



Date: October 01, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM

**October 1-2, 2026**

**Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center**

3500 Midwest Road

Oak Brook, IL 60523

(630) 850-5555

Hotel reservation link: [2026 Leadership Summit](#)

**First staff member per organization:**

By Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$375

After Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$425

**Each additional staff member\*:**

By Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$325

After Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$375

**Hospital/health system board member (*available to those who are not employed by the hospital or health system*):**

By Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$250

After Thursday, September 17, 2026: \$295

*\*Additional registrant(s) must be employed at the same hospital or health system corporate office as the first registrant to qualify for this discount.*

With disruption coming from every angle, from government to the tech industry, leaders have a seize-the-moment opportunity to take on the big questions shaping Illinois healthcare. This year's Leadership Summit will explore how to shift from reactive survival strategies to proactive transformation initiatives. National experts and leaders across our state will discuss productively engaging with decision-makers and influencers in their orbit. You'll benefit from participating in candid conversations and connecting with peer leaders as our Illinois hospital community navigates disruption together.

**Thursday, October 1, 2026**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

**REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

*Damond Boatwright, MHA, MHS, FACHE, President and CEO, Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield; and Chair, IHA Board of Trustees*

9:15 – 11:30 a.m.

### **THE CHOICE AHEAD: OWN YOUR FUTURE OR BE DISRUPTED BY IT**

*Scott D. Anthony, Clinical Professor of Strategy, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College; and Craig E. Deao, Managing Director, Huron*

Illinois hospitals and health systems are taking on more than they have in years, yet many face challenging futures. The reason goes deeper than operations. The underlying economics and expectations of healthcare—many of which are beyond hospitals' control—are fundamentally shifting. This boot camp-type session will explore how game-changing disruption actually happens and how leading organizations across industries are responding. We'll take a deep dive into national healthcare market data and Illinois-specific implications to explain what is changing in healthcare, focusing on how economic and market shifts are affecting access to care, care delivery design, workforce capacity, and quality. Importantly, the discussion will pinpoint what hospital and health system leaders can control inside their organizations, steps to take together to influence the external environment, and how to act with clarity and intention to build a stronger future.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

### **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF THE RUTH COLBY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*A.J. Wilhelmi, President and CEO, Illinois Health and Hospital Association*

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

### **LUNCHEON**

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

### **MEMBER INNOVATION SHOWCASE**

Hear from IHA-member hospitals and health systems on best practices and solutions for common management challenges.

2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

### **SPONSOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **The Real-Time Technology Revolution: Creating Transparency, Efficiency and Patient-Centered Experiences**

*Rae Woods, Vice President, National Spokesperson, Host, Radio Advisory, Advisory Board; and Brandon Childs*

Hospital and health system leaders are being asked to move faster—improving access and patient experience while protecting financial viability in an environment defined by uncertainty and rising administrative burden. One of the biggest barriers is not clinical capability, but lagging information: When coverage, benefits, and claim decisions arrive days or weeks later, organizations confront rework, delays, and patient confusion. This session will explore how technology can change that equation by turning key revenue cycle and patient access challenges into immediate and reliable decisions.

*Rae Woods, Vice President, National Spokesperson, Host, Radio Advisory, Advisory Board*

As the national spokesperson, Rae Woods helps C-suite executives, leadership teams, and boards take action on their top priorities and make better decisions with Advisory Board's insights and analysis. Known for her energetic style, Woods is a passionate teacher and frequent speaker at healthcare industry events. She has led business-style research studies at Advisory Board since 2014, and brings deep healthcare knowledge, strategic insight, and operational expertise to her hands-on work with executives. Sharing insights from the across the industry, Woods is the host and executive producer of Advisory Board's award-winning podcast, Radio Advisory, and an adjunct faculty member for Advisory Board Fellowship.

#### **Physician Benchmarking: Understanding Market Trends Related to Physician-Based Revenue Cycle Performance**

*Justin Stevens, MHA, PMP, Executive Director, Revenue Cycle Advisory, Kodiak Solutions, Indianapolis, IN*

*Matt Szafarski, Vice President, Revenue Cycle Intelligence, Kodiak Solutions, Chicago*

This session will provide a practical, data-driven perspective on how physician revenue cycle performance is evolving across the market—grounded in real-world benchmarking insights. You'll gain a clearer understanding of where organizations are exceeding expectations and where performance gaps persist, along with the key operational drivers influencing both outcomes.

The session will also explore the broader forces shaping today's physician revenue cycle environment, including shifting reimbursement dynamics and increasing administrative complexity.

*Justin Stevens, MHA, PMP, Executive Director, Revenue Cycle Advisory, Kodiak Solutions, Indianapolis, IN*

With a focus on revenue cycle, Justin Stevens has more than 25 years of diverse experience in the healthcare industry, from health industry provider side to third party IT and consulting organizations. In his consulting roles, Stevens has provided input on a multitude of projects both internal and external related to the hospital revenue cycle. Prior to management consulting, Stevens worked as a Project Manager for McKesson Provider Technologies and for a multi-facility health system in the areas of patient access, revenue cycle and managed care.

*Matt Szaflarski, Vice President, Revenue Cycle Intelligence, Kodiak Solutions, Chicago*

Matt Szaflarski leads Kodiak's Revenue Cycle Intelligence team, which focuses on building analytic solutions to help customers target, quantify, and solve their most challenging issues. He oversees Kodiak's benchmarking service offerings, which measure revenue cycle performance across more than \$2 trillion in annual gross revenue. Szaflarski has more than 15 years of revenue cycle experience focused on supporting customer performance improvement efforts.

### **The Future of Healthcare Workforce Solutions: Flexibility, Float Pools and Technology**

*Karin Selfors, Chief Client Officer, Medical Solutions*

As healthcare organizations evolve to meet growing patient needs and ongoing workforce pressures, new staffing models are redefining how care teams are supported and deployed. This session will explore how flexible workforce solutions, innovative float pool strategies, and emerging technologies are transforming staffing efficiency and enabling hospitals to build stronger, more adaptable clinical teams.

*Karin Selfors, Chief Client Officer, Medical Solutions*

Karin Selfors leads Medical Solutions' Client Experience and Client success teams and is responsible for driving innovation and strengthening client partnerships. Before joining Medical Solutions, Selfors made significant contributions in roles across investment banking, The Adecco Group and Pontoon Solutions. Throughout her career, she has developed a reputation for creating customized solutions that meet the evolving needs of clients across diverse industries. Selfors is known for driving business growth and transformation through her leadership.

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

#### **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

#### **NAVIGATING FEDERAL HEALTH POLICY: A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH AHA'S RICK POLLACK**

Significant changes to federal policy are expected to have an outsize impact on hospitals, health systems and patients, from access to care to financial stability. American Hospital Association (AHA) President and CEO Rick Pollack will discuss key federal issues most likely to affect Illinois hospitals and health systems, including patient access, coverage, workforce, and hospital operations. He'll touch on what's happening on Capitol Hill, the policy environment in Washington and potential implications of the upcoming midterm elections. He'll also share what today's hospital and health system leaders need to know as they navigate an increasingly complex policy landscape.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### **SPONSOR RECEPTION**

### **Friday, October 2, 2026**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

#### **SPONSOR BREAKFAST**

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

***The Choice Ahead: Own Your Future or Be Disrupted by It – So Now What?***

*Deborah Graves, President and CEO, Memorial Hospital Belleville | Shiloh*

*Tom Jackiewicz, FACHE, President and CEO, University of Chicago Health System*

*José R. Sánchez, President and CEO, Humboldt Park Health, Chicago*

*Kevin Zachary, CEO, JCH HealthCare, Jerseyville*

*Damond Boatwright, MHA, MHS, FACHE, President and CEO, Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, and Chair, IHA Board of Trustees (moderator)*

Balancing mission-driven care with economic sustainability is the defining challenge for hospital and health system leaders today. It's not about choosing between mission and margin, though; it's recognizing they are interdependent, especially in such areas as quality, access, and community health. During this wide-ranging, candid discussion, our CEO panel will explore the strategic discipline needed to lead and the industry-wide policies and targeted investments needed to strengthen sustainability while advancing hospitals' critical, mission-driven work to care for communities.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

#### **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### ***Public Perception and the Importance of Telling Your Hospital's Story***

*Michael Hildebrand, Senior Vice President, Public, Community & Rural Health Systems Practice Deputy, Jarrard Inc., Nashville, TN*

There's power in storytelling. When navigating disruptive innovation, successful healthcare leaders are those who can clearly communicate the impact of external changes on their organization. Sharing your hospital's story to your patients, workforce, community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders is critical in today's increasingly complex and polarized environment. And it all starts with a deep understanding of how your organization is perceived by patients, consumers, and other stakeholders in the communities you serve. This session will explore how hospitals can best convey their important role in communities and connect that story to stronger patient trust, access to care, and community health.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### **CLOSING SESSION**

#### ***The Life-Changing Power of Your Rope Team***

*Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Gretchen Evans*

It was the achievement of her dreams: overseeing 30,000 troops as a Command Sergeant Major in Afghanistan. Yet the trajectory of Gretchen Evans' life changed in an instant when she was hit by a rocket attack. Suffering catastrophic injuries, Evans also lost her hearing. During the Summit's closing session, she'll describe the scope of her career and life, from finding purpose in the military to her devastating injury and ultimately to her decision to reclaim her life—with the support of her rope team. As one of the most highly decorated women to serve in the U.S. Army, Evans will offer her wisdom on grit, resilience, hope and overcoming any barrier you face. She'll inspire you to find your own "rope team" and live your best life.

12:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Summit will benefit:

- Chief executive officers
- Chief operating officers
- Chief financial officers
- Chief nursing officers

- Chief medical officers
- Chief human resources officers
- Chief quality officers
- Chief strategy officers
- Physician leaders
- Nursing leaders
- Legal counsel
- Government relations leaders
- Trustees and directors

**Scott D. Anthony, Clinical Professor of Strategy, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire**

Scott Anthony is an award-winning, globally renowned expert, author and speaker on navigating disruptive change. His cutting-edge courses at Dartmouth blend academic research and practical business insights. Anthony's research and teaching builds on more than two decades of field work guiding global leaders through transformative change and mentorship under disruptive innovation pioneer Clayton Christensen. He spent more than two decades at Innosight, a consulting company Christensen co-founded, including six years as Innosight's global managing partner.

A global thought leader, Anthony has lived in the United States, United Kingdom, and Singapore, served on public and private boards, advised companies in nearly 30 countries, and has been named one of the world's most influential management thinkers multiple times by Thinkers50. He is a prolific author of best-selling business books, including the recent *Epic Disruptions: 11 Innovations That Shaped Our Modern World*, which decodes how genuine disruption actually happens.

**Damond Boatwright, MHA, MHS, FACHE, President and CEO, Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, Illinois, and Chair, IHA Board of Trustees**

Damond Boatwright began his service with Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) as president and chief executive officer in June 2021. HSHS is a nonprofit health system headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, and operates a network of 13 hospitals and other healthcare facilities throughout Illinois and Wisconsin.

Prior to HSHS, Boatwright served as regional president of SSM Health in Wisconsin, beginning in 2014. He also served in various leadership roles at Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) from 2001 to 2013. Boatwright's career at HCA took him to hospitals in Virginia, Florida, Missouri and Kansas, serving in a variety of executive leadership roles.

Boatwright is IHA's current board chair, a past board chair at the Catholic Health Association and past board chair of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). He received Modern Healthcare's Up and Comer Award in 2009, and was featured in Becker's Hospital Review's Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know in 2010. Boatwright was named a WHA Distinguished Leader in 2020, was In Business magazine's Executive of the Year in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2021. He was featured in Becker's Hospital Review's Healthcare Leaders to Know in 2024.

**Craig Deao, Managing Director, Huron, Pensacola, Florida**

Craig Deao has provided consulting services to healthcare organizations for two decades. He is a trusted advisor to boards and executive teams, focusing on governance, strategic planning, growth, engagement and patient experience. His expertise extends to board education, governance restructuring, and the facilitation of strategic and leadership development initiatives.

Deao is a frequent speaker at national and international healthcare leadership conferences, including events hosted by the American College of Healthcare Executives, American Hospital Association, and more than 20 state hospital associations. He has delivered more than 400 presentations across the United States, Canada, and Australia, consistently earning top ratings from participants.

**Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Gretchen Evans**

One of the most decorated female veterans in U.S. history, Command Sergeant Major Gretchen Evans was a successful senior military intelligence analyst and paratrooper. She operated in several high-tempo and dangerous missions around the world, including Grenada, Kosovo, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In 2006, while working as a sergeant major in Afghanistan, a mortar blast threw her into a concrete bunker wall. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and lost 95% of her hearing, ending her career in military service. Command Sergeant Major Evans received the Bronze Star for valor and heroism in combat.

In sharing her compelling and riveting stories and experiences, Command Sergeant Major Evans goes from being the highest enlisted rank in the Army to traversing through life after a serious combat injury. Her insightful and poignant perspective offers a window into today's warriors along with nuggets of wisdom and impactful takeaways.

**Deborah Graves, President and CEO, Memorial Hospital Belleville | Shiloh, Illinois**

Deborah Graves serves as president and CEO of Memorial Hospital Belleville | Shiloh in Illinois. Memorial Hospital is part of BJC Health System's East Region, serving the St. Louis area and Southern Illinois. Graves joined BJC in 2024, bringing over 20 years of experience. She was previously president of SSM St. Joseph Hospital - Lake Saint Louis, where she provided executive leadership for a level III Trauma/level II STEMI regional medical center.

Graves spent six years at LifeBridge Health in Baltimore, serving as SVP of LifeBridge Health and president of Levindale Hospital since 2017. She began her career as an emergency department nurse in New Orleans, followed by roles of increasing scope and responsibility across the healthcare spectrum, including as CEO at Regency Hospital in Minneapolis.

**Michael Hildebrand, Senior Vice President, Regional Health System Practice Lead, Jarrard Inc., Nashville, Tennessee**

Michael Hildebrand helps clients build and protect their reputations by successfully navigating operational, strategic, and crisis situations. With 20 years of communications and operational experience, Hildebrand brings a methodical and thoughtful approach to the most complicated situations in a way that stakeholders can understand the impacts of key decisions.

Hildebrand previously served as chief of staff for Prisma Health, helping guide the organization through a health system merger of equals and subsequent integration. Additionally, he served as president of a legacy subsidiary board responsible for lease oversight and community health. Hildebrand spent 15 years in law enforcement, with responsibilities for communications, public information and community engagement. He also led a nonprofit organization focused on transportation and mobility issues.

Throughout his career, Hildebrand has led teams through strategic communication challenges, sensitive political issues and evolving crisis situations. He is skilled at creating connections among diverse audiences including elected and government officials, executives, community and business leaders, and the media.

**Thomas Jackiewicz, President, UChicago Medicine, Chicago, Illinois**

Tom Jackiewicz is president of the University of Chicago Health System (UCHS), the \$5.6 billion, seven-hospital clinical enterprise that integrates the patient care mission of UCHS with the education and research missions of the University of Chicago. Jackiewicz is highly regarded for his ability to reimagine how the traditional academic health system framework can better support the clinical, educational, and research needs of the future and accelerate delivery of research-driven practices to inpatient, outpatient, and home settings.

Jackiewicz is a strategic visionary who has ushered in eras of substantial growth and improvement at academic health systems where the best and brightest work together for the common good. At UCHS, he is championing the construction of a new \$815 million cancer center, which will be Chicago's first freestanding cancer center. Other key initiatives under his leadership include adding four AdventHealth hospitals and a physician network, opening a Northwest Indiana campus and leading a major collaborative of providers focusing on health challenges on Chicago's South Side.

Prior to joining UChicago Medicine, Jackiewicz served as CEO of Keck Medicine of USC in Los Angeles, where he grew the medical enterprise from a \$450 million to \$2.2 billion regional academic health system and achieved a top 20 ranking on the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals Honor Roll. Jackiewicz is a fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and a frequent speaker at national gatherings including the American College of Healthcare Executives, Becker's, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He serves as a member of the IHA Board of Trustees, Strategic Planning Committee of America's Essential Hospitals, Inflix Advisory Board and Wall Street Journal CEO Council.

**Rick Pollack, President and CEO, American Hospital Association, Washington, D.C.**

Rick Pollack is president and CEO of the American Hospital Association (AHA), the nation's largest hospital and health system membership organization with nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, networks, and other care providers. Serving as the AHA's top leader since 2015, Pollack is widely recognized for his strong, effective advocacy and leadership on behalf of our nation's hospitals, the patients and communities they serve, and the healthcare professionals those organizations support. Pollack has been an influential leader in securing the field's financial stability, as well as redefining the "H" to care for patients in more efficient and convenient ways. Under his leadership, AHA launched a comprehensive effort to address historic workforce challenges.

Pollack has shaped and grown what is widely regarded as one of the nation's most respected and effective advocacy organizations. AHA's has a sophisticated political and grassroots network in every congressional district in the country and one of the largest healthcare political action committees, AHAPAC. Pollack has also guided AHA's efforts to improve quality and patient safety. As an early leader committed to addressing the growing and evolving cybercrime threats, Pollack launched a partnership with the FBI and other government agencies to provide hospitals greater support and resources in this area.

Among his many roles, Pollack serves the AHA Board of Trustees; Board of Directors of the Coalition to Strengthen America's Healthcare; steering committees of the National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience and the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100.

Pollack began his career in Washington, D.C., as a legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, then as a legislative representative for the American Nurses Association. He joined AHA in 1982, a tenure which has included more than 20 years as its executive vice president for advocacy and public policy before becoming president and CEO.

**José R. Sánchez, President and CEO, Humboldt Park Health, Chicago, Illinois**

José R. Sánchez, president and CEO of Humboldt Park Health (HPH), is a senior healthcare executive with over 40 years of experience in operational, strategic, and fiscal management of multifaceted health systems. He is currently Chicago's only Latino hospital CEO. Under his leadership, HPH has maintained financial stability and growth throughout his tenure, and consistently exceeded benchmarks in quality, safety, and patient satisfaction. In April 2024, HPH became the first Midwestern hospital and 13th in the nation to successfully achieve Health Equity Certification from The Joint Commission.

In January 2025, HPH opened a 45,500 square-foot Wellness Center one block from the hospital. This represents the first phase of Sánchez's vision for a community health campus that focuses on wellness, accessibility and empowerment. The Wellness Center houses the hospital's rehabilitation services, two swimming pools, state-of-the-art fitness equipment, an indoor track, and specialty classes, such as cycling and yoga. Its third-floor conference rooms provide space for local community groups. In January 2021, Sánchez led the hospital in a major rebranding initiative, during which the hospital was renamed from Norwegian American Hospital to Humboldt Park Health, honoring the diversity of the community it serves.

Sánchez is chair of the Association of Safety-Net Community Hospitals and board chair of Wellness West, a Healthcare Transformation Collaborative of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. He is a member of the American Hospital Association's Division of Health Outcomes and Care Transformation and the Advisory Board of America's Essential Hospitals.

**Kevin Zachary, Chief Executive Officer, JCH HealthCare, Jerseyville, Illinois**

Kevin Zachary joined JCH HealthCare as CEO in June 2025 and has more than two decades of leadership experience in healthcare operations, patient-centered care, and strategic growth. Originally from Texas and most recently residing in Colorado, Zachary has held key executive roles at LifePoint Health, Health Management Associates, Tenet Healthcare, and Halifax Regional Medical Center. His experience includes multisite leadership, physician recruitment, operational optimization, and fostering a culture of safety and excellence in care.

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