UNITED COUNCIL ON WELFARE FRAUD™

UCOWF 53rd NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

September 1-3, 2026

Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

United for Integrity

Let's ***"Get Talking"***

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Welcome from President Keith Miskie

On behalf of UCOWF and the Board of Directors, I am honored to welcome everyone to the 53rd Annual UCOWF Training Conference here in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. UCOWF National Training Conferences keeps members up to date on the latest developments in the realm of fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution along with building stronger relationships and strengthening investigative networks.

UCOWF is the only national membership association dedicated to defending against the erosion of integrity in public assistance programs – equipping members across the industry with crucial resources for collaboration, professional development, and advocacy.

Many of you have traveled long distances to be here this week. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for taking the time to attend. We are thrilled to bring together a distinguished group of professionals. Over the next three days, you will have the opportunity to participate in dynamic panel sessions, dedicated workshops focused on the latest tools for public assistance fraud detection, prevention and prosecution, and use evening networking blocks to collaborate with local, state and federal investigators from across the United States.

The UCOWF Conference Committee has been working diligently to put together speakers we feel are the best in the country at what they do. We are here for training and to expand our tools in fighting welfare fraud. In addition to learning new techniques in fighting fraud, take time to connect with your peers from across the country and try to take in the sights of Pittsburgh.

Kick off the UCOWF Conference while taking in the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. San Francisco Giants game on Tuesday, September 1 at 6:40 p.m. (EDT). Purchase through the link on the UCOWF website for discounted Pirates Tickets and to receive complimentary $5 Loaded Value on each ticket good for food, beverage, or merchandise on September 1 only.

We do value your feedback. Our conference committee would like to encourage each of you to take the conference survey. After each conference, we get together and review the surveys and use the information to make next year's conference better.

Thank you!

Keith Miskie
UCOWF President

Our History

The United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) has a rich history of dedication to combating welfare fraud and ensuring the integrity of public assistance programs. Its roots can be traced back to 1971 when the National Welfare Fraud Association (NWFA) was established.

The National Welfare Fraud Association (NWFA) was co-founded in 1971 by the organization's first President, Dorothy Forney. NWFA consisted primarily of administrators of the programs.

The Eastern Regional Council on Welfare Fraud (ERCOWF) was chartered on February 28, 1978, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There was often a disconnect with the current organization, NWFA, as their members consisted primarily of administrators of the program, and ERCOWF focused on the entry point of the fraud with eligibility workers and front-line investigators, and their prosecutors.

In 1978, after years of the U.S. Department of Agriculture insisting there was only a 1 percent fraud rate in the welfare system, then Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Joseph A. Califano stated that there was at least 10 percent fraud, waste, and abuse in the welfare programs. Secretary Califano held an invitation-only national conference on fraud, error, and abuse at the Washington Hilton, where President Carter spoke and gave his support.

ERCOWF began in February 1978 in 13 states and had 125 members. By January 1981, ERCOWF had enrolled more than 1,000 members in 34 states. At this time, it was decided that the organization would go national. On April 6, 1981, ERCOWF officially changed its name to United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF).
In 1981, Dorothy Forney with NWFA served on the Reagan Transition Team, and finally had the government's attention that there was fraud in the government systems. The NWFA continued its operations until it closed and joined UCOWF in 1984.

It was at this time that the two organizations combined, and UCOWF emerged as a true national organization and collaborative platform where government officials, law enforcement agencies, and experts in the field could join forces to address the challenges posed by fraudulent activities within welfare systems.

From its inception, UCOWF has played a pivotal role in shaping policies, sharing best practices, and fostering cooperation among various stakeholders involved in the prevention and detection of welfare fraud. The organization has been a driving force in disseminating successful strategies and innovative technologies across America aimed at identifying and prosecuting those who exploit public assistance programs for personal gain.

Over the years, UCOWF has evolved to meet the changing landscape of welfare fraud, sharing information with members about new technologies and emerging methodologies employed by fraudulent actors. The council has served as a hub for the exchange of information, allowing members to stay abreast of developing trends and to collaborate on effective countermeasures. UCOWF facilitates collaboration among its members through its social media presence, its website, and its membership directory.

UCOWF's commitment to education and training has been singular in helping states build a skilled and informed workforce dedicated to combating welfare fraud. The organization annually conducts national conferences, produces quarterly newsletters, provides in-depth analysis on pending policies and proposed rule changes through white papers, and offers a national certification for members that enables professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in the ongoing battle against fraudulent activities.

As a leader in the field, UCOWF has also engaged with policymakers to advocate for legislative measures that strengthen the legal framework surrounding welfare programs and improve the tools available to combat fraud effectively. Leveraging the real-world experiences of its members for facts about fraud and the in-house talents it possesses, UCOWF continually refines fraud-fighting strategies it promotes to policymakers and national lawmakers.

As UCOWF looks toward the future, the organization remains steadfast in its mission to protect the integrity of public assistance programs, promote collaboration among stakeholders, and stay at the forefront of efforts to prevent and detect welfare fraud. Through its continued dedication, UCOWF strives to ensure that public resources are directed towards those who genuinely need assistance, fostering a fair and just welfare system for all.

To learn more about UCOWF and to search the member directory, you can click on the following links:

- The UCOWF Homepage
- UCOWF Top Ten Program Integrity Initiatives
- Follow us on LinkedIn
- Follow us on X (Formerly Twitter)

UCOWF National Conference

Hosted by the UCOWF Board of Directors.

As a leading organization dedicated to detecting and preventing fraudulent activities within public assistance programs, UCOWF's Board of Directors plays a vital role in shaping the organization's strategic direction and overseeing its operations. Our board members bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the fields of law enforcement, legal services, social services, and government officials, who advocate for integrity in public assistance programs.

Officers:

President	Keith Miskie (NE)
Vice-President	Greg Matthews (NC)
Secretary	David Krasnow (CO)
Treasurer	Andrew Petitt (WV)
Business Manager	Laura Lindsey (KS)
Parliamentarian	Tommy Fowler (AR)

Regional Directors

Region 1

Three members from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio

- Zach Bascelli (DE)
  Term ends 2028
- Robyn Battle (NY)
  Term ends 2027
- Terri Linehan (RI)
  Term ends 2026-seeking re-election

Region 2

Six members from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands

- Edgar Buster (WV)
  Term ends 2028
- Vacant
  Term ends 2028
- Julie Baldwin (NC)
  Term ends 2027
- Andy McClenahan (FL)
  Term ends 2027
- Flo Brown (KY)
  Term ends 2026
- Richard Carr (TN)
  Term ends 2026-seeking re-election

Region 3

Six members from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas

- Glennetta Stockdale (WI)
  Term ends 2028
- Vacant
  Term ends 2028
- Sheri Jackson (KS)
  Term ends 2027
- Cicely McGlory (KS)
  Term ends 2027
- Brain Anshutz (KS)
  Term ends 2026-seeking re-election
- Megan Kiefer (KS)
  Term ends 2026-seeking re-election

Region 4

Six members from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico

- Robbyn White (WY)
  Term ends 2028
- Glenn Allen (CA)
  Term ends 2028
- Michele Snyder (WY)
  Term ends 2027
- Mary Vasquez (CO)
  Term ends 2027
- David Krasnow (CO)
  Term ends 2026
- Vacancy
  Term ends 2026

Region 5

Three members from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the provinces and, Canada

- Vacant
  Term ends 2028
- Sean Vaivao-Oliver (HI)
  Term ends 2027
- Bradley Germann (ID)
  Term ends 2026-seeking re-election

One Year at Large Directors

An At Large Director fills a vacancy when a region does not have enough candidates when voting occurs to fill its allocated number of directors. An At Large Director serves in the vacant position for only one year.

- Djwana Dixon (NJ)
  Seeking re-election
- Melissa Williams (KY)
- Heather Smith (MT)
  Seeking re-election

How to Become a Board Member

Elections are held annually at the UCOWF National Training Conference by those members in attendance or at respective regional conferences sanctioned by the Board of Directors. Any person who is a current member and who has been a member for the past two years shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

Each Director shall be elected by a majority of the regional members registered at the annual international training conference and present at the election meeting.

Each region elects the following number of Directors among the members of that region:

- Three members from Region 1 (one vacancy, three-year term)
- Six members from Region 2 (three vacancies, two three-year terms & one two-year term)
- Six members from Region 3 (three vacancies, two three-year terms & one two-year term)
- Six members from Region 4 (two vacancies, three-year terms)
- Three members from Region 5 (two vacancies, one three-year term & one two-year term)

Unless otherwise specified, board members must commit to a three-year term for their region. Terms are staggered so that only one-third of the sitting Directors' terms shall expire each year.

If someone is not at the annual training conference but would still like to be considered, they can be nominated by an existing Board member and/or provide a letter of interest to the UCOWF Business Manager at ucowfmail@gmail.com by the start of the conference. The Business Manager will then provide this letter of interest to the designated region before elections so that the individual can be considered for election.

CWFI (Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator) Testing Information

This year the CWFI test will be offered twice as follows:

Monday, August 31, 2026, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm (**Monongahela Room/17th Floor**)

- Please arrive no later than 2:45 pm and bring a government issued photo ID

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM (Location TBD - Check with Registration Desk)

- Please arrive no later than 5:15 pm and bring a government issued photo ID

Support UCOWF: Raffle Ticket Information

Get your Raffle Tickets for Daily Drawings and Grand Prizes. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to UCOWF. Your support of UCOWF is appreciated. Ticket sales are Cash Only.

Daily Drawings:

Price: $1.00 per ticket or $5.00 for six tickets. Tickets will be sold at the raffle table near the registration area. Winning tickets for the daily drawings will be drawn each day during the conference, before morning and afternoon breaks, and will be posted near the raffle table. Winning ticket holders may redeem tickets and claim prizes at any time until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. To claim prizes, ticket holders must check the drawing results at each break.

Grand Prize Drawing:

Price: $5.00 per ticket. These tickets will be sold at the raffle table near the registration area. Tickets will also be available at the beginning of the Awards Luncheon on Thursday until the program begins. The Grand Prize Tickets will be drawn during the Awards Luncheon on Thursday. Winning ticket holders must be present at the time of the drawing.

Ticket Sales:

Monday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Conference Agenda

- See next page

UNITED COUNCIL ON WELFARE FRAUD™

53RD ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

PITTSBURGH, PA • AUGUST 31 — SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL • PITTSBURGH, PA

REGISTRATION

Registration Desk Open:
Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Coat Check Area, 17th Floor

Monday, August 31, 2026
Registration Open
1:00 - 5:00 PM

- **Attendee Check-in**
- **Presenter Check-in**
- **Volunteer Check-in**
- **Raffle Table**
- **Q & A — Test your knowledge!**
- **FAQ's**

BOARD MEETINGS AND NEW DIRECTOR TRAINING

Monday, August 31
8:30 - 10:30 AM
Board of Directors' Meeting
Frick Room, 17th Floor
10:45 - 11:00 AM
Pre-Conference Meeting with Hotel Staff
Franklin & Greene, 17th Floor

Tuesday, September 1
5:30 - 6:15 PM
Regional Election Results
Frick Room, 17th Floor

Wednesday, September 2
5:30 - 5:45 PM
New Director Training
Frick Room, 17th Floor

Thursday, September 3
7:30 - 8:25 AM
New Board of Directors' Meeting
Sky Room, 17th Floor

CWFI TESTING

Monday, August 31
2:45 - 5:00 PM
CWFI Testing
Monongahela, 17th Floor
Arrive with photo ID by 2:45 PM

Wednesday, September 2
5:15 - 7:30 PM
CWFI Testing
Sky Room, 17th Floor
Arrive with photo ID by 5:15 PM

SOCIAL EVENTS

Monday, August 31
4:00 - 6:00 PM
Ice Breaker: Meet & Greet Regional Directors & Election Candidates
Franklin & Greene, 17th Floor

Tuesday, September 1
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Let's Get Talking! Networking Event
Franklin & Greene, 17th Floor
Pittsburgh Pirates Game
Get Tickets

Wednesday, September 2
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Alias Assignment - Just for Fun Networking Event
Franklin & Greene, 17th Floor

DAY 1 — TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Time	Session	Speakers	Location
8:30 - 10:00 AM	**Conference Opening & Welcome** Keynote Speaker: Michelle Henry, PA State Inspector General Staying the Course: Integrity Under Pressure	Keith Miskie (UCOWF President) Terri Linehan (Region 1 Director, Conference Co-chair) David Krasnow (UCOWF Secretary, Conference Co-chair)	Grand Ballroom
10:00 - 10:30 AM — BREAK — Grand Ballroom			
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	**TOWN HALL PANEL - EXECUTIVE REGULATORY ISSUES** Moderator: Andy McClenahan	Gina Brand (USDA) Rachel Greszler (Advancing American Freedom) Sam Adolphsen (Red Door Consulting)	Grand Ballroom
12:00 - 1:30 PM — LUNCH - ON YOUR OWN			
1:30 - 3:00 PM	**TOWN HALL PANEL - SNAP PROGRAM INTEGRITY & RETAILERS** Moderator: Andy McClenahan	John Walk (USDA OIG) Ken Constable (USDA FNA)	Grand Ballroom
3:00 - 3:30 PM — BREAK — Grand Ballroom			
3:30 - 5:00 PM	**Intergovernmental Affairs Q&A Panel**	Andy McClenahan (Co-chair UCOWF Intergovernmental Board) Dan Boston (President Health Policy Source) Gayle Gerdes (Vice President Health Policy Source) Steve Corsi (Chair of the Secretaries Innovation Group)	Grand Ballroom

DAY 2 — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Time	Track 1 Allegheny - 17th Floor	Track 2 Monongahela - 17th Floor	Track 3 Urban - 17th Floor
8:30 - 10:00 AM	**In-state Investigations of Out-of-State Benefits SNAP Fraud** Robert Boldin	**The True Cost of Fraud in SNAP: New Research, Emerging Risks and Practical Solutions** Amanda D'Amico, LexisNexis Risk Solutions	**The NDCAC: Resources for Law Enforcement in the Digital Age** Alan Distajo, FBI
10:00 - 10:30 AM — BREAK - Grand Ballroom			
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	**Childcare Development Fund Grant Fraud (CCDF)** Paul Vaccaro	**Access Device Fraud Crime Trends** Hannah Feldman, USSS & Gabriella DiStefano, NCFTA	**FNA Office of Retailer Operations & Compliance** Ken Constable, John Gallagher & Jamie Slack
12:00 - 1:30 PM — LUNCH - ON YOUR OWN			
1:30 - 3:00 PM	**From Risk to Resilience: Integrity Strategies That Saved Thousands of SNAP & TANF Customers from Fraud** Christa Phillips & Ainsley MacLeod	**Safeguarding Benefits: Kentucky's Fight Against Electronic Theft** Melissa Williams & Arielle Akin	**Skimmer Response Teams: The Pennsylvania Response to EBT Card Skimming** Michelle Kelly Walsh, Kelly Carpenter, Katy Colon & Andrew Gibson
3:00 - 3:30 PM — BREAK - Grand Ballroom			
3:30 - 5:00 PM	**Developing High-Quality Criminal Case Referrals** Nicole Housley, LexisNexis Risk Solutions	**The Check is in the Mail!** Edward Shaw & Scott Black	**FIS (title pending)** Chris Jacobson

DAY 3 — THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Time	Track 1 Allegheny - 17th Floor	Track 2 Monongahela - 17th Floor	Track 3 Urban - 17th Floor
8:30 - 10:00 AM	**DECCD and CCPS Investigations** Joshua Bankston & Jack Brown	**Inside a Multi-State Benefit Fraud Takedown** Brittny Medeiros, Justin Leung & Kim Seebeck	**The Future of Program Integrity: The Cost of Letting Analytics End at the Dashboard** Mark Haskins
10:00 - 10:15 AM — BREAK - Grand Ballroom			
10:15 - 11:45 AM	**Working with USDA Retail Operations to Curb SNAP Fraud** Tom Roth	**Follow the Data: Then Knock on the Door: Finding Public Benefits Fraud Hiding in Plain Sight** David Maimon, SentiLink	**Greed in Black & White: The Cost of Fraud During the Pandemic** Det. Mark Barker & Barbara Cannito
12:00 - 1:45 PM — AWARDS LUNCHEON (AWARDS & MEMBER MEETING) - GRAND BALLROOM			
1:45 - 3:15 PM	**Peeling Back the Layers: Program Integrity, Payment Accuracy & Financial Stewardship Through Precertification Case Analysis** Lawrence Singleton	**High Stakes, Low Profile — Investigating High Profile Cases** Tina Werle	**Fraud Investigations Through Legislation** Brad Germann
3:15 - 3:30 PM — BREAK - Grand Ballroom			
3:30 - 5:00 PM	**Stopping EBT Theft Before It Happens: How Modern Anti-Fraud Tools Are Protecting Benefits** Morgan Mckinney, Kira Tebbe & Andrew Barrett	**Safeguarding Benefits: Kentucky's Fight Against Electronic Theft** Melissa Williams & Arielle Akin	**Criminal Investigations of Traditional Retail and Individual SNAP Fraud** Jeff Yarian

ADVOCATE • EDUCATE • COLLABORATE

See you next year in Omaha, Nebraska

Food, Snacks & Networking Opportunities

Monday

Evening Ice Breaker, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (FRANKLIN & GREENE - 17th Floor) **

Tuesday

Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

- Deluxe Continental Menu includes whole and sliced seasonal fruit, assorted Danish and pastries, miniature muffins, individual yogurts, cereals with milk, breakfast wraps, overnight oats, yogurt parfaits, coffee, hot tea, and assorted juices.

Break 3:00 p.m.

- Stadium-themed afternoon snack break includes tricolor tortilla chips, nacho cheese, tomato salsa, jalapeno peppers, Bavarian pretzels, stone ground and red pepper mustards, mini corn dogs, cracker jacks, SARRIS pretzel rods, Turners iced tea and lemonade

Evening Networking Reception, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (FRANKLIN & GREENE - 17th Floor) **

Wednesday

Break 10:00 a.m.

- Coffee Shop Break includes coffeehouse-inspired refreshment break. cinnamon streusel cake, chocolate & butter croissants, assorted biscotti, butter cookies, stance regular & decaffeinated coffee, Numi hot tea service, vanilla, caramel or hazelnut flavor syrups, honey, lemon slices, rock sugar candy stirs, cinnamon sticks

Break 3:00 p.m.

- Performance-themed snack break includes build-your-own trail mix bar | raisins, cranberries, apricots, dark chocolate chips, pecans, peanuts, almonds, sunflower seeds, sun butter protein bars - juices | strawberry lemonade, cranberry & apple refresher, virgin mojito

Evening Networking Reception, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (FRANKLIN & GREENE - 17th Floor) **

** Six drink tickets per person will be provided at registration. Drink tickets can be redeemed for beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages on Monday (Evening Ice Breaker), Tuesday and/or Wednesday (Evening Networking Reception). A cash bar will also be available.

Thursday

Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

- Fresh Start Menu includes fresh fruit, wholesome breakfast selections, coffee, tea, and juices. Toasted multi grain breads, almond butter, peanut butter, whipped butter, jams, sliced seasonal fruit & berries, Chantilly dip, Greek yogurt parfaits, berries, granola, steel-cut oatmeal, dried cranberries, toasted walnuts, almonds, cinnamon, brown sugar

Awards Luncheon 12:00 – 1:45 p.m. - Southern Comfort Buffet includes:

- Garden Greens Salad
- Potato Corn Chowder
- Entrée Choices: Kentucky Hot Brown OR Whiskey & Black Pepper Black Steak
- Vegetable: Broccoli with charred corn & roasted red peppers
- Starch: Butter Mashed Potatoes
- Desserts: Apple Pie Mason Jar OR Dark Chocolate Mississippi Mud Pie

Break 3:00 p.m.

- Chocolate-themed afternoon refreshment break. Assorted gourmet cookies, brownies, blondies, chocolate bark, milk chocolate & yogurt-dipped pretzels whole, 2% & almond milks, chocolate milk

Day 1 Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Michelle Henry
State Inspector General Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Office of State Inspector General
michehenry@pa.gov

Michelle A. Henry, a life-long public servant and former Attorney General of Pennsylvania, was appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro on January 21, 2025, as Pennsylvania's twelfth State Inspector General. Widely recognized for her work ethic and singular dedication to public service, Ms. Henry has devoted her career to protecting Pennsylvanians, promoting accountability, and upholding the highest standards of integrity in government.

Before her appointment as State Inspector General, Ms. Henry served as Pennsylvania's Attorney General. Initially appointed by Governor Shapiro to complete the remainder of his term, she was subsequently unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania State Senate. As the Commonwealth's chief law enforcement officer, Ms. Henry achieved significant accomplishments, including securing major settlements to hold corporations accountable for their actions. She was instrumental in negotiating historic agreements with opioid manufacturers and distributors, resulting in millions of dollars being directed toward combating the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. Ms. Henry prioritized public safety by expanding efforts to combat gun violence, dismantling drug trafficking operations, establishing the first human trafficking section, and prosecuting cases of public corruption. She also reinforced the Office's focus on consumer protection, advocating for Pennsylvanians against fraud, scams, and predatory practices.

A graduate of Allegheny College and the Widener University School of Law, Ms. Henry began her career at the Bucks County District Attorney's office. Dedicating more than two decades there, she held critical roles such as Chief of Major Crimes, Chief of Child Abuse, and First Assistant. During her tenure, she successfully prosecuted homicides, sexual assault, child abuse, homicide by vehicle, corruption, domestic assaults and a variety of other cases. In 2008, she was appointed Bucks County District Attorney with bipartisan support, where she led by example, tackled the toughest cases, and spearheaded major initiatives, including establishing the county's children's advocacy center.

Throughout her career, Ms. Henry has been recognized for her exceptional contributions to public service. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America. In 2015, she was recognized by the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association (PDAA) and honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award, and in 2016, she was a recipient of the Legal Intelligencer's "Top Women In Law" award. She is also a recipient of Widener University Commonwealth Law School's 2017 Excellence in Public Service Alumni Award for her extraordinary dedication to justice and public service. In 2024, she was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award, given to Greensburg Salem High School graduates who have distinguished themselves through public service. She has been a member of PDAA's Education and Training Committee for more than a decade and is a frequent lecturer.

As Pennsylvania's State Inspector General, Ms. Henry continues her unwavering commitment to protecting the integrity of government operations and serving the people of the Commonwealth with ethics and accountability.

In this keynote, Pennsylvania State Inspector General Michelle A. Henry reflects on the values that have carried her across three decades in public service, from the Bucks County District Attorney's Office to Pennsylvania Attorney General to her current role leading the Office of State Inspector General. Drawing on her own experience, including the prosecution of a sitting Attorney General, General Henry explores what it takes to hold fast to integrity, teamwork, and clear communication when the pressure and public scrutiny are highest, and why those values have to be built into daily practice long before a crisis arrives. She closes with a message of genuine appreciation for the demanding work of fraud prevention and program integrity professionals, and a reminder of what that work protects: taxpayer dollars, and the people public benefit programs are designed to serve.

Town Hall Panel – Executive and Regulatory Issues

One of the highlights from each conference, Andy McClenahan will moderate the first of several impressive panels discussing fraud, waste, and abuse in public assistance programs. This panel will focus on current Administration's efforts to address program integrity in all welfare assistance programs. After opening statements and questions from Andy, audience members will be able to ask questions directly to the panel. Panelists include: Sam Adolphsen, who recently served as the Deputy Assistant in the White House Domestic Policy Council; Gina Brand, the USDA Chief Integrity Officer; and Rachel Greszler, Senior Research Fellow with Advancing American Freedom and co-panelist at the DOGE hearing alongside UCOWF's Dawn Royal. Come ready with great questions (no bitch sessions please!) - this is always a great way to kick off our annual conference and get people talking!

Gina Brand
Chief Integrity Officer, USDA

Rachel Greszler
Senior Research Fellow, Advancing American Freedom

Rachel Greszler is a Senior Research Fellow in the Plymouth Institute for Free Enterprise at Advancing American Freedom (AAF). She is recognized as an economic expert in workforce, family policy, Social Security, pensions, and fiscal policy. Greszler's research focuses on policies that promote economic growth, personal freedom and well-being, and fiscal sanity. Greszler has testified dozens of times before Congress and her articles have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Fox, CNN, National Review, The Hill, and other outlets. Among the many topics she addresses are: education and employment opportunities; Social Security improvements; the minimum wage; family-friendly workplace policies; federal employment competitiveness; improper payments and fraud; and the federal budget.

Prior to joining Advancing American Freedom, Greszler spent 12 years as a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and previously served for seven years as a senior economist on the staff of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress. Greszler also currently serves as a Visiting Fellow in Workforce at the Economic Policy Innovation Center (EPIC). Greszler holds master's degrees in economics and public policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Mary Washington, where she currently serves on the Board of Visitors.

Sam Adolphsen
Founding Partner at Red Door Consulting
Red Door Consulting

Sam Adolphsen is a Founding Partner at Red Door Consulting. He recently served as Deputy Assistant to the President at the White House Domestic Policy Council, where he helped shape the President's domestic agenda, focusing on welfare reform, fraud prevention, and government accountability. Before joining the White House, Sam served as Policy Director at the Foundation for Government Accountability, where he led national efforts to strengthen welfare program integrity, reform Medicaid, and expand work requirements.

Sam previously served as Chief Operating Officer at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, where he ran day-to-day operations of one of the state's largest agencies and helped implement landmark welfare reforms that became a national model. Sam has testified before the U.S. House and Senate, as well as in dozens of state legislatures across the country. He is a frequent keynote speaker, and media commentator, with commentary appearing in outlets including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Fox News*, and *National Review*.

He lives in Maine with his family.

Town Hall Panel – SNAP Program Integrity & Retailers

After a break for lunch, Andy will continue moderating another panel with key senior leadership within USDA. This panel will focus on enforcement efforts within SNAP retailers (and recipients as we know they are half of the equation) as well as upcoming regulatory focuses. UCOWF attendees will get to hear from; John Walk, the current USDA Inspector General and first since since 2002; Gina Brand, the USDA Chief Integrity Officer; and Ken Constable, USDA FNA Acting Deputy Administrator over SNAP Retailers. Once again, after opening statements, Andy will engage panelists in meaningful conversation about current and future federal efforts to address program integrity in SNAP before opening questions to members of the audience. Come ready with more great questions!

John Walk
Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture

John Walk was nominated by President Donald J. Trump and confirmed by the United States Senate on December 18, 2025. He was sworn in as USDA Inspector General on January 5, 2026.

Inspector General Walk leads the Office of Inspector General (OIG), comprised of nearly 400 employees including criminal investigators, auditors, attorneys, analytics staff, and administrative professionals. The OIG is dedicated to serving America's farmers and ranchers by promoting the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of and preventing and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse regarding USDA's programs and operations. OIG's work is accomplished through independent and objective audits, investigations, inspections, and reviews. By fulfilling its statutory authorization under the Inspector General Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424, OIG safeguards the integrity, transparency, and accountability of USDA to the American people. Inspector General Walk is also a general officer of USDA and delegated additional responsibilities by the Secretary pursuant to 7 CFR §§ 2.4 and 2.33.

Inspector General Walk held previous positions at USDA as Judicial Officer for five years -making final agency decisions in formal administrative litigation and dispute resolution proceedings. He was also Senior Advisor to the Secretary from July 2025 until January 2026. Beginning in 2017 until 2020, Inspector General Walk served as Associate Counsel to the President at the White House Counsel's Office. He provided legal advice on executive actions, regulations, and numerous federal programs across the United States government. Prior to that, he held various legal roles at the Department of Homeland Security from 2008 to 2017 handling federal court litigation and providing legal counsel. Earlier in his career he worked at an international law firm in Washington, DC and on congressional staff.

Inspector General Walk earned a bachelor's degree in politics from Occidental College and a Juris Doctor from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University. He is originally from Seattle, Washington.

Ken Constable
Acting Deputy Administrator
USDA, Food and Nutrition Administration
Ken.Constable@usda.gov
215-360-8755

Ken Constable serves as the Acting Deputy Administrator for the USDA Food and Nutrition Administration's Office of Retailer Operations and Compliance. Over his nearly 20-year tenure with FNA, he has dedicated his career to SNAP retailer management, with a strong focus on fraud detection and compliance. Prior to his current acting role, Ken was the Director of the Retailer Compliance Division, where he oversaw fraud detection efforts, investigation initiation, case development, due process, and the sanctioning of program violators. His leadership continues to strengthen program integrity, ensure accountability across SNAP retailer operations, and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Intergovernmental Affairs Q & A Panel

UCOWFs Andy McClenahan will again sit down and discuss UCOWF legislative advocacy and education efforts on the Hill with UCOWF's lobbyist and consulting firm; Dan Boston and Gayle Gerdes with Health Policy Source. Joining the panel is Steve Corsi, the CEO of Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services and Chair of the Secretaries' Innovation Group who will share insights into issues SIG is hearing from state leaders.

Dan Boston
President & Chief Executive Officer
Health Policy Source, Inc.

Dan Boston, a Capitol Hill veteran, is CEO and Principal at Health Policy Source. Dan has a diverse range of federal and private sector experience in developing and drafting federal healthcare policy and implementing strategic policy objectives. He also has tremendous experience working with key policymaking officials at the highest levels of government. Dan has been named one of Washington, DC's 'Top Lobbyists' by The Hill for 22 of the last 23 years. He received his undergraduate degree in Public Policy and Political Science and Master of Arts in Journalism from Indiana University.

Gayle Gerdes
Vice-President Health Policy Source

Gayle's health care background is an extensive mix of government and private sector experience. She spent several years on Capitol Hill where she worked in both the House and the Senate, focusing her time on health care legislation. Later, she moved to The Concord Coalition where she worked with the media, Members of Congress, and related organizations to educate the public on the federal budget and deficit. In particular, she delved into the relationship of Medicare and Social Security with the federal budget. In addition, Gayle has experience serving on the board of the Los Alamos Medical Center, and she has recently consulted for The Brooks Group and The Concord Coalition. Gayle graduated from the University of Arkansas with a B.A. in English and Communications.

Steve Corsi
Chair, The Secretaries Innovation Group

Dr. Steve Corsi is the newly appointed Chair of the Secretaries' Innovation Group as of 2025. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Nebraska on August 16, 2023. Corsi's most recent role is acting CEO of the Central Wyoming Counseling Center. He has been director and/or CEO of the Missouri Department of Social Services, Wyoming Department of Family Services, High Country Behavioral Health (Wyoming) and the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Group in California. In 2019, Corsi became President/CEO of Volunteers of America Western Washington, where he significantly recruited and retained the workforce, expanded early childhood offerings and grew the organization's revenue from $17.2 million to $115 million during his nearly four years of tenure. Corsi earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from California Baptist University in psychology and counseling psychology, respectively. He received a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in clinical psychology from Alliant International University – San Diego.

Andrew McClenahan
Senior Director – External Affairs
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
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Andrew McClenahan currently serves as the Senior Director of External Affairs for LexisNexis Risk Solutions within its Government division. He has over 30 years of experience in the federal, state, and local public sectors, with a strong focus on technology, investigations, and fraud prevention. Andy is an active member of UCOWF, where he co-chairs the Intergovernmental Committee alongside Dawn Royal. In this role, he regularly collaborates with federal and state agency leadership and provides subject matter expertise to legislators and their staff. He is frequently called upon to represent UCOWF members in engagements with public officials and the media and has received national recognition for his work in public assistance fraud prevention.

Previously, Andy served six years as the Director of the Office of Public Benefits Integrity at the Florida Department of Children and Families. He also held sworn law enforcement and Inspector General positions at both state and local levels in Florida. Andy holds multiple certifications, including Certified Public Manager, Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator, and Certified Inspector General Investigator. In recognition of his outstanding service to UCOWF and its members, he has been honored with both the Dorothy Forney Award and the Jack Heacock Distinguished Service Award.

Session Descriptions & Presenters

In-State Investigations of Out-of-State SNAP Fraud: This presentation will discuss the ideology, background and case studies of how the Ohio Investigative Unit is pursuing bad actors in other states for defrauding Ohio SNAP recipients and attacking the integrity of Ohio's EBT system. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators

Robert Boldin
Agent-in-Charge
Ohio Investigative Unit
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216-898-1870

AIC Boldin is a 33-year law enforcement veteran with 22 years in the Ohio Investigative Unit. AIC Boldin has led multiple Criminal Enterprise investigations, resulting in dozens of convictions of in-state and out-of-state suspects running nationwide illegal gambling networks, human trafficking operations, and illegal bitcoin ATM's, with those cases resulting in the forfeiture of nearly $15m in criminal proceeds. For the past 3 years, AIC Boldin has been assigned to coordinate statewide investigations relating to out-of-state retailers profiting from the use of stolen Ohio EBT card numbers.

The True Cost of Fraud in SNAP: New Research, Emerging Risks and Practical Solutions: Fraud is evolving. As SNAP agencies expand digital access, integrate eligibility across programs, and navigate increasing accountability for program accuracy, new fraud risks are emerging alongside greater pressure to improve Payment Error Rates (PER) and protect critical funding. Join LexisNexis® Risk Solutions for an exclusive first look at findings from the 2026 True Cost of Fraud™ Study for SNAP and Integrated Eligibility Systems (IES), based on insights from 150 SNAP leaders nationwide.

Attendees will gain insights into the growing financial and operational impact of fraud, the factors driving rising costs and payment errors, and practical strategies to improve program integrity, safeguard funding, and strengthen confidence in eligibility decisions.

Amanda D'Amico
Senior Director of Market Planning, Government Efficiency & Fraud Solutions
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
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Amanda comes to LexisNexis Risk Solutions with a strong history of expertise in State Law Enforcement focusing on fraud and white-collar crime and served as a State Benefits Integrity Director where she led efforts to modernize identity verification and program integrity operations. Amanda also led several high-profile organizations in the risk and fraud strategy plus operations capacities. In this role, Amanda oversaw several high-impact technology contracts and earned national recognition as the Executive Sponsor of Florida's groundbreaking Customer Authentication Project, the first state-level online identity theft detection tool.

The NDCAC: Resources for Law Enforcement in the Digital Age: This presentation provides an introduction into the National Domestic Communication Center (NDCAC) and the resources available through the NDCAC to support law enforcement, and their investigations, including tools, training, white papers, a knowledgebase, databases and contact information for a multitude of communication service providers, which law enforcement can access thru the NDCAC Law Enforcement Portal. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators, Domestic Law Enforcement Officials

Alan Distajo
Supervisory Special Agent
FBI – OTD – NDCAC
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520-266-0128

Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Alan Distajo currently oversees the FBI's National Domestic Communications Assistance Center (NDCAC) Training Program. Based on Alan's work experience with State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial law enforcement partners during his FBI investigations, he recognizes the value of the NDCAC and how the NDCAC resources can assist those domestic LE partners that would not otherwise have the resources or knowledge base within their own agencies to face the challenges associated with electronic communication services, emerging technologies, and CALEA. Prior to his current position with the NDCAC, Alan's experiences spanned a variety of programs throughout the FBI, including the Violent Crime Task Force, the Organized Crime - Drug Enforcement & Border Corruption Task Force, an overseas OCONUS mission, and the FBI Academy.

Child Care Development Fund Grant Fraud (CCDF): The presentation will focus on Federal Grant Fraud in the CCDF program. The presentation will focus on real-life case examples from discovery to prosecution. Target audience: Fraud Investigators, Supervisors

Paul Vaccaro, CFE, CTI, DEAS
Senior Special Agent
HHS-OIG
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Paul Vaccaro, CFE, CTI, DEAS is a nationally recognized fraud investigator, educator, and former Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. Over the past two decades, he has led complex fraud investigations involving Medicare, Medicaid, Grant Fraud, and other federally funded healthcare programs, resulting in approximately $2.8 billion in court-ordered judgments and recoveries while working alongside the FBI, CMS, DOJ, and U.S. Attorneys. A Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Technical Investigator, and Certified Digital Evidence Acquisition Specialist, Paul has spent his career developing investigative strategies, leveraging emerging technologies and data analytics, and mentoring investigators to strengthen program integrity. As a former university instructor in Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting, he is passionate about sharing practical investigative techniques, interagency best practices, and innovative approaches that help investigators detect fraud earlier, build stronger cases, and safeguard taxpayer-funded public assistance programs.

Access Device Fraud Crime Trends: The threat landscape targeting payment terminals and consumers' access to cash continues to evolve rapidly as threat actors respond to mitigation strategies and continue to find new ways to target organizations and consumers. This presentation provides an updated overview on the types of crimes that target consumer payment cards and will touch on skimming trends, along with other crime types targeting ATMs. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators, Supervisors

Hannah Feldman
Investigative Analyst
US Secret Service

Hannah Feldman is the US Secret Service Investigative Analyst located at the National Cyber Forensics & Training Alliance (NCFTA) in Pittsburgh PA, where she serves as a liaison between USSS field offices and NCFTA industry and law enforcement partners. In her role within the USSS, Hannah focuses heavily on supporting cases that involve money laundering networks and access device fraud activity. Hannah serves as a member of the NCFTA Member Advisory Committee. Hannah has served as a committee member for the Skimming and Payment Terminal Attack (SAPTA) working group under the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators (IAFCI). As part of SAPTA, she has coordinated annual meetings and webinars for working group participants to link together subject matter experts and investigators from around the country.

Gabriella Di Stefano
Investigative Analyst III
NCFTA
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Gabriella Di Stefano is an Intelligence Analyst and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) in the National Cyber Forensic and Training Alliance's (NCFTA) Cyber Financial (CyFin) Program. Gabriella holds a degree in Forensic Accounting from Southern New Hampshire University and has previous experience in the financial services industry. She leads the NCFTA's Contactless Payments Fraud Working Group (CPFWG) and Common Points-of-Purchase (CPP) Initiative, both of which seek to disrupt actors abusing payment cards and networks to facilitate cyber-enabled financial crime.

FNA Office of Retailer Operations & Compliance: Introduction to the FNA Office of Retailer Operations & Compliance. Focused topics: FNA/State Agency Card Security Partnerships and FNA State Agency Referrals. Target audience: Fraud Investigators

Ken Constable
Acting Deputy Administrator
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Ken Constable serves as the Acting Deputy Administrator for the USDA Food and Nutrition Administration's Office of Retailer Operations and Compliance. Over his nearly 20-year tenure with FNA, he has dedicated his career to SNAP retailer management, with a strong focus on fraud detection and compliance. Prior to his current acting role, Ken was the Director of the Retailer Compliance Division, where he oversaw fraud detection efforts, investigation initiation, case development, due process, and the sanctioning of program violators. His leadership continues to strengthen program integrity, ensure accountability across SNAP retailer operations, and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

John Gallagher
Acting Director, Fraud Analytics Division
USDA, Food and Nutrition Administration
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John Gallagher is the Acting Director for the Fraud Analytics Division within the USDA Food and Nutrition Administration's Office of Retailer Operations and Compliance. With more than 20 years of service at FNA, John brings deep institutional knowledge and leadership experience to SNAP retailer oversight. For the past five years, John has led a team dedicated to fraud detection and investigation initiation across all SNAP-authorized retailers. John is committed to developing innovative fraud-detection tools and methodologies that enhance USDA's ability to identify emerging risks and protect program integrity.

Jamie Slack
Acting Director, Retailer Compliance Division
USDA, Food and Nutrition Administration
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Jamie Slack serves as the Acting Director for the Retailer Compliance Division within the USDA Food and Nutrition Administration's Office of Retailer Operations and Compliance. Throughout her tenure with FNA, she has focused her career on strengthening SNAP retailer oversight and compliance, advancing analytical capabilities, and supporting efforts to address and combat fraud. Her work reflects a deep commitment to protecting the integrity of the program and ensuring that SNAP benefits are used as intended. In her current leadership capacity, Jamie continues to promote accountability and integrity within retailer SNAP, improving tools that help safeguard and protect SNAP from misuse and is dedicated to implementing sanctions toward all SNAP-violating retailers.

From Risk to Resilience: The Integrity Strategies That Saved Thousands of SNAP & TANF Customers from Fraud: This presentation highlights how the DC Department of Human Services Integrity Team proactively safeguarded thousands of District residents from becoming victims of stolen public benefits. Drawing on DC DHS's comprehensive oversight structure, Christa Phillips outlines how data driven monitoring, cross agency collaboration, and strengthened investigative practices helped identify fraud risks early, close service gaps, and ensure program integrity. The presentation details how improved policies, enhanced accountability systems, and coordinated corrective actions prevented widespread loss, protected vulnerable families, and reinforced trust in safety net programs. The session demonstrates how strong leadership and strategic integrity operations can effectively defend public resources and resident well-being. Key Takeaways:

- Strong integrity systems and data-driven monitoring can identify fraud risks early and prevent widespread benefit theft.
- Cross agency collaboration—across federal partners, law enforcement, schools, and community organizations—is essential to protecting vulnerable residents.
- Improved policies, strengthened oversight, and consistent corrective actions enhance program integrity and reduce risk for youth and families.

- Comprehensive investigations and quality assurance functions help detect service gaps, prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, and safeguard public resources.
- Dedicated leadership and a well-structured integrity team are critical to ensuring safety, accountability, and trust in public benefit programs.

Target Audience: Administrative Staff, Fraud Investigators, Supervisors

Christa Phillips, MSW, CIG, Ph.D. Candidate
Chief Accountability Officer
DC Department of Human Services
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Christa Phillips is a dynamic human services leader and Certified Inspector General with over 20 years of experience strengthening fraud prevention, accountability, and program integrity across youth-serving and public sector systems. As Chief Accountability Officer for the DC Department of Human Services, she drives high-impact investigations, audits, and monitoring strategies that protect vulnerable families and ensure responsible stewardship of public resources. Previously, she advanced system integrity as Inspector General for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, leading major compliance and risk reduction initiatives. A committed community leader, Mrs. Phillips serves on multiple national boards, mentors emerging social work professionals, and has been a featured speaker on ethics, compliance, youth safety, and organizational quality. Her career reflects a deep commitment to strengthening systems, supporting families, and ensuring those who are in need have access to safe, accountable, and empowering environments.

Ainsley MacLeod
Supervisory Program Monitor
DC Department of Human Services
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Ainslie MacLeod is a Supervisory Program Monitor at the DC Department of Human Services, where she leads data and compliance efforts supporting program integrity across the agency's public benefit programs. She builds the data infrastructure and analytical methods used to identify patterns and trends, informing the agency's work to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. She also oversees the teams responsible for audits, civil rights compliance, and shelter monitoring across the agency. Across these efforts, she focuses on strengthening the systems and processes that District residents depend on for accurate, reliable program administration.
From Risk to Resilience: The Integrity Strategies That Saved Thousands of SNAP & TANF Customers from Fraud

Safeguarding Benefits: Kentucky's Fight Against Electronic Theft: This presentation provides an overview of Kentucky's response to electronic benefit theft, highlighting the state's transition from initial response efforts in 2022 to a comprehensive, proactive fraud prevention strategy. It will cover key initiatives implemented to educate recipients, strengthen security, and support staff, as well as the significant outcomes achieved, including a 99 percent reduction in theft complaints and ongoing efforts to address emerging fraud threats. Target Audience: Administrative Staff, Business Staff, Fraud Investigators, Eligibility Technicians, and Supervisors

Arielle Akin
Human Services Program Supervisor
Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support, Program Integrity Branch, Integrity and Analysis Section
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With more than 13 years of service with Kentucky's Department for Community Based Services, Arielle has dedicated her career to program integrity, fraud prevention, and public assistance administration. Beginning as a Family Support Specialist in 2013, she advanced through investigative, analytical, and leadership roles, gaining extensive experience in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer (EBT), trafficking investigations, EBT misuse, overpayment determinations, and fraud detection. As a Human Services Program Supervisor beginning in 2023 within the Integrity and Analysis Section, she has played a key role in Kentucky's response to electronic benefit theft, including helping develop the state's Skimming and Cloning Replacement Plan, securing the Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) Fraud Framework Grant monies in 2024, implementing recipient outreach and fraud prevention initiatives, and leading statewide training efforts. Her work has focused on strengthening program integrity through collaboration, education, data analysis, and innovative fraud prevention strategies that have contributed to significant reductions in electronic benefit theft across Kentucky.

Melissa Williams
Human Services Branch Manager
Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support, Program Integrity Branch
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Melissa is the Branch Manager for the Program Integrity Branch within the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, where she leads statewide efforts focused on fraud detection, prevention, investigations, claims, hearings, and data analytics for public assistance programs. With more than 20 years of experience in Family Support and Program Integrity, she has assisted in the development of innovative fraud detection tools, strengthened trafficking and misuse prevention efforts, and collaborated extensively with federal and state partners, including USDA Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA), the Office of Inspector General (OIG), and welfare fraud organizations nationwide. A recognized leader in SNAP fraud prevention, Melissa serves on the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) Board of Directors and regularly shares best practices with fraud investigators and data analysts across the country. Her work has helped Kentucky improve program integrity outcomes, combat electronic benefit theft (EBT) skimming and cloning schemes, secure federal grant funding, and implement data-driven strategies that protect public resources while ensuring eligible families receive timely benefits.

Skimmer Response Teams: the Pennsylvania Response to EBT Card Skimming: This session presents the Pennsylvania Office of State Inspector General's response to Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card skimming, a rapidly evolving fraud scheme that has victimized SNAP recipients across the country. Chief of Staff Michele Kelly Walsh will open the presentation with the origins of Pennsylvania's work: how the agency identified the scope of the problem, built a dedicated team through specialized training and regular interagency coordination, developed a novel approach to protecting victims, and where that work stands today. Ms. Walsh will then lead a panel of investigators representing OSIG's regional offices across the state, including Northeast Regional Office Manager Kelly Carpenter, Central Region Special Agent Supervisor Katy Colon, and Southeast Region Special Agent Andrew Gibson. They will discuss their training, key cases, and how they carry out skimming investigations in the field. The session will close with an open conversation with attendees about how other states are combating skimming, followed by a question-and-answer period. Target Audience: Case Managers, Fraud Investigation, Supervisors

Michele Kelly Walsh
Chief of Staff
Pennsylvania Office of State Inspector General
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Michele Kelly Walsh was appointed Chief of Staff to the State Inspector General in January 2025, bringing more than 25 years of experience as a prosecutor and public servant. She previously served as the Office of Attorney General's Executive Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Division and, from 2017 to 2021, as Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Child Predator Section, where she oversaw the prosecution of more than 500 predators and helped shape state policy on sex offenders, child sexual abuse laws, and related procedures. Ms. Walsh also served on Pennsylvania's statewide Child Death Review team and contributed to a statewide task force examining the Commonwealth's Sexual Abuse of Children statute. A 1997 graduate of Temple University School of Law, she began her career in the Bucks County District Attorney's Office, rising from a trial team member in the Special Victims Unit to Chief of Adult Sex Crimes and Juvenile Prosecutions, and later served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Insurance Fraud Section from 2002 to 2007 before being appointed to lead the Child Predator Section.

Kelly Carpenter has served as Investigations Manager for OSIG's Northeast Regional Office since 2018 and has worked for the agency since 2012. Prior to joining OSIG, she spent eight years with Wyoming County Adult Probation and Parole. Kelly holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Marywood University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Keystone College, and an Associate of Science degree from Lackawanna College. She taught at Keystone College for 11 years before becoming an adjunct professor at Pennsylvania State University, where she has now taught for six years. Kelly has been part of the Skimmer Response Team since its inception in early 2025. Outside of work, she is an avid runner and enjoys riding horses.

Special Agent Supervisor Katy Colon has been part of the OSIG family since December 2015, beginning her career in the agency's SNAP trafficking unit before that work was integrated into the regional offices, where she continued to specialize in SNAP trafficking while covering all facets of the agency's programs. Katy was promoted to Supervisor in March 2021 and has been part of the Skimmer Response Team since its inception. Prior to joining OSIG, she worked in Washington, D.C. as a contractor with the USDA Office of Inspector General's Asset Forfeiture division, where she also encountered cases involving SNAP trafficking. Katy earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice from Pennsylvania State University and has served as an adjunct professor for 12 years, currently teaching in the Criminal Justice program at Central Penn Business School. In July 2026, Katy received the Governor's Award for Excellence as part of the Skimmer Response Team. She resides in Marysville with her husband, Miguel, and their three children, Sammy (SJ), Emmagrace, and Lucas. In her free time, she enjoys sporting events and spending time outdoors with her children and with family and friends.

Special Agent Andrew Gibson began his career in law enforcement in July 2011 with the Philadelphia Police Department, where he worked in multiple districts specializing in community-oriented policing while proactively addressing violent crime, illegal firearms, and narcotics activity. His enforcement efforts earned him numerous departmental honors, including an FOP award, six Merit Commendations, four Commendatory Citations, a Medal of Heroism, multiple Officer of the Month recognitions, and citations from Philadelphia City Council. Andrew joined the OSIG’s Bureau of Fraud Prevention and Prosecution as a frontend investigator in January 2024 and graduated from the Commonwealth Investigator Training Program in June 2024. In April 2025, he joined OSIG's newly integrated Skimmer Response Team, where he received specialized training in skimmer detection, evidence collection, digital forensics, and intelligence gathering. Through this work, Andrew has helped identify and remove more than 40 skimming devices in OSIG's Southeast Region, cancel and replace over 17,000 compromised EBT cards, and contribute to saving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania more than $20 million in 2026 to date. In July 2026, he received the Governor's Award for Excellence alongside his fellow Skimmer Response Team members.

Developing High-Quality Criminal Case Referrals: Successful criminal prosecutions often begin long before charges are filed. This presentation provides investigators with practical guidance on preparing and presenting cases for prosecutorial consideration. Drawing on state and federal investigative experience, the session will explore strategies for engaging prosecutors effectively, organizing case materials, identifying potential strengths and vulnerabilities, and communicating investigative findings in a clear and compelling manner. Attendees will learn key considerations for prosecutor meetings, essential documents and evidence to have prepared, important questions to ask early in the process, and lessons learned from real-world case examples. The discussion is intended to help investigators enhance case readiness, strengthen collaboration with prosecutors, and improve the likelihood of successful case outcomes. Target audience: Fraud Investigators, Quality Assurance Staff, Supervisors

Nicole Housley
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
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920-675-8513

Nicole Housley is a Vertical Market Consultant with LexisNexis Risk Solutions, where she helps government agencies strengthen program integrity through advanced data analytics, identity intelligence, and fraud detection solutions. With more than 15 years of investigative experience at both the state and federal levels, Nicole has led complex criminal investigations involving public assistance fraud, including recipient, provider, and retailer fraud. Her experience spans Medicaid, SNAP, EBT trafficking, identity theft, and other large-scale fraud schemes. Prior to joining LexisNexis Risk Solutions, Nicole served as a Lead Investigator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Special Investigations Unit and the Wisconsin Office of Inspector General, where she partnered with prosecutors and law enforcement to prepare cases for criminal prosecution. A recognized speaker and subject matter expert, Nicole is passionate about equipping agencies with practical strategies, investigative techniques, and technology to build stronger criminal cases and protect public resources.

The Check Is in The Mail: A joint federal and state investigation found that over a 3-year period, a Memphis man used the identities of over 100 individuals, including several who were deceased, to fraudulently obtain SNAP benefits, which in turn were sold to various persons in the communities. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators and Supervisors

Ed Shaw
Special Investigator
Tennessee DHS OIG Special Investigations Unit
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Since 2019, Ed Shaw has been a Special Investigator with the Tennessee DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Ed's responsibilities include fraud investigations, internal investigations, and threat assessments. Ed has previously presented at UCOWF as well as at some state level conferences with respect to some joint state/federal investigations which led to over $1M in restitution being ordered by the courts. In 2022, Ed received the TDHS Commissioner's Excellence Award and is a Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator. Before joining TDHS, Ed taught American Government for Shelby County (TN) Schools after having served almost 30 years as a U.S. Probation Officer (USPO). Before that Ed was a TN State Parole Officer for 3 years. After receiving his B.A., Ed taught Urban Politics at the University of Memphis when he was a graduate assistant earning his M.A.

Scott Black
Intelligence Analyst
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Scott Black has worked for the TN Department of Human Services for over 30 years. He has worked as an eligibility counselor, an administrative hearing officer, Director of Operations (Appeals and Hearings), Director of Performance Management and Intelligence Analyst (TN Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Program Integrity Unit). His current duties within TDHS OIG PIU include supporting SNAP/TANF fraud and trafficking investigations as well as internal investigations. After attending the 2022 UCOWF conference, he aligned with analysts from other states to form a multi-state data analysts workgroup that meets quarterly to share insights and best practices on combating fraud. He is currently working within TDHS OIG PIU to develop fraud analytics and detection tools using some of the latest technologies, including artificial intelligence.

FIS Presentation

Chris Jacobson
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DECCD and CCPS Investigations: This case study provides an examination of investigations conducted within the DECCD childcare payment system. It highlights key investigative strategies, challenges encountered, and lessons learned throughout the process. The presentation will walk through the lifecycle of a DECCD case—from initial inquiry and evidence gathering to the preparation and execution of an administrative hearing. Additionally, it will outline the steps involved in advancing a DECCD case through the court system, emphasizing best practices for case documentation, interagency collaboration, and legal coordination.

The session will also discuss policy updates and procedural changes identified during the investigation, including areas where current regulations supported the process and opportunities where policy modifications were necessary to strengthen compliance and clear language. Attendees will hopefully gain a clearer understanding of both the operational and legal components of DECCD investigations, as well as practical insights for improving future case handling and compliance efforts. Target audience: Administrative Staff, Case Managers, Fraud Investigators, Quality Assurance Staff, Supervisors.

Joshua Bankston
MDHS Office of Inspector General
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601-949-0420

Josh has served as a Fraud Investigator with the Mississippi Department of Human Services for the past five years, holding roles as Agent, Senior Agent, Northern Trainer, and Agent in Charge for the Northern Region. In addition to his investigative work, Josh has an extensive military background. He has served in the United States Military since 2012 and was commissioned as an officer in 2014. Throughout his service, he has held multiple leadership and operational positions, including Investigating Officer, Company Commander for two Combat Units, and currently serves as a Staff Officer with the Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade. Josh is the father of three daughters, ages 16, 11, and 7. He has been married to his wife, Shanna, for 18 years, and they reside in Oxford, Mississippi

Inside a Multi-State Benefit Fraud Takedown: This session highlights how identity theft is used to exploit SNAP benefits, including multi-state schemes involving stolen identities, duplicate applications, and fraudulent EBT use. Attendees will learn common red flags, investigative techniques, and how federal–state collaboration helps detect, stop, and prosecute complex identity-fraud networks. Target audience: Eligibility Technicians, Fraud Investigators, Supervisors

Kimberly Seebeck
Sr. Internal Audit Manager
Office of Internal Audits & Program Integrity
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401-443-0681

Kim is a Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Mediator and Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator. She has been with the Office of Internal Audits for 10 years. Prior to her current position Kim worked for the judiciary for 20 years in different capacities; a court advocate, family court investigator and mediator. She is a 1991 graduate of the University of Rhode Island.

Brittny Medeiros
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Brittny has been a Fraud investigator with the State of Rhode Island since 2018; Certified Fraud Examiner since 2020 and CWFI since 2021. Brittny conducts SNAP, TANF, CCAP, and MA fraud investigations. She is the lead state investigator for federal fraud investigations collaborating with OIG USDA, SSA, DOL, and other federal agencies.

Justin Leung
Data Analyst
State of Rhode Island Office of Internal Audit and Program Integrity
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Serving the State of Rhode Island Office of Internal Audit and Program Integrity for eight years, Justin specializes in uncovering complex financial deception. Integrating information across multiple government agencies, he conducts advanced data mining to spot hidden patterns of illegal activity.

- Namely, focusing on protecting Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) programs, their targeted monitoring aggressively combats widespread threats like card skimming.
- Guarding vital public assistance funds, their proactive algorithms safeguard critical resources intended for families in need.
- Leveraging nearly a decade of specialized experience, they seamlessly turn disparate state metrics into powerful anti-fraud intelligence.
- Expertise in data matching, programming, and data visualization to effectively identify public benefit fraud.

The Future of Program Integrity: The Cost of Letting Analytics End at the Dashboard

Mark Haskins
Managing Director
Themis Risk Advisors

Dr. Mark Haskins serves as the Managing Director of Themis Risk Advisors and previously held the position of Branch Chief at the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service Special Investigations Unit. He is widely recognized as a leading expert in government program fraud and pharmaceutical diversion. With over twenty years of experience in law enforcement, Dr. Haskins has investigated white-collar crime, healthcare fraud, and pharmaceutical crimes. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Criminal Justice, as well as a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis. Additionally, Dr. Haskins functions as an adjunct professor in criminal justice and homeland security at Purdue University Graduate School. He resides in Palm Beach, Florida.

Working with USDA Retail Operations to Curb SNAP Fraud: USDA Retail Operations does "undercover shopping" missions. Maine's Fraud Director, Tom Roth, thought by using the data and information from these undercover shopping missions, Maine could prosecute those retailers not in compliance with state trafficking charges. Tom will detail the successes, outside interventions and key learning points of this new and exciting venture. Target Audience: Administrative Staff, Fraud Investigators, Supervisors

Tom Roth
Director, Maine Fraud Investigation and Recovery Unit
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services
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207-807-8028

Tom Roth retired from a 32-year law enforcement career 12 years ago to take over the Maine Fraud Investigation and Recovery Unit. He oversees a team of 15 Investigators and various support staff combatting SNAP and MaineCare fraud in Maine. His group is made up of a combination of highly trained law enforcement retirees, all with extensive investigative experience, coupled with staff from eligibility and policy backgrounds, making for a well-rounded, results-focused group. In his spare time, Tom enjoys the outdoors with all Maine has to offer and runs a fishing guide business at his home on Sebago Lake.

Follow the Data, Then Knock on the Door: Finding Public Benefits Fraud Hiding in Plain Sight: Fraud targeting government benefit programs is often discovered after the money is gone. Whether the target is Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, or another public program, investigators are frequently left trying to recover funds after fraudulent claims have been paid, benefits have been spent, and the people behind the scheme have moved on. But what if many of the warning signs were already hiding in plain sight?
This presentation explores how investigators can combine government data with corporate records, addresses, identity information, open-source intelligence, and observations from the physical world to uncover suspicious activity earlier. Drawing on our investigation of Medicaid and Medicare funded healthcare providers, as well as retailers authorized to accept SNAP benefits, we show how publicly available data can reveal organizations whose reported financial activity appears inconsistent with their observable operational footprint. We then take the investigation beyond the spreadsheet—examining the businesses, addresses, people, and infrastructure behind the numbers.
The session will also examine how modern fraud networks exploit identities, businesses, addresses, bank accounts, and digital infrastructure across multiple programs. Rather than viewing Medicaid fraud, Medicare fraud, SNAP fraud, and other forms of public-benefits fraud as completely separate problems, investigators can look for the common infrastructure and behavioral signals connecting them. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators

David Maimon
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Dr. David Maimon is the fraud world's go-to investigator and storyteller. As Head of Fraud Insights at SentiLink and director of Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Group, he pairs dark-web intelligence with analytical techniques to expose how criminals build synthetic identities, hijack accounts, and monetize stolen credentials. Banks, telcos, prop-tech platforms, energy providers, and government agencies rely on his research and plain-spoken guidance to spot emerging scams early, tighten identity verification, and slash fraud losses--often before the schemes even hit the headlines.

Greed in Black and White: the Cost of Fraud During the Pandemic: On July 29, 2022, the unit received a significant referral concerning a case that alleged rental assistance fraud. The accusation centered on a tenant who reportedly provided a false landlord, while the purported landlord submitted fraudulent information in return. As the investigation progressed and the case was handed over to law enforcement, the extent of the fraud became alarmingly clear. The inquiry uncovered over 2,000 pages of case documentation and evidence. The investigation revealed a staggering $135,501 in fraudulent rental assistance distributed on 15 separate applications. As a result of the investigation conducted by the Program Integrity Unit, the Winston-Salem Police Department, and the United States Secret Service, the judge imposed a sentence of 18 months in federal custody, followed by three years of probation upon her release. Additionally, she was ordered to pay restitution to the United States Treasury Department in the full amount of $135,501, with a designated reporting date of April 22, 2026, to the Bureau of Prisons. Target Audience: Case Managers, Eligibility Technicians, Fraud Investigators, Supervisors.

Barbara Canito
Eligibility Specialist III – Program Integrity
Forsyth County Department of Social Services
cannitba@forsyth.cc
336-703-3815

Barbara Cannito is an experienced investigator with the Program Integrity Unit at the Forsyth County Department of Social Services (DSS) in North Carolina. Since promoting to investigator in 2019, she has specialized in ensuring the proper distribution of public assistance funds. Barbara completed her Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator certification in 2023. Her casework spans multiple federal and state-funded programs, including:

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Medicaid
- Child Care Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Emergency Rental Assistance

She has successfully completed six USDA store trafficking referrals, which involve investigating individuals who illegally exchange SNAP benefits for cash or non-eligible items.

Mark Barker
Detective/United States Secret Service Task Force Officer Greater Greensboro Cyber Fraud Task Force
Winston Salem Police Department
MARKB@WSPD.ORG
336-773-7757

Mark Barker is a Detective with the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Detective Barker has been employed by WSPD for 15 years and has been assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division since 2018 specifically working in the Financial Crimes Unit. Detective

Barker has been an appointed Task Force Officer with the Greater Greensboro Cyber Fraud Task Force with the United States Secret Service since 2019.

Peeling Back the Layers: Program Integrity, Payment Accuracy, and Financial Stewardship Through Precertification Case Analysis: An overview of Integrity Support Services and its precertification case analysis model, focusing on how it impacts program integrity, payment error rate (PER), and overall case accuracy, and its critical symbiotic partnerships with other HHSC divisions and state agencies. Target Audience: Case Managers, Fraud Investigators, Quality Assurance Staff, Eligibility Technicians, Supervisors.

Lawrence Singleton
Director, Integrity Support Services
Texas Health & Human Services Commission
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850-264-4081

Lawrence Singleton has devoted his entire career to public service. Before coming to Texas, Lawrence investigated fraud and aggressively pursued state penalties when warranted. Overseeing several budgetary increases for non- profits by fundraising and financial management is also something of which Lawrence is very proud. He served in many managerial capacities in the state of Florida on both local and state levels. He is experienced in fraud prevention case analysis with a focused interest in pre-eligibility application analytics. Instrumental in creating Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Integrity Support Services, Lawrence currently serves as its Director. Under his leadership, nearly 235 million dollars have been diverted from erroneous issuance.

In his free time, Lawrence enjoys volunteering, cooking, and spending time with his kids.

High-Stakes Low Profile - Investigating High Profile Cases: A case study on different ways to investigate high profile cases and clients. Target audience: Fraud Investigators

Tina Werle
Investigator
El Paso County Department of Social Services
tinawerle@elpasoco.com
719-691-0855

Investigator Tina Werle was born in Carroll Iowa and moved with her family at the age of 12 to Colorado where her father started his own plumbing business and farmed. After graduating from High School, Investigator Werle got married and had 2 children. While raising 2 young children she went to night school and received a degree in accounting. Investigator Werle is currently the Lead Investigator for El Paso County Department of Human Services in Colorado Springs Colorado and has been a presenter at multiple state and federal conferences. She has been recognized as Investigator of the Year for Colorado and led her team to receive Investigative Group of the year. She has established and conformed over $1,000,000 in a year (twice). Investigator Werle started her career in Prowers County, Lamar, CO as an intake technician, later moving to El Paso County as an Aging and Adult specialist for eligibility. She moved to the Fraud unit in 2016 as an ongoing investigator. In 2020 Investigator Werle became a CWFI. She was elected to the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council Board several times as Vice President previous to the upcoming position of President-elect of the Board. Investigator Werle has served on the UCOWF Board of Directors and was recently chosen by her board members to be the Regional Director for UCOWF. Investigator Werle is passionate about her job and is called upon by investigators throughout the state for advice and assistance. During state conferences her knowledge is sought to the point she has impromptu assisted in sessions when asked. During her personal time Investigator Werle enjoys spending time with her family, breeding Bluetick Coonhounds that have been recognized by multiple Kennel Clubs and she has had 3 hounds that went to owners in Europe, and one of those is part of a search and rescue team in Slovenia. She also enjoys playing with her little pony mule Jasper (ask for pictures). Investigator Werle has been involved with and investigated a good number of high-profile cases (some of which are going to be discussed in this presentation). She is often the investigator chosen by her management to handle these cases and is consulted by other counties when they receive a high-profile case. Investigator Werle is humble and, often times, quiet spoken. She does not like to talk about herself and often others must sing her praises (Her Husband wrote her Bio). She is outstanding in her field and when conducting an investigation is as determined as her beloved Coonhounds on a track. She is very knowledgeable on policy and legal matters when it comes to welfare fraud.

Fraud Investigations Through Legislation: Legislation process from an idea to the Governor signature, with a focus on state income tax information. Target Audience: Administrative Staff, Business Staff, Case Managers, Eligibility Technicians, Fraud Investigators, Front Desk Staff, Quality Assurance Staff, Supervisors

Brad Germann
Fraud Investigator
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
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208-316-9087

Brad Germann is an Idaho Certified Law Enforcement Officer with 19 years of service and has been employed with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) as a Fraud Investigator for the last 9 years. Besides fraud investigations, he has educated over 4,000 IDHW staff on situational awareness and active shooter response since 2017. Starting in 2023, he developed legislation giving Idaho Fraud Investigators the ability to obtain Idaho income tax information for benefits investigations. His house bill, HB-062, passed unanimously in the Idaho House and Senate and was signed into law July 2025. When not at work, he can be found bass fishing with his wife and their 8-year-old daughter.

Stopping EBT Theft Before It Happens: How Modern Anti-Fraud Tools are Protecting Benefits: Organized criminal networks are systematically draining EBT accounts, stripping SNAP and cash benefits from the households that need them most. While mainstream financial services have utilized real-time fraud detection for years, EBT systems remain largely undefended. This disparity has created a 'fraud tax' on the vulnerable, leaving state agencies overwhelmed and investigators spread thinner, chasing losses that should have been prevented. This panel brings together government leaders, technology providers, and nonprofit partners to show how proven financial services fraud tools are being adapted for EBT. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of the technologies available today, how states are piloting them within existing EBT infrastructure, and practical strategies for advocating for stronger fraud prevention in their own programs. Target audience: Administrative Staff, Business Staff, Case Managers, Eligibility Technicians, Fraud Investigators, Quality Assurance Staff, Supervisors

Morgan McKinney
State Engagement Manager
Propel
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614-506-1917

Morgan is the State Engagement Manager at Propel, where she partners with states to strengthen public benefits delivery through innovation, human-centered design, and thoughtful collaboration. In this role, she advances EBT theft prevention initiatives in partnership with state governments and cross-sector partners. She previously worked with state social services agencies at the American Public Human Services Association, leading initiatives that brought together people with lived expertise and government leaders to redesign systems and improve access. Morgan served as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow at the Congressional Hunger Center and has held research positions at the Brookings Institution and Duke Global Women's Health Technologies. She currently serves as a member of the EBT Community Council and is a representative of the Congressional Hunger Center’s Alum Council. She holds degrees in public policy and global health from Duke University.

Kira Tebbe
Sr. Manager, Benefits Transformation Initiative
Aspen Institute
kira.tebbe@aspeninstitute.org

Kira is a Senior Manager at the Aspen Institute Financial Security Program, where she drives systems change in public benefits administration by managing multi-state implementation projects and convening government leaders to modernize benefit delivery. Previously, she co-founded the Digital Service team in the Administration for Children and Families, the second largest division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She holds degrees in Applied Math and Sociology from Yale and an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, with concentrations in Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship.

Andrew Barrett
Conduent Government Solutions
Director, Fraud Operations

Andy serves as Director Fraud Policy, Operations, and Prevention, providing strategic and operational leadership for fraud detection and prevention activities protecting over $100B in customer assets. Andy brings more than 37 years of experience across fraud strategy, financial operations, analytics, legal and compliance in large, complex organizations. His background includes developing and implementing fraud prevention strategies, analyzing fraud trends, optimizing automated detection rules, and integrating fraud controls into operational workflows. In his role, Andy partners closely with technology and risk & compliance to manage operations and customer service teams to proactively identify fraud risks, strengthen preventive controls, and support a robust, audit-ready fraud operations team.

Criminal Investigations of Traditional Retail and Individual SNAP Fraud: This presentation will outline criminal SNAP fraud investigations and provide case studies of high-level investigations and prosecutions involving both retail and individual SNAP fraud. Target Audience: Fraud Investigators

Jeff Yarian
Enforcement Agent
Ohio Investigative Unit
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(216) 898-1870

Agent Yarian is a 31-year law enforcement veteran with 26 years in the Ohio Investigative Unit and 16 years as a SNAP fraud investigator. Agent Yarian has conducted extensive criminal SNAP fraud investigations, uncovering millions of dollars in fraud, securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in restitution and obtaining significant felony convictions on store owners and businesses. In addition to criminal convictions, these cases have resulted in a multitude of County Job and Family Services Internal Program Violations (IPVs) for recipients who were involved with those investigations and permanent disqualifications of retailers who violated the integrity of the SNAP program. Agent Yarian has served on the Ohio Council on Welfare Fraud Board of Directors for the last 13 years and is a member of the U.S. Secret Service Money Laundering Task Force, which has been a valuable resource for retail and recipient fraud investigations.

Notes of Gratitude

The UCOWF Board would like to thank our affiliate members

https://cwfcdotus.wordpress.com/	https://cwfia.org/	https://mfia.org/	Ohio Council on Welfare Fraud

The UCOWF Board would also like to thank our corporate partners

https://risk.lexisnexis.com/government	https://www.fisglobal.com	https://publicconsultinggroup.com
https://www.propel.app/stoptheft/	https://www.sentilink.com	https://steadyiq.com

A special thanks goes out to the following UCOWF Board Members who served as part of this year's Conference Committee:

Terri Linehan	Robbyn White	Laura Lindsey	Michele Snyder	Glennetta Stockdale
Megan Kiefer	Ashley Wilkes	Melissa Williams	Flo Brown	Brian Anscutz
Sean Vaivao-Oliver	Brad Germann	Cicely McGlory	Greg Matthews	David Krasnow
Robyn Battle	Edgar Buster	Sheri Jackson		

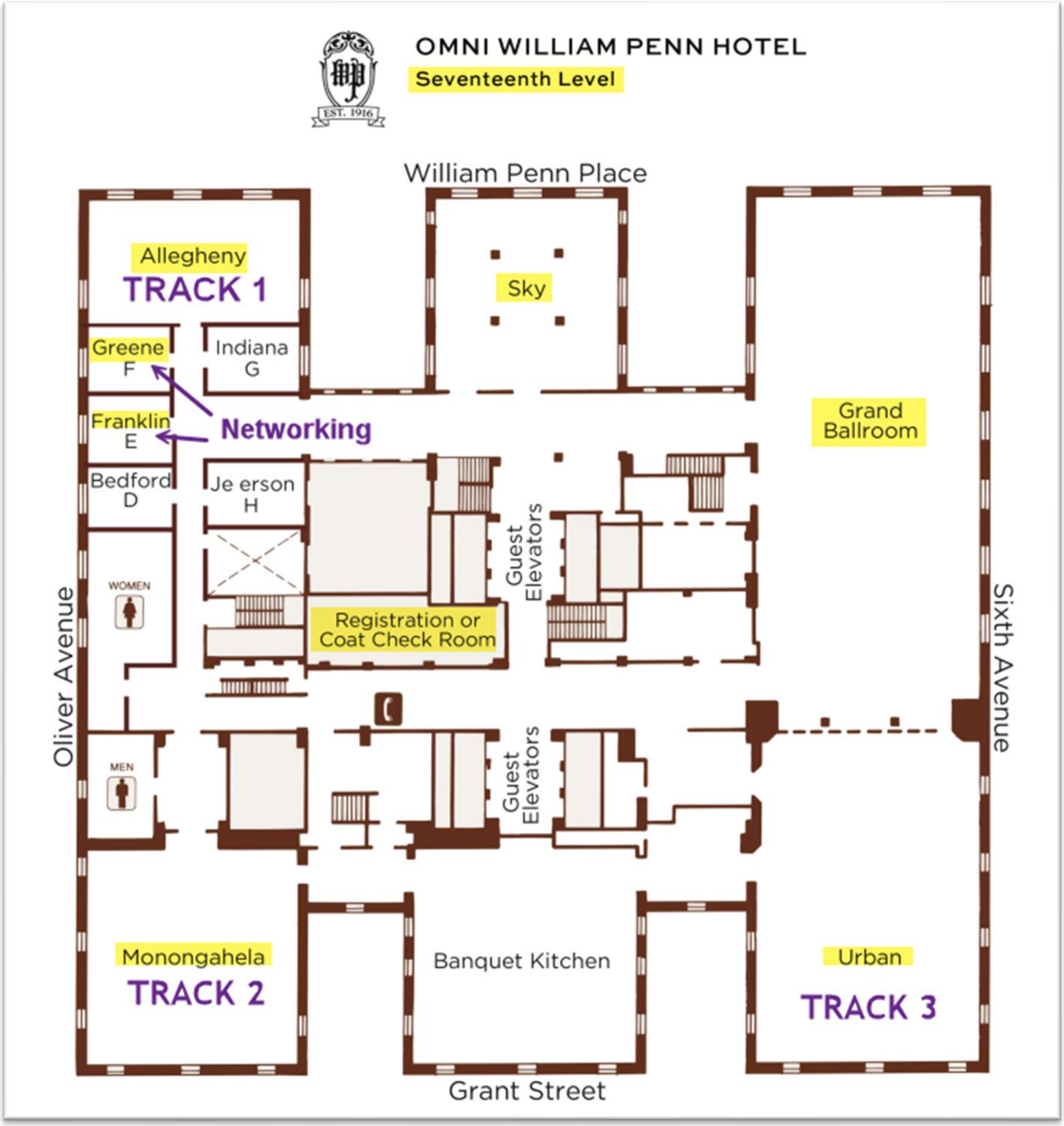
The following Board Members were also instrumental in the planning and designing of this year's conference:

Keith Miskie - President
Jack Heacock – Site Section Co-Chair
Dawn Royal – Site Selection Co-Chair
Jana McDonough – CWFI Chair

And a very special THANK YOU to Pam & Tommy Fowler for their continued support and assistance with our annual conference raffle.

Hotel Information

Conference Rooms



Driving Directions

From Pittsburgh International Airport – 30 minutes/19 miles
Follow the signs to Pittsburgh via I-279 North (Fort/Pitt Bridge and Tunnel). Go through the tunnel. Take the Liberty Avenue Exit (straight off the bridge). Proceed for approximately 3 blocks and turn right on Sixth Avenue. At the third intersection, turn right into William Penn Place. The hotel is located on the left.

From the North — Via I-79 South
Take I-79S to I-279S. Proceed on I-279S to I-579S (Veteran's Bridge). From I-579S take Sixth Avenue/Exit (Mellon Arena), bear right on Sixth Avenue and cross Grant Street. Go one block and turn left on William Penn Place to the hotel's main entrance on the left.

From the South & West — Via I-79 North
From I-79N, follow the signs to I-376 East to Pittsburgh. Follow I-376E to Pittsburgh (Fort/Pitt Tunnel.) Go through the tunnel. Take the Liberty Avenue Exit (straight off the bridge). Continue for approximately 3 blocks. Turn right on Sixth Avenue. At the third intersection, turn right onto William Penn Place. The hotel is located on the left.

From the East — Via I-76W & I-376W
Take I-76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike) and exit on to I-376W towards Pittsburgh. Take the Grant Street Exit (on the left) to Grant Street. Follow Grant Street 6 blocks to Sixth Avenue and then turn left onto Sixth Avenue. Immediately turn left onto William Penn Place and go to the hotel's main entrance.

Transportation

Adjacent to the hotel is the "T" or Pittsburgh Metro System (links all points of downtown Pittsburgh and Station Square). The metro is free in the downtown area and stops include:
- Steel Plaza at One Mellon Center (hotel station)
- Gateway Center
- Wood Street
- Station Square – located across the river (entertainment complex, restaurants and shopping)

Options from Pittsburgh International Airport

- Taxi Service: Approximately $55 plus gratuity
- Private Car Service: $80 - $100 plus gratuity

Parking

- Self-parking is offered in the Mellon Square parking garage located across from the hotel. Midweek price is $20 per day. Weekend rate beginning on Friday at 5 PM is $8. There are no in/out privileges for this lot.
- Valet parking is available daily to overnight guests ($59 per night) and includes in/out privileges. Please note that valet can park only standard size vehicles, no oversize vehicles can be accommodated.

For additional assistance with parking options, check out Spothero.

Where to Go & What to Do

Welcome to Pittsburgh! If you're attending the United Council on Welfare Fraud conference and staying at or near the Omni William Penn Hotel, you're in an ideal location to enjoy Downtown Pittsburgh without needing a car.

This guide highlights restaurants, coffee shops, nightlife, entertainment and things to do that are within an easy walk of the Omni William Penn. Most recommendations are approximately 5–15 minutes on foot.

Great Places to Eat

Meat & Potatoes
Approximately 6–7-minute walk
A Pittsburgh favorite offering upscale American food, craft cocktails and a lively atmosphere. A great choice for a group dinner, business dinner or night out with colleagues.
Best for: Dinner • Cocktails • Groups • Business Dining

Eddie V's Prime Seafood
Approximately 2–3-minute walk
An upscale option specializing in seafood and steaks, with an elegant atmosphere and live music in the lounge.
Best for: Special occasions • Business dinners • Seafood • Steak

The Capital Grille
Approximately 3–5-minute walk
A classic upscale steakhouse with excellent service, wine and a sophisticated atmosphere.
Best for: Business dinners • Celebrations • Steak • Wine

Vallozzi's Pittsburgh
Approximately 5-minute walk
A long-standing Pittsburgh choice for Italian food, pasta, seafood and wine.
Best for: Italian • Dinner • pre-theater dining

Bridges & Bourbon
Approximately 8–10-minute walk
A stylish downtown restaurant and cocktail bar featuring creative drinks and small plates.
Best for: Cocktails • Dinner • Groups • Night Out

Talia
Approximately 2–3-minute walk
A convenient Italian option close to the hotel with a comfortable atmosphere and a menu well suited for an easy dinner.
Best for: Italian • Casual dinner • Convenience

Coffee & Breakfast

The Speckled Egg
Approximately 3–4-minute walk
A popular downtown breakfast and brunch option. A good place to start the morning before conference sessions.
Best for: Breakfast • Brunch • Coffee

Nicholas Coffee
Approximately 5-minute walk
Located near Market Square, Nicholas Coffee is a Pittsburgh institution and a convenient stop for coffee or a quick breakfast.

Best for: Coffee • Quick breakfast • Takeaway

Omni William Penn Dining
If you're staying at the Omni, don't overlook the hotel's own dining options. The hotel offers several restaurants, lounges and coffee options, making it easy to grab breakfast, a drink or a late-evening bite without leaving the property.

After-Conference Drinks & Nightlife

The Speakeasy — Omni William Penn
Inside the hotel
A 1920s-inspired lounge located within the Omni William Penn. It's an especially convenient place to meet colleagues after a day of conference sessions.
Best for: Cocktails • Networking • Groups • No walking required!

The Tap Room — Omni William Penn
Inside the hotel
A more casual option located within the hotel. A good place to relax, grab a beer or watch sports after the conference.
Best for: Casual drinks • Beer • Sports • Groups

Bridges & Bourbon
Approximately 8–10-minute walk
A great choice for craft cocktails and a more upscale evening atmosphere.
Best for: Cocktails • Small plates • Groups • Business networking

Con Alma
Approximately 7–10-minute walk
Dinner, cocktails and live jazz make this one of the best choices for an evening of entertainment without needing transportation.
Best for: Live jazz • Dinner • Cocktails • Evening entertainment

Il Tetto / Sienna Mercato
Approximately 8–10-minute walk
A rooftop beer garden and bar offering a fun atmosphere and an opportunity to enjoy the Pittsburgh evening outdoors.
Best for: Rooftop drinks • Groups • Casual nightlife

Howl at the Moon
Approximately 10–15-minute walk
A high-energy live music and piano-bar experience featuring sing-along entertainment.
Best for: Groups • Live music • Dancing • High-energy nightlife

Things to Do After the Conference

Market Square
Approximately 5-minute walk
A central gathering place in Downtown Pittsburgh surrounded by restaurants, bars, shops and public spaces. It's an easy place to explore between conference activities.

Point State Park
Approximately 10–15-minute walk
Head toward the confluence of Pittsburgh's three rivers for beautiful views and a relaxing walk. This is particularly enjoyable in the late afternoon or around sunset.

Pittsburgh Cultural District
Approximately 5–10-minute walk
The Cultural District is home to several theaters, galleries, restaurants and entertainment venues, including the

Benedum Center, Heinz Hall and Byham Theater
If you're interested in attending a performance during the conference, this is the place to look.

Your Walkable Pittsburgh

With the Omni William Penn as your starting point, you can easily explore:

Market Square • Cultural District • Point State Park • Downtown restaurants • Cocktail bars • Live music • Theater • Coffee shops

A note about getting around
This guide specifically highlights locations within easy walking distance from the Omni William Penn. While Pittsburgh's notable attractions — such as the Duquesne Incline, Phipps Conservatory, Carnegie Museums, Andy Warhol Museum, Strip District, and Lawrenceville — are excellent places to visit, they are not covered here because reaching them involves a longer walk or the use of transportation.

For more information, access Visit Pittsburgh.

Visit Pittsburgh also has a wear your BadgeProgram. When you are out and about look for the window decal at participating businesses that offer a discount to those attending a conference.

Conference Evaluation QR Code & Link

PLEASE HELP US MAKE NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE EVEN BETTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW AND PROVIDING US WITH YOUR HONEST FEEDBACK SO WE CAN START PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

The UCOWF Conference Evaluation Form can also be found here.

** If you are completing surveys on your mobile device, switching to landscape view is recommended

Presentation Evaluation QR Codes & Links Please be sure to review each presentation you attended

In-State Investigations of Out-of-State SNAP Fraud	The True Cost of Fraud in SNAP: New Research, Emerging Risks and Practical Solutions	The NDCAC: Resources for Law Enforcement in the Digital Age	Childcare Development Fund Grand Fraud (CCDF)
Access Device Fraud Crime Trends	FNA Office of Retailer Operations & Compliance	From Risk to Resilience: The Integrity Strategies That Saved Thousands of SNAP & TANF Customers from Fraud	Safeguarding Benefits: Kentucky's Fight Against Electronic Theft
Skimmer Response Teams: The Pennsylvania Response to EBT Card Skimming	Developing High-Quality Criminal Case Referrals	The Check is in the Mail!	FIS Presentation

DECCD and CCPS Investigations	Inside a Multi-State Benefit Fraud Takedown	The Future of Program Integrity: The Cost of Letting Analytics End at the Dashboard	Working with USDA Retail Operations to Curb SNAP Fraud
Follow the Data, Then Knock on the Door: Finding Public Benefits Fraud Hiding in Plain Sight (SentLink)	Greed in Black & White: The Cost of Fraud During the Pandemic	Peeling Back the Layers: Program Integrity, Payment Accuracy, and Financial Stewardship Through Precertification Case Analysis	High Stake Low Profile - Investigating High Profile Cases
Fraud Investigations Through Legislation	Stopping EBT Theft Before It Happens: How Modern Anti-Fraud Tools are Protecting Benefits	Criminal Investigations of Traditional Retail and Individual SNAP Fraud	