

Schedule

2026 Texas Assisted Living Association Annual Conference & Industry Expo



The Art of Aging in
Assisted Living

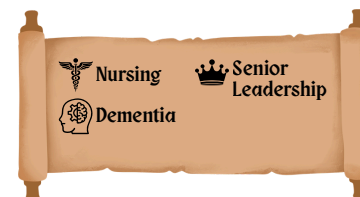
2026 TALA Conference and Industry Expo

April 8 - 10, 2026 📍 Kalahari, Round Rock, TX

Tuesday April 7th: Evening Registration

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Registration Open
Registration 4



Wednesday April 8th: Day 1 - Nursing, Dementia, and Leadership Sessions

7:00 AM

Registration Opens
Registration 4

7:00 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast
Bamboo

8:00 - 9:00 AM

When the Help Becomes the Harm: Medication Related Problems of Commonly Prescribed Medications in Older Adults
Speaker: Scott Blaszczyk
Banyan & Crown Palm



9:00 - 10:00 AM

Documentation That Defends: Turning Clinical Notes into Legal and Regulatory Protection
Speakers: Schekesia Meadough & Rikeisha Clinton
Banyan & Crown Palm



10:00 - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Smart Aging: Technology That Protects and Empowers Seniors
Speaker: Lynda Jennings
Banyan & Crown Palm



11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Bridging Care and Connection: How Life Enrichment and Clinical Teams Can Partner to Elevate Resident Well-Being in Senior Living
Speakers: Debbie Jenkins-Melancon & Amber McDaniel
Banyan & Crown Palm



12:15 - 1:30 PM

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Reframing Dementia "Behaviors" and How to Respond Positively
Speaker: Laurie Walther & Emily Briggs
Banyan & Crown Palm



Funding the New Backup Power Supply Requirements
Speaker: Ira Nicodemus
Bamboo



2:30 - 3:30 PM

The Hidden Art of Managing Medication
Speaker: Stephanie Berman
Banyan & Crown Palm



Developing a Compliance Driven Culture Within
Speaker: Richard Cheng
Bamboo



3:30 - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Beyond the Regulations: Interpreting Medication Management for All Types of Assisted Living Residents
Speakers: Rose Saenz & Brenda Calbow, Carmen Tilton Moderating
Banyan & Crown Palm



Data-Driven Decisions: Understanding Demand Trends Shaping the Future of Senior Housing
Speaker: Kyle Gardner
Bamboo



5:00 - 7:00 PM

Board Reception
Event Barn

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Thursday April 9th: Day 2 - Nursing/Dementia and Senior Leadership Sessions

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast Pre-function 7	
8:00 - 9:15 AM	Opening Keynote: Retention by Design: How Leaders Build Teams That Stay Speaker: Ralph Peterson Kilimanjaro Suite 5	
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Break	
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Early Warning Signs of Violent Behaviors Speaker: Jeff McKissack Banyan & Crown Palm	
	Best Practices for Serving Those with Dementia and Their Families Speaker: Hollie Lowe Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2	
	Mastering QAPI: Bridging the Gap with the Quality Award Program Speaker: Ralph Peterson Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4	
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Fall Risk Mitigation in Long Term Care Speaker: Dr. Chris Kestner Banyan & Crown Palm	
	Advancing Person-Centered Dementia Care in Assisted Living Speaker: Nicole Seabolt Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2	
	Leading with Positivity: Empowering Seniors to Embrace an Ageless, Vibrant Life Speaker: Lauren Blacker & Aliza Orent Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4	
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Proceed to Kilimanjaro Suite 5	
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Heroes Award Ceremony and Luncheon* Kilimanjaro Suite 5	
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Break	
1:30 - 2:30 PM	The Stressed Brain: Understanding the Impact of Stress, Depression, and Loneliness on Brain Health and Dementia Speaker: Jaime Cobb Tinsley Banyan & Crown Palm	 
	Resident-Led Living: The Montessori Model for Purposeful Engagement Speaker: Edward Craft Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2	
	The Power of Vulnerability: Getting Honest with Your Teams Speaker: Jessie Motsinger Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4	

*Nurses can earn Ethics credit by attending the
Heroes Award Ceremony and Luncheon.



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2:30 - 3:30 PM

Operations and Clinical: Leveraging Clinical Data to Drive Operational Excellence
Speakers: Justin Richardson, Rex Bell & Wendy Souders
Banyan & Crown Palm



What You Need to Know When Residents Hoard
Speaker: Kathleen Weissberg
Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



Cracking the HR Code: How Smart Leaders Manage People and Risk
Speaker: Anthony Ormsbee-Hale
Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4



3:30 - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 - 5:00 PM

Public Policy Update
Speaker: Carmen Tilton
Kilimanjaro Suite 5

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Industry Expo Opening Reception
Kilimanjaro Suite 6

Friday, April 10th: Day 3 - Independent Living, Leadership and Senior Leadership Sessions

6:15 - 7:15 AM

Yoga (Attendees and Exhibitors Invited)
Event Barn

7:00 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast
Pre-function 7

8:00 - 9:00 AM

The Vibrant Mind: Unlocking the Power of Nutrition for Cognitive Resilience in Aging Adults
Speaker: Marissa Fleming
Banyan & Crown Palm



Stand Out! Don't Blend In! Crafting a Winning Niche in Crowded Markets
Speaker: Julie Podewitz
Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



From Loss to Leadership: The Art of Smart Care in Assisted Living
Speaker: Kim Brawley
Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4



9:00 - 10:00 AM

Preparedness in Practice: The Realities of Emergency Response
Speakers: Patrice O'Grady & Fidel Calvillo, with Carmen Tilton Moderating
Banyan & Crown Palm



Understanding the Fair Housing Act
Speaker: Michael Crowe
Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



Digital Maturity and Quality Infrastructure Drive Assisted Living Sustainability
Speaker: Tyler Gerig
Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4



10:00 - 10:15 AM

Break



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The Therapeutic Benefits of Music and Faith in the Care Plan

Speaker: David Schofman

Banyan & Crown Palm



Solo Agers and the Intergenerational Revolution: Hospitality as the Antidote to Isolation

Speaker: Aaron Fish

Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



Understanding Today's Long-Term Care Applicant Mindset

Speaker: Adam Robinson

Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4



10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Industry Expo Open

Kilimanjaro Suite 6

- 11:00 AM - Lunch for vendors
- 11:15 AM - Lunch for attendees
- 12:15 PM - Expo Vendor Pitch-Off Contest
- 12:45 PM - Raffle prize drawings from TALA and Expo Vendors

1:30 - 2:30 PM

The Heart of the Kitchen: Elevating Senior Living Through Food, Story & Experience

Speakers: Carrie Serrano & Savannah Rogers

Banyan & Crown Palm



"Your Residents Are Your Best Salespeople"

Speakers: Blair Burney, Meredith Harris & Keisha Moore

Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



Too Many AI Tools, Too Little Time: Making Sense of AI & Copilots for Real-World Adoption

Speakers: Travis Gleinig & Chirag Mehta

Kilimanjaro Suites 3 & 4



2:30 - 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 - 3:45 PM

The Dalia Lama and Marcus Aurelius Walked into a Senior Living Community - What the Ancient Philosophers Can Teach Us About Caregiver Recruiting and Retention

Speaker: Helen Anderson

Banyan & Crown Palm



Ambient Intelligence in Senior Living: Enhancing Safety and Autonomy

Speakers: Lee Kilmer & David Moss

Kilimanjaro Suites 1 & 2



3:45 - 4:45 PM

Closing Keynote: "I Got This" - The Emotionally Intelligent Leader

Speaker: Preethi Fernando

Kilimanjaro Suite 5

