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Professional Governance Summit 2026

June 4, 2026

10am -2 pm CST

AGENDA

10:00 am – 10:30 am : Gen Guanci – *Governance starts with Culture*

Description: While structures matter, whether they are called shared governance or professional governance, success or failure is ultimately determined by culture, not council design. This opening session explores the cultural conditions required for effective governance, including psychological safety, decision authority, trust, accountability, and alignment. Participants will examine how culture shapes voice, ownership, and influence, establishing a shared foundation for the conversations and work that follow throughout the conference.

10:30 am - 11:30 am : Amber Orton – *From Framework to Function: System Structures That Enable Shared Decision Making*

Effective professional governance doesn't happen by accident. This session explores how intentional system structures enable professional governance at all levels by clarifying roles, authority, and decision-making pathways throughout the system.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm : Ruth Kitzmiller – *Professional Governance in Action: Three Systems that Enable Nursing Excellence*

Nursing excellence is intentional and designed, not aspirational. There are multiple systems that promote and strengthen nursing excellence. This session focuses on shared decision-making, professional practice models, and care delivery systems. These strong foundational elements lead to high performing interdisciplinary teams, clinicians practicing at the top of their licenses, work fulfillment, national recognition, and so much more.

12:30pm - 1:30 pm : Marky Medeiros – *Sustaining Professional Governance*

Organizations have many different priorities and professional governance is one of them. Once we have councils running effectively it's important to make sure that we sustain those councils. This presentation will discuss strategies and tips to keep councils relevant, effective and thriving. Its all about orientation, education, and periodic evaluation.

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm : Consultant Panel