

**Golden
Standards**



50 Years of Regulatory Excellence

2026 NARA Annual Licensing Seminar

SESSION SCHEDULE

Monday, September 14 | Concurrent Session A | 10:15 – 11:15 am

Advancing Golden Standards Through Trauma Responsive Kin Specific
Licensing

Donna Sabo and Joyce Debolt

Beyond Compliance: Using Licensing Data to Strengthen CCDF Outcomes
and Spot Longitudinal Trends

Lacey Kottkamp and Melanie Brizzi

Personal Care/Assisted Living Best Practices: Emergency Preparedness &
Quality Services

Brent Sutherland and Suzy Quinn

Simple Rules, Safe Kids: Right-Sized Child Care Regulations

Tracey Chestnut and Lisa Brochard

Monday, September 14 | Concurrent Session B | 12:45 – 1:45 pm

Fifteen Years of Progress Supporting Healthy Weight through Licensing

Margaret West and Alison Pilsner

Bridging the Gap: Practical Printables for Licensing Success

Jennifer Waters

Enhancing Child Safety Through Rigorous Inspector Training (Virtual Only,
Live)

Amy Rathbun and Pam Smith

Interstate Background Checks: Progress, Gaps, and National Solutions

Fuad Abujarad, Jacob Poynter, and Nicole Schneider

Proactive Oversight: Building High-Reliability Systems in Human Care
Regulation

Michelle Shaffer

Monday, September 14 | Concurrent Session C | 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Child Care Licensing and Workforce Registry in the Northern Mariana Islands	Pam Palmer, Rita Olopai, and Gordon Salas
Progress on the Implementation of Kin-Specific Foster Home Approval Standards (Virtual Only, Live)	Donna Sabo, Ana Beltran, JD, and Heidi Redlich Epstein
New York State's Gold Standard Professional Development Portfolio	Christine Coons and Colleen Faragon
Regulatory Theory and Global Implications	Dr. Sonya Stevens
The Rollout Playbook: Surviving (and Thriving) After Promulgation	Mikki Streeter and Jay Calewarts

Monday, September 14 | Concurrent Session D | 3:15 – 4:15 pm

Beyond Licensing: Building Systems That Work for FCC (Virtual Only, Live)	Andrea Maldonado
From "I Think" to "I Know": How Digital Compliance Tools Are Transforming Regulatory Confidence	Katrina Shelton and Cindy Morgan
Determining the Characteristics of a Mature Organization	Jeff Williams
Public Trust by Design: Shaping the Next 50	Maxine Maloney
The Hidden Burden of Child Care Licensing in Ohio	Abby Bush and Sarah N. Lang

Tuesday, September 15 | Concurrent Session E | 10:15 – 11:15 am

Designing What Works: Aligning Systems with Real Licensing Work	Amy Livings and Dr. Jill Soto
Balancing the Load: Strategies for Managing Your Caseload	Nicole Schneider, Amber Corbit, and Dezarae Wierzba
Remembering the Child in Child Care: A Framework for Regulatory Coherence	Marica Cox Mitchell and Herman T. Knopf
The Benchmark of Excellence in Intake, Investigations, and Enforcement	April Rogers, Taxishe Smith, and Colette Bolds

Tuesday, September 15 | Concurrent Session F | 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Increase Clarity on Comprehensive Background Checks for CCDF Lead Agencies	Lisa Clifford and Cheryl Gandhi
Navigating Complexity Together: Program Integrity and Compliance	Julie Richards, Kimberly Falke, and Jill Brown
Raising the Standard for Staff Safety in the Field	Pam Smith
Strengthening Collaboration Across Child Care Systems	Dezarae Wierzba and Erin Mancoske-Anderson

Tuesday, September 15 | Concurrent Session G | 2:15 – 3:15 pm

From Compliance to Collaboration: Engaging Providers in Child Care Licensing	Amy Page and Nina Johnson
Motivational Interviewing	Allison Nyren and Jennifer Brees
Redefining Licensing: Messaging, Partnerships, and a Nationwide Shift Toward Prevention	Jennifer Bridgeman and Candace Gilbert
Smarter Regulation Through Behavioral Science	Dr. Sonya Stevens
How to mature your organization	Jeff Williams

Tuesday, September 15 | Concurrent Session H | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Assisted Living National Perspective	Alfred Johnson
Raising Ratios, Raising Stakes: Strategic Planning for Workforce Sustainability	Jessica A Cain and Kara Rocha
Reasonable Regulation: Using Coaching Methods to Increase Compliance	Amanda St. Martin and Sarah Stormont
Small but Mighty: Using Microcenters to Increase Child Care Access	Lisa Brochard and Tracey Chestnut

Wednesday, September 16 | Concurrent Session I | 8:30 – 9:30 am

Follow-up Questions and How to Develop a Plan to Mature Your Organization	Jeff Williams and Amy Rathbun
PA Navigate - Linking Patients to Community Resources	Juliet Marsala
Child Care Licensing Over Time: History, Research, and Regulatory Change	Sheri Fischer, Nina Johnson, and Brenda Miranda
Turning Compliance Into Practice: Making Documentation Meaningful	Mary Davis

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North Dakota: Advancing Toward a Fully Integrated Early Childhood Data System (Virtual Only)	Keira Reimer, Pam Palmer, Jennifer Prince, Christina Kender, and Carmen Traeholt
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