KEYNOTE / KEYNOTE

No One Is Saved Alone

Ubuntu, community-based care, and the people who refuse to let go.

Merideth Rose

Merideth Rose's keynote placed lived experience at the center of the Symposium's conversation about systems. Through her account of community, care, and belonging, she challenged leaders to see a whole person beyond a label, record, or point-in-time assessment.

The keynote held two responsibilities together: providing responsive care when children cannot safely remain at home, and building the community supports that can prevent a crisis or sustain healing beyond formal services. Emergency intervention and lasting connection serve different needs.

A recurring theme was the influence of people who remain present. Professional help matters, and so do the family members, neighbors, educators, and other community members who see possibility, open doors, and continue the relationship. Belonging is an experience to understand, not simply a service to count.

For leaders, the keynote offered a way to examine the everyday choices embedded in systems: the language used about families, the assumptions carried into decisions, and whether people with lived experience can meaningfully shape the work. The emphasis was on dignity, possibility, and community responsibility.

Put the learning to work

- Review a routine form or narrative for language that obscures strengths, relationships, or the person's own perspective.
- Ask how a service transition preserves the relationships that matter to the child and family.
- Invite lived-experience input into one design decision and explain how that input affected the result.

Questions for your team

Does our process help us understand the whole person? Who will still be connected when the formal service ends?

Proposed CY2027 connection

A continuing lens for every CY2027 session, particularly March care pathways, August storytelling, and September sustainability.

Source and coverage: Keynote transcript excerpt 0:09-49:26 and final presentation deck. Personal history is summarized without reproducing sensitive details.