



On The Horizon Summit 2026



40 years of
education and care,
together

Welcome to On the Horizon 2026

Welcome to the 2026 summit — and the New York Stock Exchange. We're grateful to be surrounded by employers who deeply value the people at the heart of their organizations.

On the Horizon 2026 is more than a conference. It's a recognition of the movement you have fueled. Your commitment to working caregivers and learners has reshaped expectations and raised the standard for what work-family support can be. Your partnership has helped build solutions that let parents and caregivers focus, help children thrive, and enable employees to grow their careers with confidence. You've demonstrated something undeniable: investments in employees and their families translate into business growth.

As you spend this time learning, sharing, and connecting, know that we are deeply inspired by your leadership and advocacy — and by the way you show up for your people in the moments that matter most. You are making the workplace more human.

We're so glad you're here, and we're honored to create brighter futures with you.

Your Bright Horizons team



A Taste of New York, with Music & Magic

We invite you to join us for a special evening reception on Wednesday immediately following the summit, featuring Taste of New York culinary stations, live jazz, and a touch of magic. The reception will be held in the historic board room of the **New York Stock Exchange**, offering a truly one-of-a-kind setting to connect and unwind.

Have a question?

Look for a staff member wearing a blue **Bright Horizons sweater**.

Your impact shines bright

Meet Sunny, a little ray of sunshine to brighten your day at work — and a cheerful reminder that the care you show makes life brighter for your employees, their families, and all of us.





Wednesday, April 29

All sessions will be held on the main stage in **Freedom Hall**.

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and registration

9:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks with Stephen Kramer

10:00 a.m.

Advancing Our Commitment to Global Safeguarding

Safety is our top priority and embedded in our daily practice. In this session Bright Horizons operations leaders will highlight how we are building on that foundation — elevating global standards, strengthening leadership accountability and training, and introducing additional technology — to continually advance our approach to child safety and reinforce the trust families and employers place in us.

- Jamie Nelson
- Mary Lou Burke Afonso
- Tammy Chuprevich

10:30 a.m.

Behind the Scenes: Innovations for Bigger Impact, Brighter Outcomes

Join Bright Horizons product leaders for an inside look at the workforce trends shaping our roadmap and the innovative solutions we're building to meet evolving needs. These innovations are shaped by your feedback and the real-life experiences of working families and learners. Experience what's next as we build a future of care, connection, and possibility — together.

- Casey Jenkins
- Mandy Berman
- Rachel Robertson
- Sachin Isaacs

11:15 a.m.

Break

11:35 a.m.

Keynote: HR's Age of Opportunity

A major demographic shift is unlocking fresh possibilities — empowering organizations to harness experience and unleash the full potential of their workforce. Author Dan Pontefract shares new research and fresh insights on what to expect in the coming years, how to navigate the looming talent crunch, and why HR must meet the moment with new strategies, benefits, and programs.

- Dan Pontefract, leadership strategist and author of "The Future of Work is Grey"

12:35 p.m.

Lunch

Book signing, Dan Pontefract

1:45 p.m.

Outlook: What's Next for Work, Upskilling, and Families

Hear from industry experts on what's influencing employee and family well-being, learning, and the future of work. Gain fresh perspectives on what employees need today — and what's on the horizon. See how leading organizations are responding and walk away with actionable strategies to strengthen your benefits approach and position your organization for long-term success.

- Barbara Marder, Employee Benefit Research Institute
- Ed Lehman, Mercer
- Rodney Bolden, Morgan Stanley at Work
- Stephanie Rose, Bright Horizons

2:30 p.m.

In Their Own Words

Family care benefits change lives every day. In this session, discover how meaningful support helps employees show up fully — both at work and at home.

- Janis Tournillon, Lumen Technologies
- Nancy Frattura, Bright Horizons

2:40 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m.

Supporting the Caregiving Journey at Bank of America

A benefits leader shares perspective on the importance of caregiver support in the workplace, the decision to provide offerings for different phases of the caregiving journey and the personal stories that reinforce why these programs are crucial for families and the organization.

- Anne Oxider, Bank of America
- Kim Warecke, Bright Horizons

3:10 p.m.

Benefits Blueprint: Evolving Your Strategy

As employee expectations shift and competition for talent intensifies, benefits strategies must evolve from transactional offerings to meaningful differentiators. This panel explores how leading organizations are modernizing their benefits portfolios — balancing foundational support with innovative programs that drive engagement, equity, and retention.

- Kelsey Witmer, Spring Health
- Merridith Simpson, Cook Children's
- Stefanie Harrison, State Street
- Nancy Frattura, Bright Horizons

3:55 p.m.

Break

4:10 p.m.

Idea Exchange: Making HR More Human with AI

Discover how AI can transform HR by delivering personalized, empathetic experiences at scale — while boosting efficiency and strengthening recruiting, retention, and employee support. Then, join interactive table discussions to explore practical ways to harness this technology for smarter, faster solutions that keep a human touch at the heart of human resources.

- Ben Eubanks, researcher and author of "Artificial Intelligence for HR"

5:25 p.m.

Day one closing remarks

5:30 p.m.

Reception

Meet Olympian Elana Meyers Taylor



An Olympic Journey Nearly Two Decades in the Making

Elana Meyers Taylor's Olympic journey is one of reinvention, historic achievement, and a relentless pursuit of gold. Born in Oceanside, California, and raised in Douglasville, Georgia, Elana attended George Washington University on a softball scholarship and later played professionally for the Mid-Michigan Ice. After what she jokingly calls "the worst tryout ever in the history of tryouts" for the U.S. Olympic Softball Team, her parents suggested she try bobsledding.

Reinvention and Historic Firsts

In 2007, Elana moved to Lake Placid, New York, home of the U.S. National Bobsled Team. Less than three years later, she stood on the Olympic podium in Vancouver as a bronze medalist. She later returned to the Olympic stage in 2014 in Sochi, capturing silver. In 2015, she made history as the first woman to pilot a four-man bobsled on the U.S. National Team and the first woman to medal in a men's international event. That same year, she won the World Championship title in the two-woman event.

Motherhood, Persistence, and Purpose

Elana married fellow bobsled athlete Nic Taylor, and in 2020 they welcomed their first son, Nico, who was born with Down syndrome and deaf. Nico began traveling the world with his parents as Elana returned to competition. At the 2022 Olympic Games, she earned silver in the inaugural women's monobob and bronze in the two-woman event, becoming the most decorated Black athlete in Olympic Winter Games history. Later that year, she gave birth to her second son, Noah, who is also deaf.

The Gold Medal Moment

With her family traveling alongside her, Elana trained for one final Olympic run. At the 2026 Winter Olympic Games, she captured the long-awaited gold medal in the monobob. Moments later, she signed to her sons trackside, "Mommy won!" Elana Meyers Taylor is a five-time Olympian, six-time Olympic medalist, and widely considered the greatest bobsled pilot in Olympic history.



Thursday, April 30

All sessions will be held on the main stage in **Freedom Hall**.

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Host Welcome

- Hung Nguyen, Intercontinental Exchange

9:10 a.m.

The Power Behind the Podium

Olympic champion Elana Meyers Taylor knows firsthand that no one reaches the podium alone. As a five-time Olympian, 2026 gold medalist, and mom of two children with disabilities, she's lived the realities of caregiving while pursuing excellence on the world stage. In this fireside conversation, Elana shares her journey of resilience and the essential role that support systems play in enabling people to balance elite performance with family responsibilities.

- Elana Meyers Taylor, Team USA Olympic Bobsledder
- Phil Barr, Bright Horizons

10:10 a.m.

Break

10:25 a.m.

Child Care in Transition: Keeping Pace and Planning Ahead

Child care shifts are accelerating, disrupting today's workforce and poised to impact staffing continuity in the future. Employers are stepping up to fill critical care gaps. This session shares strategies to stay ahead of evolving federal, state, and local policies — and prepare for what's next.

- Molly Day, Moms First
- Myriah Sweeney, Toyota Motor North America
- Nicole Riehl, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
- Jennifer Vena, Bright Horizons

10:25 a.m.

Healthcare Spotlight: Adapting Today, Preparing for Tomorrow

To be held in Hamilton

With employee expectations shifting rapidly, healthcare organizations are rethinking how they support their people to help ensure outstanding patient care. Join a roundtable discussion led by HR executives to explore the emerging trends shaping healthcare workforces and share strategic approaches to building more resilient, future-ready teams.

- Analisa Eaton, Children's Health
- Michelle Adamolekun, Cone Health
- Terri Kowalczyk, Bright Horizons

11:10 a.m.

Break

11:25 a.m.

In Their Own Words

High-quality child care changes lives every day. In this session, learn how supporting working parents strengthens outcomes for both families and organizations.

- Maria Hickman, University of South Carolina
- Christine Kratz, Bright Horizons

11:35 a.m.

Voices of HR: Navigating the Road to Leadership

In this candid conversation, senior HR leaders reflect on the pivotal moments, challenges, and lessons that shaped their journeys to the top. Attendees will gain inspiration and practical insights into what it takes to grow, lead, and thrive in an evolving HR landscape.

- Dena Faccio, Voya Financial
- Loren Hudson, Comcast
- Shibu Varghese, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Jamie Nelson, Bright Horizons

12:20 p.m.

Closing remarks

12:30 p.m.

Lunch to-go



Brighten a life with a hygiene care kit

The **Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®** connects the skills and talents of our Bright Horizons family to the needs of their local communities. The signature program of the foundation, Bright Spaces, creates safe places for children to play and learn in partnership with local nonprofits and other community organizations.

This year, we are partnering with **Apostle House** to open a Bright Space, which will support their mission of empowering homeless families to thrive and succeed by providing comprehensive social services to at-risk families and individuals in Newark, NJ and surrounding areas.

Help us make a difference for Apostle House: During the conference, we will be making hygiene care kits which will go directly to the individuals served at Apostle House. No special skills are required to make a kit. Simply decorate a bag, fill it with one of each of the hygiene products available, and drop the kit off back at the table. The materials to make a kit will be available throughout the conference.

**Thank you for supporting
Apostle House and the
Bright Horizons Foundation
for Children!**



Meet the summit speakers



Analisa Eaton
Children's Health

*Healthcare Spotlight:
Adapting Today, Preparing for Tomorrow*



Anne Oxrider
Bank of America

*Supporting the Caregiving Journey
at Bank of America*



Barbara Marder
Employee Benefit Research Institute

*Outlook: What's Next for Work,
Upskilling, and Families*



Ben Eubanks
Lighthouse Research & Advisory

Idea Exchange: Making HR More Human with AI



Casey Jenkins
Bright Horizons

*Behind the Scenes: Innovations for
Bigger Impact, Brighter Futures*



Christine Kratz

Bright Horizons

In Their Own Words



Dan Pontefract

Author, "The Future of Work is Grey"

HR's Age of Opportunity



Dena Faccio

Voya Financial

Voices of HR: Navigating the Road to Leadership



Ed Lehman

Mercer

Outlook: What's Next for Work, Upskilling, and Families



Elana Meyers Taylor

2026 US Olympic Bobsled Team

The Power Behind the Podium



Hung Nguyen

Intercontinental Exchange

Host Welcome



Jamie Nelson

Bright Horizons

Voices of HR: Navigating the Road to Leadership and Advancing Our Commitment to Global Safeguarding



Janis Tournillon

Lumen Technologies

In Their Own Words



Jennifer Vena

Bright Horizons

Child Care in Transition: Keeping Pace and Planning Ahead



Kim Warecke

Bright Horizons

Supporting the Caregiving Journey at Bank of America



Kelsey Witmer

Spring Health

Benefits Blueprint: Evolving Your Strategy



Loren Hudson

Comcast

Voices of HR: Navigating the Road to Leadership



Mandy Berman

Bright Horizons

*Behind the Scenes: Innovations for
Bigger Impact, Brighter Futures*



Maria Hickman

University of South Carolina

In Their Own Words



Mary Lou Burke Afonso

Bright Horizons

*Advancing Our Commitment to
Care and Safety*



Merridith Simpson

Cook Children's

Benefits Blueprint: Evolving Your Strategy



Michelle Adamolekun

Cone Health

*Healthcare Spotlight: Adapting Today,
Preparing for Tomorrow*



Molly Day

Moms First

*Child Care in Transition: Keeping Pace
and Planning Ahead*



Nancy Frattura

Bright Horizons

*In Their Own Words and
Benefits Blueprint: Evolving Your Strategy*



Nicole Riehl

Executives Partnering to Invest in Children
(EPIC)

*Child Care in Transition: Keeping Pace
and Planning Ahead*



Phil Barr

Bright Horizons

Emcee and The Power Behind the Podium



Rachel Robertson

Bright Horizons

*Behind the Scenes: Innovations for
Bigger Impact, Brighter Futures*



Rodney Bolden

Morgan Stanley at Work

*Outlook: What's Next for Work,
Upskilling, and Families*



Sachin Isaacs

Bright Horizons

*Behind the Scenes: Innovations for
Bigger Impact, Brighter Futures*



Shibu Varghese
MD Anderson Cancer Center

*Voices of HR: Navigating the
Road to Leadership*



Stefanie Harrison
State Street

Benefits Blueprint: Evolving Your Strategy



Stephanie Rose
Bright Horizons

*Outlook: What's Next for Work,
Upskilling, and Families*



Stephen Kramer
Bright Horizons

Opening Remarks



Tammy Chuprevich
Bright Horizons

Advancing Our Commitment to Care and Safety



Terri Kowalczyk
Bright Horizons

*Healthcare Spotlight: Adapting Today,
Preparing for Tomorrow*

A history shaped by families and forward-thinking employers

For four decades, Bright Horizons has helped change the way the world works by supporting children, families, employers, and communities — grounded in the simple belief that access to high-quality education and care unlocks opportunity. Founded in 1986 by Linda Mason and Roger Brown, we began with a clear mission — to remove child care as a barrier for working families and reimagine what employer-supported care could be.

After opening our first two child care centers in Boston and Cambridge, we grew rapidly by partnering with employers to deliver accessible, high-quality early education solutions. Throughout the 1990s, our organization expanded nationally, introduced back-up care, and set the standards that shaped today's employer-sponsored care benefits.

As the needs of working families evolved, we responded with expanded supports, in the U.S. and around the world. We founded the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children to extend our impact in the communities we serve, and broadened employer services to include back-up senior care, pet care, summer camps, caregiving concierge, tutoring, college advising, and workforce education solutions. Today, Bright Horizons partners with leading employers in every industry, delivering education and care that helps all employees thrive.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary and look ahead, we do so with gratitude.

Whether you joined our community months, years, or decades ago, thank you for your partnership. We are honored to support your employees and their families. And we are energized by the potential to build stronger workplaces, together.





Plan ahead

On the Horizon
will be back in 2027.

Stay tuned for specific dates, location, and opportunities to speak.

Upcoming speaking opportunities

If you would like to speak with us at an industry conference, please reach out to **Emily Kaufman** (emily.kaufman@brighthorizons.com).

Here are a few of the upcoming events on our calendar.

SHRM virtual events

- Opportunities for June, July, and September
- Fireside chats

IPMI Healthcare HR Management Institute

- September 13-15
- Orlando, Florida
- Fireside chat

IPMI Corporate Wellness Institute

- November 8-10
- Amelia Island, Florida
- Fireside chat



