



Presenter Biographies

Juliet Kerlin, MA

It's Never 2 Late

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As the Director of Program and Research Partnerships for It's Never 2 Late, Juliet Kerlin is responsible for identifying and securing funding opportunities that provide senior living organizations access to engagement technology to improve the quality of life and care of their residents. She also partners with research institutions to validate the benefits of engagement technology for older adults undergoing cognitive and physical decline. An accomplished international speaker, she encourages senior living professionals to embrace the belief that wellbeing encompasses all the dimensions of personhood—mind, body and spirit—and that having fun is important for better health at every stage of life. Juliet holds a master's degree in Gerontology and has served on the organizing committee of the LeadingAge Hackfest, advisory board of the Dementia Action alliance and the Board of Directors of A Little Help.

Kara Jacobs Slifka, MD, MPH

Medical Officer, Long Term Care Team

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Dr. Jacobs is a Medical Officer with the Long-term Care Team in the Prevention and Response Branch within CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. She is a Board-certified infectious diseases physician who has a research and clinical background in managing infections and antibiotic resistant pathogens, as well as investigating domestic and international outbreaks of infectious diseases, and performing healthcare-associated infection surveillance. She completed her internal medicine residency at The University of Michigan followed by serving as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with CDC before completing an infectious diseases fellowship at Emory University. In her roll at the CDC, Dr. Jacobs supports state health department responses, and is working to develop guidance and educational resources focused on the containment and prevention of antibiotic resistance and emerging pathogens in the post-acute and long-term care settings. She is a Lieutenant Commander with the United States Public Health Service.

Noreen Mollon, MS, CIC

Infection Prevention and Control

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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Noreen Mollon has worked as an epidemiologist at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services since 2005. She has been the Infection Control Consultant with the Surveillance for Healthcare Associated and Resistant Pathogen (SHARP) unit since 2013. She has an undergraduate degree in Microbiology, a Masters degree in Epidemiology and is board certified in Infection Prevention and Control.

Jim Wiggins, BA

Manager, Health Facility Professional & Nurse Aide Section

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Jim Wiggins has been the Manager of the Health Facility Professional and Nurse Aide Section since August of 2016. Prior to that, he spent over 21 years as an investigator with the Bureau of Professional Licensing investigating licensed health professionals. Jim Wiggins graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Criminal Justice in 1994.

Jason Scheeneman, JD

Administrative Law Specialist

Bureau of Community and Health Systems

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Jason Scheeneman has been involved in the enforcement of licensing and certification requirements for over 16 years. He has worked as an attorney for the Bureau of Community and Health Systems since August 2016. One of his primary areas of focus is applying enforcement actions following certified nurse aide investigations.

Julie Ann Banister, BSN, RN

Clinical Quality Consultant

MPRO

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Julie Ann Banister has a Bachelor Degree in Nursing, with 6 years' experience in the nursing home setting, having performed the roles of staff development, clinical care coordinator, and infection preventionist. During that time, she has participated in Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement processes as well as a Polypharmacy Reduction Pilot. Julie has also served as an operating room circulator where she was involved in LEAN quality improvement processes related to surgical services. Currently she is a Clinical Quality Consultant for MPRO and works on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Reducing Healthcare-acquired Conditions in Nursing Home task. MPRO represents Michigan in the Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network under contract as part of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program.

Thomas Bissonnette, MS, RN

Nurse Consultant & Trainer

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Tom Bissonnette graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a Master of Science degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing. He worked in a geriatric psychiatric inpatient setting for eleven years, case managed impaired health care professionals for five years, provided psychiatric consultations in nursing homes for three years, and spent seven years in executive management of a professional nurse association. Currently, Tom is a Nurse Consultant and Trainer for the State of Michigan, working primarily with long term care providers and surveyors.

Andrea Rocafort, MSN, RN, CPEN, TCRN

Registered Nurse

Helen Devos Children's Hospital

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Andrea Rocafort has worked as a registered nurse at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI since 2011; her specialty is emergency medicine and trauma. Her encounter with a unique patient situation sparked her interest in human trafficking with a focus on commercial sexual exploitation of children and prompted her to get involved. She has participated as a member on the Kent County Human Trafficking Task Force since 2016 and recently took a leadership position as the Medical Chair on the task force in January 2018. Andrea has experience training and speaking to professionals and community members about how to identify and engage human trafficking victims. Her goal is to educate diverse audiences on methods to be a voice for the voiceless.

Cheryl Howlett, MS, BSN, RN

Manager, Federal Survey and Certification Division

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Cheryl Howlett has been in the regulatory arena for over 10 years, first as a surveyor then as a manager of a long term care survey team. She has provided guidance to facilities, committees, and stakeholders regarding regulations found in the State Operations Manual provided by CMS. Prior to that, she worked as a nurse in the county health department uninsured clinic and as a hospital nurse. Cheryl also worked as a nurse clinical instructor at a local community college, field training students on the day to day care of patients.

Amy Sells, MHA, NHA

Administrator

Spectrum Health

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Amy Sells graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Master of Health Administration and was awarded the Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU award for her promotion of long term care services in the Grand Rapids community and leadership of her fellow students through the Nursing Home Administration courses. Since that time, she has worked within the Spectrum Health Rehab and Nursing Centers. Currently, Amy is the Administrator at Spectrum Health's Fuller building as well as an adjunct professor with Ferris State University teaching the Nursing Home Administrator courses.

Michelle Roepke, BS, MT (ASCP)

Director, Federal Survey and Certification Division

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Michelle Roepke ("Repkey") earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from Michigan Technological University. Michelle worked at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing for 20 years in the laboratory as a medical technologist. In 2005 Michelle transitioned to the regulatory side and started working as a CLIA surveyor for the State of Michigan and in 2012 she accepted the position as manager of the CLIA program. In 2015 Michelle accepted the position of Division Director for the Federal Survey and Certification Division.

Andrea Moore, BS

State Licensing Coordinator

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Andrea Moore has worked for the State of Michigan for fifteen years with the last two years in the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs as the State Licensing Coordinator. Prior to this, she worked for thirteen years in the Certificate of Need section for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, Ms. Moore holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration from Davenport University.