

2026 CQI Conference: From Surviving the Thriving
Schedule of Events
All Times in CDT

	DAY 1: Tuesday, October 13, 2026			
8:00-9:00	Registration and Breakfast			
9:00-9:30	Welcome from CQI Community and UIUC School of Social Work			
9:30-11:00 Featured Speaker	Just Enough is Not Enough: CQI Scarcity, and the Leadership Work of Thriving Featured Speaker: Dioane Gates Teacher at Kansas Leadership Center			
11:00-11:15	Break			
	Technology (45)	Alma Mater (75)	Lincoln (75)	Heritage (150)
11:15-12:30 Breakout Session	Excel Power Query Workshop: The first step towards Power Bi Breanna Lee, Paul Miller, Tambrinia Edwards Saint Francis Ministries, Lubbock, TX	From Survey to Strategy: Using Safety Culture Data to Drive Meaningful Change Ashley Krumbach, Elizabeth Riley Center for the Helping Professions, Fishers, IN	Yes but How? Building Cultures of Conscious Decision Making in Quality Improvement Christina Rosato, Jordan Constantine, Julie LaChappelle Affinita, LLC, Spring Hill, TN Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon	Have a Seat—or Have a Say? A Continuous Improvement Approach to Real Participation Tina Marie Lowry Envision Unlimited, Chicago, IL
12:30-1:45	Lunch and Mentoring Networking Activity Impact Story: “Lessons from a Data Lover” with Becki Stone from IL Department of Children and Family Services (1:30-1:45 PM)			
2:00-3:15 Breakout Session	Microsoft Power BI Basic Building Blocks Allen Yang, Tuyen Bui Northwestern University, Champaign, IL UIC - Center for Prevention Research and Development, Champaign, IL	Treat Yo’self to Insights: Turning Community Feedback into Data Melissa Curtis, Ilana Blattner Lawrence Hall, Chicago, IL	From Questions to Action: Using Family Surveys to Drive Meaningful Improvement Carla “CJ” Chandler, Brittani Provost, Scott A. Slomka UIC - Division of Specialized Care for Children, Springfield, IL	Thoughtful Questions, Meaningful Conversations, Lasting Improvement Becca Turner, Amanda Smith-Chonko Kansas DCF, Topeka, KS Pressley Ridge, Pittsburgh, PA
3:15-3:30	Break			
3:30-4:15 Breakout Session	The Room Where It Happens: Using Integrated Systems and LEAN Mapping to Redesign Health and Behavioral Health Services Christina Rosato, Morgan Atwood, Nina Davis Center for the Helping Professions, Spring Hill, TN Illinois DCFS, River Grove, IL	From Vision to Practice: Building Stronger and Sustainable CQI Practices in Family-Run Organizations Prisca Tuyishime, Linsey McDaniel, Sara Winkel, Kitrana Roberts Chapin Hall, Chicago IL	Beyond the Checkbox: Moving from Enforcer to Partner in Quality Improvement Sara Hecht Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, MI	Using Data to Improve Employee Experience Gabrielle Caroselli, Stacey Trushenski-Carlson Nexus Family Healing, Plymouth, MN
4:30-5:00	Impact Story: “Powering Change from the Ground Up” with Melissa Williams and Michele Draper from Birth to Five Illinois Impact Story: “Developing a Shared Approach to Systemic Engagement and Recruitment Through CQI” with Katie Romeo and Carlos Smith from Youth Guidance			
5:00-6:00	Trivia (optional)			

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	DAY 2: Wednesday, October 14, 2026			
8:00-9:00	Registration and Breakfast			
9:00-9:15	Welcome and Announcements			
9:15-10:45 Featured Speaker	From Surviving the Review to Thriving in Real Time Featured Speaker: Sherry Amelse Director of Implementations at SafeGenerations			
10:45-11:00	Break			
	Chancellor Ballroom (150)	Alma Mater (75)	Lincoln (75)	Heritage (150)
11:00-12:00 Breakout Session	Data Storytelling Peer Learning Lab Dave Koch Data Storytelling Collective, Chicago, IL	From Data Points to Decisions: Using a Measurement Framework to Collect, Track, and Report What Matters Most Claire Kimberly Chapin Hall, Chicago, IL	Empathy Meets Strategy: The Social Work Advantage in CQI Leadership Alison Wagner Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL	What Were You Thinking? Moving CQI from Compliance Review to Learning Conversation Sherry Amelse, Dan McCormick, Becca Turner SafeGenerations, Chaska, MN Kansas DCF, Topeka, KS
12:00-1:00	Lunch			
1:00-2:00 Breakout Session	Managing Up: Building Strong, Strategic Relationship with Program Managers and Leaders Vanessa Vorhies Klodnick Chicago Youth Innovation Hub, University of Texas, School of Social Work, Chicago, IL	From One Case to System Change: A Root Cause Analysis Toolkit Ashley Krumbach, Christina Rosato Center for the Helping Professions, Fishers, IN	Nominal Group Technique: Using Structured Brainstorming to Engage Multiple Learning Styles in CQI Projects Abby Eskenaz James Bell Associates, Arlington, VA	From Voices to Impact: How Families Drive Continuous Improvement in Early Childhood Systems August Stockwell, Melissa Williams Birth to Five, Chicago, IL
2:00-2:15	Break			
2:15-3:15 Breakout Session	Why ‘Just Do It’ Doesn’t Work: Building Clear, Accountable, and Purpose-Driven Teams Stephanie May May Collective, Chicago, IL	The Importance of Data Context Rebecca Stone, Arricka Cravens-Newingham, Jennifer Eblen-Manning Illinois DCFS, River Grove, IL	Building Leaders’ Capacity for Continuous Improvement by Addressing the Role of Accountability in their Work Katie Romeo, Wendy Fine, Anthony Carpenter Youth Guidance, Chicago, IL	Data Doesn’t Drive Decisions, People Do: Five Ideas to Turn Data into Action Rekha Shukla, Victoria Frank Marigold Evaluation, LLC Chicago, IL and Madison, WI
3:30-4:00	Closing and Raffle			