

2023 WHA PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE - *In Review*

March 10-11 - The American Club, Kohler, WI

Nearly 100 attendees gathered at the 2023 WHA Physician Leadership Development Conference on March 10 & 11 in Kohler for a slate of interactive presentations focusing on enhancing leadership skills, tools, and knowledge in an ever-changing health care environment. CEOs, medical executives and physician leaders at all stages of their careers connected with their own teams as well as with their peers in organizations across Wisconsin throughout this annual leadership education event.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



William Melms, MD

Dr. William Melms, Chief Medical Officer of Marshfield Clinic Health System and Chair of the WHA Physician Leaders Council, welcomed the group and set the tone for the conference.

Shelley Smith of the LAK Group kicked the conference off by discussing tools, techniques and perspectives to excel in authentic leadership. Noting that a title doesn't define a leader, Smith discussed purposeful leadership skills focused on communication, nurturing relationships and helping others understand their value in ensuring organizational success.



Shelley Smith

WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding closed out the morning by talking about the myriad external challenges facing health care providers and the health care delivery system. Understanding these external challenges can help physician leaders better communicate to their staff the “why” and “how” these factors drive disruption and change.



Eric Borgerding



Jeff Chan

Jeff Chan, instructor at the WSB Center for Professional & Executive Development, led a robust session about leading through change. His afternoon session covered the importance of:

- Understanding the difference between change and transitions;
- Building resiliency in team members so they can thrive in the midst of change; and
- Prioritizing and selecting the right changes as leaders.

WHA General Counsel **Matthew Stanford** welcomed the group back on Day 2. Before introducing the final session of the conference, he briefly highlighted multiple resources available to physician leaders through WHA to support their work.

Day 2 of the conference brought **Shelley Smith** of the LAK Group back as she led a discussion focused on building executive presence, relationship building techniques, and communication skills to impact your influence and credibility as a physician leader.

The group had the unique opportunity to explore and experience The Beacon for the evening dinner reception. The Beacon is an exclusive space at the Kohler Communication Center, where the organization's print and television advertisements are captured.

"The dinner reception included various gourmet food stations. WHA gold-level corporate member and *Friend of the Foundation* WHA Information Center sponsored the beverages. Dinner guests were also entertained by the music of Peter D'more and the history of the Kohler archives. The archive area held products, documents and photos of Kohler's past.



Matthew Stanford



The 2023 Physician Leadership Development Conference was a success. Some of the initial comments from the attendees include:

- *"Excellent event. I look forward to attending in the future."*
- *"Nice conference. I really did not know what to expect and was overwhelmingly pleased with it."*
- *"The Physician Leadership Conference is an excellent opportunity to learn and network. For our group this feels a bit like a retreat for our physicians and leaders."*

Click [here](#) to view the full photo album of the 2023 Physician Leadership Development Conference.

Save the Date!
2024 Physician Leadership Development Conference
March 15-16 | Kohler, WI