strategies to build empowered teams, strengthen relationships, and create a workplace culture where people feel valued, supported, and motivated. Join us as we work towards a stronger, more connected long-term care workforce - one coaching conversation at a time.



Illinois Pioneer Coalition Summit

Meet the Presenters:



Bob Eames, Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business, Calvin University

Bob received his BBA and MBA from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He taught consulting, marketing, and design thinking; has published and presented at academic and industry conferences and is the founding director of the Calvin Center for Innovation in Business. He has also taught at Hope College and at the Russian American Institute in Moscow. Prior to joining Calvin University, Professor Eames worked as an executive with several firms in the insurance, advertising, and office furniture industries. He also worked as an independent consultant and served on several corporate and non-profit boards. His current interests are in innovation, experiential learning and a variety of marketing related topics.



Laci Cornelison, MS, LBSW, Interim Director, Kansas State University Center on Aging & Gerontology Program Chair

Growing up in the nursing home where her mom worked, Laci Cornelison was a gerontologist from the start. Those years of hanging out with older adults while her mom said to “keep busy” turned into her passion. Now she holds the official credentials of a gerontologist along with a long-term care administration and social work license. Laci’s experience has included direct leadership and clinical practice in an innovative person-centered care home, college instruction on aging, program leadership with the Kansas PEAK program and the KSU Center on Aging, and national long-term care advocacy and research. She currently serves as the Interim Director of the KSU Center on Aging and PEAK Program Coordinator.



Michael Brave, CEO, LNHA, Clinton Manor

Michael Brave earned his Master’s degree in Social Work from St. Louis University. He is a licensed nursing home administrator and has been Vice President and CEO of Southern Illinois Living Centers, Inc. since 1988. Michael’s passion for continuous improvement and focus on connecting with others sets the tone for Clinton Manor’s person-centered practices and policies. Before his leadership positions at SILC, Michael served as Director of Operations for a not-for-profit organization and was responsible for opening seven small homes for people with developmental disabilities in southern and central Illinois. Prior to that, he worked as a nurse aide, cook, dishwasher, housekeeper, maintenance helper, activity and social services director and Administrator. Michael is a member of the leadership committee for the Southwestern Illinois Pioneer Coalition on culture change and continues to be actively involved in creating positive, person directed changes at Clinton Manor Living Center for those who call it their home.



Rikki Brady, RN, MSN, Clark-Lindsay Village

Rikki Brady is the Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management at Clark-Lindsay Village. In her previous role as Director of Health Services for Meadowbrook Health Center at Clark-Lindsey, Rikki has first-hand experience with direct resident care which makes her uniquely qualified to ensure regulatory compliance while still keeping an enriched resident experience a top priority. Rikki has a RN Diploma from Methodist Medical Center School of Nursing and a BSN from the University of St. Francis.



Margaret McDowell, RN, LNHA, Sunny Hill Nursing Home

Margaret is the Administrator of Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County. She has more than 30 years of nursing experience. Prior to her role as Administrator and Assistance Administrator at Sunny Hill she served as Director of Nursing at Holy Family Villa. Born and raised in Ireland, McDowell started her career in England. She attended Sir Gordon Roberts College of Nursing in Northampton and De Montfort University in Leicester. She started her career at Leicester Royal Infirmary, then moved to Rush Medical Center in Chicago, where she served as one of the hospital's first clinical nurse coordinators. Over the years, having gained experience across the full spectrum of healthcare her first exposure to Long Term Care did not occur until 2009. Margaret's passion is working with the elderly and providing unsurpassed person directed care and enhancing quality of life for all as much as possible.



Tanya Huston Smith, RN, MSN, LNHA, Manteno Veterans' Home

Tanya has an RN background with experience in Emergency Services and hospital administration, and holds a Master's in nursing education. She has been employed with the Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno since 2012 and, in 2017, obtained a Nursing Home Administrator's License. She has held the position of Administrator since 2018. As a home administrator and as a nurse, she has seen firsthand the importance of honoring resident choice and creating care environments that truly feel like home. She is passionate about redefining nursing home care to be more person-centered, empowering those who live in long-term care communities to have a voice in their daily lives and care decisions. She believes that being older doesn't mean we stop having goals, dreams, or the right to make meaningful decisions about our lives. She is especially committed to creating multi-generational spaces that foster connection, purpose and community. She is a board member of the Illinois Pioneer Coalition.



Anna Ortigara, RN, MSN, Gerontological Nurse Specialist

Anna Ortigara is an experienced organizational and educational consultant currently working as an independent contractor. She serves as an educator, curriculum developer, and consultant with HealthCare Interactive, The Green House Project, PHI, and other aging services organizations.

Previously, Anna spent seven years as an Organizational Development and Workforce Consultant on the Workforce Innovations team at PHI (www.phinational.org). In this role, she taught the *Coaching Approach to Supervision* to leaders in long-term care organizations and supported the implementation of person-directed living practices.

Prior to PHI, she served as the Director of Resource Development at the national office of The Green House Project, where she co-created and facilitated core curriculum and coaching programs for Guides and Nurse Executives. She also held the role of Director of Program Development, working to embed a coaching leadership model within The Green House Project.

Anna brings more than four decades of experience in gerontology and long-term care. Beginning her career as a registered nurse, she has worked with older adults across various settings, including nursing homes, assisted living, adult day services, and home care. Her leadership roles have included Vice President of Cultural Transformation at LeadingAge Illinois, Director of Residential Care Services at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center in Chicago, and Associate Director of Long-Term Care Accreditation at The Joint Commission. She is the primary author of *LEAP for the 21st Century LTC Workforce* and was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

A nationally recognized leader in aging services, Anna has presented at national and international conferences on topics such as culture change, quality jobs, staff recruitment and retention, person-centered dementia care, and aging in America. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University and her BSN from St. Xavier College in Chicago. In 2014, she was named a "Leader of Tomorrow" by *Long-Term Living*.



Illinois Pioneer Coalition History

The state of Illinois embraced culture change early, in 1999. Since then, several thousand consumers, advocates, nursing home representatives and licensing surveyors have been trained on culture change values and principles through the efforts of the Illinois Pioneer Coalition. At its origins, the IPC was awarded funding from the Federal and State's Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) program to "enhance Illinois' pioneer efforts in culture change".

The first organizational meeting of an Illinois culture change coalition was in November 2003, led by the state's long-term care provider associations, the Ombudsman Program and Illinois Area Agencies on Aging. In 2004, a statewide Pioneer Summit was held in Springfield, Illinois. Thereafter, a Summit has been held annually.

In 2005, the Illinois Pioneer Coalition became a 501-3c and a formal board of directors was elected. Since then the IPC has operated with a dedicated volunteer board who represent the provider community for elder care. Each of these volunteers are committed to ensuring that every elder in Illinois receives the care and services that they need, want, and deserve. To serve on our board is an honor and we would like to thank the following individuals who have given of their time for this very important mission!

Ashley Caldwell – Director of Education & Program Development / Illinois Health Care Association

Tanya Huston – Administrator / Manteno Veterans Home

Lee Moriarty – Deputy State Long-Term Care Ombudsman / Illinois Department on Aging

Candice Mitchell – Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman / City of Evanston, Illinois

Natalie Muller - AR Manager Medicare and Insurance / Palladian Management

Tina Overton - Program Coordinator / Egyptian Area Agency on Aging

Rindi Reeves – Community Advocate

Angie Simmons - Senior Home Administrator / Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Joyce Steber – Certified Nursing / Steber Training, LLC

Illinois Pioneer Regional Coalitions

Through this Summit we are hoping that you become inspired to continue your journey of person-centered care. The best way to stay focused and keep the momentum going is to join a Regional Pioneer Coalition! If you are interested in either starting a coalition in your area, or you would like to join a local coalition, please contact Tina Overton, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, (618) 985-8311, tina.overton@egyptianaaa.org.

Top Ten Reasons to Join a Regional Coalition:

1. To network with others who have shared values
2. To be inspired to implement change by hearing what other long term care homes are doing
3. To share ideas with others
4. To be exposed to tools and resources on culture change and person-centered/directed care
5. To gain knowledge on Culture Change happenings throughout the State and Country
6. To keep yourself motivated to continue your journey
7. To get encouragement to take risks and make life better for those we serve
8. To provide your staff with the opportunity to receive education on culture change
9. To be a leader for change in long term care
10. To be a part of a community dedicated to changing the way long term care is provided

Want to be involved in the Culture Change movement close to home?

Contact the Regional Coalition nearest you from the list below. Or if you are interested in starting a coalition in your area, contact Tina Overton @ tina.overton@egyptianaaa.org



Area 2 – Collar Counties in the Chicagoland area

(DuPage, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Lake, Grundy, Kankakee, Will)

Regional Lead: Emily Ferenc, AgeGuide, (630) 812-1225, eferenc@ageguide.org

Area 8 – Southwestern Illinois Pioneer Coalition

(Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington)

Regional Lead: Chris Fulton, AgeSmart, (618) 222-2561, cfulton@agesmart.org

Area 9 – Midland Area Regional Pioneer Coalition

(Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jefferson, Marion)

Regional Lead: Nancy Hinton, Midland Area Agency on Aging, (618) 532-1853, nancy@midlandaaa.org and Lisa Light, Ombudsman, ECCOA, llight@eccoa.org

Area 11 – Southern Illinois Pioneer Coalition

(Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson)

Regional Lead: Tina Overton, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, (618) 985-8311, tina.overton@egyptianaaa.org

Area 13 – Evanston Regional Coalition

Regional Lead: Candice Mitchell, City of Evanston Senior Services, (847) 866-2921, cmitchell@cityofevanston.org