

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY

NCAHQ Newsletter

June 2025



Dear Colleagues,

Message from the President

As our board year winds down and we are reflecting on the year we have had, it's time to pause and reflect on the journey we've undertaken—a journey marked by learning opportunities, challenges, and growth. Each chapter of this year has offered lessons that have not only shaped us but also prepared us for the opportunities that lie ahead.

A Year of Accomplishments

This year has been a tapestry of achievements, woven with threads of dedication, innovation, and teamwork. We submitted and received the Governor's proclamation for healthcare quality week. This is a yearlong process, and we thank our awards and recognition chair for following this to the end. We also implemented the "Rookie of the Year" award for those new to their quality role less than 2 years. We started out with 8 states in our collaborative and now we have 9. If you are not aware, this gives you many educational offerings monthly. This past year, the educational opportunities from NCAHQ and our collaborative give anyone who needs CPHQ CEUs to have at least 40 credit hours. You only need 30 in two years to recertify. We have been steady in membership, with around 130 members, including students and retirees. We just wrapped up this year's conference and if you attended, you know it was engaging, informative, and fun. We hope that all that were in attendance in person and virtually walked away "Renewed, Refreshed and Revitalized to go back and engage at work with what they learned. We marked what I hope will be an annual event; we did a book review the night before the conference. Very interactive with questions, comments that spurred the conversation. Our members at large put together lunch and learns that were virtual and hope to have more exciting opportunities for you in the coming year. Shout out to a few people that recognition that work behind the scenes diligently: Secretary, Bylaws and Elections formally Bylaws and nominations, our Treasure who keeps us on budget, Marketing and PR, keeps you informed, our Secretary who takes meticulous minutes and last our Website chair who tries their best to keep it up to date with all the happenings going on within NCAHQ. EVERY CHAIR worked hard for you behind the scenes to ensure your organization gave you a fabulous conference, multiple educational offerings, is financially stable, and that you have been kept informed of the workings of North Carolina Association of Healthcare Quality (NCAHQ). We, as your board, took steps to ensure successful efforts in every aspect of the board. It is never too late to take up purpose on a committee in or join the board. You will never be alone; we are a team!

Challenges that Strengthened Us

You may not know this, but this is an ALL-VOLUNTEER board, and no year is without its trials and challenges or even successes. Within every challenge was the seed of resilience. The obstacles we faced demanded creative solutions, and as we overcame them, we discovered our ability to push boundaries and redefine success. These moments of adversity have left us stronger, wiser, and better prepared for what's to come.

Celebrating Growth and Looking Ahead

Beyond accomplishments and challenges, this year has been a testament to personal and collective growth for me, and I am sure others. Friendships deepened, skills sharpened, and new perspectives embraced. It is in my quiet moments that I reflect on what this year has been for me as your president. I took in the often-unnoticed moments and realized that this is essence of where progress truly resides. As I bid farewell to this year, our eyes turn to the horizon. The promise of the new year brings with it aspirations, new beginnings, and renewed energy. It is an opportunity to build on the foundation we've laid, to dream bigger, and to achieve brighter. Forever Grateful for this opportunity to serve you and this board. Finish strong!

Shellie VonCannon, MSN, RN, CPHQ 2024-2025 NCAHQ President

2025 NCAHQ Conference was a big success!!!!

A Big **THANK YOU** to our 2025 Conference Sponsors!!!

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY

2025 NCAHQ Annual Conference:
Friday, 5/16/25 – Joseph S. Koury Convention Center



Register Now: [2025 Annual Conference](#)

Rooms: [NCAHQ Conference Sheraton Reservations](#)



Keynote Speaker

Apurv Gupta, MD, MPH
Co-Founder of
A Loving Organization Consortium

***Renew, Refresh, Revitalize:
Cultivating Quality Organizations***

We're excited to welcome our 2025 Conference Sponsors

vizient

Additional Presentation Topics:

- Health system and public health partnership to impact community outcomes
- AI in Healthcare Quality
- Planting seeds - growth and mentoring
- Creating loving organizations with our Keynote speaker

Pre-Conference Events 5/15/25:

- **5:30pm - 7:30pm** - networking and heavy hors d'oeuvres
- **6:30pm - 7:30pm** - optional book discussion (2hrs CPHQ credit for participants)
Book: Our Iceberg is Melting by John Kotter
-bring your own copy for discussion



Doctor of Nursing
Practice Program



Up to 10 hours of CPHQ Credits (2 hrs on 5/15, 8 hrs on 5/16) Available for Participants

ACHE Credits

As an independent chartered chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the ACHE of Greater Charlotte, is authorized to award 7.5 hours of ACHE Qualifying Education credits toward advancement or recertification in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Participants in this program who wish to have it considered for ACHE Qualifying Education credit should list their attendance when they apply to the American College of Healthcare Executives for advancement or recertification.

The panel discussion is approved for 1.5 ACHE In-Person Education credits. Any attendee, which includes panelists/moderator, event coordinator, board/committee members, that wants to receive ACHE In-Person Education credit, must sign in on the ACHE Sign-In Sheet at the venue to receive credit for the event.

2025 Conference Highlights

Thursday Evening 5/15 NETWORKING EVENT SPONSORED BY



New for 2025

Pre-Conference Book Review for CPHQ Credits!!!

Book Club and Connect to Purpose Session: *Our Iceberg is Melting* by John Cotter



Thank you to **Ben Masten**, Conference Planner and **Haylie Coffey**, Conference Planner Elect, the conference planning committee, and NCAHQ Board Members for all the hard work that went into making the 2025 conference a success.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE QUALITY



Renew, Refresh, Revitalize: Cultivating Quality Organizations

2025 NCAHQ Annual Education Conference





Thank you
Shellie VonCannon,
2024-2025
NCAHQ President for
closing out the conference.

NCAHQ

2025

Quality Professional Award



Christie Briskey,
Patient Safety Coordinator
MOT, OTR/L

*In Recognition of
Significant Professional
Contributions, Dedication,
Passion and Enthusiasm
in Leading and Improving
the Quality of Healthcare*

Christie Briskey is a Patient Safety Coordinator at Atrium Health Pineville, where she leads initiatives that strengthen safety culture and reduce preventable harm. Her path to excellence began at James Madison University for her Bachelors and Master of Occupational Therapy. Christie brings a systems-thinking approach to quality improvement. Christie has been instrumental in advancing the organization's culture of safety through her leadership in the "Good Catch" program. Her work has empowered frontline staff to proactively identify and report near misses—events that could have caused harm but were prevented—thereby strengthening Atrium's commitment to Zero Harm.

*We recognize her today with the **NCAHQ 2025 Quality Professional Award**, a recognition reserved for high-performing quality professionals. Christie's award nomination spotlighted her ability to translate safety data into actionable insights, her mentorship of new safety champions, and her role in designing educational content that fosters a culture of transparency and continuous learning. Her efforts have not only improved patient outcomes but also inspired a system-wide embrace of non-punitive reporting and shared accountability.*



2025

Quality Rookie of the Year Award



**Samara
Llewellyn,
MD, MBA**

Senior Physician Executive
of Safety and Quality

*In Recognition of
Significant Professional
Contributions, Dedication,
Passion and Enthusiasm
in Leading and Improving
the Quality of Healthcare*

***Dr. Samara Llewellyn, MD, MBA** is the Senior Physician Executive of Safety and Quality at Novant Health Institute for Safety & Quality. She is a seasoned hospital medicine specialist with over 20 years of experience in internal medicine. Dr. Llewellyn earned her medical degree from East Carolina University and completed her residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.*

*We recognize her today with the **NCAHQ Quality Rookie of the Year Award**, a recognition reserved for high-performing professionals with fewer than two years in a quality role. Her nomination emphasized her rapid impact on patient safety and quality outcomes, her leadership in cross-functional initiatives, and her ability to drive measurable improvements in care delivery. She continues to champion evidence-based practices and foster a culture of continuous improvement.*

MULTISTATE COLLABORATIVE

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE QUALITY



Check out NCAHQ.org for upcoming educational webinars.



Attention all members interested in what members-at-large do for your NCAHQ!

Your NCAHQ board has 2 positions for members to use in communicating with your board.

Please feel free to reach out to either of us if you would like to receive more information about what your member-at-large does on the NCAHQ board:

Member-at-large East Region: Beverly Venters (bventers@ecuhealth.org) The east region covers any location from Charlotte NC and east as well as north to the state line and south to South Carolina

Member-at-large West Region: Karen Southard (southard.karen@yahoo.com) The west regional covers any location from Charlotte Nc and west as well as north to the state line and south to South Carolina

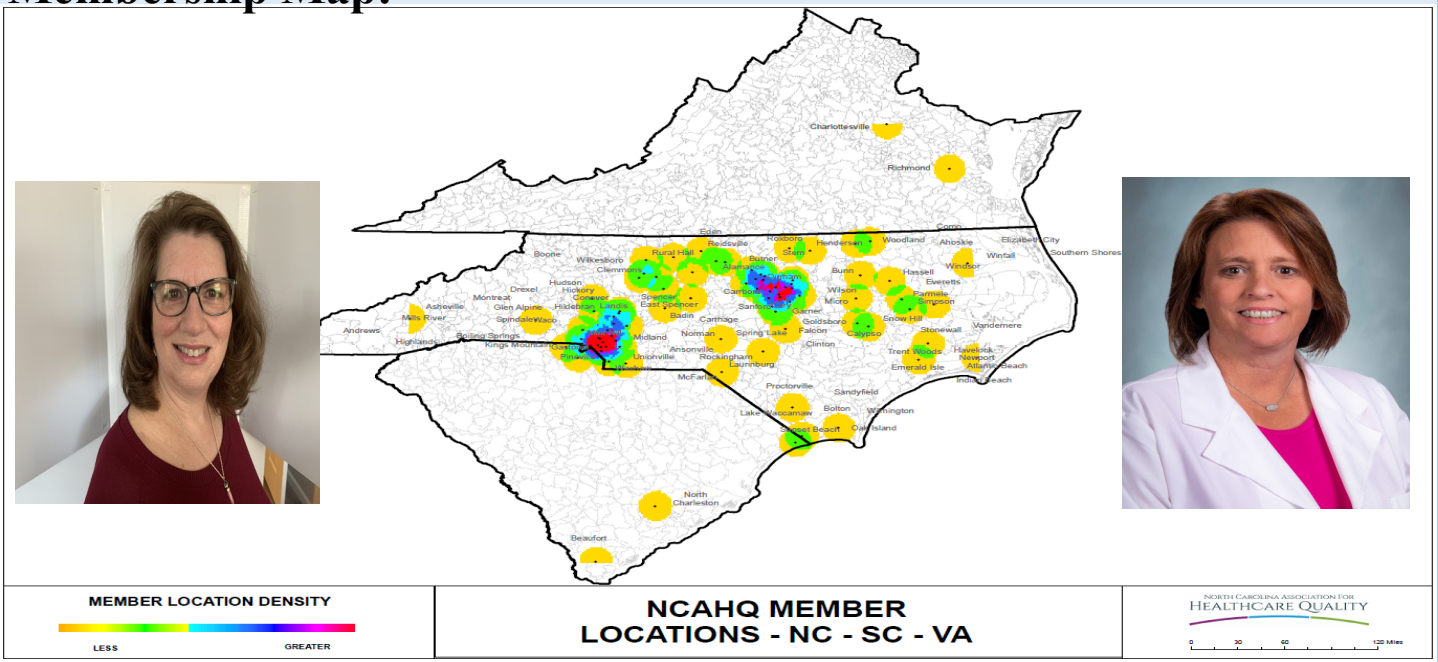
Duties of the member-at-large:

1. Support & encourage networking, professional development, & information dissemination.
2. Identify and cultivate future members/leaders and support recruitment
3. Maintain open line communication with NCAHQ Professionals within each region
4. Serves as a mentor to members and is available to any member by phone or email, to answer questions, provide consultation, and respond to concerns. Refers questions to appropriate Board members for follow-up.

We invite your participation!! And look forward to hearing from you!

Beverly and Karen

Membership Map:



Benefits of Membership

Benefits of NCAHQ Membership

Joining NCAHQ is a great way to honor your commitment to healthcare quality, stay connected with professional peers and remain actively engaged in your career.

Benefits include the following:

- Multi-State educational offerings with opportunities to earn CPHQ credits (**Free with Membership**)
- Reduced rates at NCAHQ conference
- Professional networking
- Membership e-newsletter
- Membership directory
- Voting on NCAHQ Board of Directors
- Opportunity to participate on one or more committees
- Opportunity to serve on the NCAHQ Board of Directors
- Networking opportunities with peers in and around Healthcare Quality

Annual Membership-\$75

Student Membership-\$45

Retired/Emeritus Status-\$45

[LINK: JOIN/RENEW HERE](#)

Connections

YOU CAN ATTEND!

**UPCOMING Board Meetings
Friday June 27, 2025 at 12 noon
via Zoom.**

**BOARD MEETINGS
ARE ALWAYS OPEN
TO ANY MEMBER**

**Contact: Shellie VonCannon
svrn99@yahoo.com**

Zoom link for meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85728455160?pwd=QbqCjMcGR5WQ6ZDvrmgbAzEPvahY8V.1>

Connect with us!  Website: www.ncahq.org