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## **Dr. Iris Boettcher Named 2026 Medical Director of the Year**

*LifeCircles PACE Medical Director Honored  
By The Foundation for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine*

**Grand Rapids/Holland, MI, Apr. 22, 2026** – Iris Boettcher, MD, CMD was honored recently at [The Foundation for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine](#) (PALTmed)’s annual conference in Anaheim, California as the Foundation’s 2026 Medical Director of the Year award recipient. The Medical Director of the Year Award recognizes those individuals whose vision, passion, leadership, knowledge, and commitment succeed in taking patient care to exceptional levels of quality, excellence, and innovation.



Dr. Boettcher serves as the medical director for Brio Living Services programs, including [LifeCircles PACE](#) (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) Centers in Holland and Muskegon, Michigan; [Porter Hills Village Health Center](#) in Grand Rapids; and [Avenues by Brio Living Services](#). She also serves as medical director for organizations such as [Corewell Health West Rehab and Nursing Centers](#). In addition, she is a clinical associate professor at Michigan State University’s Department of Medicine, College of Human Medicine. Dr. Boettcher has served as past president of PALTmed – Michigan.

“I am humbled to receive this recognition from the Foundation for PALTC Medicine,” said Dr. Boettcher. “I joined AMDA as a fellow in geriatric medicine in 1989 and have gained so much from this organization we now call PALTmed. It is an incredible honor to be named Medical Director of the Year. It is, in my opinion, one of the highest awards to be given to a physician in long-term care medicine.”

Brio Living Services’ Chief of Home and Community Based Services, Luke Reynolds, said, “I’ve been incredibly fortunate to learn from Dr. Iris Boettcher—as a mentor, leader, and friend. She has a rare ability to listen deeply, lead with integrity, and speak with intention. When I was new to aging services, she took the time to teach me the importance of understanding what matters most to people and shaping care around their goals, not ours. Her advocacy for

vulnerable older adults and her quiet, steady leadership have shaped the way I do this work, and I'm profoundly grateful for her wisdom and influence.”

Heidi Gras, Executive Director at LifeCircles PACE, added, “Iris isn't usually one for the spotlight—she’s much more comfortable having a heart-to-heart with a family in crisis or rolling up her sleeves in her garden. But having her named the national Medical Director of the Year by PALTmed is a moment our whole team wants to celebrate. At LifeCircles, we’ve always said that our work is about walking alongside people during some of their most complicated chapters. It’s about more than just managing a list of diagnoses; it’s about making sure people of any age can stay in the home they love with a little extra support, on their own terms, even when their health gets complex. Since LifeCircles opened its doors in 2009, Iris has been a steadfast heartbeat in our mission.”

Dr. Boettcher also serves on the [UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation](#) Board of Directors, the fundraising arm for Brio Living Services. Foundation President & CEO, Kelli Smith, CFRE, said, “We are honored to have Dr. Boettcher’s expertise in geriatric care as well as her thoughtful leadership as a member of the Foundation board. She has a unique understanding of the individuals and families we serve and ensures that their priorities are heard.”

“Whether at LifeCircles PACE or within the broader Brio Living Services family, we want every older adult to know their voice is the one that matters most,” said Dr. Boettcher. “Receiving this recognition is an honor, but the real reward is the work we do every day at LifeCircles PACE. The PACE model gives us the rarest commodity in modern medicine: time. Time outside of the typical insurance driven models of care, to practice our craft and deeply listen to and learn from the people we care for. It allows us to move past a diagnosis and support our PACE members in honoring what matters most in their lives. The long-term relationships within PACE allow health professionals to customize medical care around the most sacred parts of our patient's lives, versus asking patients to ‘comply’ with modern medicine's approach and try to fit their values around that. As the Medical Director since LifeCircles’ founding in 2009, it has been a pleasure to support older adults and the health professionals who are drawn to PACE’s holistic and back-to-basics approach to medicine.”

Dr. Boettcher will also be honored for her outstanding achievements at a reception at Corewell Health Place on April 22, 2026.

For more information about LifeCircles PACE, Brio Living Services, and its other [PACE sites](#), please visit [MyBrio.org](#).

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*Building on a foundation of serving older adults since 1906, **Brio Living Services**, formerly UMRC & Porter Hills, is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. Brio Living Services represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan and serves the most economically diverse population of older adults. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, Brio Living Services and its affiliates serve approximately 8,000 older*

adults each year, from 23 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan's lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | [MyBrio.org](http://MyBrio.org)

The mission of **The Foundation for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine** is: Through philanthropy, we support the advancement of the post-acute and long-term care community by funding research, workforce development, and education. 410.992.3134 | [PaltcFoundation.org](http://PaltcFoundation.org)

**LifeCircles PACE** supports vulnerable individuals and their care partners by providing compassionate, comprehensive, team-based care that honors their health care preferences and their desire to remain living in the community. 231.733.8686 | 616.582.3100 | [LifeCircles-PACE.org](http://LifeCircles-PACE.org)

The **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation**, in support of Brio Living Services, is the charitable arm for the organization, with headquarters in Chelsea and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The mission of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is: As faithful, philanthropic stewards and steadfast advocates for vibrant aging, we support the mission of Brio Living Services. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's fundraising initiatives focus on the health and well-being of older adults, and the education and retention of our outstanding team members. These include the Foundation's cornerstone—Benevolent Care—as well as Team Member Investment, Capital Improvements, and Program Investment. 734.433.1000 | 616.577.2297 | [Foundation.UMRCPH.org](http://Foundation.UMRCPH.org)



Dr. Iris Boettcher (left) receives Medical Director of the Year award, pictured here with Foundation for PALTC Medicine Chair Dr. Cari Levy (right).