

Anchored in Excellence: A Nursing Summit to Empower Our Mission with Purpose in a Changing Healthcare Climate

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 7:00AM-5:00PM, Benvenuto, Boynton Beach

Topics and Descriptions:

Culture, Communication & the Cost of Silence - An Interactive Solutions Forum

Facilitators: Natalie Bermudez, PhD, RN and Tammie Couch, BSN, RN

Panelists: Desiree Hodges, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC; Kelley Gonzalvo, DNP, RN, CCRN-K; Tracey Melhuish RN, MSN, CCRN, Clinical Practice Specialist Critical Care and Professional Practice, Holy Cross Health

This powerful session examines how silence, communication breakdowns, and unhealthy workplace behaviors impact patient safety, team dynamics, and nursing culture. Through real-world insight, live polling, and collaborative discussion participants will explore the complex cultural and communication challenges impacting today's practice and how speaking up, accountability, and psychological safety can help transform both patient outcomes and the practice environment. Leaders from Magnet, Beacon, Healthy Work Environment, and professional nursing organizations will serve as panelists and share actionable solutions to strengthen teamwork, accountability, and skilled communication.

Leadership Unscripted - Real Challenges. Real Conversations. Real Solutions

Nursing Leadership Roundtable Session featuring Kelley Gonzalvo, DNP, RN, CCRN-K, Vice President & CNO of Moffitt Cancer Center; Desiree Hodges, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC, AACN Board of Director 2023-26; along with Tracey Melhuish, MSN, RN, CCRN, Clinical Practice Specialist for Critical Care at Holy Cross Health.

No two healthcare organizations face challenges in exactly the same way, but the best solutions are often shared. Today's healthcare leaders are navigating increasingly complex issues that impact patient safety, staff engagement, workflow, accountability, and organizational culture. Through interactive case scenarios and facilitated discussion, join executive and clinical leaders from multiple healthcare organizations as they openly examine today's most pressing leadership challenges. Explore practical strategies, lessons learned, and innovative approaches that can be adapted within your own organization. Bring your questions. Share your experiences. Leave with actionable ideas to strengthen leadership, cultivate a healthy work environment, and improve patient outcomes. Audience participation and live polling will drive the discussion because the best solutions emerge when every voice is heard, every story is shared, and every leader has a seat at the table.

Clinical Escape Rooms: Seconds Matter

Step into a fast-paced, high-energy clinical challenge where teamwork, communication, and critical thinking can mean the difference between stability and crisis. Participants will have the chance to choose from several immersive, hands-on scenarios - from "Blood Bath Bay" to "Under Siege: The Brain Code."

Blood Bath Bay places teams in a high-pressure, escape-room-style environment where swift action is essential to control a rapidly evolving situation. Participants must identify threats, manage chaos, and apply practical skills as they work together to bring order to a scene that's anything but calm.

Under Siege: The Brain Code drops teams into a race-against-time mission inside a system under sudden internal attack. Every minute matters as participants interpret subtle clues, make rapid decisions, and coordinate interventions designed to protect critical functions before irreversible damage occurs.

Silence Kills 2.0: From Awareness to Action

Desiree Hodges, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC
AACN Board of Director 23-26
Nurse manager, Novant Health

Silence Kills 2.0, this powerful session explores the real impact of silence in healthcare -from communication breakdowns and workplace culture to patient safety and psychological safety. Presented by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses project lead, participants will be guided through honest discussion and real-world insight, and will examine how courage, accountability, and speaking up can transform outcomes for both patients and teams.

Sustaining Excellence: The Essential Behaviors That Shape a Healthy Culture The Pathway to Clinical Excellence

Kelley Gonzalvo, DNP, RN, CCRN-K
Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Moffitt Cancer Center

A healthy culture is not built through policies alone. It is shaped by the everyday behaviors we accept, model, and reinforce. Led by a four-time Magnet-recognized nursing leader, this session explores the practical strategies, accountability, and cultural shifts required to build and sustain excellence in today's healthcare environment.

From Practice to Excellence: The Beacon Journey from the Bedside Up

Hear directly from local Beacon-recognized teams as they share how culture, collaboration, and frontline engagement transformed practice on their units. Beacon award winners will share their journey beyond theory to highlight real challenges, meaningful change, and the behaviors that helped turn bedside excellence into measurable outcomes.