

Ruth Williams-Brinkley

Ruth Williams-Brinkley is a corporate board director, strategic advisor, executive coach, and former nationally recognized healthcare executive. She currently serves on the boards of Travers Pharmaceuticals, Natera, the University of Phoenix, DePaul University, and Allina Health. In 2024, she founded **RWB Advisory Services**, providing strategic advisory support, executive coaching, and expert witness services to organizations across the healthcare sector. She is also the host of **Beyond60–Unscripted**, a podcast focused on healthy, joyful, and purpose-driven living after retirement.

Williams-Brinkley retired in 2024 as Regional President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, where she led Kaiser Permanente’s integrated care delivery and health plan operations across Washington, D.C., suburban Maryland, Baltimore, and Northern Virginia. She previously served as President of Kaiser Permanente’s Northwest Region, based in Portland, Oregon.

Before joining Kaiser Permanente, Williams-Brinkley held transformative leadership roles in hospitals and health systems as President and CEO of KentuckyOne Health (CommonSpirit Health), President and CEO of Carondelet Health Network (Ascension Health), and President and CEO of Memorial Health Care System (CommonSpirit Health). Across these organizations, she delivered operational turnarounds, strengthened financial performance, and drove strategic growth—often in complex, challenged, or rapidly evolving healthcare environments.

Her expertise extends beyond operational leadership to advising investor-owned and private equity-backed companies, where she has helped position organizations for growth, profitability, and successful acquisition. She is widely respected for her ability to build high-performing teams, develop mission-driven leaders, and guide executives navigating high-stakes organizational change.

Her previous corporate board service includes Results Physiotherapy (acquired by Upstream Rehabilitation) and Chattem, Inc. (acquired by Sanofi).

Williams-Brinkley began her career in nursing and advanced through clinical and administrative leadership roles, including serving as chief nurse—experience that grounds her executive perspective in a deep understanding of patient care. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing from DePaul University in Chicago and is a Life Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.