

2025 MALA Conference and Dementia Summit
May 6 and 7, 2025
Crowne Plaza, Lansing

CEU Information

If you attend the entire in-person conference, you will earn 8 AFC CEUs and have access to virtual sessions to complete your 16 AFC CEUs. If you are unable to attend in-person, you can complete your 16 AFC CEUs through virtual sessions. Virtual sessions are available at your convenience during the months of May and June.

*Please note that in 2025 we are unable to offer CEUs for nurses, social workers, and nursing home administrators. AFC CEUS will be made available.

In-Person Sessions at the Crowne Plaza

Tuesday, May 6

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Workshop A

"The Wisdom on Wheels" Journey: A Nationwide 5 Year Quest to Capture the Hearts and Minds of the Greatest Generation

"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, especially individuals living with dementia. "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. Join us in our mission to preserve the stories that have shaped our world, one conversation at a time.

Presenter: Jack York, Founder of TaleGate and iN2L Technology

Workshop B

Department Behavioral Health Update

This session will provide an update on key issues impacting providers contracting with community mental health services programs (CMHSPs) throughout the state. The topics include a state budget update; waiver updates; conflict free access and planning; and other recent or pending developments. The session will include a question-and-answer segment.

Presenters: Kristen Morningstar, Director of Specialty Behavioral Health Services, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Workshop C

LGBTQ+ Older Adults: A Step Forward in Understanding (an Implicit Bias Training)

This training is an opportunity to explore LGBTQ+ communities through an aging lens. This serves as an introductory level presentation that focuses only on the brief history of the LGBT population, critical terms and definitions, overview of statistics and demographics in Michigan to better understand the challenges and needs of LGBTQ+ older adults.

Presenters: Caitlin Kefgen, Training and Education Director and Alberto Martinez, Training and Education Administrator, MiGen: Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Workshop A

Dining with Dignity: Enhancing the Mealtime Experience for Individuals with Neurocognitive Disorders

Join us for a powerful session led by individuals living with dementia, where they will share their experiences of the world around them, with a focus on sensory perceptions during mealtimes. Through their personal insights, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how individuals with neurocognitive disorders experience dining. Discover practical, person-centered strategies to improve the mealtime experience, create meaningful connections, and support dignity and well-being. Together, we can transform mealtimes into enriching moments that nourish both body and spirit for all individuals.

Presenters: Brenda Roberts, MA, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Assisted Living Association, and a Panel of Persons Living with Dementia from National Council of Dementia Minds

Workshop B

Breaking Free from Burnout: A Proven System for Recharging Your Life

At times, we all feel overwhelmed, exhausted, and drained. While this can be exponential for caregivers and healthcare workers, we can all break free from burnout with the right tools, mindset, and guidance. This transformative talk offers a practical, evidence-based approach to breaking free from burnout and recharging your mind, body, and personal well-being. Not only will you discover proven strategies to manage stress, improve work-life balance, and cultivate lasting resilience, you will walk away empowered with tools and resources to take back to your organization to support your community. Together, we will take control of our well-being, igniting our happiness and joy in life.

Presenter: Jay Johnson, MA, Chief Executive Officer of COEUS Creative Group

Wednesday, May 7

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

Michigan Assisted Living Association Welcome and Update

Presenters: Robert Stein, General Counsel, Michigan Assisted Living Association; Kathleen Murphy, General Counsel, Michigan Assisted Living Association; and John Williams, Board President, Michigan Assisted Living Association Board of Directors

Legislative Update

Presenter: Melissa McKinley, President, Kelly Cawthorne

Mental Health in the Workplace

Join us and learn from Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Division Director, Sean Egan, as he shares about the importance of mental health in the workplace, and Michigan's unique initiative to help support these needs. Walk away with fresh insights and understanding of how impactful supporting mental health can be both for your employee as well as the financial health of your organization.

Presenter: Sean Egan, BA, JD, State of Michigan, Division Director - Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

Workshop A

Low Tech, No Tech: Meaningful Engagement Strategies for People Living with Dementia

Engaging individuals in meaningful ways is essential in all residential settings. This session will showcase innovative, low-tech and no-tech approaches for creating positive interactions and fostering relationships with individuals across diverse populations. Experience live demonstrations of two unique engagement strategies to create enriching experiences for individuals you support. Members of the National Council of Dementia Minds will share their personal insights on the impact of these approaches in promoting connection, joy, and well-being for people of all ages and abilities.

Presenters: Brenda Roberts, MA, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Assisted Living Association, and a Panel of Persons Living with Dementia from National Council of Dementia Minds

Workshop B

What Your Organization Needs to Know About Recent Changes in the Law: Hot Topics and Guidance on Issues Impacting Providers

Recent and pending changes in regulatory enforcement and employment law will significantly impact how providers in Michigan operate. This seminar, presented by Bator Lobb, P.C., reviews recent developments in the law that directly affect providers and offers guidance on how to achieve compliance.

Presenter: Christian A. Lobb, BA, MPA, JD, Attorney, Bator Lobb, P.C.

Workshop C

Creating Hope Through Action

Create hope in your family and your community by educating yourself about suicide prevention. Learn the warning signs and risk factors for suicide, how to support someone considering suicide, and familiarize yourself with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Presenters: Doug Roede, BA, M.Div, Training Consultant and Floyd Booker BA, MM, Senior Director of Learning and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Hope Network

Workshop D

Topic and description COMING SOON!

Presenter: Marla DeVries, Chief Learning Office, Centers for Innovation

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Grab and Go Lunch – Box lunches and seating will be available in the banquet room. Attendees can grab lunch and network with others or use the time to catch up on pressing emails and phone calls.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop A

Navigating Anger and Depression in Dementia: Understanding and Supporting Emotional Well-being

Emotions like depression, anxiety, and anger are common in the dementia journey, but the way these emotions are experienced and managed can be vastly different from person to person. In this session, members of the National Council of Dementia Minds will offer valuable insights into how individuals living with dementia understand and cope with these emotions. Discover strategies they use to manage their emotional well-being and learn how you can support them in ways that honor their experiences and needs. Join us to gain practical tools that can make a real difference in enhancing emotional health and well-being for those you support. Let's transform how we understand and respond to emotional challenges in dementia—together.

Presenters: Brenda Roberts, MA, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Assisted Living Association, and a Panel of Persons Living with Dementia from National Council of Dementia Minds

Workshop B

When MIOSHA Visits

It is important to be prepared for a potential MIOSHA visit to one of your organization's service sites. This workshop will provide practical information from a MIOSHA representative in preparing for such a visit.

Presenter: Lynn Totsky, MS, Senior Industrial Hygienist, MIOSHA, Consultation, Education, and Training Division

Workshop C

Changing the Course: Servant Leadership Still Works

This session will equip and empower leaders with the essential skills and competencies to confidently lead and serve their teams. By fostering positive interactions, participants will learn to build a culture where employees feel valued, supported, and motivated. The focus will be on driving personal growth, well-being, and a renewed commitment to servant leadership principles in the modern workplace.

Presenter: Kayonna Ferguson, LPC, Director of Residential Operations, Hope Network

Workshop D

Risk Management Update - What's the Worst that Could Happen?

This session will provide a review of court cases, verdicts and claims for insights on how to manage risk in a world where providers are becoming a primary target for personal injury attorneys.

Presenter: Dan Hale, BA, JD, President, Michigan Business Insurance, Marsh McLennan Agency

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Workshop A

From Screen to Conversation: A Documentary and Panel Discussion featuring 'Dementia and Living Well'

Experience a powerful documentary, Dementia and Living Well, featuring members of the National Council of Dementia Minds who share their personal journeys of living well with dementia. The film highlights their choice to embrace a fulfilling, purpose-driven life despite the challenges of dementia. After the screening, join the featured individuals for an insightful discussion and Q&A, where they will offer real-world strategies and inspiration for supporting others in living their best lives with dementia. This session invites you to challenge the stigma surrounding dementia and take actionable steps to create a culture of well-being and possibility for those you support. Don't miss the chance to be part of a conversation that will reshape how we think about life with dementia.

Presenters: Brenda Roberts, MA, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Assisted Living Association, and a Panel of Persons Living with Dementia from National Council of Dementia Minds and special guest Jacquelyn Pogue

Workshop B

Health Care Facilities: Licensing Update for Homes for the Aged Licensed for 21 or More

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) will provide an update on the latest home for the aged (HFA) licensing developments. This workshop's update is for providers with homes for the aged licensed for 21 or more.

Presenter: Andrea L. Moore, Manager, Long-Term Care State Licensing Section, Health Facility Licensing, Permits, and Support Division, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Workshop C

Creating a Culture of Possibility and Potential

This session explores the transformative power of cultivating a culture of possibilities and potential within your care driven organization. Attendees will learn how to shift from traditional practices to a mindset that embraces growth, empowerment, and innovation. With a focus on strengthening leadership, improving performance, and fostering a collaborative environment, this session will provide actionable strategies for leaders and teams to unlock their full potential. Through real-world examples, we'll discuss how to empower individuals at every level, enhance engagement, and inspire a culture that drives excellence. Participants will walk away with practical tools to begin to create an environment where both staff and residents thrive, resulting in improved outcomes and a stronger, more effective organization.

Presenter: Erin Wallace, BS, Director of Quality Assurance and Education, Michigan Assisted Living Association

Workshop D

Licensing Updates for Adult Foster Care

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) will provide an update on the latest adult foster care (AFC) licensing developments. This presentation will include a status report on the proposal to combine all the categories of AFC homes into a single licensing rule set.

Presenter: Jay Calewatts, Division Director, Adult Foster Care Licensing Division, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs