

Executive Leadership Institute

Agenda



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

LOCATION

Loyola University Chicago - Schrieber Center
16 E Pearson St | Chicago, IL 60611

Sunday, June 8

7:00pm **Networking Dinners**

Join Social Current staff and fellow ELI participants for an evening of connection and conversation. This informal dinner offers a chance to get to know your peers and begin building relationships ahead of the week's programming. Location to be announced.

Monday, June 9

8:00am **Morning Motivations**

8:30am **Group 1 ELI Project Presentations**

9:30am **Leading in This Moment** with Jody Levison-Johnson, PhD, LCSW



In this opening session, the CEO and President of Social Current will provide an inspiring introduction to the leadership journey ahead, offering insights into the current landscape of leadership and the unique challenges and opportunities of leading in today's world. This session will set the tone for the program, emphasizing the importance of adaptive leadership and the impact leaders can have in shaping the future.

10:30am **Break**

11:00am **Group 2 ELI Project Presentations**

12:30pm **Lunch**

1:30pm **Creating Brain-Friendly Work Environments: Strategies for Cognitive Flexibility & Well-Being** with Karen Johnson, MSW, LCSW and Kelly Martin, MS



Workforce trends show that employees expect leaders to go beyond top-down recognition and self-care initiatives to actively improve engagement, retention, equity, and communication. Leaders are encouraged to practice empathy, inclusivity, psychological safety, and gratitude—but where should we focus first? The answer lies in understanding the brain and stress response system to create brain-friendly workplaces. This interactive session explores strategies to enhance cognitive flexibility, emotional regulation, and decision-making. Participants will gain research-backed tools to foster executive functioning, psychological safety, and self-regulation while promoting adaptability, collaboration, and well-being. By aligning workplaces with how the brain thrives, organizations can drive both personal and organizational success.



3:00pm **Break**

3:30pm **Creating Brain-Friendly Work Environments: Strategies for Cognitive Flexibility & Well-Being (Cont.)** with Karen Johnson, MSW, LCSW and Kelly Martin, MS

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Tuesday, June 10

8:00am **Morning Motivations**

8:30am **AI in Social Services: Tools for Resilient Organizations** with Jonathan B. Singer, PhD, LCSW



This session provides an executive-level overview of how artificial intelligence can be strategically leveraged to strengthen organizational resilience and effectiveness. Participants will explore key AI tools and their applications in streamlining operations, enhancing service delivery, and addressing critical challenges faced by social service organizations.

10:00am **Break**

10:30am **AI in Social Services: Panel Discussion**

Join a distinguished panel of experts and executives as they discuss the strategic integration of AI into social service organizations. The session will address opportunities for innovation, potential risks, and the long-term implications of AI adoption in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Panel: Sharmili Majmudar, Executive Vice President of Policy, Programs, and Research, Women Employed

12:00pm **Lunch**

1:30pm **Excellence: An Introduction to MYSI** feat. Andrea “Drea” Hall



In this panel discussion, leaders from MYSI will share how values-based leadership has shaped the organization's mission to strengthen lives, provide help, and create hope for vulnerable youth and their families. As MYSI celebrates its 60th anniversary, the panel will explore the agency's recent transformation—including strategic planning, re-accreditation, and program enhancements—highlighting how intentional leadership, data-driven decision-making, and community partnerships have fueled impact. Attendees will gain insights into how MYSI's leadership team is fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration to equip young people with the tools, skills, and resources needed to thrive in adulthood.

3:30pm **Break**

4:00pm **Strengthening Families, Transforming Systems: The Brightpoint Approach** with Mike Shaver



Join an engaging conversation about leading with purpose in a complex human services landscape with ELI alumnus Mike Shaver. Formerly known as Children's Home & Aid, Brightpoint has reimaged its mission to center families' strengths, prioritize prevention, and pursue bold, data-driven solutions that create lasting change. Mike will share insights on transformational leadership, organizational evolution, and the role of equity and partnership in building systems that truly support children and families.

7:00pm **Networking Dinners**

See Sign Up Sheet

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Wednesday, June 11

8:00am **Morning Motivations**

8:30am **Ethical Leadership in High-Stakes Decision-Making** with Jeanne Sokolec, Ed.D., LCSW

Executives and those in leadership positions frequently face ethical dilemmas that require balancing organizational goals, stakeholders' interests, and social responsibility. Ethics are a bedrock of the social responsibility and the integrity of the organization on behalf of the clients they serve. Codes of ethics are the operationalization of ethical principles. Without setting the Codes of Ethics in the context of an ethical framework, Codes can be performative and seemingly malleable. This presentation will posit that the ethics of organizations and their leadership are directly situated in the structure and mission of the organization and using real world examples illustrate how organizations can navigate this complexity in high-stakes decision-making.



10:00am **Break**

10:30am **Leveraging Generative Partnerships for Next Generation Leadership** with Robena Spangler

This session will focus on building and leveraging generative partnerships using a collaborative process model and application of leadership competencies for next generation social sector leaders.



12:00pm **Lunch & Learn**

For Managers and Directors: Leading Change Using an Equity Lens with Robena Spangler
OR

For Executives: Values-Based Leadership with Karyn Dossinger, PhD

1:30pm **Driving Non-Profit Impact** with Katelyn Jones, PhD

This interactive session equips nonprofit leaders with practical approaches to harness data for strategic advantage, from leveraging public data sources to understand community needs to connecting operational metrics with customer outcomes. Participants will explore methods to move beyond activity/output tracking and funder-required measurements toward business-driven impact measurement and data strategies. At the end of the session, participants will leave with actionable frameworks to integrate data-driven approaches that advance their organization's strategy and purpose.



3:00pm **Break**

3:30pm **Advancing a New Leadership Paradigm: Strategic Stewardship in EHR Governance and Change** with Chris Parry, Theresa Yera, and Tina Kirkpatrick; co-hosted by EHR Edge

As healthcare organizations face evolving technologies, compliance requirements, and funding constraints, leadership must adopt a proactive approach—one in which data governance and organizational change management (OCM) are viewed as core priorities. This session challenges traditional leadership roles, exploring how leaders can drive lasting transformation by embedding governance and OCM into the organization's foundation. Participants will walk away with actionable strategies to elevate their leadership approach and ensure long-term EHR and enterprise resilience.



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Thursday, June 12

8:00am **Morning Motivations**

8:30am **Strategic Leadership Reflection: A Personal SWOT Analysis** with Brandon Pendleton

As a culmination of the week's learning, this reflective session will guide participants through a personal SWOT analysis, helping them assess their leadership strengths, areas for growth, opportunities, and potential challenges. By reflecting on the knowledge and insights gained throughout the week, leaders will identify strategic areas to enhance their leadership impact and align their development with the goals and challenges of their organizations. This session encourages both introspection and actionable planning to ensure continued growth beyond the program.



10:00am **Break**

10:30am **ELI Project - Overview and Q&A**

12:00pm **Celebration Luncheon & Farewell**



Loyola University Chicago

Loyola University Chicago is the school of choice for those who wish to seek new knowledge in the service of humanity in a world-renowned urban center as members of a diverse learning community that **values freedom of inquiry, the pursuit of truth and care for others.**

Social Current

Our mission is to advocate for and implement equitable solutions to society's toughest challenges through collaboration, innovation, policy, and practice excellence.

We ignite change for an equitable society where all people can thrive.

