

ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP

2014 Advocacy Fellows

CHRISTIE APPELHANZ

Vice President of Public Affairs
Kansas Action for Children
Topeka



Christie Appelhanz oversees government relations and communications as vice president of public affairs at Kansas Action for Children (KAC). She currently provides leadership for the Kansas Dental Project, an effort to bring mid-level dental providers to Kansas to address the dental workforce shortage. She also served at KAC as a media relations specialist before serving as communications director for a Kansas member of Congress and director of external relations for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas. Christie's first job after college was as a reporter at the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

Christie has a bachelor's degree in business communication and a master's degree in global and international studies, both from the University of Kansas. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching economics to high school students in Ukraine. Christie is a board member of Kansas Family Partnership, Children's Advocacy Centers and the Seaman Educational Advantage Foundation. She was selected as an inaugural class member of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Leadership Institute for State-Based Advocates and named one of Greater Topeka's Top 20 Under 40 business and community leaders in 2013.

Christie and her husband raise Kate, Wesley (a Doberman) and prairie hay in northern Shawnee County.

BRYAN BRADY

Chief Executive Officer
First Care Clinic
Hays



Bryan Brady is chief executive officer of First Care Clinic in Hays, a position he has held since October 2009. He is a native of Johnson, a small community in southwest Kansas. He first attended Neosho County Community College, then Emporia State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in accounting. Bryan's first experience in public health was as a grant writer for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). After college, he moved to Springfield, Missouri, and worked for BKD, LLP, a public accounting firm that specialized in FQHCs.

After four years, Bryan and his wife moved back to Kansas, where he worked for the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), providing technical assistance to members for one year before taking his current position at First Care Clinic. He now serves on the KAMU board of directors.

Bryan enjoys spending his free time with his wife and two children and hunting and golfing.

JANIS DeBOER

Executive Director

Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities
Topeka



Janis DeBoer serves as executive director of the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (k4ad). She has been with the organization for two years. Responsibilities of the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging include providing statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) services and collaborating with partners across the state to secure funding to provide Affordable Care Act (ACA) navigator services.

Prior to joining k4ad, Janis worked fifteen years for the State of Kansas. She served under three Secretaries as the commissioner/deputy secretary at the Kansas Department on Aging and also served as the director of child support enforcement for three years at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Prior to serving the State of Kansas, Janis provided expertise in nursing facility Medicaid reimbursement at the Kansas not-for-profit trade association.

Janis graduated magna cum laude from Emporia State University with a bachelor's degree in business.

JERRY JONES

Executive Director

Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Kansas City



Jerry Jones serves as executive director of the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County (CHC). CHC is committed to improving access to health and health care through fostering communication, coordination and collaboration among various Wyandotte County stakeholders. Current projects include Enroll Wyandotte, a collaborative effort to perform outreach and enrollment assistance for the uninsured residents of Wyandotte County, and H.O.M.E (Health Opportunity Mapping for Equity), a collaborative effort of hospitals, research institutions and faith communities to identify emergency room hotspot areas in Wyandotte County.

Over the past several years, Jerry has led, organized and participated in campaigns which have impacted policy in the Kansas City metro area.

Jerry is a graduate of the University of Kansas. He and his wife have one daughter.

SCOTT LAKIN

Director, Regional Health Care Initiative
Mid-America Regional Council
Kansas City



Scott Lakin is director of the regional health care initiative for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). He is also president of Lakin Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm in the areas of insurance, health care, government, education and business. Additionally, he serves as a board member and president of Keystone Mutual Insurance Company, a Missouri medical liability company, which he helped to create.

Scott served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001. During his tenure, he chaired a number of legislative committees. In 2001, he was appointed director of the Missouri Department of Insurance. Scott left the department in 2005 to pursue his work in consulting.

Scott graduated in 2011 with an Executive MBA from the Henry Bloch School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He currently resides in Kansas City. He and his wife have three grown children.

TERESA LOVELADY

President and Chief Executive Officer
Center for Health and Wellness
Wichita



Teresa Lovelady has served as the president and chief executive officer of the Center for Health and Wellness (CHW) since March 2011. She has been a patient of CHW since 2003 and a consumer board member since 2009. Prior to assuming her current position, Teresa served as vice president of prevention and advocacy at the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas, where she was instrumental in developing collaborative partnerships between community organizations and governmental entities focused on addressing disparities among youth.

Teresa has served on many local, statewide and national taskforces, coalitions and committees and is a member of numerous regional and national associations. She received a bachelor's degree from Chicago State University and master's degrees in social work and business administration from Newman University.

RACHEL MARSH

Staff Attorney
Saint Francis Community Services
Wichita



Rachel Marsh serves as an attorney for Saint Francis Community Services, an organization that seeks to strengthen Kansas families through child welfare and related services. Now in her eighth year with the organization, she currently serves as the lead attorney in the Sedgwick County area. Rachel works closely with courts and social workers to assist in developing systems and services that enhance outcomes for

Kansas children. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Juvenile Offender / Child in Need of Care Advisory Committee for the Kansas Judicial Council and is the immediate past president of the Kansas Association of Counsel for Children.

Before joining Saint Francis, Rachel worked in Wichita as a family lawyer, an adoption case manager, and a human resource director. She also taught social work students and researched human rights issues in Kathmandu, Nepal.

A native Kansan, Rachel received her law and social work degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. She enjoys raising her two daughters, practicing yoga and collecting passport stamps.

LISA MORITZ

Administrator/School Nurse
Greeley County Health Department
Tribune



Lisa serves as the Greeley County Health Department Administrator and Greeley County School Nurse. Her position, which she has held since 2004, is unique in that she is employed by both the school and the Unified Greeley County government. The health department building is located on school grounds. Lisa is responsible for all the school screenings and record maintenance and handles daily student interactions, triage, nursing assessments and care, and referrals. On the health department side, she writes and executes the WIC, State Formula, Maternal Child Health, Immunization Action Plan and Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants and their reports, affidavits and budgets.

Lisa serves on several committees in the community. She has also established, led and participated in a number of local wellness programs.

Lisa is a graduate of Hutchinson Community College with an associate degree in nursing. She completed the Kansas Public Health Certificate Program in 2006, is a Cycle IX fellow of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and the 2013 Kansas Governor's Council on Physical Activity Champion.

KATHY MOSHER

Executive Director
Central Kansas Mental Health Center
Salina



Kathy Mosher serves as executive director of the Central Kansas Mental Health Center in Salina. Prior to assuming her current position in August 2013, she worked for Four County Mental Health in Independence for 11 years, as assistant director of mental health for the State of Kansas for two years and with Family Service and Guidance Center in Topeka for six years.

A native of Independence, Kathy received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Washburn University and earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in business administration from Baker University. Kathy is also a licensed clinical psychotherapist and has nearly 19 years of experience in the mental health field.

MICHELLE PONCE

Executive Director

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

Topeka



Michelle Ponce is executive director of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), where she has worked since 2011. Previously, she served in the office of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). While at SRS, she held several positions, including director of communications and special assistant of the integrated services delivery division.

Michelle earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Emporia State University and a master's degree from the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs at Wichita State University. She is a member of the alumni advisory board of the Hugo Wall School, a member of the City of Emporia Human Relations Commission and recently accepted a position on the newly formed political science alumni board at Emporia State University.

Michelle lives in Emporia with her husband and their four sons.

DANA PUGH

Medical-Legal Partnership Fellow/Staff Attorney

University of Kansas School of Law/KU Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic

Kansas City



Dana Pugh is the postgraduate fellow and staff attorney for the KU Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic. The KU Medical-Legal Partnership aims to improve the health and well-being of Kansas individuals and families by integrating legal assistance into the medical setting. Dana provides direct legal assistance to low income patients, as well as collaborates with other organizations on institutional and systemic changes to improve health care for low income Kansans.

A native of Eureka, Dana graduated magna cum laude from Pittsburg State University with a bachelor of science in justice studies and a minor in political science. She earned her law degree from the University of Kansas.

ROBERT STILES

Director of Operations/Clinic Director, Montgomery County Clinic

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas

Coffeyville



Robert Stiles is director of operations for Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK), where he has worked since 2011. CHC/SEK provides medical, mental health and dental services to patients in Crawford, Cherokee, Allen and Montgomery counties in southeast Kansas. Robert is responsible for daily operations of the Montgomery County clinics, as well as working with new programs and initiatives for the health system.

Prior to joining CHC/SEK, Robert was the director of the primary care office at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, where he was responsible for federal and state health workforce programs and worked closely with the state's primary care, safety net clinics. He has a master's degree in public health from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and a master's degree in early medieval history from Indiana University.

TAWNY STOTTMIRE

Executive Director

Kansas Association of Community Action Programs
Topeka



Tawny Stottmire serves as executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP), a statewide membership organization focused on anti-poverty advocacy and outreach. In addition to providing training and technical assistance to Kansas' eight community action agencies, KACAP is the host of the annual Kansas Conference on Poverty, coordinator of poverty simulation events and creator of the advocacy-through-art Poverty A-Z display.

Tawny is a native of Wichita and a graduate of Washburn University. She has lived in Topeka since 1985 and began her career in non-profit leadership 25 years ago. Her passions include cooking, traveling and acting in community theater.

MARLENE WILLIS

Statewide Coordinator, Migrant Education Out-of-School Youth Advocacy Project
Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush
Pittsburg



Marlene Willis serves as the statewide coordinator for the Migrant Education Out-of-School Youth Advocacy Project. Based out of the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush, she facilitates a pilot project that uses an advocate base to assist young adults in reaching their educational goals.

Marlene is currently in a leadership role in Live Well Crawford County, is a member of the Elm Acres Foundation Board and is president of the USD 250 Board of Education. Previously, Marlene has served on the Crawford County Community Coalition, the Aging with Attitude Regional Conference and the Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board.

A native of Fort Scott, Marlene has a B.B.A. in marketing from Pittsburg State University and has worked in health care administration and the health insurance industry.