

## **Speakers | NDHA's 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention & Trade Show | October 21-23, 2025**

**Sarah Aaker** is the Executive Director of the Medical Services Division. She oversees the ND Medicaid program, including Title XIX and Title XXI programs and services. Prior to joining HHS, Sarah served as the Medicaid director and various leadership roles in Medicaid and nonprofit health advocacy organizations in South Dakota. Sarah holds a bachelor's degree in political science and chemistry from the University of South Dakota.

**Cory Geffre** is the Executive VP of Hospital Operations and Chief Nursing Officer at Altru Health System in Grand Forks, ND. This is his 3rd Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer role, previously working at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Iowa and Avera Health in South Dakota. Cory is passionate about building dynamic and engaged teams that deliver consistent and high-quality care to patients. Cory believes that a leader's primary responsibility is to leave the organization, its people, and the patients it serves in a better place than we found it.

**Jessica Guggisberg**, BSN, RN, is a Registered Nurse and healthcare consultant at Eide Bailly with over 19 years of experience across hospitals, clinics, and post-acute care settings. She specializes in regulatory compliance, staffing optimization, and operational performance, with in-depth knowledge of CMS regulations. Jessica works with healthcare organizations to streamline workflows and strengthen compliance across the care continuum.

**Melissa Hauer** is General Counsel/VP of Advocacy at the North Dakota Hospital Association. Prior to joining NDHA, Melissa was in private practice in Washington and North Dakota and she was previously the General Counsel for the North Dakota Department of Human Services, the North Dakota Insurance Department, and Sanford West. Melissa graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Dakota and cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from Gonzaga University School of Law.

**Emily Holth** is the founder and owner of Sustainable Solution Services. Her roles include mediation, coaching, and facilitation. She received her BA in Psychology from the University of North Dakota, and she received her Mediation training from the Conflict Resolution Center at the University of North Dakota. Before founding Sustainable Solution Services, Emily was a Conflict Management Consultant for the UND Conflict Resolution Center (CRC). During her time at the CRC, Emily developed courses including Essential Skills for Meaningful Supervision, and Dysfunction to Development: A Team Approach. She gained experience in mediating both family and organizational conflict, working with team development with several businesses, and has offered coaching and professional development to several professional clients throughout the Midwest region. Since founding Sustainable Solution Services, Emily has worked with clients in several industries, including but not limited to healthcare, retail, banking, and nonprofits. She also works regularly with both higher education and K12 education institutions. Emily regularly volunteers with local nonprofits and serves as the Chair of the Advisory Board for the University of North Dakota College of Arts and Sciences. She lives in Grand Forks, ND with her husband and three daughters.

With over two decades of experience in healthcare, **Tabitha Iverson** is an accomplished Provider Engagement Manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield North Dakota. Since 2005, Tabitha has worked across multiple facets of the healthcare industry, bringing a wealth of expertise in clinician coding education, denial management, compliance, and, more recently, provider engagement. In her current role, Tabitha focuses on building strong relationships with healthcare providers, ensuring effective communication and collaboration to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes. With a deep understanding of the challenges providers face, Tabitha is dedicated to creating solutions that foster better alignment between insurance organizations and healthcare professionals. Tabitha holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a Certified Medical Coder through the AAPC.

**Trisha Jungels**, CNO at Jamestown Regional Medical Center, has 20 years of professional nursing experience providing care to all generations that include medical-surgical, critical care, hospice, public and home health environments. She actively participates in community health assessment and improvement planning for Stutsman and Logan County. Jungels serves on the University of Jamestown, MSU-Bottineau Nursing Advisory Boards, and the Eventide Advisory Council Charter. In 2001 Jungels was a member of a Guatemala Mission representing the University of Jamestown. During her time in Guatemala, Trisha assisted in the arrangement of day clinics that provided care to hundreds in need. In 2002, Jungels earned her Bachelor of Arts in Nursing at the University of Jamestown. She is the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Clinical Services at Jamestown Regional Medical Center.

**Dr. Daniel Kelly**, DHA, FACHE, FACHCA, stands out as a leader and passionate advocate in the realm of healthcare. As a committed leader, Daniel has held various executive positions, where his strategic foresight has played a crucial role in shaping the future of healthcare in North Dakota. His leadership extends to several boards and committees, including the North Dakota Hospital Association, American College of Healthcare Executives, and the North Dakota Health Information Exchange. His persistent advocacy at both state and national levels has fostered strong collaboration with legislators. In association with the North Dakota Hospital Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association and the University of North Dakota, Center for Rural Health Kelly and his associates recently completed a comprehensive survey of those factors promoting nurse retention.

**Sarah Kemp Tabbut** is the Program Manager for ND HOPES and ND THRIVES. Sarah is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 15 years of hands-on and public health experience in mental health and suicide prevention. Sarah is well-versed in suicide prevention best practices, including safety planning, lethal means safety, and community-based interventions and is a Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Trainer. Prior to working with ND HOPES and ND THRIVES, Sarah worked for 10 years with the Veterans Health Administration.

**Jessica Martensen** is the Vice President of Population Care Management for Essentia Health. She is responsible for the development and oversight of care management programs for over 180,000 beneficiaries throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. She has a broad range of nursing leadership experience spanning ambulatory, public health, and post-acute settings and is passionate about quality, patient safety, and operational efficiency. Growing up in rural North Dakota, she has a special interest in rural healthcare and promoting access to care and improved health outcomes for all. Ms. Martensen graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Art in Spanish from Dickinson State University. She has her master's in business administration in rural healthcare from the College of St. Scholastica and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

**Teresa Moe** has nearly 20 years of experience in healthcare with extensive experience in healthcare contracting and reimbursement, rev cycle, financial operations, and compliance. She has been with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota for two years working to support the healthcare providers across the state through effective communication and an improved experience. She is passionate about working to improve healthcare to make it more accessible and affordable for everyone through improved collaboration between healthcare providers, insurers, policy makers, and employers. Teresa holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota and a master's in business administration from the University of Mary.

With 29 years as a CEO, **Barry Moline** has learned a lot about successful teamwork, management, negotiation, and leadership. He is an award-winning author, who tracks trends and new ideas to work better, together. His award-winning book, *CONNECT! How to quickly collaborate for success in business and life*, divulges the secrets to developing a great company culture and engaging teams. As a speaker, Barry's goal is not just to offer a feel-good experience, but to provide the tools to create high-performing organizations. For decades he has been bringing people together and collaborating on projects where individuals enter a conversation with strong opposing positions and come out with actionable solutions. Barry has practiced and studied leadership, teamwork, influence, negotiation, and ethics, and is a recognized national leader in his field. In his engaging presentations, he shares lessons learned from many years as a CEO, and from his time as a younger, developing leader. There is power in sharing our personal stories as a means of connection. From his work with the U.S. Peace Corps in Guatemala to his leadership of associations, businesses, government, and non-profits, Barry has strived to solve the issues of communication stagnation, siloed information, and unfounded assumptions, to help his colleagues better relate to one another and create highly impactful organizations. With a vast depth and breadth of experience, Barry helps individuals and organizations accomplish their goals. While there's no precise formula for leadership and success, effective people and organizations take similar actions that position themselves for opportunity. Barry is eager to share the keys and secrets that will lead to your success.

**Dr. Anthony Orsini** is a practicing intensive care physician, and author of the book, *It's All in the Delivery – Improving Healthcare Starting with a Single Conversation*. Widely considered an expert in communication, relationship building, and enhancing the patient experience, Dr. Orsini has been a frequent national speaker in both the healthcare and business industries. Profoundly impacted by an early career experience and the discovery that even the most successful and well-respected physicians often struggled with their communication skills, Dr. Orsini

has spent the last 25 years developing proven communication techniques that teach others how to quickly form trusting relationships with patients, co-workers, and employees. In 2011, he founded The Orsini Way, a company that provides communication training for healthcare and business professionals. He appeared in national news, and his work has been featured in the most prestigious publications in business, healthcare, and HR, including Forbes Magazine, Medical Economics, and Fox News. His recent TED talk "How the Human Connection Improves Healthcare" is being used by medical schools and colleges across the United States and has been viewed over 250 thousand times. Dr. Orsini's presentations are consistently ranked among the highest at retreats and conferences. He shares his wisdom and passion on his podcast, "Difficult Conversations-Lessons I Learned as an ICU Physician," which reached the Apple Top 100 in just a few weeks.

**Derek Schaff** serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Jamestown Regional Medical Center. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialization in accounting from Black Hills State University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Dakota. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

**Maggie Seamands** currently serves as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Professional Health Program. She holds a nursing certification in both case management and nursing leadership. Maggie has 14 years of leadership experience and a wealth of knowledge in care coordination and case management. She also serves as a Board member of the North Dakota Board of Nursing.

**Susan Sgambati** is a Senior Physician Risk Manager at Copic Insurance. She attained her undergraduate degree from Brown University with honors in Biomedical Ethics. She is a graduate of New York Medical College, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society. She completed her general surgery training at the University of Connecticut. During residency, she performed 3 years of cell biology research at Yale University. Dr. Sgambati completed fellowship training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She practiced at Rose Medical Center in Denver for 22 years, where she was the Chair of the Department of Surgery since 2007 until she joined Copic in 2020.

**Mary D. Strasser**, MHL, brings over three decades of expertise to the healthcare arena, specializing in managed care programs within health plans and health systems. Currently serving as the Senior Vice President of Population Health at Essentia Health, Mary D. is at the forefront of steering the organization towards innovative solutions that not only enhance health and well-being but also effectively manage costs. Her role encompasses the oversight of community health, community relations, payer strategy, value-based programs, care management, and telecare strategies. In her capacity as a leader of the Essentia Health ACO, Mary D. is instrumental in advancing the organization's accountable care journey across rural communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. With oversight of more than twenty programs spanning both government and commercial sectors. Drawing upon her extensive health plan strategy and operations background, Mary D. brings a strategic mindset to the intersection of payer and provider realms. She recognizes the symbiotic relationship necessary for delivering equitable, high-quality, and comprehensive healthcare. Mary D. is not only dedicated to optimizing Essentia Health's accountable care initiatives but is also committed to supporting others to advance value-based care models in rural communities across the country.

**Lindsae Timm** is a dynamic and passionate advocate for transforming behavioral health systems of care. As the Director of Behavioral Health Services at St. Alexius in Bismarck, Lindsae brings a unique blend of experience as a Case Management leader, as well as deeply personal lived experiences, to challenge and transform ND systems of care. She spearheads innovative initiatives to improve access, quality, and collaboration within Central North Dakota. Drawing from her experience as a mission-oriented leader in Case Management, Lindsae is committed to building a more equitable and effective system for all, which is evident in her growth of key behavioral health services at St. Alexius and opening of adolescent and children Partial Hospitalization Program in April 2025.

**Brian Uridge** has more than three decades of experience in law enforcement, healthcare security, and fire service. Since 2018, he has served as deputy director of public safety and security for the University of Michigan and director of security for Michigan Medicine at the University of Michigan. In this capacity, Brian Uridge oversees security and law enforcement personnel for a health system with 34,000 employees. that is visited by three million patients per

year. A certified police officer for the university, he manages a full-time team, including clinical trainers, a K-9 team, security staff, and a community policing unit. During his first few years with the University of Michigan, Mr. Uridge helped create the health system's first K-9 program and developed a home health tactical safety training procedure. Before that, he spent three years as director of security services for Spectrum Health System in Grand Rapids. Brian holds a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Ferris State University and a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. He also studied advanced criminal justice at the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, which selects less than two percent of law enforcement officers from across the country.

With his contagious energy and actionable System, **ALEX WEBER** immediately impacts audiences and ignites record-breaking achievements! Alex is an Award-Winning Keynote Speaker, Champion Coach, Acclaimed Author, TV Host for NBC, and competitor on American Ninja Warrior. Alex is also the only person ever to Host and Compete on NBC's American Ninja Warrior! Alex helps you lead beyond changes, overcome challenges, and unlock new levels of achievement! Alex connects so well with audiences because of his genuine openness about the challenges, self-doubt, and uncertainty that we all face — and how you can overcome it! As a professional entertainer, US Lacrosse Coach of the Year, and acclaimed Author, Alex is highly sought after for his unique ability to engage, empower, and transform audiences. Alex has positively inspired over 5.5 million people worldwide, and worked with major companies like Xerox, Apple, Fidelity, Amazon, Under Armor, LinkedIn, RE/MAX, The Los Angeles Lakers, Stanford Business and many more! With his inspiring stories, captivating energy, and actionable takeaways, Alex empowers you to lead beyond changes and conquer challenges, so you can accomplish your biggest goals in your career, your relationships, and your life! Now is the time to unlock The Unstoppable You™!

**Kit Welchlin** grew up on a hog and dairy farm in southern Minnesota and began public speaking at the age of 9 in a 4-H public speaking contest. At age 21 he purchased his first manufacturing company and by age 26 served as C.E.O. and Chair of the Board of three manufacturing companies in three states. Kit has delivered more than 3,500 speeches and seminars to more than 500,000 people.

**Bryan Wendorff** is the Senior Director of Reimbursement at Sanford Health where he leads the reimbursement and charge master teams. He has been with Sanford for eleven years. The reimbursement team's responsibilities include managing the reimbursement activities and support for all Sanford owned Hospitals. This includes preparation and review of Medicare and Medicaid cost reports, State annual reports, budget assistance and reimbursement reviews. The team is also involved with the preparation of the monthly allowance for uncollectible accounts and bad debt estimates for the major markets and prepares the monthly cost report estimates for the Sanford critical access facilities. Several years ago, Bryan and the reimbursement team took on the responsibility and developed and implemented a system approach for strategic pricing of healthcare services across all product lines within the Sanford Enterprise which includes leading the CMS Price Transparency activities. Bryan is married and lives with his wife in Fargo.

**Donna Wright** is known for her irreverent wit and astute pragmatism. She is extremely savvy and has a global perspective—literally. She's worked on every continent but Antarctica, and she has her eyes set on that, too ("There's an infirmary there!" she says). Donna offers education and consultation based on her bestselling books. The Ultimate Guide to Competency Assessment, which has been translated into Japanese, has become the industry standard for establishing and assessing competency. She is also a contributing author in the book Advancing Relationship-Based Cultures. Donna is a sought-after team and leadership development consultant and speaker. She loves operationalizing systems within organizations that ensure accountability and measure competency. With her background as an oncology nurse and her extensive experience working with health care executives, Donna understands how health care organizations and the caregivers at every level within them work and how they can work better together.