

SE4A Conference 2026 - Williamsburg, Virginia
Revolutionizing Aging: From Foundations to Futures

Sunday, September 20			
Conference Registration open	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm		
Monday, September 21			
Conference Registration open	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm		
Opening Session: Virginia Room	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	James Wasilewski - HaHa to Aha: Laughter to Discovery	
Opening Reception: Colony Foyer / Room / Terrace	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm		
Tuesday, September 22			
Conference Registration open	7:00 am - 6:00 pm		
Breakfast Buffet: Virginia Foyer	7:30 am - 8:30 am		
General Session: Virginia Room	8:30 am – 10:00 am	Scott Wayne & Ace Callwood - Innovating Against Restraints	
Coffee Break: Colony Foyer	10:00 am - 10:30 am		
Workshop Session 1			
	10:30 am - 11:45 am		
Choose from:	SESSION TITLE:	PRESENTER NAME(S), TITLE(S), ORGANIZATION(S)	SESSION DESCRIPTION:
TRACK: Leading the Charge: Leadership and Workforce Evolution ROOM: Piedmont C	Walking the Whole Family Approach Path: Lessons, Leaps, and Lasting Impact	Wendy Bruce Shouse, Chief Operations Officer, Blue Grass Community Action Partnership, Frankfort, KY Sara Clark, BGCAP/Senior Director of Community Services	Hear from one of 10 organizations across the country that completed National Community Action Partnership's Whole Family Approach - Regional Advanced Community of Practice. Highlight will be how they moved from design to implementation, showcasing how they are aligning internal systems, strengthening partnerships, and embedding WFA principles into everyday practice through storytelling, reflection, centering families, leveraging data, and fostering cultures of continuous learning that lead to meaningful, sustainable change.
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness ROOM: Piedmont AB	Where Food Is Medicine Meets Malnutrition: An Emerging Opportunity for the Aging Network	Robert "Bob" Blancato, Executive Director, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)	Food Is Medicine is gaining momentum at the federal level, creating new opportunities for community-based organizations and Area Agencies on Aging to connect nutrition services with healthcare. This session will explore new malnutrition screening requirements, collaboration with hospitals, and how the aging network can strengthen nutrition care and shape the evolving Food Is Medicine landscape.
TRACK: Advancing Tomorrow: Technology in Aging ROOM: Allegheny A	How Scammers are Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) to Scam Seniors	Shawn Smith, State Director, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol	As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology continues to develop, it's becoming harder for people to distinguish between what's real and what's AI. This presentation will explain what AI is, discuss how we use it in our everyday activities, and show how scammers are turning it against us to steal our money and information. Attendees will also learn how they can keep themselves safe from the scammers' tactics.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports ROOM: Tidewater CD	Supporting Caregivers: Lessons from the Field and New National Resources	Meredith Hanley, Program Director, Caregiving Services and Supports, USAging Toni Johnson, Director of Care Coordination, Peninsula Area Agency on Aging	Discover how USAging's Innovations in Caregiver Services and Supports initiative is strengthening caregiver programs nationwide. This session highlights new national resources and real-world lessons from funded pilot sites, including Peninsula Agency on Aging's WellCare Connections model. Participants will gain practical ideas for expanding peer support, stress reduction, education, respite connections, and mental health supports for family caregivers.
TRACK: Leading the Charge: Leadership and Workforce Evolution ROOM: Tidewater AB	The Top 10 Traits of the Best Senior Center Directors	Michael Lippert, Aging Services Consultant, MySeniorCenter	What separates a senior center that merely survives from one that truly thrives? This energizing workshop introduces the Top 10 Traits of the Best Senior Center Directors, offering a practical leadership framework grounded in real-world aging services experience. Through reflection and self-assessment, directors will identify strengths, uncover growth opportunities, and leave ready to lead with vision, data, strategy, and purpose.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging ROOM: Allegheny BC	Centering Lived Experience to Make Independent Living a Reality	Paul Moon, Housing Program Manager, Land of Sky Regional Council Kim West, WISHT Collaborative Transportation Advocate Kathey Avery, Founder and CEO of the Institute for Preventative Healthcare and Advocacy	Explore how the WISHT Collaborative advances affordable housing and accessible transportation through cross-sector partnerships led by older adults, adults with disabilities, and home repair beneficiaries. This session highlights the power of lived experience in shaping programs and policies that support independent living, using polls, case studies, and shared community successes.
TRACK: Executive Leadership: Strategies for Victory ROOM: Liberty	Unlocking New Revenue: How Aging Services Leaders Can Thrive Beyond OAA Funding	Corinne LaRoche, Partner, James Moore & Co.	Relying on Older Americans Act (OAA) funding alone is no longer enough. This session offers practical ways to expand funding beyond traditional sources, and covers strategies like state and private grants, building foundation partnerships, contracting with healthcare organizations, and developing fee-for-service models. You'll also learn about emerging opportunities—such as major rural healthcare funding—and how to compete for them.
SE4A Awards Lunch: Virginia Room			
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm			

Workshop Session 2

Fast Track Session 1

Fast Track Session 2

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

1:45 pm - 2:15 pm

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Tuesday

Choose from:	SESSION TITLE:	PRESENTER NAME(S), TITLE(S), ORGANIZATION(S)	SESSION DESCRIPTION:
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm ROOM: Piedmont C	20-Step Navigating Dementia Caregiving Roadmap	Nancy Y Treaster, Co-Founder, The Caregiver's Journey	Dementia family caregivers are often overwhelmed by too much information or unsure where to start. This session presents a practical roadmap that helps prioritize what to focus on now versus later. Drawing on lived caregiving experience, the presenter shares a structured 20-step framework through three stages of care, helping caregivers gain clarity, confidence, and usable guidance.
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm ROOM: Piedmont C	Building Connections: Equine Therapy in Combatting Senior Loneliness	Karla Radka, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance	Learn how Senior Resource Alliance partners with Honey's Mini Therapy Adventures to reduce isolation among older adults by bringing miniature horses to hospitals and care centers. This session explores research-based animal-assisted approaches that ease anxiety, stress, and loneliness, support people with dementia, and inspire innovative AAA programs that address emotional well-being.
TRACK: Leading the Charge: Leadership and Workforce Evolution ROOM: Tidewater CD	From Doer to Leader: Preparing Future Leaders in Aging Services	Lorrie Coffey, Talent Management Consultant, Horizon Point Consulting, Inc. Sheila Dessau-Ivey, Director, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)	Organizations often promote high-performing employees into leadership roles without preparing them for the shift from doing the work to leading others. This session shares a case study from TARCOG's six-month leadership academy, highlighting cohort-based learning, assessments, and applied projects. Attendees will gain practical strategies to build or strengthen leadership pipelines and prepare emerging leaders for success.
TRACK: Advancing Tomorrow: Technology in Aging ROOM: Tidewater AB	StrongerMemory: Innovative Solutions for Cognitive Health in Senior Centers	Taylor Lane, StrongerMemory Outreach Coordinator for Goodwin Living Brain Health Theresa Mandela, RN, StrongerMemory Outreach Coordinator for Goodwin Living Brain Health	Explore StrongerMemory, a free, evidence-informed brain health program supporting cognitive wellness, routine, and social connection among older adults. Presenters from Goodwin Living Brain Health will share how senior centers can integrate simple daily exercises, boost engagement, reduce isolation, and apply research-backed strategies that promote independence, well-being, and healthy aging.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm ROOM: Piedmont AB	Life Review as a Practice of Meaning, Identity, and Belonging in Aging	Rev. Dr. Mary Ligon, Community Chaplain, Bay Aging Julie Northcott-Wilson, Director of Strategic Analysis, Bay Aging	Drawing from real-world encounters, this presentation highlights how storytelling and reflective dialogue can support emotional and spiritual well-being for individuals experiencing aging, grief, resilience, and life transitions. Participants will be introduced to core, transferable elements of Life Review practice, including presence, deep listening, and intentionally crafted prompts that honor lived experience.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm ROOM: Piedmont AB	More than Heat: Neighbors helping Neighbors for 50 years!	Marsha Craiger, Emergency Services Director, Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	Founded in 1975, MEOC's Emergency Fuel Fund for the Elderly is a community-supported program helping low-income older adults with winter heating costs. What began with \$1,500 in local fundraising now assists over 1,200 individuals annually. This session highlights the program's history, eligibility, operations, and enduring community commitment to ensuring older adults stay safe and warm each winter.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging ROOM: Allegheny A	Listening First: What Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness Tell Us About Home, Safety, and Food	Dr. Gigi Amateau, VCU Department of Gerontology Aisling Clardy, Greater Richmond Elder Justice Shelter Initiative Catherine MacDonald, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach	Older adults are the fastest-growing group experiencing homelessness, yet their voices are too often missing from solutions. Join this interactive session to hear lived experiences from three Virginia initiatives and explore practical tools, conversation prompts, and strategies for trauma-informed, person-centered collaboration across aging, housing, nutrition, and homelessness systems to strengthen local responses.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging ROOM: Allegheny BC	Changing the Story: How to LIVE Well with Dementia	Mary Martha Stewart, Director of Culture Change, Riverside Martha W. Goodson Center Dr. Christine J. Jensen, Director of Health Services Research, Riverside Martha W. Goodson Center	Through lessons, videos, and group experiences for persons living with dementia and their support partners, this program emphasizes strengths and what people CAN do to live well. This session introduces a facilitator toolkit designed to build confidence and engagement, shares video excerpts and early outcomes, and explores how communities can implement this freely available program.
TRACK: Executive Leadership: Strategies for Victory ROOM: Liberty	From Burnout to Balance: Smart Financial Strategies to Keep and Empower your Workforce	Corinne LaRoche, Partner, James Moore & Co.	Caring for an aging population creates high stress, burnout, and turnover challenges for staff and leadership. This session examines the financial side of retention strategies, including budgeting for professional development, succession planning, cross-training, and workload distribution. Participants will learn how to use financial data and organizational planning to strengthen retention, support resilience, and build a more stable workforce.

Snack Break: Colony Foyer

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Workshop Session 3
Fast Track Session 3
Fast Track Session 4

3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Tuesday

Choose from:	SESSION TITLE:	PRESENTER NAME(S), TITLE(S), ORGANIZATION(S)	SESSION DESCRIPTION:
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Piedmont AB	Meeting the Unique Needs of Aging Communities	Morgan Carr, Project Manager, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology	This session presents results from a statewide needs assessment designed to understand how congregate meal sites can better support behavioral health needs of older adults, with focused attention on tribal elders and older adults experiencing homelessness. The data identified barriers and facilitators to participation, unmet needs, and opportunities to improve service design, cultural connection, and the experience of congregate meal settings. Learn how to apply the approach to your communities.
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm ROOM: Piedmont AB	Housing as Healthcare: A Revolutionary Approach to Aging in Place	Sherry Cook, Home Repair Coordinator, Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens Traci Arrington, OT, Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens	Housing repair is a top need for many older adults. This session presents the Hazard Removal Program (HARP), an innovative model integrating occupational therapy with home repair to reduce fall risk and support aging in place. Learn how coordinated assessments, safety modifications, and community partnerships improve health, independence, and quality of life.
TRACK: Leading the Charge: Leadership and Workforce Evolution ROOM: Tidewater CD	Fostering a Culture of Engagement and Innovation	Shawn Smith, Certified Executive & Business Coach, V4A	Leaders have the responsibility of hiring great creative team members, but they are often challenged when it comes to keeping them engaged, and offering innovative solutions. This workshop will help leaders create a culture that supports team engagement and help creative thinkers innovate to solve problems.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports ROOM: Tidewater AB	Thinking Big, Delivering Better: Building Comprehensive Dementia Support	George Worthington, Dementia Services Director, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Diane Hartley, Vice President Care Coordination, Peninsula Area Agency on Aging	Learn how Virginia's Dementia State Plan is shaping a more dementia-capable Commonwealth. This session reviews key accomplishments, identifies ongoing barriers to diagnosis and services, and explores innovative solutions supporting people living with dementia and their care partners from early risk and symptom onset through community living and long-term care settings.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Piedmont C	"It Takes a Village": Leveraging Partnerships to Serve Our Community	Amanda Milnar, Family Caregiver Advocate Program Manager, Appalachian Area Agency on Aging	Learn how Appalachian Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Advocates strengthen caregiver support through community partnerships amid funding uncertainty. This session shares practical strategies for leveraging local resources to create support groups, appreciation events, caregiver goodie bags, and holiday assistance programs that build sustainability, connection, and meaningful community impact.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm ROOM: Piedmont C	Going My Way: New Ideas for Funding Transportation for Older Adults and People with Disabilities	Dave Somers, Senior Research Associate with USAGing Transportation & Mobility	Explore how Area Agencies on Aging can braid federal, state, and local funds to strengthen accessible transportation for older adults and people with disabilities. This session highlights CCAM-TAC tools, innovative resource-alignment strategies, and a local AAA success story, giving participants practical ideas to build financial sustainability and expand mobility options.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Allegheny A	A Dementia Care Navigator's Guide to Supporting Families Through the Journey	Cindy Smith, Dementia Care Navigator, Peninsula Area Agency on Aging	Dementia Care Navigators provide vital guidance for families from diagnosis through end of life. Through real-world case studies, this session explores how navigation improves care coordination, reduces caregiver stress, connects families to resources, and supports safe, person-centered community living—strengthening outcomes for caregivers, people living with dementia, and service systems.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm ROOM: Allegheny A	Maintaining Your Tribal Relations	Vickie Craig, Deputy Program Manager, Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living	Explore practical lessons learned and fresh ideas for building, strengthening, and sustaining successful partnerships with tribal communities. This workshop will highlight respectful communication, trust-building, long-term collaboration, and approaches that support meaningful engagement. Participants will leave with strategies for nurturing relationships that honor tribal sovereignty, community priorities, and shared goals.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports ROOM: Allegheny BC	People Need It, Medicare Pays for It, AAAs Can Provide It: GUIDE Dementia Care	Kathy Vesley, President and CEO, Bay Aging and VAAACares® Dr. Kyle Allen, Embrace Prevention Care	GUIDE: Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience Model is a selective, Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) nationwide demonstration model testing the impact of providing no-cost comprehensive services and supports for people with dementia and their caregivers. Learn real-world practical guidance on how to move policy to practice and why this is the moment for AAAs/CBOs/Community Care Hubs to step forward boldly as leaders in geriatric preventive care.
TRACK: Executive Leadership: Strategies for Victory ROOM: Liberty	Building Outreach Momentum	Courtney Kotowski, Director, Community Health Transformation, South Carolina Office of Rural Health Hannah Hogue, Program Manager, Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina	The South Carolina Office of Rural Health partnered with all 10 AAAs to strengthen outreach planning for the Statewide Needs Assessment using Results Based Accountability. This session explores how data and storytelling can demonstrate impact, improve collaborative planning, and enhance assessment processes. Participants will also gain insight into rural health partnerships and opportunities to advance aging network outcomes through shared strategy.

Hospitality: Colony Foyer

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Wednesday, September 23

Conference Registration open

Breakfast Buffet: Virginia Foyer

General Session: Virginia Room

Coffee Break: Colony Foyer

7:00 am - 6:00 pm

7:30 am - 8:30 am

8:30 am – 10:00 am

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Hannah Albers - Reframing Aging: Changing the Narrative, Changing the Future**Workshop Session 4****10:30 am - 11:45 am**

Choose from:	SESSION TITLE:	PRESENTER NAME(S), TITLE(S), ORGANIZATION(S)	SESSION DESCRIPTION:
TRACK: Rallying Change: Aging Advocacy & Policy ROOM: Virginia Room	Live from DC: What Aging Advocates Need to Know and DO Now About Federal Policy!	Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, USAging	Get updated on federal policy and advocacy without going to DC! USAging's policy chief will bring you up to speed on the latest federal aging, budget and health care policy activity, including what it means for your work and the older adults and caregivers you serve. Come also for tips on how to build relationships with policymakers and have successful advocacy meetings with them. You will leave with a better understanding of how Washington works now, what has happened so far this Congress and what's ahead that advocates must be prepared for!
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness ROOM: Allegheny BC	Healing at Home: Advent Health & Senior Resource Alliance Community Program	Karla Radka, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance Kelli Burba, RN, Executive Director of Nursing Care Transitions	Learn how AdventHealth and Senior Resource Alliance are reducing preventable hospital readmissions through proactive, holistic care for at-risk older adults. This session highlights partnership strategies that address transportation, nutrition, discharge support, caregiver respite, medication reminders, faith-based care, and home assistance to strengthen recovery and connect seniors with community resources.
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness ROOM: Allegheny A	Beyond Memory Loss: Reimagining Brain Health Across Generations	Katie McDonough, Vice President of Programs-Virginia, Alzheimer's Association	Brain health is shaped across the lifespan, not only in later years. This panel explores the Alzheimer's Association's prevention-focused approach, highlighting modifiable risk factors, evidence-based interventions, and practical strategies to support cognitive health. Panelists will share innovative outreach across healthcare, workplaces, and communities, offering actionable ideas to advance brain health education, equity, and early engagement across diverse populations.
TRACK: Leading the Charge: Leadership and Workforce Evolution ROOM: Tidewater CD	Future-Proofing Your Agency: A Replicable Model for Leadership Excellence	Stephanie Hudgins, Director, Administration & Operations, Bay Aging MaDena DuChemin, Director, Human Resources, Bay Aging	In the era of "Revolutionary Aging," organizations must rethink leadership and workforce development to meet changing demographic needs. This session explores Bay Aging's Leadership Institute, an award-winning model that builds staff skills, confidence, and career growth through experiential learning, peer-led facilitation, and mentorship. Attendees will gain a practical blueprint for succession planning and strengthening the aging services workforce.
TRACK: Advancing Tomorrow: Technology in Aging ROOM: Piedmont C	AI Without the Apocalypse: Practical Tools for Aging Services	Shannen Kelch, Administrative and Financial Manager, Northern KY Area Development District Barbara Gordon, Director of Community Engagement, University of Louisville Trager Institute	Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping service delivery, but perceptions are often influenced by popular culture rather than practice. This session explores how cultural narratives compare to real-world applications in aging services, including use in communication, reporting, and customer feedback. Participants will examine national trends, ethical considerations, and responsible use, gaining a balanced understanding of AI's role in supporting person-centered care.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports ROOM: Tidewater AB	Chime In! Supporting Cognitive and Social Engagement in Older Adults	Lori Stahl, Elder Resources Case Manager, Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging Jackie Wagaman, Elder Resources Case Manager, Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging	The Loudoun County AAA Rhythm Makers is a hand chime program for individuals with early- to moderate-stage cognitive impairment and their care partners, designed to reduce isolation and build connection through music. This interactive session shares program development, participant experiences, and a live demonstration, including a mock rehearsal, offering practical guidance for implementing similar music-based engagement programs.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging ROOM: Piedmont AB	Weaving Cultures of Care: An Educational Resource Supporting Age-Friendly Care for Tribal Elders	Lindsey N. Johnson, Community Liaison Specialist, Virginia Geriatric Education Center/VCoA Dr. Patricia W. Slattum, Adjunct Professor, Virginia Geriatric Education Center/VCoA	This session explores a collaborative approach to co-creating an age-friendly training tool with a tribal community. Participants will learn how to engage respectfully with tribal partners, center elders' voices, and integrate cultural perspectives on health, wellness, and aging. The session outlines the full process from relationship-building to production and offers strategies for authentic, co-created engagement with tribal communities.
TRACK: Executive Leadership: Strategies for Victory ROOM: Liberty	Business Insurance: Moving the Needle for Human Service and Non-profit Organizations	Andrew S. Farrar, Business Insurance Consultant, Marsh McLennan Agency	Do you often wonder whether your organization can afford to continue offering services? What happens if you're unable to cover the cost of your insurance? Can current risk management strategies address new exposures? Sustaining and growing your organization requires careful consideration. Learn about solutions designed to help you continue supporting those who rely on you.

Networking Lunch: Virginia Room**11:45 am – 1:00 pm****Panel Discussion: Virginia Room****1:00 pm - 2:15 pm****Progress & Possibility: The Future of Aging in our Communities - Sandy Markwood; Melissa Andrews; Kiersten Ware; William Massey**

Snack Break: Virginia Foyer

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Workshop Session 5
Fast Track Session 5
Fast Track Session 6

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday

Choose from:	SESSION TITLE:	PRESENTER NAME(S), TITLE(S), ORGANIZATION(S)	SESSION DESCRIPTION:
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm ROOM: Tidewater CD	Pharmacy Connect of Southwest Virginia	Marsha Craiger, Emergency Services Director, Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	Learn how MEOC's Pharmacy Connect of Southwest Virginia helps uninsured and underinsured residents access free or low-cost medications. This session highlights partnerships with regional clinics, use of The Pharmacy Connection software, patient assistance navigation, and coordinated referrals that connect medically indigent individuals with life-saving medications and other essential community supports.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Tidewater CD	Atypical Caregiving: Supporting Caregivers at the Margins	Dr. David Hage, MSW Program Director, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Affiliate Faculty at Shady Rest Institute on Positive Aging, Florida Gulf Coast University Dr. Krystal D. Mize, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Director of Everything Lab, Affiliate Faculty at Shady Rest Institute on Positive Aging	Caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias can involve complex and nontraditional family roles, including role reversals and multigenerational caregiving responsibilities. This session explores the unique challenges and strengths of caregivers in atypical situations, such as adult children, parents, and cognitively impaired caregivers, while highlighting resilience and strategies to better support their needs.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm ROOM: Tidewater AB	State Data Profiles: A Tool to Drive Advocacy, Benchmarking, and Innovation in Your AAA	Dr. Traci L. Wilson, Director of Research, USAging Beth Blair, Senior Research Associate, USAging	Discover how USAging's 2025 National Survey state data profiles can help AAAs identify service gaps, benchmark programs and funding, and strengthen cases to funders and policymakers. This fast-track session highlights practical ways to use state and regional data to guide innovation, support sustainability, and build evidence-based programs.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Tidewater AB	Southern Innovation: Health Care Contracting in the Southeastern States	Beth Blair, Senior Research Associate, USAging Marisa Scala-Foley, Director, Aging and Disability Business Institute, USAging	How are AAAs, community care hubs, and community-based organizations partnering with health care systems to improve whole-person care? Drawing on findings from USAging's 2026 CBO-Health Care Contracting Survey, this session highlights contracting trends across the Southeast, including services provided, data exchange, network participation, and emerging opportunities. Presenters will discuss key challenges and the implications of initiatives such as GUIDE, Health at Home, and rural health transformation efforts.
TRACK: The Longevity Revolution: A Focus on Health & Wellness ROOM: Piedmont C	More than Housing: A Workbook for Comprehensive Aging-in-Place Planning	Dr. Carlisle Shealy, Assistant Director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech and Extension Specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension Carol Davis, Sustainability Manager, Town of Blacksburg, VA	Explore how the Aging in Community / Aging in Place Workbook AND Workshop helps adults plan beyond housing across five key areas: housing, health and wellness, transportation, personal finance, and connection and growth. This interactive session highlights practical uses for individuals, professionals, and facilitators, plus partnership strategies for sustainable community dissemination.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging ROOM: Piedmont AB	Strengthening Dementia Caregiver Support: Person-Centered Tools, Data-Driven Care, and Community-Embedded Strategies	Chelsea Gilchrist, Director, Partnerships and Business Development, TCARE Thania Coyne, Senior Services Assistant Division Director I Area Agency on Aging, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District Jaqueline Dedeaux, ADP Program Manager and Caregiver Counseling Coordinator, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District	As demand for dementia caregiver support grows, aging networks need scalable, person-centered approaches beyond traditional service models. This session highlights strategies that strengthen caregiver support using evidence-based assessments, data-driven care, and integrated services. A case study will illustrate how these strategies improve outcomes and expand reach to underserved caregivers.
TRACK: Living Legacies: Culture, Community & the Human Experience of Aging 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm ROOM: Allegheny BC	Ageless Energy Dance Crew	Tina Schilling, Director of Community Connection for Older Adults and The Area Agency on Aging with Encompass Community Supports	Revolutionary: Ageless Energy: Dance Crew is a dynamic, intergenerational dance flash mob movement/program that celebrates the power, wisdom, and vibrancy of adults aged 60 and better. Through music, movement, and meaningful visibility, we advocate for aging with dignity, challenge ageism, and inspire community connection. We are not slowing down—we're stepping up.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm ROOM: Allegheny BC	Hope In Hardship: Helping Relative Caregivers During the Opioid Crisis	Roxanne Diawara, Alabama CARES / AL Lifespan Respite State Director Nick Nyberg, Programs and Planning Division Chief, Alabama Department of Social Services	Discover how Alabama's Opioid Kinship Project is helping grandparents and kinship caregivers raise children affected by the opioid crisis with financial assistance, resources, and support. This workshop explores the program's development, early successes, implementation lessons, and expansion across Alabama—offering practical strategies for communities seeking to replicate innovative kinship support models that strengthen caregivers, children, and families.
TRACK: Breaking Ranks: Innovations in Aging Supports ROOM: Allegheny A	Advancing Rural Health Transformation: The Role of the Aging Network	Jessica Machler, Senior Program Manager, Rural Health and Social Engagement, USAging Caleigh Lynch, Program Manager, Rural Health Transformation Team, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services	The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), a federal funding initiative, administered by CMS, was established to strengthen and modernize health care in rural communities across the country. Learn the role of and opportunities for the aging network, including how many of the goals of the RHTP closely align with the work that AAAs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and community care hubs (CCHs) do every day.
TRACK: Executive Leadership: Strategies for Victory ROOM: Liberty			

Offsite Event: Jamestown Settlement

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, September 24

Conference Registration open

Breakfast Buffet: Virginia Foyer

Business Meeting/Closing Session: Virginia Room

7:00 am - 12:00 pm

7:30 am - 8:30 am

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Greg Gadson - The Unbreakable Spirit of Resiliency