

Consumer Advisory Council Biographies

Jane Adams, PhD, Topeka

Keys for Networking Inc.

Dr. Jane Adams brings children's mental health needs to the attention of the KHPA. Jane Adams is the Executive Director of Keys for Networking, Inc., the Kansas statewide information center for parents whose children/adolescents have serious emotional and behavioral disabilities. Dr. Adams currently serves as a Governor Sebelius appointee to the Kansas mental health planning council where she co-chairs the Transformation subcommittee. In July 2007, Florence Crittenton presented her with the second annual agency "hero" award for her advocacy work on behalf of Kansas children. In 2003-4, President Bush appointed her as one of 13 national experts to represent parents of children with mental illness to the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Mitzi E. McFatrach, Lawrence

Executive Director

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC)

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC), a private statewide 501 C 3 non profit provides consumer advocacy and support for the residents of long-term care facilities and their families across the state since 1975. Prior to coming on board at KABC, McFatrach served as Executive Director of the Foundation on Aging in Mission, KS. She was a co-founder and practitioner in the first integrated health care clinic in Johnson County in 1996. From 1982-90, Mitzi provided leadership to domestic violence prevention and intervention with Johnson County Association for Battered Persons and as director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Project. McFatrach has a Master of Divinity and practiced as a protestant minister for five years. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Natural Therapeutics Specialist degree. Her advocacy work at KABC is focused on assuring quality of care for vulnerable populations. She pursues personal wellness long-distance bicycling and most recently by learning to surf.

Theola Cooper, RN, Wichita

Retired Nurse

Mrs. Cooper is a native Wichitian. She attended East High School, St. Mary of the Plains College, St. Joseph School of Nursing and Wichita State University. Theola has worked in staff and supervisory positions at Wesley and St. Francis hospitals. She was employed as a Community Health Nurse for 20 years and retired from the Sedgwick County Health Department in 1999.

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Medicaid and HealthWave:

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Fax: 785-296-4813

State Employee Health

Benefits and Plan Purchasing:

Phone: 785-296-6280

Fax: 785-368-7180

State Self Insurance Fund:

Phone: 785-296-2364

Fax: 785-296-6995

Theola has been a member of the Wichita Black Nurses Association for the past 33 years. She is the founder of the Sick Cell Anemia support group of Wichita. Theola is a former board member of the Center for Health and Wellness. She continues to be involved at the Center by volunteering for the diabetes and hypertension screening at her church and McAdams Recreation Center. Theola serves on the city wide hypertension advisory board and she also serves on the advisory board for the American Red Cross Good Neighbor Nutrition program. She is the health committee chairperson for the McAdams Golden Age Club. Mrs. Cooper is an active volunteer in the community and has served on various health related committees for over thirty years. She is dedicated to improving the health of all citizens in Kansas.

Tim Davis, PhD, LCSW, Hays

Assistant Professor and Social Work Practicum Coordinator
Fort Hays State University

Tim Davis received his Ph.D. in psychology from Northcentral University with an emphasis in health psychology - behavioral medicine. He has also received a Masters degree in Social Work (MSW) from The University of Kansas, with a concentration in clinical social work. Over his professional career, Dr. Davis has specialized as a clinician, researcher and educator in the field of mental health and health psychology. In addition to his work at FHSU, Dr. Davis engages in clinical practice at Hays Medical Center and is involved in the study and delivery of wellness programming at The Center for Health Improvement.

Corrie L. Edwards, MPA, Topeka

Executive Director
Kansas Health Consumer Coalition

Corrie is the Executive Director for the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. This statewide organization advocates for affordable, accessible, and quality health care in Kansas. Corrie earned Bachelors degrees in Human Services and Psychology from Friends University in Wichita, and holds a Masters in Public Administration from Wichita State University. Her commitment to advocacy spans over fifteen years of involvement in the human service field. She previously served as Programs Director for Keys for Networking, Inc., another statewide non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of parents of children with serious emotional disturbances. Her focus and passion is to ensure people have enough accurate information to make informed decisions. To further her vision, Corrie helped develop two family network organizations in Nebraska that provided information, support and resources to families of children with disabilities. Over the years, Corrie has received national recognition including the "*Making A Difference*" Award from the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; the "*Family Appreciation*" Award from OMNI Behavioral Health and the "*Advocate of the Year*" Award from R.I.T.E.S for Families.

Peggy Johnson, Wichita

Executive Director/COO
Wichita Medical Research & Education Foundation

Peggy Johnson serves as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation. She has been with the Foundation since 1999. She has been an active health care advocate for over 18 years. As Executive Director, Peggy is responsible for helping the Board of Directors plan for future ventures into medical research and education in the Wichita and Kansas communities. Peggy also served as Chairman of the National Board of Directors of Susan G Komen for the Cure, the largest breast cancer organization in the nation and still serves the organization in a number of volunteer positions.

Shannon Jones, Topeka

Executive Director

Statewide Independent Living Council of KS (SILCK)

Shannon Jones has been a life long advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies that protect the rights of people with disabilities on a local, state and national level. For the past three decades her work has covered many issues involved in advocating for low income people with disabilities, the elderly and the special needs of families receiving TANF.

For the past twelve years Shannon has been the executive director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK), advocating for the civil and human rights of people with disabilities. Throughout this time she has influenced many public policy decisions to improve choice and independence for Kansas seniors and people with disabilities.

Bruce Linhos, Topeka

Executive Director

Children's Alliance of Kansas

Bruce Linhos has been the Executive Director for the state association of agencies serving children and families for over 20 years. During his tenure at the Children's Alliance he has participated in strengthening the child advocacy arena as the first chair of the Children's Coalition, one of the early pioneer organizations to develop a statewide policy agenda for children and families. Over the last ten years, Bruce has helped his member organizations navigate the implementation and the growth of the privatized child welfare system in Kansas. His work in the public policy arena has focused on increasing resources for youth in the child welfare system, training, mental health, health and services to at risk youth.

He currently serves on a Governor's Best team that working to update the regulations governing child welfare services. The team is now undertaking review and modification of regulations affecting child placing agencies in the state.

Rocky Nichols, Topeka

Executive Director

Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Rocky has 17 years of experience in non-profit management and consulting and 17 years of experience in the Kansas Legislature (11 as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, two as legislative staff and four as a public policy advocate with DRC). Rocky has been the Executive Director of DRC Kansas since July of 2003. Rocky is a veteran advocate for disability rights issues. Rocky is also a former member of the Next Generation Leadership Committee of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation PCMR. Rocky received his undergraduate degree from Washburn University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. Rocky was the recipient of more than 20 awards for legislative leadership and disability advocacy, including many significant awards on behalf of persons with disabilities, including:

* Elizabeth M. Boggs Award for Outstanding Leadership in the area of Mental Retardation, Presidents Committee on Mental Retardation, 1998

* Outstanding Public Official of the Year Award, Kansas Association of Community Mental Health Centers, 1996 and 2002

* Kansas NAMI Advocacy Award, 1996 and 2000

Alvin I. Penner, North Newton

Health Care Fund Advancement and Organizational Consultant

A long term professional career in health care as an administrator designing and operating a health care system(s) delivering patient-centered services with an emphasis on providing these services in a seamless hospital/continuing care community/environment. Cost sensitive services provided included a community health center, an emergency room department that provided services in a holistic manner, along with a wide spectrum of hospital based acute and rehabilitation services. A continuing care community which provided assisted living, long term care and independent living services/accommodations. A free standing durable medical equipment organization and inpatient hospice facility. My educational and professional training/experiences have provided me with the opportunity to serve on a significant number of national, state and local healthcare related boards, councils and committees.

Teresa R. Schwab, Topeka

Executive Director

Oral Health Kansas

Teresa received a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas in May 2000. Since then, she has dedicated her career to advocacy and public policy in the not-for-profit sector, starting out in the child welfare arena.

In October 2003, Teresa became the first Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, a statewide advocacy organization promoting oral health advocacy, public awareness and education.

Teresa was chosen as one of Ingram's Magazine Forty Under Forty Class of 2007.

She and her husband, Brad, served in the United States Peace Corps from 1995-1997 in the South Pacific country of the Solomon Islands. They have three sons, Loudon and Logan, and Loren.

Nancy A. Soeken, Great Bend

Consumer of Medicare, Medicaid & Mental Health

Nancy was born and raised in the Great Bend area and has lived there all of her life. She is a mental health consumer and has had her Bipolar one about forty plus years of her 58 years of life. She is low income. She has gone to school at Fort Hays State University and graduated from Barton County Community College. In the future, she would like to go back to FHSU and get a degree in general studies and a minor in psychology. She was the first consumer to be on the board of directors at the mental health center, the Center for Counseling and Consultation. She has been a state board member of NAMI Kansas for two and a half years. She has been president and is now a board member of the local CRO, Bright Horizons. She has done volunteer work off and on for twenty years at Central Kansas Medical Center. She worked at Larned State Hospital in the Consumer Relations Department and has written two articles in the "Sound Off" section of the bp Magazine and they have been published. She has also taken "Consumers as Providers" from the KU Social Welfare Department and "Leadership Academy" by Kansas Consumer Advisory Council for Adult Mental Health, Inc. She is now taking "Partners in Policymaking" put on by Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. She enjoys Christian music, her cat Sheba, stamp collecting, gardening, and journaling.

Dinell Stuckey, Derby

Title: Parent of 3 children, one that is medically fragile, with severe and multiple disabilities including Cerebral Palsy and deaf-blindness. I also work with some school districts as an Educational Assistive Technology Consultant, to assist in setting up and creating computer activities for children with severe and multiple disabilities.

Organization: none-self employed. But I have experience as a consumer in working with many organizations that advocate for and help with treatment of children with disabilities.

Dinell got married and came to KS after teaching in primary and secondary school settings for 5 years in AR and then 5 years in TN. Our first child was born dead and thus began our new learning experience of taking care of a child with severe and multiple disabilities. My husband, Michael, is an Engineer at Spirit and we have 3 children, ages 11, 10 and 8. I presently work closely with several school districts as an Educational Consultant to assist in setting up and creating computer activities for children with severe and multiple disabilities. In the last few years, I have been invited to be a presenter at workshops for teachers, therapists and parents of children with disabilities in KS as well as several other states around the country. I also serve on the Assistive Technology for Kansans Advisory Council, the KS Deaf-Blind Project Advisory Council, and participate in the KS Consortium for Deaf-Blindness. I also serve as one of two Parent Consultants for the Kansas Project for Children and Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind housed at the KS State Dept. of Ed.

Maury L. Thompson, Chanute

Executive Director

Johnson County Developmental Supports

Maury has been the Executive Director of Johnson County Developmental Supports since April of this year. From April 2001 until April 2007 he served as Executive Director of Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Incorporated in Chanute. During the six years he spent in Southeast Kansas he served in many capacities, including Mayor and City Commissioner of Chanute, Past-President, President, President-Elect, and Treasurer of the Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism, President and Treasurer of Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Inc., member of the Board of Directors of the Chanute United Way, and member of Kiwanis. He also began, and continues his service as Treasurer of InterHab, The Resource Network for Kansans with Disabilities. His academic credentials include a Masters of Public Affairs from Park College.

David Wilson, Overland Park

State President

AARP Kansas

Dave Wilson has been affiliated with AARP Kansas for over six years, first as a member of the Executive Council and then as State President for a little over a year. In this capacity, he has chaired the Executive Council, given numerous speeches state-wide and has represented AARP Kansas on the Kansas Health Policy Authority's Consumer Advisory Committee. In addition, Dave coordinates independent resident services at Village Shalom, a continuing care retirement community. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Kansas Arts Commission and was involved with Public Broadcasting administration for over thirty-five years. He has a Bachelor's degree from Ohio University and a Master's from the University of Michigan and grew up Long Island, New York.