

WINTER Report

Collaboration.
Cooperation.
Education.

THE
Healthcare
Council



Kimberly Russo to Receive Matthew F. McNulty, Jr. Award

The Healthcare Council Board unanimously approved the nomination of Kimberly Russo to receive the 2025 Matthew F. McNulty Award during its December 9, 2025, meeting. The nomination was presented by Board Trustee Kimberlee Daniels (2024–2025).

The award will be presented at the 27th Annual Employee of the Year Awards and Matthew F. McNulty Award Luncheon, scheduled for

Thursday, March 19, from 12-2 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel.

In selecting Ms. Russo for this prestigious recognition, The Healthcare Council honors her longstanding dedication to advancing the organization’s mission and services. She served as Vice Chair of the Board for two years and chaired the Omega Logan Silva Scholarship Committee from 2021 - 2025. Additionally, she played a key role in establishing the Young Healthcare Professionals Divisional Group.

Ms. Russo's contributions extend to her exemplary leadership in the broader healthcare field. She assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer



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2025 Matthew F. McNulty, Jr. Award Recipient: Kimberly Russo

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at The George Washington University Hospital (GW Hospital) in June 2016, following nearly a decade of service at the institution, including seven years as Chief Operating Officer. In April 2021, she was appointed Group Vice President for the D.C. region by Universal Health Services Inc. (NYSE: UHS), GW Hospital's parent company.

Under her tenure, GW Hospital expanded clinical services, strengthened its research enterprise, and navigated significant challenges in the D.C. region's healthcare landscape, including the COVID-19 pandemic. As Les Pitton noted, “She was a leader who had the capacity to translate vision into reality, pushing The Healthcare Council to expand its reach throughout the Mid-Atlantic and beyond.”

A cornerstone of Ms. Russo's legacy in the District of Columbia is her instrumental role in [negotiating a landmark public-private partnership agreement](#) with the District government. This agreement enabled UHS—then the hospital's majority owner and later full owner—to [operate the new Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center](#), addressing a critical shortage of healthcare services on the city's east side after [years of collaborative effort](#).

Her accomplishments have been widely recognized. In 2020, Becker's Hospital Review

named her among the 100 Academic Medical Center CEOs to Know. She was also honored as one of The Washington Business Journal's 2016 “Playmakers” for her impact on the D.C. area. With more than 20 years of clinical and operational experience, Ms. Russo has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership.

In April 2025, Ms. Russo transitioned to a new executive role as Chief Executive Officer of the Central Region for OSF HealthCare, a Bloomington, Illinois-based integrated health system, where she continues to drive operational excellence and community-focused care.

This marks the 27th presentation of the Matthew F. McNulty Award, established in 1998 to honor Matthew F. McNulty, Jr., Sc.D., Chancellor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. McNulty served with distinction on The Healthcare Council's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The award commemorates his extraordinary energy, wisdom, talent, and devotion beyond the ordinary call of duty, and it recognizes individuals who exemplify these same qualities in their service to healthcare.

The Healthcare Council Board is honored to celebrate Ms. Russo's remarkable contributions at the March 19 luncheon.



The Healthcare Council and WellLink Unite to Create a National Platform for Healthcare Impact

In a defining moment for both organizations and the healthcare sector more broadly, The Healthcare Council and WellLink have announced a strategic affiliation that significantly expands their national presence, scale, and influence.

Effective February 6, this agreement brings together two highly respected, mission-driven organizations into a unified corporate structure, forming a powerful healthcare alliance positioned to serve providers and partners across the country. By aligning complementary strengths, longstanding industry relationships, and a shared commitment to advancing medical, social, and economic well-being, the combined organization is now positioned to deliver greater value and deeper impact at both the regional and national levels.

The Healthcare Council, widely recognized as a trusted association serving providers throughout the Mid-Atlantic, joins WellLink, a Cleveland-based organization that has been rapidly expanding its national footprint and strategic partnerships. Together, the organizations are building a scalable, forward-looking platform designed to strengthen advocacy, expand innovation, and elevate collaboration across healthcare systems, community providers, and industry stakeholders.

Under the affiliation, WellLink President and CEO Brian Lane will lead the combined enterprise, providing unified executive leadership while maintaining continuity and stability for members, partners, and staff. Both WellLink and The Healthcare Council will continue operating under their established brands, preserving the trusted identities and relationships that members rely on.

Customers of The Healthcare Council's group purchasing organizations, ShareSource and Purchasing Connections, will transition to WellLink Group Purchasing. This move substantially increases national purchasing scale, strengthens supplier partnerships, and enhances the depth and competitiveness of the contract portfolio. The integration accelerates WellLink's emergence as a nationally recognized GPO platform with expanding reach and influence across multiple markets.

Daniel Lettenberger-Klein, Chief Member and Programming Officer at WellLink, will play a central leadership role in expanding member engagement and aligning strategic initiatives across the broader national network. His work will focus on ensuring that members experience not only continuity, but expanded opportunity and impact as the organizations integrate.

Kerri Scriven, who served as Director of Support Services for The Healthcare Council, will continue in a senior leadership capacity within WellLink. Her ongoing involvement ensures strong continuity of relationships, operational excellence, and member service throughout this next chapter.

This affiliation represents more than an organizational alignment. It marks a deliberate step toward building a nationally connected healthcare alliance with the scale, leadership, and strategic capability to influence policy, strengthen provider performance, and advance measurable impact across the healthcare ecosystem.

Together, The Healthcare Council and WellLink are expanding their reach, amplifying provider voice, and setting a new standard for what a modern healthcare alliance can achieve.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Healthcare Council



OMEGA LOGAN SILVA SCHOLARSHIP

Our fourth scholarship recipient, Dr. Edna Normand, received \$5,000 for her continued education. Thanks to our generous donors, we have raised over \$25,000 so far and aim to raise \$100,000 for the corpus.

Use the QR code to donate today!

MEMBER BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

At The Healthcare Council, we believe we can meet the challenges of tomorrow by working together today. We're excited to present these highlights showcasing our growth, milestones, and times our members came together for a positive purpose.

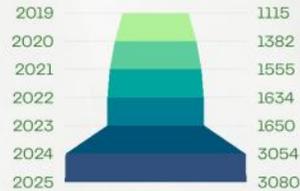
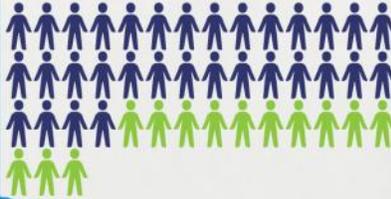
- Employee access to 17 educational & collaborative industry-specific quarterly meetings
- Opportunity to represent your organization by having your professionals sit on a volunteer planning committee of one of our divisional groups
- Connect with subject matter experts
- Be a Subject Matter Expert at our events.
- Participate in virtual CEO Coffee Chats
- Attendance at our annual Fall Conference
- Convene with regional healthcare leaders, peers, lawmakers for regional conferences
- Opportunity for employees to participate in annual member-wide 6-month Mentorship Program
- Participate in annual member-wide Employee of the Year Awards Luncheon recognizing outstanding employees
- Executive Assistants networking opportunities and thank you luncheons

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

On March 20, 2025, we celebrated 59 individuals from member organizations for their incredible contributions to the healthcare industry at our 13th employee of the year awards ceremony.

New Endorsed Partners

In 2025 we welcomed 13 new endorsed partners, to help meet the needs of our members & affiliates, for a total of 45 organizations.



ShareSource Affiliates

Thanks in part to our acquisition of Purchasing Connections, our initiatives with Premier in 2024 showed significant growth in various ways throughout the year.

The McNulty Award Winner

In 2025, we honored the late Dr. Norvell V. Coots, a prominent healthcare leader, serving as President and CEO of Holy Cross Health and the Maryland Region of Trinity Health, where he managed two hospitals, eight clinics and a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Montgomery County, Maryland as the **26th Matthew F. McNulty, Jr. Award** recipient. Dr. Coots' wife, Claudia Coots, shared a heartfelt response on behalf of the family.



ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

On October 9, 2025 we hosted our Annual Fall Conference themed, "Emerging Healthcare Trends: 2026," which brought industry leaders together to explore the future of healthcare through insightful presentations and dynamic panel discussions. We welcomed over 120 healthcare professionals from around the region.

NEW INITIATIVES

In 2025, the Young Healthcare Professionals Divisional Group expanded opportunities for connection, service, and leadership development. Planning committee members led three weekend small group volunteer activities to give back to the communities they serve and launched the first virtual evening leadership book club, creating a new space for professional growth and discussion.



Divisional Groups

In 2025, we held 16 divisional group quarterly events, in addition to 4 Supply Chain Advisory Council meetings. Each group met quarterly to engage with subject matter experts and discuss trending topics and organizational challenges. For the first time, in 2025, we held an all-divisional group virtual meeting that brought together over 80 professionals for shared learning.

Virtual Meetings Held

52

In-Person

9

Subject Matter Expert Presenters & Moderators From Member Organizations

36

The Healthcare Council Divisional Group Volunteers

Our organization is supported by 74 active volunteer divisional group planning committee members, comprising professionals from across our membership and the region. Among them are 20 dedicated volunteer chairs and co-chairs who lead our 16 collaborative cross-member divisional groups.

Mentorship Program

In May 2025, The Healthcare Council celebrated its third cohort of mentees at a combined Young Healthcare Professionals Networking/Graduation event. Thank you to Children's Innovation and Research Campus for hosting the event and to Kaiser Permanente and Chase Brexton Health Care for sponsoring this event.

Since its inception in 2022, the mentorship program has more than doubled in size. Our 2024-2025 cohort welcomed 19 mentor-mentee pairs, with a total of 40 participants.

2025 CEO Coffee Chats

In 2025, we hosted four virtual CEO Coffee Chats, featuring executive-led presentations followed by open discussion. Two sessions were led by CEOs from member organizations, encouraging shared insight and peer dialogue.

THE HEALTHCARE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Hospitals	Allied Health	Educational & Charitable Organizations	Associates
41	19	6	9

In 2025 our collaborative membership consisted of 75 organizations. We welcomed one new Hospital, and one Allied Health organization.



THE BOARD CORNER

Press Ganey calls on healthcare CEOs and boards to accelerate progress toward Zero Harm 24/7

Press Ganey, a leading provider of experience measurement, data analytics, and AI-powered insights to health systems and health plans, announced the launch of Zero Harm 24/7, a national initiative calling on healthcare CEOs and boards to accelerate progress toward eliminating preventable harm.

Grounded in Press Ganey's safety culture data and expertise, the initiative is designed to embed safety and reliability into governance, leadership, and daily practice across healthcare organizations.

Zero Harm 24/7 reflects Press Ganey's conviction that safety is foundational to the human experience in healthcare and requires sustained alignment across governance, systems, and frontline practice to prevent harm.

[Read the full article here.](#)

The Omega Logan Silva Scholarship Fund
The Healthcare Council

About the Scholarship
The Dr. Omega Logan Silva Scholarship fund honors the life and legacy of Dr. Silva and her passion for encouraging economically disadvantaged women to pursue a degree in health care – a cause she was passionate in supporting throughout the course of her career.

The 2026 Dr. Omega Logan Silva Scholarship recipient will be announced at the Employee of the Year Awards Luncheon on March 19. This year marked the highest number of applicants since the scholarship's inception.

2026 SALARY SURVEYS
Data Collection
THE Healthcare Council

The Healthcare Council's 2026 Executive/Department Head Salary Survey (Wage and Salary Survey) data collection links have been circulated by the team at PeriscopelQ.

Conducted annually, this survey is the authentic source of wage and salary compensation. Data for the 2026 survey will use an effective date of Dec. 1, 2025. Participants will have approximately 10 weeks to complete and submit their organization's data.

If your organization would like to participate in this year's Salary Survey, please contact us at thehealthcarecouncil@healthcare-council.org.

Results are scheduled for release in May 2026.

Thank you in advance for your participation and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

14th Annual Employee of the Year & 27th Matthew F. McNulty, Jr. Awards Luncheon

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel
5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD 20852

2026 CEO Coffee Chat Sessions



Please join us for CEO Coffee Chats this year. Sessions include the ability to network and join in conversation about relevant healthcare topics. Mark your calendars. All sessions are 7:30-8:30 a.m. virtually. Invitations will be sent before each event.

- **Tuesday, March 3** - Curtis Winans, Market CEO, BridgePoint Capitol Hill and National Harborside
- **Q2 Date TBD** - Deneen Richmond, President, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center
- **Wednesday, August 26** - Jeff Joyner, SVP, Acute Care Market President, Northwestern Market
- **Thursday, October 29** - Steven Leonard, PhD, CEO, TidalHealth

Save the Date — May 7 — 5:30-8 p.m.

Join us for a special second-quarter Young Healthcare Professionals Divisional
Networking/Mentorship Graduation Event

Location: Children's National Research & Innovation Campus
For more information or to sponsor this event, contact [Kerri Scriven](#).

The Healthcare Council Divisional Chairs

Allied Health

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Co-Chair
Marya De La Cruz Sabalbaro
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Young Healthcare Professionals

Chair: Andre D'Souza
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[Click here](#) for remaining Q1 Divisional Group meeting information

AREA NEWS



Peter Ostasewski

[GBMC HealthCare Hires Executive Leadership in Two Key Areas](#)



Cara Larson Biddle

[Biddle Named as Diane and Norman Bernstein Professor of Community Pediatrics](#)



Mac Marlow

[Bayhealth Welcomes Thomas \(Mac\) Marlow as Vice President, Chief Digital and Information Officer](#)



Scott MacLean

[135 Hospital and Health System CIOs to Know | 2026](#)



Jason Barrett

[UHS Hospital CEO Targets Freestanding ED Growth, Provider Group Acquisition](#)



Kimberlee Daniels

[Kimberlee Daniels Named Interim CEO of Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center GW Health](#)



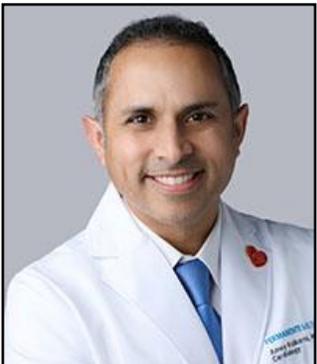
Rick Pollack

[AHA's Pollack Announces Plan to Retire](#)



Julie Keese

[Julie Keese Named "Hospital CFO to Know" by Becker's Hospital Review](#)



Ameya Kulkarni

[Ameya Kulkarni, MD, Named Leader of Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group](#)



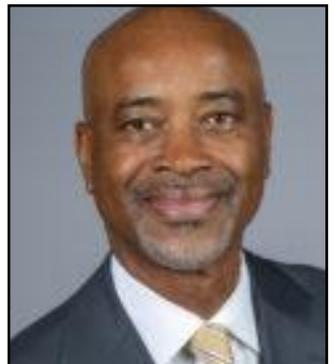
Giora Netzer

[Upper Chesapeake's New CMO Focuses on Elevating Health Care in Harford County](#)



Rashad A. Collins

[Unity Health Care Announces New President & CEO](#)



Dennis Pullin

[Virtua, ChristianaCare Call Off Merger Plans](#)



**THE
Healthcare
Council**

**Collaboration.
Cooperation.
Education.**

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**Interested in Joining
The Healthcare
Council**

The Healthcare Council continues to develop its all-inclusive, broad-based association of members to accurately reflect the providers of care doing business in its service area - encompassing the mid-Atlantic region.

The Healthcare Council is committed to creating and providing opportunities for new members and associates, while keeping member dues low.

The Healthcare Council serves its members with detailed communications and professional contacts, partnerships, timely educational programs, surveys, collaborative efforts and strategic alliances.

To learn more about joining The Healthcare Council, please contact us at 301-731-4700 or visit us at: Healthcare-Council.org

Follow us on social media



@TheHealthcareCouncil



@HealthcareCouncil



@HCNCA

The Healthcare Council Vision:

To meet the healthcare challenges of tomorrow by working together today.

Mission Statement:

The Healthcare Council is a membership organization dedicated to helping members reduce costs, encouraging co-operative working relationships and promoting quality healthcare in our region.

The Council functions as a neutral intermediary to facilitate networking and to provide member driven services.

Purpose:

The Healthcare Council is an organization consisting of hospitals and allied health care facilities, associations and educational institutions located in the Mid-Atlantic region. The purpose of the Council is to provide for members "strategic and business advantages" that no single institution or system can efficiently or economically develop alone.

Divisions of specific activity have been formed to carry on the ever-changing tasks at hand. These divisions develop information and improve performance using cooperative networking meetings, surveys, group discussion, analysis and continuing education programs.

The aim of the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary, ShareSource, is to serve its membership in the promotion of programs and services that will enhance the members' ability to operate their organizations successfully and cost effectively with integrity and competency.

The Healthcare Council is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

The Council has opportunities for Associates. For membership information, call 301-731-4700.