

2025 PADONA Summer Symposium on Quality Education Session and Session Educator Descriptions

July 29, 2025 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Pathways to Functional Improvement: Partnering With Therapy

**8 am_– 9:15 AM Clear, Concise Communication to Improve Health
Care Outcomes: Julie Belucci**

This education session will explore all levels of effective exchange including family, employee and resident communication. Areas that will be discussed include: resident care/outcomes, readmission rates, family experience, and work culture. The education will identify common pitfalls and ways to avoid them through effective policy and best practices. Education will discuss a case study highlighting key areas of concern.

Objectives:

- Define ways in which poor communication affects all levels of facility performance
- Define common pitfalls and barriers that could lead to poor resident, family, and facility outcomes
- Describe at least 3 effective programs and strategies that work to promote effective concise communication and outcomes

**9:15 AM – 10:15 AM_Collaborative Care: Therapy Essentials in
SNFs: Erin Comport and Rebecca Rumsky**

In the dynamic healthcare landscape, the pivotal elements of effective communication and collaboration are crucial for maintaining care quality, elevating resident outcomes, and developing a team culture. Within skilled nursing facilities, the relationships between nursing and therapists assumes paramount importance in delivering comprehensive and patient-centered care. The objectives of this session encompass an in-depth exploration of the dimensions inherent in nursing and therapy roles. Emphasis is placed on underscoring the significance of collaboration, identifying potential

barriers, proposing effective communication strategies, and presenting ideas to foster successful interdisciplinary collaboration within healthcare facilities.

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to compare and contrast the terms interdisciplinary, inter-professional, and multi-disciplinary.
- Participants will be able to identify areas of clinical practice where interdisciplinary collaboration can be improved.
- Participants will be able to recognize knowledge gained as well as discuss strategies and tools to enhance patient outcomes, staff satisfaction through a collaborative approach.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Proactive Falls Management: Julie Belucci and Heather Meadows

A proactive falls program focuses on organizational and patient-focused risk management, functional assessments, and training that promotes staff empowerment. Utilizing a case-study as a guide, this session will highlight screening instruments and comprehensive assessments that move beyond traditional tools/care-planning driving a resident-centered functional approach that implemented and tracked for effect is found to be significantly effective. The education will highlight analysis tools that identify areas of risk, drive effective communication, staff empowerment and competence. Root causes of resident falls are multifactorial; once identified and addressed utilizing this approach, benefits often extend to improved performance on other quality improvement efforts.

Objectives:

- Identify patients at risk for falls through innovative assessments, data analysis, and tools.
- List the steps, systems, and training required for a successful, proactive Falls Program including the roles of each discipline and how the IDT impacts falls within the facility.

11:45 AM – 12: 30 PM Empowering Care: Restorative Nursing and Therapy Partnerships: Erin Burns

As quality and payment in Medicare and Medicaid programs rapidly evolve, this education explores how the collaboration between effectively managed restorative nursing and functional maintenance therapy programs can drive positive outcomes, impacting Five-Star ratings, and impact Value-Based Purchasing performance. It covers the profitable implementation of these programs, pertinent quality measures, enhancing staff competency and buy-in, and the potential impact on relationships with managed care organizations and other provider partnerships. Gain the knowledge and tools to navigate the evolving landscape of Medicare and Medicaid successfully particularly as we transition from RUGS based, often therapy driven case mix.

Objectives:

- Describe and implement a robust dynamic restorative program that will impact quality improvement efforts.
- Discuss a collaborative model between restorative nursing and therapy that will improve resident quality of life, facility quality measure success, and promote successful relationships with payors and referring partners

Julie Bellucci graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Speech and Hearing Disorders, and from Clarion University with a M.S. in Speech/Language Pathology. She has over 20 years of clinical experience in geriatrics, specializing in dysphagia, aphasia and cognitive-linguistic disorders. She is a speech pathologist with Premier Therapy.

Erin Burns is licensed as a nurse for 19 years, MDS certified, licensed as a PTA for 11 years. Her time in long term care has been spent with a special focus on Alzheimer's disease and rehabilitation. She has been with Premier Therapy for 11 years. Erin is a graduate of Penn State University.

Erin Comport is a graduate of Edinboro University with a BA degree in Speech and Hearing Disorders and a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology. With 22 years at Premier Therapy, she serves as the Regional Director of Operations. In this role, she collaborates with Premier's Therapy teams and facility leaders to achieve both clinical and financial outcomes that consistently exceed industry standards.

Heather Meadows is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. degree in Education/Communication Disorders and a Master of Science degree in Speech and Language Pathology. She has been in the rehabilitation field for 26 years with focused attention in Aphasia and Alzheimer's management along with clinical results yielding financial impact. Heather has earned the designation of Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Rebecca Rumsky is an experienced Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant with 27 years of hands-on experience, primarily in skilled nursing facilities, and a background in both hospital and outpatient settings. Rebecca has been with Premier Therapy for 10 years, advancing from Facility Rehab Director to Program Director, and now serving as Area Director.

All educators on July 29 work with Premier Therapy whose team of highly skilled therapists work collaboratively with healthcare providers, patients, and families to develop and implement effective care plans.

July 30, 2025 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

8 AM – 9: 30_ Quality Measures and the Five Star Quality Rating System: Tammy Coleman RN, CNDLTC, RAC-CTA

Quality measures are used by the surveyors to determine many aspects of the annual licensure and certification survey. They are also used in the PA quality improvement program as well as being a part of the 5-star quality rating program. Managed care payors require a specific 5-star rating prior to contracting with a provider. The information related to the 5-star quality rating is included on the internet in the Care Compare Medicare website for consumers and other providers to review.

Tammy Coleman is Vice President of Clinical Reimbursement for Affinity Health Services, which provides advisory, consulting, and management services, where she works with providers on improving documentation and clinical delivery practices as related to quality measures, five- star rating, and third-party and government reimbursement. Tammy's experience in nursing department operations spans 18 years, including a long-term care RN, a Nursing Supervisor, Assistant Director of Nursing, and a Director of Nursing for a skilled nursing facility. Tammy holds an Advanced Certification as a Resident Assessment Coordinator, is a Certified Nursing Director for Long Term Care, an INTERACT Champion, and has achieved a Certificate of Training in Infection Prevention in the Long-Term Care Setting.

9: 30 AM – 10 AM BREAK

10 AM – 11 AM The Pennsylvania Realities and Importance of Care Transitions: Christopher Fisher, MS, NHA

As the aging population continues to grow with a 10-year aging Master Plan in Pennsylvania, but no one seems to be talking about the daily SNF realities. Transitions of care critical in the continuum of care to minimize adverse events and improve resident's quality of life. Attendees will learn about the challenges SNF's are facing and best approaches to address

those challenges as a partner facilitating smooth handoffs of information and care plans between providers.

Objectives:

- Help attendees understand the current state of long-term care in Pennsylvania
- Understand the key reasons why transitions of care are important in a nursing home
- Learn about the biggest challenges and approaches to address the issues
- How to work with key partners to improve quality of life and staff interaction

Christopher Fisher, MS, NHA, has served as the Director, Quality and Clinical Affairs at the Pennsylvania Health Care Association since January 2018. He works with providers to improve quality within their organizations through clinical, operational, and process improvements. Chris monitors, informs, and educates providers on most recent CMS updates and state initiatives in Quality Measures and performance. Chris also serves as a Senior Level Quality Award Examiner through AHCA/NCAL including as a Team Leader. Prior to joining PHCA Chris was the Director of Operations for Fox Subacute where he was instrumental in leading their organizational improvement efforts. Prior to joining Fox Subacute in 2015, Chris worked for 10 years at Twin Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He started there in Admissions/Social Services before being named as the Administrator in May 2009. He has been a licensed Nursing Home Administrator since 2009 and has a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University.

11 AM – 12: 30 PM Reclassifying Nursing Hours: A Strategic Approach to PBJ Compliance: Andrew Naugle, NHA and Zach Robinson

Many Pennsylvania providers have experienced PBJ audits. The usual area of findings is the reclassification of nursing hours in the reporting. Almost all providers have had to reclassify nursing hours to ensure

requirements are met. One of the more difficult things to separate is the PBJ reporting is not the same as state reporting of nursing hours for compliance with state staffing requirements. Additionally, PBJ reporting of nursing hours is reporting under staffing in the 5-star quality rating on Care Compare. It is the second of three items used in the determination of the facility 5-star quality rating. This session will review the reclassification of nursing hours for PBJ reporting as well as what these providers have learned.

Andrew Naugle has extensive experience in healthcare administration, having dedicated over 11 years to Complete HealthCare Resources - Eastern, Inc. Currently, he serves as the Nursing Home Administrator at Centre Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Previously he worked as an Administrator for Saxony Health Center in Saxonburg, PA. Before that, he was the Assistant Administrator at Mountain View Nursing Home in Shamokin, PA. Andrew's educational background includes studies at Penn West Clarion.

Zach Robinson brings over 13 years of experience in the healthcare human resources industry. He currently serves as the Director of Human Resources at Centre Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Centre Care, Zach held a position within the Centre County Government Human Resources Department. His extensive background in HR, combined with his commitment to organizational excellence, makes him a valuable asset to the healthcare industry.