



MCAP

Maryland Community Action Partnership

SUMMIT & CELEBRATION

MARYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

MCAP 2026 PEER SUMMIT & CELEBRATION

Built for this Moment

Honoring Essential Work.
Inspiring What's Next.

MAY 14-15, 2026

SUMMIT GUIDE



WWW.MARYLAND-CAP.ORG



GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT
201 Waterfront St, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

THURSDAY

MAY 14, 2026



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:00AM	REGISTRATION OPENS Chesapeake 9 Hallway	
9:00AM - 9:20AM	SUMMIT INFORMATION SESSION In Your Peer Group Meeting Room	
8:30AM - 1:00PM	OHEP SESSION • OHEP REGISTRANTS ONLY Chesapeake 7-8	
9:30AM - 12:00PM	PEER GROUP MEETINGS	  
9:30AM - 1:00PM	MCAP BOARD MEETING & LUNCHEON Chesapeake 12 - <i>MCAP Board Members Only</i>	
12:00PM-1:00PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00PM - 2:45PM	PEER GROUP MEETINGS	   
1:15PM - 4:45PM	OHEP SESSION • OHEP REGISTRANTS ONLY Chesapeake 7-8	
2:45PM - 3:00PM	BREAK	
3:00PM-5:00PM	AI BOOTCAMP National Harbor 12-13	 
3:00PM-5:00PM	PEER GROUP MEETINGS	 
5:30PM - 7:30PM	WELCOME RECEPTION The Flight Deck - 141 American Way, Oxon Hill, MD	

PEER GROUP MEETING LOCATIONS

Use the peer group icons throughout this guide to identify your assigned peer group meeting room and sessions. For full session information, schedules, and details, please refer to your complete peer group agenda.



PERFORMANCE & DATA
National Harbor 12



FAMILY & CLIENT SERVICES
Chesapeake 9



**LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY +
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
National Harbor 13



WEATHERIZATION
Chesapeake 12 - from 1:00pm - 5:00pm



LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

Thurs
5/14

PEER GROUP AGENDA

Room: National Harbor 13

9:00AM - 9:20AM

SUMMIT INFORMATION SESSION

9:30AM - 12:00PM

PEER GROUP MEETING

Jen Porett, Wipfli & Celeste James, CA James Consulting

12:00PM-1:00PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00PM - 2:45PM

PEER GROUP + LEADERSHIP TEAMS SESSION

Jen Porett, Wipfli

2:45PM - 3:00PM

BREAK

3:00PM-5:00PM

AI BOOTCAMP

Walter Fordham, SmartQuest Technology



5:30PM - 7:30PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Flight Deck - 141 American Way, Oxon Hill, MD

Leadership & Strategy Summit Session - 9:30am - 2:45pm



Jen Porett

Facilitated by **Jen Porett**, Manager for **Wipfli Advisory, LLC**, and **Celeste James**, Consultant/Advisor, **CA James Consulting**, the Leadership Peer Summit Session is designed to help leaders build high-performing teams through greater self-awareness, intentional communication, and strategic leadership development.

Participants will engage in interactive discussions and practical exercises to explore team dynamics, apply insights from a behavioral assessment, and strengthen how they adapt their communication to work more effectively with others. The session will also explore the leadership skills needed to strengthen fund development efforts, including supporting board and staff engagement, developing relationships, using data effectively, and communicating impact through compelling storytelling. Through peer learning and real-world application, participants will identify both hard and soft skill areas that support stronger leadership, organizational effectiveness, and long-term sustainability.



Celeste A James

AI Bootcamp - 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Community Action staff spend more time documenting impact than creating it. Case notes are inconsistent, CAP drafts start from scratch every cycle, and when a funder asks "where are you actually moving the needle?" — the answer takes weeks to assemble. This hands-on session puts live AI tools directly in your hands — purpose-built agents for case documentation, community planning, grant writing, and structured problem solving, all aligned to ROMA outcomes and the 10 domains of self-sufficiency.



Walter Fordham

You'll interact with each agent during the workshop and see a working AI Command Center where multiple AI partners operate together — not replacing your team, but handling the documentation grind so your people focus on the mission. Agencies using these workflows have cut CAP drafting time by more than half while improving reporting consistency across domains. You'll leave with ready-to-use prompts, a governance checklist for responsible AI adoption, and a clear picture of what you can implement the week you get home.



PERFORMANCE & DATA

Thurs
5/14

PEER GROUP AGENDA

Room: National Harbor 12

9:00AM - 9:20AM

SUMMIT INFORMATION SESSION

9:30AM - 12:00PM

PEER GROUP MEETING

Minette Galindo, Consultant & Dr. Barbara Mooney, ANCRT

12:00PM-1:00PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00PM - 2:45PM

PEER GROUP MEETING

Minette Galindo, Consultant & Dr. Barbara Mooney, ANCRT

2:45PM - 3:00PM

BREAK

3:00PM-5:00PM

AI BOOTCAMP

Walter Fordham, SmartQuest Technology

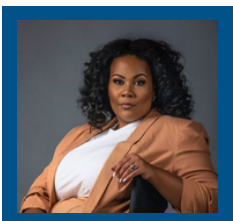


5:30PM - 7:30PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Flight Deck - 141 American Way, Oxon Hill, MD

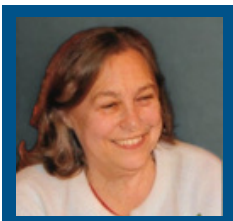
Performance & Data Summit Session - 9:30am - 2:45pm



Minette Galindo

Join **Minette C. Galindo**, a leader in data strategy and storytelling with over a decade of federal experience, including her work at the *Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*, **Dr. Barbara Mooney** of the *Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers*, and **Bright Ink** graphic recorders for a live, interactive session demonstrating how to transform data into meaningful insights and compelling narratives that strengthen program performance, accountability, and communication.

This session is valuable for Certified ROMA Professionals seeking to strengthen how they use data across each phase of the ROMA cycle and move beyond compliance, and Communications professionals, Data Managers, and Planners will also benefit from a comprehensive view of how data connects across the broader Community Action framework. This equips them to translate insights into clear, actionable stories that align with agency priorities, support performance management, and drive outcomes.



Dr. Barbara Mooney

AI Bootcamp - 3:00pm - 5:00pm

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FAMILY & CLIENT SERVICES

Thurs
5/14

PEER GROUP AGENDA

Room: Chesapeake 9

9:00AM - 9:20AM

SUMMIT INFORMATION SESSION

9:30AM - 12:00PM

BEST PRACTICES IN CASE MANAGEMENT & DOCUMENTATION

Berneitha McNair, Berneitha McNair Consulting

12:00PM-1:00PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00PM - 2:45PM

REWIRE TO RISE: CBT-BASED TOOLS FOR COACHING CLIENTS

Alison Rumler-Gomez, Grow Me Consulting/CAP60

2:45PM - 3:00PM

BREAK

3:00PM-5:00PM

TRANSFORMATIONAL EMPATHY: BEYOND “US” AND “THEM”

Dr. Tracy Whitaker, Howard University

5:30PM - 7:30PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

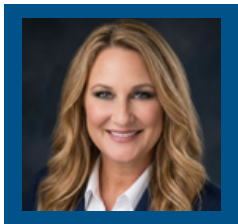
The Flight Deck - 141 American Way, Oxon Hill, MD

Next Generation Case Management: Foundations for Practice and Impactful Documentation



Berneitha McNair

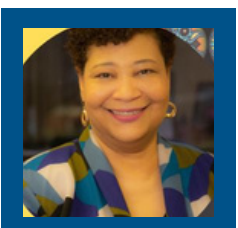
This session provides a comprehensive introduction to effective case management in Community Action, grounded in a strengths-based, family-centered approach. Participants will explore the core fundamentals of building rapport, assessing needs, setting meaningful goals, and connecting families to appropriate resources. Through hands-on strategies for writing clear, concise case notes and improving data entry practices, participants will enhance the quality, consistency, and integrity of their documentation. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with both the foundational skills of effective case management and the tools to accurately capture and communicate the results of their work in a way that supports compliance and tells a meaningful story of impact.



Alison Gomez

Rewire to Rise: CBT-Based Tools for Coaching Front-Line Clients

As AI tools begin to take on documentation and administrative tasks, front-line staff are gaining time for deeper, more meaningful connections with clients. Rewire to Rise explores how to use that time effectively, introducing a next-generation approach to coaching rooted in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). Participants will learn how to move beyond resource navigation to address the thought patterns that influence behavior and long-term outcomes. Through hands-on activities, this session equips participants with practical strategies to help clients build resilience, shift unhelpful thinking, and make lasting change. Participants will leave with immediately applicable coaching tools and a clear vision for how front-line work can evolve when the administrative burden lifts.



Dr. Tracy Whitaker

The Power of Transformational Empathy: Moving Beyond “Us” and “Them”

Transformational empathy is a powerful approach to dismantling the divide between social workers and clients. By focusing on authenticity, intentionality, and commonalities, transformational empathy erases the line between “us” and “them.” In this workshop, participants will learn to define transformational empathy and distinguish it from traditional empathy and compassion; analyze how power, language, and assumptions shape relationships between social workers and clients; and apply transformational empathy principles to real-world practice situations to reduce “othering” and promote equitable engagement.



WEATHERIZATION

Thurs
5/14

PEER GROUP AGENDA

Room: Chesapeake 12

12:00PM-1:00PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00PM - 2:00PM

DHCD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Kiahnna Burney, Manager, Energy Programs, DHCD

2:00PM-5:00PM

WEATHERIZATION PEER GROUP MEETING

Keesha Johnson, NCAP & John O'Donnell, OPS

5:30PM - 7:30PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Flight Deck - 141 American Way, Oxon Hill, MD

DHCD Weatherization Round Table Session - 1:00pm - 2:00pm



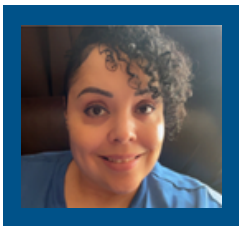
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Join **Kiahnna Burney**, Manager of Energy Programs with the **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development** for an interactive Weatherization Roundtable focused on discussion, collaboration, and shared learning among Weatherization professionals. Attendees can expect an open and engaging dialogue designed to foster connection, collaboration, and continued learning.



*Weatherization
Works*

Weatherization Peer Group Session - 2:00pm - 5:00pm



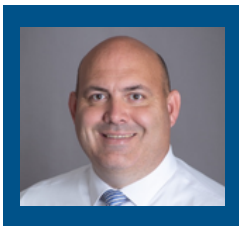
Keesha M. Johnson

Weatherization programs are being asked to do more than ever—more production, more compliance, more reporting. The question is: do our systems truly support that level of demand? Based on feedback from the Maryland Weatherization Network, agencies are navigating real challenges—from workflow gaps and documentation issues to fiscal complexity and staffing constraints.

The Maryland Community Action Partnership, in collaboration with DHCD, invites you to a focused Weatherization training at the MCAP 2026 Peer Summit—designed to help you move from managing challenges to strengthening systems. Join **Keesha M. Johnson**, Project Director for Workforce Development of the **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)**, and **John O'Donnell**, COO and Head Consultant, **Optimum Performance Solutions**, to explore practical, real-world strategies that directly address the challenges you identified and position your program for stronger performance and long-term success.

What You'll Gain:

- Practical strategies to improve workflow, QA, and documentation
- Stronger fiscal systems for budgeting, reporting, and sustainability
- A clear approach to compliance that reduces findings before they happen
- Real solutions to workforce capacity and burnout challenges



John O'Donnell

This training is grounded in real assessment insights and designed to help you build aligned, high-performing Weatherization programs—not just keep up, but move forward with intention.

FRIDAY MAY 15, 2026



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:00AM	REGISTRATION OPENS Chesapeake 9 Hallway	
8:30AM - 12:15PM	OHEP SESSION • OHEP REGISTRANTS ONLY Chesapeake 7-8	
9:00AM - 10:15AM	2G/FORWARD WITH FAMILIES Camellia 2	
9:00AM - 12:00PM	MCAP LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE Camellia 3 - 2026 MCAP LDI Cohort Only	
9:00AM - 12:00PM	HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS Camellia 1	
10:30AM - 11:30AM	CAA ADVOCACY - DAVID BRADLEY Camellia 2	
12:30PM - 2:30PM	COMMUNITY ACTION CELEBRATION AWARDS LUNCHEON & LDI GRADUATION Chesapeake Ballroom D-F	
2:45PM - 4:30PM	OHEP SESSION • OHEP REGISTRANTS ONLY Chesapeake 7-8	

JOIN US!

COMMUNITY ACTION CELEBRATION AWARDS LUNCHEON & LDI GRADUATION

with Keynote Speaker LT Governor Aruna Miller

Aruna Miller is the 10th Lieutenant Governor of Maryland and the second woman to serve in the role, as well as the first woman of color and immigrant elected to statewide office in the state. Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, she immigrated to the United States at age seven and later earned a degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Before entering public office, Miller spent 25 years as a transportation engineer in Montgomery County, focusing on equitable access, public safety, and infrastructure improvements. She served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2010 to 2018, where she championed STEM education, small business growth, environmental protections, and support for working families. As Lieutenant Governor, she leads initiatives related to transportation, mental health, STEM equity, work zone safety, and interfaith outreach across Maryland.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Congratulations

2025 MCAP Vision & Value Award Winners

Individual Category

Akima Copper, *Neighborhood Services Center*

Brenda Kelbaugh, *Garrett County Community Action Committee*

Patrick Agbionu, *United Planning Organization*

Partner Category

Rev. Canon Leonard Hamlin Sr., D. Min, *The Washington National Cathedral*



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