

Keynote Speakers



Anthony Polizzi

Chief Patient Experience and
Innovation Officer, CMS
Digital Services Expert
White House U.S. Digital Service

Anthony Polizzi is the Chief Patient Experience and Innovation Officer at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and a Digital Services Expert at the U.S. Digital Service within the White House, a dual role that sits at the intersection of federal health policy and modern technology delivery. At CMS, he leads the agency's strategy to transform the beneficiary experience, overseeing the Health Technology Ecosystem, ClinicalAI, and a broad portfolio of interoperability initiatives that are reshaping how patients, providers, and payers exchange health information at scale.

Before joining the federal government, Anthony was part of the founding teams of two successful healthcare startups focused on operations, technology enablement, and business growth, giving him firsthand experience with the operational realities that health IT policy has to work in the real world.

Anthony is educated from the Cornell Johnson Graduate School of Management, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Penn State, with academic and professional focus on the intersection of healthcare, technology, operations, and innovation.

Anthony is known for his ability to convene diverse stakeholders, including providers, payers, EHR vendors, technology companies, and patient advocates, and move them from commitment to delivery. The Health Technology Ecosystem is the proof: open standards, shared participation conditions, and a community that built together, on time, at scale.



Jason Berry

Director, Division of State
Rural Engagement
Office of Rural Health
Transformation | CMS

Jason Berry currently serves as Division Director for the Division of State Rural Engagement in the Office of Rural Health Transformation at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), working with states to advance rural health policy implementation and strengthen rural health systems. Jason previously served as Regional Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in Dallas, Texas, providing executive leadership across Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. He strengthened federal, state, tribal, and local partnerships to expand access to care for underserved populations and supported implementation of key federal health initiatives across the region.

Earlier, Jason served as Director of the Food Safety Education Staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, where he led national consumer food safety education campaigns, behavioral research initiatives, and strategic public-private partnerships. He also held roles at CMS and HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, where he analyzed Medicare and Medicaid legislative and regulatory impacts and supported COVID-19 relief efforts, including oversight of rural health funding programs totaling more than \$6 million.

He began his federal career at the Social Security Administration and served at the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Jason holds a Master of Public Administration from Troy University and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Political Science from Morehouse College.

Keynote Speakers



Mark Alford

Congressman
Missouri District 4

Mark Alford is a husband, father, former small business owner and former TV news anchor, and proudly represents Missouri's 4th District in Congress. Alford spent 25 years anchoring Kansas City's #1 morning news show prior to his time in Congress.

His time covering Missouri's top news stories connected him to thousands of Missourian families of all walks of life, providing insight into the issues most important to Missouri families, and the struggles most common to them. It also offered the opportunity to hone his God-given talents as a professional communicator, enhancing his voice to inform, influence, and inspire millions of people across Missouri.

Alford's experience behind the news desk gave him a front row view to the constant attacks against our nation's founding principles from an increasingly liberal, progressive ideology that threatens to undermine our country's values of faith, family, hard work, and individual liberty.

Alford's serves as a megaphone to each and every Missourian in the 4th district, magnifying their voices and their values in Washington, D.C.

Over the years, Alford's voice helped raise millions of dollars for charities both locally and nationally, and served dozens of boards, foundations, churches, civic organizations, families, and strangers. Alford and his wife Leslie have been married 33 years and share three grown children.

After being sworn into the 118th Congress as a freshman member, Alford was selected to the House Armed Services Committee, House Agriculture committee, and House Small Business committee.

For the 119th Congress, Congressman Alford was selected to sit on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Missouri's voice on critical issues like agriculture, national defense, and small business development. Alford also continues his service on the Small Business Committee this Congress, where he chairs its Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Summit Speakers



Jodi Schmidt, MBA

Executive Director, University
of Kansas Health System Care
Collaborative

Jodi Schmidt, MBA in Health Administration, serves as Executive Director of the University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative, a rural clinically integrated network launched more than a decade ago through a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Healthcare Innovation Award.

With more than three decades of experience in rural hospital and clinic administration, she is a Past President of the National Rural Health Association and representative to the American Hospital Association's Small and Rural Hospital Governing Council; past Chair of the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation and member of the Kansas Hospital Association's Rural Emergency Hospital task force; and Sunflower Health Plan's rural and community advisory boards. Care Collaborative Leadership is now partnering with the State of Kansas in development and implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Plan.



Martie Ross

Operations Director, University
of Kansas Health System Care
Collaborative

Martie is the Operations Director at the University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative. In this role, Martie oversees vendors and sub-recipients responsible for implementing programs under the State's Rural Health Transformation Plan. Before assuming this new role in February, Martie was a Consulting Principal at PYA, where she supported the Care Collaborative's operations. She brings this experience, along with a 20-year career as a healthcare transactional and regulatory attorney, to help the State transform rural health.



Robert Moser, MD

Medical Director, University of
Kansas Health System's Care
Collaborative

Dr. Moser is the medical director for the University of Kansas Health System's Care Collaborative. He is also a clinical associate professor in the Department of Population Health and Family Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Kansas City. He serves on the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors. Dr. Moser practiced family medicine and served as medical chief of staff at Greeley County Health Services in Tribune, Kansas. He previously served four years as Secretary and State Health Officer for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Summit Speakers



**William D. Paiva, PhD,
MBA**

Executive Director, Center for
Health Systems Innovation

William D. Paiva, Ph.D., MBA, is a healthcare innovator, academic leader, and venture capitalist who has spent more than 25 years translating promising healthcare technologies into companies and real-world clinical impact.

He serves as Executive Director of the Center for Health Systems Innovation at Oklahoma State University, where he leads interdisciplinary initiatives focused on transforming rural and Native American health through care-delivery redesign, predictive analytics, and technology deployment.

Dr. Paiva currently leads CHSI's role as the technology innovation and deployment clearinghouse for the Oklahoma Rural Health Innovation, Research and Deployment Network. The statewide initiative evaluates, funds, implements, and measures innovative healthcare solutions in rural clinical settings, identifying those capable of producing measurable impact and scaling statewide.

He is also Founder and Managing General Partner of OLSF Ventures, an early-stage healthcare venture capital firm that has seeded and built more than 25 companies.

Dr. Paiva holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA from Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business.



Austin Wouters

Coordinating Director,
Tennessee Rural Health
Transformation Program (RHTP)

Austin Wouters is the Coordinating Director for the Tennessee Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), overseeing over \$1 billion in state and federal funding. With a background in Finance and Economics, he built his career on macroeconomic modeling and systems engineering in UBS investment bank. Previously, he served as an Economist for the Tennessee Fiscal Review Committee and as Executive Director of Quality for the Department of Children's Services

Austin works for the State of Tennessee's Department of Health who's mission is to protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of all people in Tennessee

Summit Speakers



**Amit M. Mathur MBBS,
MD, MRCP – UK**

Director, Neonatology
SSM Health Cardinal Glennon
Children's Hospital

Amit M. Mathur, MBBS, MD, MRCP (UK), is a board-certified Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine specialist with extensive clinical and translational research experience. He earned his medical degree from Delhi University, completed postgraduate pediatric training in India, and was awarded Membership in the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh). Following a residency and fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital—where he served 12 years as Professor and NICU Medical Director—he joined Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Today, Dr. Mathur serves as Director of the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, holds the William J. Keenan Chair in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, and is Medical Director of the Level IV NICU at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. His NIH-funded research focuses on neonatal neuroprotection, with over 125 publications. He oversees neonatology across SSM Health's regional network, including St. Mary's Level III NICU, community hospitals across Missouri and Illinois, and 24/7 Tele-NICU services.



Oscar Gleeson

Director of Commercial Strategy,
CergenX

Oscar Gleeson is Director of Commercial Strategy at CergenX, where he leads commercialization strategy and supports the company's market development and growth. Based in Boston, Oscar joined CergenX in 2024 as the company's first U.S.-based employee. He holds a first-class honors degree in Pharmacology from University College Dublin, where he graduated top of his class, and an MSc in Engineering, Science and Technology Entrepreneurship from the University of Notre Dame. His previous industry experience includes work with Biohaven Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company focused on neurological and neuropsychiatric conditions.



Dulcye Rodriguez

Director of Strategic Programs &
Solutions
Azara Healthcare

Dulcye Rodriguez joined Azara Healthcare in 2025 as Director of Strategic Programs and Solutions, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience working with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Throughout her 15-year tenure at a community health center in Washington State, Dulcye held several leadership positions and became an experienced user of Azara DRVS. Her deep understanding of rural community health center operations and expertise in quality improvement strategies – supported by her Lean Six Sigma training and CPHQ certification – allows her to drive innovation and enhance performance within Azara's product team.

Summit Speakers



Dr. Lisa Fort

VP, Virtual Care Transformation
Ochsner Health

Dr. Lisa Fort is a practicing emergency physician. She attended the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and subsequently completed an Emergency Medicine residency at Columbia St. Luke's Roosevelt in New York, New York. She is also board-certified in Clinical Informatics and holds a Master's in Public Health in Health System Management from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine as well as numerous informatics certificates including physician builder. Currently, she is the Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer at Ochsner Health and the System Director of Quality for Emergency Medicine, and recently assumed the role of System Medical Director of Virtual Care. Her professional interests include the application of predictive modeling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and clinical decision support to drive better outcomes for patients while promoting ease of use for practitioners. She is married to Daniel, a data scientist at Ochsner. They have two lovely daughters Sophia and Sabrina.



Renee Malone

VP, Customer Success
Lumeris

Renee Malone is Vice President of Customer Success at Lumeris, where she leads the customer success and account management organization across the company's national portfolio of healthcare partnerships, driving AI-enabled care transformation at enterprise scale, spanning patient engagement, care team extension, and provider-facing clinical intelligence. She leads customer strategy and value realization that turn technology adoption into measurable clinical, operational, and financial results. Renee brings more than 13 years of experience across every layer of care delivery, from personally delivering care as an ED nurse to leading enterprise technology partnerships across health systems and health plans. Her career spans clinical and operational leadership at Ochsner Health across the ED of the system's largest campus, System Hospital Operations, and Ambulatory Operations; Director of Care Operations at Brightside Health, a nationwide fully virtual behavioral health company, where she built and scaled the operational engine of national virtual care delivery, including care coordination, health system referral strategy, EMR interoperability, and engagement strategy; and Head of Customer Success at Siftwell Analytics, where she helped community health plans realize measurable value and impact to population health from predictive analytics. Renee holds a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport.

Summit Speakers



Hannah Erickson

Senior Director of Innovation &
Business Development,
Impact Health

Hannah Erickson is Senior Director of Innovation & Business Development at Impact Health, driving strategies that connect healthcare, community systems, and technology. With 15+ years leading complex social-sector initiatives globally and nationally, she helped build the operational infrastructure for North Carolina's Healthy Opportunities Pilot, supporting a network of over 60 community organizations. Serving as a lead operational subject-matter expert, Hannah helped shape Vircho—a purpose-built HRSN software platform born from the pilot's operational needs, recently acquired by Unite Us. Today, she leads Impact Health's national innovation and rural health transformation efforts. She holds degrees from Columbia and Wichita State.



Elizabeth Green

ToRCH Care Program Lead
Hub 13
Bothwell Regional Health Center

Elizabeth Green, ToRCH Care Program Coordinator for Hub 13 at Bothwell Regional Health Center, brings decades of healthcare experience and leadership. She started in 1995 at West Central Missouri Orthopedics, becoming Clinic Administrator in 2002. After merging with Bothwell in 2015, she led the Pain Clinic, Medical Equipment, and Rheumatology. In 2024, Elizabeth transitioned to ToRCH Program Manager, solving social determinant of health needs for Pettis County Medicaid participants. By 2026, she took over ToRCH Care across five counties (Pettis, Benton, Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan), ensuring patients see primary care physicians regularly and decreasing unnecessary emergency room visits.



Amanda Terry

Senior Director, Research and
Evaluation
Unite Us

Amanda Terry, PhD, MPH, is a healthcare research and strategy leader with more than 16 years of experience advancing evidence-based healthcare transformation. As Senior Director of Research and Evaluation at Unite Us, she works across health systems, health plans, and public-sector initiatives, with expertise in rural health transformation, Medicaid innovation, value-based care, and health and social care integration. A medical anthropologist and public health researcher, Amanda translates clinical, utilization, patient, and economic evidence into actionable strategies for healthcare leaders and policymakers. Her work focuses on designing, evaluating, and scaling models that improve outcomes and strengthen healthcare delivery.

Summit Speakers



Jill DeGraff

Chief Privacy & Regulatory Officer
b.well

Jill DeGraff is the Chief Privacy & Regulatory Officer for b.well Connected Health. Jill is an expert in health law and policy, privacy, data protection, commercial transactions, and health data interoperability. She plays a central role advancing b.well's regulatory, business, and product strategy. She brings a passion for regulation advancement to make healthcare simpler for consumers while providing them with tools to conveniently manage their healthcare journey. Her policy work and advocacy is informed by b.well's real-world experience enabling an open, consumer-centric, standards-based connected health ecosystem, for the promotion of innovation and patient empowerment, on a consistent foundation of consumer privacy and data protection.

Before b.well she ran a boutique legal practice (Aperture Law Group), practiced as a partner at Manatt Phelps & Philips, and served as general counsel for an early-stage remote monitoring company.

Summit Moderator



Vijay Chauhan

Founder, Center for Rural
Health Innovation (CRHI),
Global Lead, BioSTL

Vijay Chauhan is an experienced Corporate Business Development Executive and a startup CEO of multiple companies in the Healthcare and Ag-Food space. He leads BioSTL Global, to elevate St. Louis' global reputation as a leading US healthcare and Ag-Food industry hub. St. Louis is home to one of the largest concentrations of healthcare delivery corporations and health systems in the USA.

BioSTL Global runs an annual Health Innovation Summit focused on convening and connecting St. Louis and regional healthcare organizations to top global innovation to address their urgent priorities.

BioSTL Global operates a Healthcare Innovation Advisory to help global innovators prepare and successfully scale the USA's large and complex healthcare market.

BioSTL Global launched and runs the first Center for Rural Health Innovation in the USA to build a rural-centric health system that connects top global innovation to rural health systems and communities to improve health outcomes.

Prior to this role, Vijay was an Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) at BioGenerator, BioSTL's investment and venture development organization for Life Science, healthcare and Ag-Food startups. As an EIR, Vijay was the founding CEO of Regenerative Ag company and a Liquid Biopsy Cancer Diagnostics company.