



2026 Leadership Conference

April 1-2, 2026 | Bismarck Event Center

April 1, 2026

Lunch on your own.

12:15 p.m. **Registration Open**

1:00 p.m. **Welcome**

1:15 p.m. **DataSphere: Building the Intelligence Backbone for North Dakota Hospitals**

Presented by: Aaron Brennan, NDHA/HSI

Content: A strategic overview of NDHA's statewide data platform providing hospital leaders with real time insight into financial performance, workforce pressures, utilization trends, and policy impact. DataSphere enhances decision making, strengthens benchmarking, and positions North Dakota hospitals to protect access and sustain long term success.

2:30 p.m. **When Every Role is Critical: Building a Culture That Survives Staffing Shortages and Turnover**

Presented by: Jen Bertsch, Leadwell Consulting

Content: In rural hospitals where a single vacancy can halt a service line, this session examines how leadership alignment, clear communication norms, and psychological safety reduce disruption when teams are stretched thin.

3:45 p.m. **The Modern Hospital Operations Blueprint: The Operating System Most Hospitals Are Missing**

Presented by: Cory Geffe, Altru Health

Content: Most hospitals don't fail because of bad strategy. They fail because they try to optimize before they stabilize. This session introduces a modern operational blueprint (with tools) that fixes problems in the only order that actually works, beginning with staffing stability and decision clarity, then progressing toward sustainable performance. This blueprint has worked in hospitals of all sizes.

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **MEMBERSHIP MIXER!** Join us for a relaxed evening at **5th Underground Theme Bar & Events** following the conference. Unwind with colleagues, enjoy drinks (alcoholic & non-alcoholic available), and connect with our event sponsors in a casual, social setting. 1 block west of Radisson Hotel on Main & 5th Street (basement of Peacock Alley).

April 2, 2026

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast – Bismarck Event Center**

8:30 – 9:15 a.m. **AHA Federal Update**

Presented by: Liz Summy, AHA

Content: This session will provide an update on AHA legislative and regulatory priorities and an overview of key AHA initiatives.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **NDHA State Update**

Presented by: Tim Blasl, President and Melissa Hauer, VP/General Counsel, NDHA

Content: This session will provide an overview of the important health care-related studies being conducted by legislative committees during the 2025-26 interim, key legislative priorities for the 2027 legislative session, and NDHA's proposed Rural Health Transformation Program projects.

10:45 a.m. - Noon **Panel with State Legislators**

Panel: TBA

Content: This panel presentation is being provided to share information and discuss ideas for addressing healthcare issues, all with the aim of serving the needs of North Dakota communities.

Closing Comments/Conclusion

Hotel Accommodations

A room block under ND Hospital Association is available at the Radisson, 605 E. Broadway Ave, for \$119+ tax per room. Call 701-255-6000 to make your reservations. The room block includes the nights of 3/31 and 4/1.

Continuing Education

The ND Hospital Association is an approved provider of continuing education hours by the North Dakota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

Application is being made to the North Dakota Board of Nursing for continuing nursing education approval.

Thank you to the sponsors of this conference:

