



**KANSAS STATEWIDE  
HOMELESS COALITION**



## *A New Frontier*

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing**

**October 20 – 22, 2010**

**Ramada Conference Center, Hays**

### **Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

#### **Skillbuilding Sessions, Part 1 8:30-11:30 am**

**Mental Health First Aid (first day of 2-day training)**

*Custer*

*Ken Loos, High Plains Mental Health Center*

**SOAR Training (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery)**

*Hickok B*

**(first day of 2-day training)**

*Sherrie Watkins-Alvey, Jessica Calys, and Lois Blackmon, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.*

#### **Lunch and Breaks on Your Own Today**

#### **Skillbuilding Sessions, Part 2 1:00-4:00 pm**

**Mental Health First Aid (first day of 2-day training)**

*Custer*

*Ken Loos, High Plains Mental Health Center*

**SOAR Training (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery )**

*Hickok B*

**(first day of 2-day training)**

*Sherrie Watkins-Alvey, Jessica Calys, and Lois Blackmon, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.*

**School District Homeless Liaisons In-Service**

*Hickok A*

*Tate Toedman, Kansas State Department of Education*

### **Membership Meeting 4:30-6:00**

*Cody*

**All attendees of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness and Housing are invited to attend their membership meeting of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition. Light snacks served.**

**Thursday, October 21, 2010**

**Registration and Continental Breakfast 8:00 -9:00**

*Atrium*

**Be sure to join us in the Atrium for Continental Breakfast  
and a morning chat with the Information Fair vendors and the KansasWorks Mobile  
Unit outside!**

**Skillbuilding Sessions, Part 3 8:30-11:30**

**Mental Health First Aid (second day of 2-day training)**

*Custer*

*Ken Loos, High Plains Mental Health Center*

**SOAR Training (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery )**

*Hickok B*

**(second day of 2-day training)**

*Sherrie Watkins-Alvey, Jessica Calys, and Lois Blackmon, Wyandot Center for Community  
Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.*

**Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:00-9:15**

*Cody*

**Randy Crandall**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition &  
Deputy Director Homeless Services, Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, Veterans Administration

**Barbara Wasinger** Vice Mayor of Hays

**Conference Co-Chairs:**

**Shara Gonzales**, New Beginnings, Inc and **Troy Hickman**, First Call for Help of Ellis County

**Opening Plenary 9:15-10:00**

*Cody*

**Opening Doors**

**Michael German**, National Team Leader, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Break and Information Fair 10:00-10:15**

*Atrium*

**Visit our vendors and information tables in the Atrium  
and the KansasWorks Mobile Unit outside while enjoying a morning snack!**

**1 Wichita-Sedgwick County Housing First Program: A Best Practice Model**

*Shelly Haupt, City of Wichita Housing and Community Services and  
Christine Tomkus, Sedgwick County, Division of Human Services*

"Housing First" simply means putting people without homes into housing, first. It is an alternative to the traditional approach of emergency shelter/transitional housing, which tends to prolong the length of time that persons remain homeless. It is premised on the belief that vulnerable and at-risk homeless people are more responsive to interventions and social services support *after they are in their own housing*, rather than while living in temporary/transitional facilities, or on the streets. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Housing First program, funded equally by Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita, serves chronically homeless adults and is operated by one full time staff member from each government. The Housing First program has been in operation since January 2009 and has funding to house up to 64 chronically homeless individuals, paying full rent and utility assistance for individuals in the program. Case management services are currently provided by: COMCARE of Sedgwick County, Veterans Administration, Mental Health Association, and Breakthrough Club. Our program has shown that this is an effective approach in ending chronic homeless, while decreasing use of community services (jails, arrests, shelters, and hospitals). Session objectives include:

- Educate individuals on the operation of the Wichita-Sedgwick Housing First program model; which focuses on placing chronically homeless individuals into permanent housing.
- Inform individuals of the purpose and target population of the Housing First program.
- Explain the impact permanent housing through Housing First has made on participants and the community.

**2 Education and Collaboration: the Key to Ending Homelessness**

*Anita Poe Wiley and Peg McFadden, USD 290 of Ottawa*

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Act is reviewed, focusing on the definition of homeless students, their rights, and the role of the school district homeless liaison. Discussion will focus on partnering / collaborating with your local school district liaison. Participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased knowledge of the federal legislation and homeless service provision in the Kansas Education system.
- Begin discussion / plans to address homeless issues for families
- Strengthen community teams addressing homelessness with school district partners

**3 Health Reform as a Tool to Fight Financial Insecurity in Kansas**

*Anna Lambertson, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition*

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This historic law includes provisions to increase Kansans' access to health insurance, as well as protect them against unfair practices and abuses. For the most underserved, the new law includes important provisions to expand Medicaid to more low-income

Kansans and their families, prohibit insurance denials for pre-existing conditions, ensure that insurance companies do not unfairly drop coverage and require more transparency in the areas of charity care provision and billing practices to the uninsured. This presentation will provide participants with solid information about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its most important provisions. Many struggling Kansans are a few medical bills away from filing bankruptcy, or being forced to choose between paying their bill at the doctor's office or their rent. They are teetering on the edge of financial instability. Come learn more about the strides the new law will take helping those Kansans avoid these impossible decisions. Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of major provisions of health reform
- Gain an understanding of how health reform will specifically impact Kansas
- Gain an understanding of the impact and benefit of health reform for low-income Kansans, Kansans with mental illness, and others who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless

**4 MAACLink: Homeless Management Information System for BoS, Johnson, Shawnee and Wyandot Continua**

*Joe Coburn, Mid America Assistance Coalition*

Homeless Management Information System training for any service providers in the Balance of State, Johnson, Shawnee and Wyandot counties is provided through Mid America Assistance Coalition (MAAC). Training for new and potential users of the MAACLink HMIS will be offered in the computer lab of the Kansas Works Mobile Unit. Demos can also be accessed by appointment during the summit.

Session objectives are:

- To introduce the importance of HMIS in homeless services provision
- To provide detailed instruction on accessing and entering data into MAACLink
- To provide instruction on producing and utilizing reports through the system

**Lunch Plenary 11:30-1:00**

*Cody*

**National Outcomes of the SOAR Program**

**Deborah Dennis**, Vice President for Technical Assistance, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

**The HEARTH Act: Latest Updates on the Policy to End Homelessness**

**Brian Fitzmaurice**, Director of the Community Assistance Division in the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS), US Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Skillbuilding Sessions, Part 4 1:00-4:00**

**Mental Health First Aid (second day of 2-day training)**

*Custer*

**SOAR Training (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery )  
(second day of 2-day training)**

*Hickok B*

**5 Five Stages in the Recovery Process: How Does Homelessness relate to Recovery? Part 1**

*Randy Johnson, Wichita State University*

*Simon Messmer, Mental Health America of the Heartland*

Five Stages in the Recovery Process presents some common images and language for discussing recovery and introduces five basic stages in the recovery process that seem to speak to most people with recovery experience. Session objectives are:

- To educate attendees on the Five Stages in the Recovery Process
- To create a common understanding of the term "recovery"
- To convey that the use of common language in talking about recovery is important in the discussions on ending homelessness.

**6 Faith Based Partnerships**

*James Cianciaruso, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas*

*Karen Guliford, the Daniel Trickey Life-Giving Center*

*Troy Hickman, First Call for Help of Ellis County*

*Jay Preston, My Father's House*

This panel presentation of directors of faith based partnerships will highlight the successes in their respective partnerships, the challenges, and keys to overcoming those challenges. Each panelist will briefly describe their organization and how it provides services alongside their (government, local, non-profit, etc) partners to individuals and families who are homeless or precariously housed. The successes, challenges and ways they have overcome those challenges in partnerships will be discussed. A larger discussion about the faith based partnerships, what works, and what hasn't worked will conclude the session. Attendees will be able to:

- Identify successful faith based partnerships addressing issues of homelessness in Kansas
- Understand the challenges of initiating and maintaining partnerships in faith based and social service organizations
- Identify potential solutions to partnership barriers in homeless services

**7 Kansas ProActive in HEARTH**

*Brian Fitzmaurice, US Department of Housing and Urban Development*

*Kansas Continua of Care and HMIS Representatives*

The session will combine presentations from each panelist on more specific aspects of HEARTH implementation for Kansas with open discussion and Q&A on the options, challenges and opportunities for Kansas Continua of Care (CoC) and grantees. Session participants will:

- Gain a general understanding of what they need to do to prepare for the implementation of the HEARTH Act.
- Gain a broad view of CoCs in Kansas.
- Interact with panelists to share comments, questions and ideas for future planning.

## **8 The Kansas Workforce System**

*Ursula Hendrickson, Kansas Department of Commerce in Hays*

To introduce the Kansas Workforce System and provide an overview of services that can be offered to job seekers and employers.

- Identify the services offered by KansasWorks
- Learn how KansasWorks helps job-seekers – services available to job seekers
- Learn how KansasWorks helps employers – services available to employers

## **Break and Information Fair 3:00-3:15**

*Atrium*

**Visit our vendors and information tables in the Atrium  
and the KansasWorks Mobile Unit outside while enjoying an afternoon snack!**

## **Break Out Sessions: Series Three 3:15-4:30**

### **9 Five Stages in the Recovery Process: How Does Homelessness relate to Recovery? Part 2**

*Randy Johnson, Wichita State University*

*Simon Messmer, Mental Health America of the Heartland*

Five Stages in the Recovery Process reviewed in Part 1 apply to persons who are homeless or living in precarious and vulnerable situations. How these stages are understood by providers and persons experiencing homelessness is key to reaching a common understanding. Attendees will:

- Learn about the Five Stages in the Recovery Process as they relate to homelessness
- Understand the importance of build a vision of the role of services in attendees' programs in the context of the Five Stages.
- To convey that the use of common language in talking about recovery is important in the discussions on ending homelessness.

### **10 Overview of Kansas Affordable Housing Programs**

*Bradley Reiff, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation*

Overview of the affordable housing programs at the state level, including the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Housing Tax Credit Program, Weatherization Assistance, Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Community Development Block Grant Program.

### **11 Overview and Report of the Kansas Balance of State Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re Housing Program (HPRP)**

*James Chiselom, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation*

*Heather Hoy, Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority*

*Brad Schmidt, Prairie View*

*Emily Wagner, Manhattan Emergency Shelter*

These presenters have worked over the past two years in various positions to manage

the HPRP funds awarded to Balance of State counties. This session will deliver a preliminary look at our data / outcomes. Attendees will receive information on:

- Basic overview of BOS HPRP and Sub Grantees
- HPRP in the Balance of State of Kansas- The data
- Examples of innovative HPRP programs in the BOS HPRP

## **12 Overview of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services**

*Staff members of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, West Region*

A panel of West Region Social & Rehabilitation Staff will present a discussion on services available through the Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services. Topics will include Cash, Medical, Food Assistance & Child Care programs administered through the Economic and Employment division. How Family Centered Services are designed to build on family strengths by providing supports necessary to maintain individuals and children safely in their own home by Social Service. Child Support Enforcement will provide information on how their services can provide financial stability for households with children. Rehabilitation and Working Healthy staff will provide information about types of services available for disabled individuals, including:

- Services Available through Social & Rehabilitation Services
- How those services can help individuals within our communities
- Sharing of knowledge with community members

## **13 Tour of Hays**

*Troy Hickman, First Call for Help of Ellis County*

Join the Executive Director of First Call for Help of Ellis County for an informational tour of programs addressing homelessness and housing options in Hays. Meet in the lobby.

## **Community Reception 4:30-6:00**

**Join fellow participants and the host committee for hors d'oeuvres, music and networking at the Robbins Alumni Center at Fort Hays State University.**

**Transportation available at the front lobby or ask at registration for maps.**

## **Dinner and Networking on Your Own 6:00 to ??**

**Enjoy dining and conversing with conference attendees at one of Hays' great restaurants! See the registration table for a list of local restaurant choices!**

**Friday, October 22, 2010**

**Continental Breakfast in the Morning!!! 8:00 to 9:00**

*Atrium*

**Be sure to join us in the Atrium for Continental Breakfast  
and a morning chat with the information fair vendors on Friday morning!**

**Plenary 9:00-9:45**

*Cody*

**A Personal Story of Homelessness and Recovery  
Theresa Carter**

**Break 9:45-10:15**

*Atrium*

**Visit our vendors and information tables in the Atrium  
and the KansasWorks Mobile Unit outside while finishing up your morning coffee!**

**Break Out Sessions: Series Four 10:15-11:30**

**14 Topeka Moving Ahead Program (Job Readiness and Housing Program for Persons who are Homeless)**

*Kim Swinney, Kansas Legal Services and Topeka Moving Ahead Program*

*Russell Bilynsky, Cameron Christie, Billie Stout, and Charnea Williams, T-MAP students*

The Topeka Moving Ahead Program (T-MAP) is a job readiness program of Kansas Legal Services that helps individuals and families break the cycle of homelessness through housing and employment. T-MAP assists participants in developing their skills, obtaining employment and barrier resolution. The philosophy of T-MAP is to assist individuals with four major life transitions: from homelessness to personal and community support; from addiction to recovery; from hopelessness to an experience of self-efficacy; from isolation to a career economic self-sufficiency and a valued community role. T-MAP was awarded a "Best Practices" award in May, 2005, by the Regional Housing Urban Development (HUD) office because of its comprehensive service structure and collaborative community practice. The service structure for T-MAP includes our partnership with the Topeka Rescue Mission, case management, permanent employment and housing acquisition (Shelter-Plus-Care affiliate) classroom and computer instruction. In addition, case management also includes helping students obtain medical, dental, mental health services, SRS benefits, cash assistance for deposits, rent and utilities, as well as other

services that support self-sufficiency and self-reliance. As a comprehensive service model, the success of T-MAP depends upon a high degree of collaboration among community service providers. Attendees will learn:

- Why working in a group setting with persons who are homeless can be so powerful
- How to determine barriers to employment & how to help participants overcome them
- How to set up internships in the business community, which lead to employment

## **15 Partnering with your Public Housing Authority to Provide a Continuum of Housing Assistance**

*Heather Hoy, Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority*

*Margene Swarts, City of Lawrence*

*Sharon Zehr, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center*

The Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority will present a session with the City of Lawrence and the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center on the importance of collaboration when working with clients to find and maintain housing. The LDCHA has been administering targeted programs for homeless families for more than twenty years. The main goal of LDCHA is housing. The approach LDCHA employs is for families to understand their obligations under the terms of a lease agreement and to have supports in place that enable them to be responsible renters. LDCHA understands that many families have multiple barriers that make it difficult to maintain housing; therefore the LDCHA has worked to collaborate with social service agencies to give their clients the tools to remain successfully housed. Attendees will receive:

- An Outline of the goals of the public housing authority
- Information regarding housing case management to find and maintain housing
- Information on wrap around services when working with partner agencies

## **16 Building Upon What We Know Now: Findings of the First Statewide Homeless Count & Planning for 2011**

*Luella Sanders, United Way of the Plains*

*Diane Etzel-Wise, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition*

*Members of the Kansas Point-in-Time Count Partnership*

The number, characteristics, and living situations of people encountered during the 2009 Point-In-Time Count provides a snapshot of homelessness in Kansas. The diversity of Kansas counties is apparent in the wide range of population sizes and percentages living in urban, semi-urban, rural and frontier areas. Data comparisons will be shared that illustrate the similarities and differences between people who were chronically homeless in urban areas and those who were chronically homeless in rural areas. Preparations are underway for the next statewide point-in-time count in January 2011. The success of the 2011 KPIT will depend again on community involvement. A summary of key roles and responsibilities will be shared. Opportunities and next steps for you to get involved and assist with the planning and/or implementation will be described. Participants will:

- Understand the prevalence of homelessness in Kansas as documented in the 2009 Kansas Point-in-Time Homeless Count
- Understand strategies employed to establish the count of homelessness for Kansas

- Recognize the differences and similarities between persons experiencing chronic homelessness in rural and urban areas
- Identify opportunities to assist with the next statewide point-in-time count in 2011

**17 Suicide Assessment & Intervention: Best Practices and Considerations with a Veteran Homeless Population**

*Jason DeSelms, Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center*

To effectively assess and treat military personnel, veterans, and their families requires knowledge of the risk factors specific to this important group of consumers. This is especially important when interacting with a population at high risk for homelessness where trust and resources are well guarded. This workshop will highlight the most common post-deployment issues facing returning warriors and their families and how to assess and intervene effectively, with a special emphasis on homeless veterans. Best practices in suicide assessment, intervention, and prevention with a veteran population will also be reviewed. Participants will leave feeling more confident in their ability to identify, intervene and follow-up with this very important population. Participants will

- Understand military culture as it relates to willingness to seek mental health services and substance use services and implications for treatment.
- Learn about post-deployment issues faced by veterans and their families, which increases their risk for homelessness as well as suicide.
- Review Veteran specific risk factors for suicide and address the question of "why veterans die by suicide", with a special emphasis on homeless veterans.
- Learn how to modify their clinical interview to fully evaluate veteran specific risk factors for suicide.

**18 USDA Rural Development Housing Programs**

*Kent Colwell, USDA Rural Development, Hays and Garden City*

*Wilma Marconnet, USDA Rural Development, Hays*

*Tracy McCubbin, USDA Rural Development, Hays*

This is an overview of USDA programs in the national and state effort to end homelessness. Session objectives include:

- Present information on 515 Multi Family Housing Program
- Present Information on 502 Home Ownership Program
- Present information on 514 Repair Program

**19 Tour of Hays**

*Troy Hickman, First Call for Help of Ellis County*

Join the Executive Director of First Call for Help of Ellis County for an informational tour of programs addressing homelessness and housing options in Hays. Meet in the lobby.

**Break and Information Fair 11:30-11:45**

**Visit our agencies and vendor tables in the Atrium one last time, while enjoying a late morning snack!**

**20 Domestic and Sexual Violence and Homelessness**

*Melena Sparkman, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV)*

*Charlotte Linsner, NW Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (NKDSVS)*

The speakers will present an overview of domestic and sexual violence and homelessness. This session will include information about the pervasiveness of housing issues and how these issues can dramatically impact survivors' safety. Domestic and sexual violence in Kansas will be reviewed, including how these issues are conveyed in Hays and the surrounding areas. Participants will be able to

- Identify the intersections of domestic and sexual violence and homelessness
- Consider the importance of permanent, safe, and affordable housing for domestic and sexual violence survivors
- Describe how domestic and sexual violence and homelessness looks in Kansas

**21 Salina Collaborative Agencies**

*Brian Anderson, Ashby House*

*Karen Hauser and Cheryl Walters, Catholic Charities of Salina*

*Mike Lynam, Central Kansas Mental Health Center*

*Larry Pankratz, Salina Housing Authority*

Salina area organizations and government units work collaboratively to meet the needs of Kansans who are homeless or precariously housed and vulnerable in their area. The panel will present a brief overview of their collaborative programs, the great successes of the collaborations, the challenges they faced and how they are working to overcome those. Participants will be able to:

- Identify the wide variety of agencies involved in the collaborative efforts
- Identify the outcomes and successes of the collaborative programs
- Identify the challenges and possible recommendations for initiating or strengthening community collaborations in ending and preventing homelessness

**22 Safely Housing Offenders**

*Valori Sanders, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation*

*Margie Phelps, Kansas Department of Corrections*

*John Trembley, Northwest Kansas Community Corrections*

Three professionals working with the criminal justice/corrections population will describe ongoing work, initiatives, partnerships and models being used to safely prepare offenders for returning to communities after incarceration, and for addressing the housing needs of offenders in the community, including high-end special needs offenders. Participants will be informed about:

- Strategies used by corrections agencies to help prepare offenders for release and to be better tenants
- A model for supportive housing being developed by corrections and partners for effectively and safely housing high-end-special-needs offenders
- Benefit to public safety of making safe housing available to returning offenders

**23 VA Services For Veterans and Their Families Experiencing Homelessness and Collaborative Partners: Current Services/Further Plans**

*Mike Dreiling, Disabled American Veterans*

*Randy Crandall, Veterans Administration, VISN 15*

Services currently being offered to Veterans and their families throughout the State of Kansas, programs and services currently offered to address the needs of Veterans and their families affected by homelessness are highlighted in this session. Nationally, there are 23 Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) that comprise "regions" of the nation served by the VA medical centers and outpatient clinics. VA hospitals in KS, MO, Southwest Illinois and Northwest Kentucky comprise the VISN 15 catchment area. The 7 medical centers in this region provide services to homeless veterans. Attendees will:

- Obtain a basic understanding of the administration's commitment to develop and implement federal strategies to prevent and end homelessness
- Learn about current VA programs in VISN 15 to serve homeless veterans
- Learn about Kansas Veteran's Commission and DAV serving Veterans in KS
- View current trends and successful strategies in the recent efforts to end homelessness among veterans

**24 Frontier and Rural Voice: Informing Policy & Practice Through Inclusion**

*Cheryl Rathbun, Saint Francis Community Services*

*Cheryl Holmes, University of Kansas-School of Social Welfare*

Members of the Rural and Frontier Subcommittee of the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council will share information on the importance of including frontier and rural voices and how to do it. Despite the smaller population density, frontier and rural Kansas counties are not immune from the reality of homelessness. Understanding how the definition of frontier and rural can impact policy and service delivery can inform the system, thus helping to meet the needs of consumers. Session objectives are:

- Participants will learn why frontier and rural definition is important as it relates to homelessness
- Participants will learn how the inclusion of frontier and rural voice can make a difference in shaping policy and service delivery
- Participants will learn how to incorporate frontier and rural needs into their work

**Wrap Up and Door Prizes 1:00-1:30**

**Be sure to complete and return your summit evaluation form at the wrap-up session to get your raffle ticket for door prizes!!**

**We want your feedback and ideas in designing NEXT year's summit!**

# Thanks to our Sponsors!!!





**KANSAS STATEWIDE  
HOMELESS COALITION**



To view the handouts for the workshops  
presented at  
the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit  
on Homelessness and Housing,  
please visit our website at  
<http://www.kshomeless.com>



**KANSAS STATEWIDE  
HOMELESS COALITION**

501 SE Jefferson, Suite 30  
Topeka, Kansas 66607  
(785) 354-4990



## Speaker Bios for "A New Frontier"

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing**

**October 20 – 22, 2010**

**Ramada Conference Center, Hays**

**Brian Anderson** is the Director of Ashby House, LTD, a drug or alcohol rehabilitation center with a primary focus on substance abuse treatment based in Salina, KS. The facility provides halfway house services to the public. The treatment center provides outpatient and residential long-term treatment care. There are special groups and programs for pregnant and postpartum women and their children.

**Lois Blackmon** is a certified trainer for SOAR (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery) and is employed by Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

**Jessica Calys** is a certified trainer for SOAR (SSI, SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery) and is employed by Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

**Theresa Carter** is an advocate for homeless families and a minister with The Lord's Cause, Inc. in Topeka. Originally from Great Bend, Kansas, she relates her compelling personal story of homelessness and recovery. She is a Senior Administrative Assistant for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in the Bureau of Health Facilities.

**James Cianciaruso** is Director of Family Stabilization for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

**James Chiselom** is a Program Manager for Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC). He currently manages the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Kansas Housing Resources Corp. is the Kansas State grantee for ESG and HPRP. James also manages the Homeless Management Information System for the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. James has worked in this capacity since June of 2008. James came to KHRC from Valeo Behavioral Health Care in Topeka, Kansas, where he was instrumental in starting the Integrated Dual Diagnosed Treatment (IDDT) program and became Valeo's first IDDT Coordinator.

**Joe Coburn** joined Mid America Assistance Coalition in July 2008 as a Systems Administrator and is responsible for assisting with HMIS implementations, support, database issues, and training for all MAACLink users, specifically overseeing the Kansas Balance of State CoC. Joe graduated with his Bachelor and Master of Social Work degrees from the University of Kansas. While completing his studies, Joe had internships with several nonprofit agencies in Kansas City. Today, he sits on several committees across several CoCs and works diligently to ensure HMIS integration and quality across Kansas.

**Kent Colwell** is the Area Director for USDA Rural Development overseeing the Hays and Garden City offices. He coordinates the delivery and outreach for housing programs as well as Community and Business programs offered by USDA Rural Development in 47 counties in western Kansas.

**Randy L. Crandall** was a part of a work-group that formed the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition in 2000. Mr. Crandall served as the first Chair of KSHC and continues to serve in this capacity. Mr. Crandall started his career with the VA in 1976. Randy was selected to direct homeless services at the Topeka VA in 1996. A successful grant application provided the first national funding for homeless veterans at the Topeka VA in 1999 thus establishing the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program. In July of 07 Randy was selected as the Deputy Director for Homeless Services VISN 15. Randy was appointed to the Governor's Committee on Housing for the State of Kansas in 2001, he currently serves on the Kansas Interagency Council on Homelessness, and has served on the Governor's Committee for Mental Health, subcommittee for Homeless and Housing since 2000. He also served as Chair of the Shawnee County Homeless Task Force (HTF) from 1999 to 2002. Randy served on various HTF committees involved in grant writing that successfully competed for over six million dollars in additional Federal and State funding to serve the Homeless throughout Shawnee County. Grant writing at both the VA and in the community has been a part of Mr. Crandall's responsibilities for a number of years.

**Jason DeSelms** received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Wichita State University. Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007, he served as the Director of Crisis and Access Services for COMCARE of Sedgwick County. Dr. Deselms is currently the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. In this capacity, he is responsible for VA staff education and training regarding suicide prevention; screening and intervening with high risk veterans; and community outreach activities which educate important community partners regarding the specific needs of veterans and their families. He is a licensed psychologist and maintains a part-time private practice in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Deselms is a member of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition and is the President of the Kansas Psychological Association.

**Deborah Dennis** is Vice President for Technical Assistance at Policy Research Associates, Inc. where she has conducted research and provided technical assistance on federal, state, and local homelessness policy and practice since 1988. She is the SOAR TA Center's Project Director and has written extensively on the housing, treatment, and support service needs of persons who are homeless, particularly those who have behavioral health disorders. Since 2001, she has been developing a variety of training and technical materials for SAMHSA and others related to enhancing access to SSI and SSDI for people who are homeless, including SAMHSA's *Stepping Stones to Recovery* (SSR) training curriculum. Deborah is responsible for the overall direction of the TA Center.

**Mike Dreiling** represents the Disabled American Veterans and hails from Victoria, Kansas.

**Diane Etzel-Wise** has served as the Executive Director of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition since July 2009. She holds a BA and MA with 23 years of comprehensive experience in health care, mental health service delivery, therapeutic recreation, supervision, management, and program design and development. Transitioning from management of service delivery, Diane served as an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator in Therapeutic Recreation at University of Central Missouri from 1997 to 2004. She entered the doctoral program in Social Work at the University of Kansas and has completed all coursework toward the PhD while serving as a research assistant, trainer, project manager at an urban high school, and adjunct instructor at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Diane has served as

president and/or other positions on professional and non-profit boards based locally, regionally, and nationally. Her leadership in formally and informally addressing the needs of low income or high-need audiences has been her career-long mission in social work, recreational therapy practice, and academia.

**Brian Fitzmaurice** is the Director of the Community Assistance Division in the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS), US Department of Housing and Urban Development. His Division is directly responsible at the Headquarters level for the following Continuum of Care homeless programs: Shelter Plus Care, Sec 8 Mod Rehab Single Room Occupancy (SRO), Base Closure (BRAC) and the Title V Surplus Federal Property review. Mr. Fitzmaurice has been in SNAPS since 2002. Prior to the homeless programs, he worked in the Section 8 Mod Rehab and Voucher office at HUD Headquarters since 1989.

**Lee Flamik** is a third generation Kansan who has lived in Rush County, Kansas. He has a double major from Fort Hays State University with a B.A. in Speech and a major in Sociology. He has a M.S. in Speech Communication from Fort Hays State and 30 graduate hours in Sociology from Kansas State University with an emphasis in demography and social theory. He has witnessed the population and community decline in his life time from a rural to a frontier county. He has worked at Larned State Hospital since 1990 and SRS since 1983. Due to his cultural and work experience he has advocated for the statistical and human inclusion of frontier and rural people in committee's and research that effect the State Of Kansas. He has advocated since 2004 for a definition of these designations, i.e., frontier and rural. If there is no systematic methodology to include "us," then it is easy to "exclude" or "pretend" we are included as will be demonstrated in the presentation.

**Michael German** leads team of Regional Coordinators created through interagency partnership with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He received his education from Alabama State University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard University. For the past five years, Michael has crisscrossed the country tirelessly, meeting with mayors, governors, county executives, business and nonprofit leaders in promoting and assisting the development of jurisdictional business-principled 10 Year Plans that are bringing housing solutions and best practices in outreach and engagement, supportive services, and benefits acquisition to the prevention and ending of homelessness.

**Karen Guliford** is associated with the Daniel R. Trickey Memorial Life Giving Center through the Extreme Hope Christian Fellowship, designed to meet the needs of those who are in transition and are in need for housing in the Great Bend Area.

**Shelly Haupt** is the Housing First Specialist for the City of Wichita Housing & Community Services. In 2006, the Taskforce to End Chronic Homelessness (TECH) was created to identify issues related to chronic homelessness and eventually creating a plan to end chronic homelessness. Their efforts demonstrated a need for permanent housing and opted for using a Housing First model (a national best practice) to end chronic homelessness. As the Housing First Specialist, Shelly contacts property owners/managers to explain the program and ask for their participation in the program. In addition she contacts businesses to request donations for items that are necessary when establishing a new household. Her prior work experience includes case management services through the Workforce Investment Act (a federally funded program) designed to assist youth, adults, and dislocated workers obtain new skills or become re-trained so as to be more marketable when entering the workforce. Shelly graduated from Emporia State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Rehabilitation Services Education.

**Karen Hauser** is Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Salina, Inc., covering 31 counties in North Central and Northwest Kansas. She directs an agency that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, HUD funded senior housing, counseling, adoption, pregnancy services, Hispanic social services, legal immigration, youth programs, fatherhood initiation, healthy marriage and family education. She holds a doctorate in counseling and administration from Southern Illinois University.

**Ursula Hendrickson** is the Regional Operations Manager at Kansas Department of Commerce in Hays.

**Troy Hickman** is currently the Executive Director for First Call for Help of Ellis County. Mr. Hickman is a graduate of Fort Hays State University where he received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Communication. Troy has worked in both the private sector and in the non-profit sector. He has also been a Hays City Commissioner for 14 years. This combined experience in non-profit, for profit, and government has given him a broad perspective concerning the needs of Western Kansas in general and specifically the needs of Hays, Kansas and Ellis County, Kansas.

**Cheryl Holmes** has conducted social services evaluation and research for 10 years, working extensively with both Kansas child welfare and children's mental health systems. She has a rich understanding of how these systems operate and a keen sense of needs of individuals and families attempting to navigate these systems. Her primary interest is in using community-based participatory research strategies, particularly with frontier and rural populations, to conduct research and inform public policy. She works in the Office of Child Welfare and Children's Mental Health at University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare.

**Heather Hoy** is the Program Director of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program at the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority. Prior to coming to LDCHA, Heather was the Development Director for Van Go Mobile Arts, a social service agency serving at-risk youth through job training in the applied arts. Heather previously worked at the University of Kansas as a Program Manager for Continuing Education academic conferences and for the Kansas Legislature. Heather attended the University of Kansas where she received her masters' in public administration.

**Randy G. Johnson**, CPS, presents a career in human services that spans sixteen years and encompasses work in the areas of direct service, policy and program development, program and systems evaluation, and advocacy. He has worked for mental health centers, university research departments, and as the State of Kansas' inaugural Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs – a position he held for five years. As a person in recovery from mental illness himself, Randy's particular expertise is in the promotion of consumer involvement and voice at all levels of policy and programming. His work has been described by partners as "essential, vital, and transformative." From 2005-2010, Randy served Mental Health America of the Heartland as Senior Director of Advocacy and Recovery Services, in which position he oversees peer support services, training, and workforce development initiatives in Kansas and Missouri. He has trained and supported staff at every mental health center in both states. Since March of 2010, Randy has served as Mental Health Consumer Initiatives Project Director for Wichita State University's Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR). In this position, he oversees CCSR's work on Peer Support Services training and support, Trauma-Informed Care, and other projects related to the intersection between the consumer and provider communities. Randy anticipates completion of his Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University in Fall of 2011.

**Anna Lambertson**, MA, is the Executive Director of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. She brings more than a decade of experience in advocacy and health and human services and was previously

KHCC's Director of Development and Public Outreach. Prior to joining KHCC, Anna managed the Limited English Proficiency Access Program for Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, serving as the state liaison for a translation contract and monitoring agency budgets for those services. Anna's background also includes coordinating the Esperanza Program at Keys for Networking, Inc. Her passion for advocacy stems from her experience at Community Living Opportunities, Inc., where she provided mentoring services and training in independent living to adults with moderate to severe developmental disabilities. Anna is a Core Group member of the national Dignity in Schools Campaign. In that role, she spearheads national advocacy initiatives and helped coordinate the Campaign's first national conference. Anna previously served as Chair of the Topeka Human Relations Commission and on the Steering Committee of the 2008 Conference on Poverty of the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs. Anna holds a Bachelor's in French and International Studies and a Masters in International Studies, both from the University of Kansas. Anna also completed a Certificate in Advertising and coursework in business and marketing from the Graduate School of Management in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

**Charlotte Linsner** is the Executive Director of Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (NKDSVS), Inc. serving the 18 counties of Northwest Kansas. Ms. Linsner has been affiliated with NKDSVS for over 30 years. She began her work as a volunteer in Sherman County, then accepted employment with the agency as an Outreach Advocate covering the 9 Northwestern Kansas counties and accepted the Executive Director position in 2000. She received her Associates Degree at Colby Community College. Throughout Ms Linsner's 30 years of service, she has attended domestic and sexual violence trainings provided by Praxis International located in Duluth, MN., Kansas Governor's Office, Kansas Attorney General, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, National Office of Violence Against Women and The University of Kansas.

**Ken Loos** has been employed by High Plains Mental Health Center (HPMHC) for 17 years. He is a Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist (LCP) and a Licensed Masters Level Psychologist (LMLP) in the State of Kansas. At HPMHC, Ken spent most of his time as an outpatient adult therapist and worked with individuals, couples, and families. He currently provides weekly outpatient psychotherapy services in Russell and is the manager of the Community Prevention, Education and Outreach Department (PEO). In addition, he is the coordinator of the center's crisis response team, and is trained in both Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and in the Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Program (KAHBH). Ken is also a member of the Ellis County Emergency Response Team (CERT). He is a graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Master of Science degree in clinical psychology and received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ken became a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid in October, 2008. He has facilitated ten classes to date and has trained over 196 individuals in Northwest Kansas. In addition, approximately another 380 people have attended either a portion of the training or an overview of this evidence-based public information program. Ken is excited to bring Mental Health First Aid to the Statewide Summit on Homelessness and Housing!

**Mike Lynam** has been with Central Kansas Mental Health Center since 1990. Prior to that, he worked in HUD project management for 8 1/2 years for MCDS, a provider of services to persons with developmental disabilities. Mike is currently the Special Projects Manager for Central Kansas Mental Health. In 1982, Mike co-authored with SRS a pilot project for the use of Alternate Care Funds as an independent living tool. The project became the model for the Supported Housing Funds, successfully instituted statewide for persons who are precariously housed or homeless and is served through the community mental health system. Mike has been instrumental in the development of PATH services to provide outreach mental health services to local homeless shelters and worked with the local Continuum and Housing Authority to

secure Shelter + Care vouchers to serve chronically homeless disabled individuals in Salina. Mike earned a Bachelor's degree from Bethany College and Masters Degree from Friends University.

**Wilma Marconnet** is currently an Area Specialist working in the Hays office of USDA Rural Development. Her primary duties include delivery of the 515 Multi-Family Housing program within 47 counties in the western half of Kansas and approximately 90 apartment complexes.

**Tracy McCubbin** is currently an Area Specialist working in the Hays Office of USDA Rural Development. Her primary duties include delivery of the 502 Single Family Housing Home Ownership program as well as the 504 Repair program in 26 Counties in North West Kansas.

**Peg McFadden** is the Homeless Education Coordinator in USD 290 in Ottawa. Peg is extremely active in the Balance of State Continuum of Care process and is actively working toward improving services in Franklin County through faith-based and other partnerships.

**Christy McMurphy** is the Community Integration, Housing and Homelessness Specialist at Social Rehabilitation Services Disability and Behavioral Health Services-Mental Health. She coordinates initiatives related to the 1999 Olmstead Decision, which requires States to provide community-based services for people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Ms. McMurphy coordinates the PATH mental health homeless program and housing programs in Kansas. She worked for six years at Shawnee Community Mental Health Center's HOPE Connection as the Housing and Homelessness Specialist. She also worked as an advocate at Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services. Christy is one of the co-founders of Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and is a former Board member. She currently provides staff support for the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council's Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness. Christy earned a bachelor's degree in public relations with a minor in photography and a master degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

**Simon Messmer**, Mental Health America of the Heartland, assists in the execution of Housing to Homes' strategic plan by acting as a liaison to various community collaborations, and serving as an advisor on supportive housing program development, funding and operations. During his five years at MHAH, Simon has served as the Residential Counselor for Marion Apartments permanent supportive housing program, where he provided direct service to tenants, assisted in program operations, and was responsible for program-related fundraising. He previously worked in a broad range of housing/homelessness programs including those for adolescents, adults with severe developmental disabilities, and children in need of assistance. Simon received Bachelor degrees in History and Psychology from Iowa State University and a Masters degree in Social Welfare from the University of Kansas.

**Larry Pankratz** has been the Executive Director of the Salina Housing Authority since 2008. He is responsible for managing 489 housing contracts for low income families in Salina and assisted in the development of a community wide "Bridges Out of Poverty" program. Larry is a business executive with over 25 years experience in the private and public sectors; an innovative problem-solver with good management, communication, customer service and consulting skills; and has successfully managed change through organizational management, acquisitions and startup activities. Larry earned a BA/S in Recreation Administration and his MS in Education Administration from Kansas State University.

**Margie Phelps** is the Reentry Director for Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and has worked for KDOC for 20 years, starting as a parole officer, working in risk management, facilities management, human resources and serving as Deputy Warden at Lansing Correctional Facility before assuming the

Director position. Ms. Phelps is a graduate of the University of Kansas where she received her Masters in Public Administration, and Washburn University of Topeka, Kansas where she received a Juris Doctorate and undergraduate degree in Corrections & Criminal Justice.

**Jay Preston** is the Executive Director and Founder of My Father's House in Paola.

**Doug Ptacek** is the West Region SRS Training Coordinator, serving in the Hays Regional Service Center. He served on the Planning Committee for this 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness and Housing and moderated this panel of West Region SRS Staff members presenting an overview of services.

**Cheryl Rathbun**, LCSW, has worked for Saint Francis Community Services for 32 years in predominately Rural/Frontier Kansas. Saint Francis' grass roots began in 1945 by Fr. Bob Mize, an Episcopal priest, to serve young men in the community as an alternative to detention/correctional institutions - an effort way before its time. Subsequently, SFCS has added foster care homes, outpatient mental health/substance abuse services, and holds the Kansas contracts for Family Preservation and Reintegration Foster care in the largest region in Kansas - approximately 46,000 square miles of frontier / rural communities. Cheryl currently oversees the clinical services offered in these programs in addition to Risk Management, Performance Improvement, HIPAA and accreditation/licensing. Cheryl is an active member of the Rural/Frontier Subcommittee of the Governors Mental Health Services Planning Council.

**Bradley Reiff** is the Director of HOME Programs for the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Brad is responsible for the administration of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which includes the First Time Homebuyer, Homeowner Rehabilitation, HOME Rental Development/Community Housing Development Organization and Tenant Based Rental Assistance programs. Mr. Reiff also coordinates the preparation and submission of the Kansas Consolidated Plan. Previously with KHRC, Brad managed all facets of the State's HOME Rental Development/Community Housing Development Organization Program and assisted with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. From 1995 to 1999, Mr. Reiff was a Community Resource Specialist with the City of Topeka, working with neighborhood organizations and with various aspects of the CDBG, HOME & ESG Programs.

**Luella Sanders** is Director of Community Planning for United Way of the Plains in Wichita, Kansas. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in psychology with a dual emphasis in both clinical and community psychology. Her work as a Research Associate with Wichita State University and more than a decade of experience with COMCARE of Sedgwick County as Director of the Homeless Program paved the way for her work with United Way. Dr. Sanders administers a HUD-funded Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) on behalf of the community. In 2007, Dr. Sanders implemented a Wichita-based Raising A Reader program in partnership with the YMCA Child Development Centers, USD 259, the City of Wichita Public Library and the City of Wichita Metropolitan Transportation Authority. She serves as Chair of the Building Economic Stability Together (BE\$T) Coalition of South Central Kansas whose mission is to create opportunities for low and moderate income Kansans to achieve financial stability through Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) awareness, free tax preparation, and asset building. Dr. Sanders is Chair of the Continuum of Care for the Wichita-Sedgwick County area and serves as Vice-Chair for the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition. Dr. Sanders had a leadership role in the Kansas Point-In-Time Count (KPIT) and she was the primary investigator and author of the 2009 KPIT Report published in May, 2009.

**Valori Sanders** is a Reentry Housing Specialist for the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Valori works with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), and other key partners to address housing needs of offenders at a system level. Some of her

work includes developing partnerships with landlords, property managers and developers. Valori has a key role of providing information amongst various systems and working collaboratively with KDOC to safely house offenders. She also works with parole officers, and hands-on with offenders that lack housing plans once exiting prison. Valori comes to this position from the Missouri Housing Development Commission, where she administered a trust fund project that allocated funds to agencies seeking to build or rehab housing as well as provide services to vulnerable and low income populations.

**Brad Schmidt** is the Director of Adult Residential Services for Prairie View, Inc. During his 19-year career, he has authored and administered seven successful Tenant Based Rental Assistance grants, as well as numerous other housing related grants. Most recently, he has helped Prairie View secure funding under HUD's Supportive Housing Program to master lease 10 units of permanent housing for people who are experiencing mental illness and homelessness. Brad has served on the board of Directors for the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and is the current chair of the Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee of the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council.

**Melena Sparkman** is Economic Justice Team Leader for Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV). KCSDV's Economic Justice Team coordinates the collaborative project known as OARS (Orientation Assessment Referral Safety) with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services as well as projects involving financial literacy, poverty, homelessness, and housing issues. Ms. Sparkman previously worked on KCSDV's Criminal Justice Projects Team where she coordinated the court monitoring and police response advocacy projects. She received her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Southern Methodist University.

**Margene Swarts** has been with the City of Lawrence, Kansas since 1979 and is currently the Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services, which includes administrative responsibilities for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant program (ESG) and other community development programs including stimulus funded programs of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP), Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and CDBG-R, with budgets of approximately \$2.5 million. Margene serves as a liaison for citizen advisory boards concerned with housing and neighborhood development and homeless services and coordinates community outreach for the city. During her tenure at the city, she has partnered extensively with other local agencies to provide affordable housing for renters, the homeless, and first-time homebuyers, as well as accessible housing improvements for homeowners and renters. Margene earned an undergraduate degree in education from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She has been involved with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) since 1987 and served as President, Vice-President and VP of Member Services for the Kansas NAHRO chapter.

**Kim Swinney** is the Program Coordinator of the Topeka Moving Ahead Program, also known as T-MAP. Prior to that, she had worked at Valeo Behavioral Health Care for two years as an employment specialist and worked as an assistant manager of a Menninger Hospital Halfway House for five years, while obtaining her Bachelors and Masters Degree in Social Work. T-MAP is a job readiness program through Kansas Legal Services. Its primary focus is to help homeless individuals obtain housing and employment. Services provided to T-MAP participants include, but are not limited to, intensive case management, life skills, classroom instruction, basic computer skills, medical and dental health acquisition, employment assistance, on-the-job internships, housing assistance, transportation, and legal assistance.

**Tate Toedman**, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, has been the Homeless Education Coordinator for the Kansas State Department of Education since 2006. He has worked in the Kansas school system since 1994, starting out as a teacher in the Topeka public schools. Tate moved to a counselor position in 2001, and in 2004 became the Athletics and Activities Director for Wetmore Academic Center. He holds a Masters of Education in Building Leadership from Washburn University, a Master's of Science in Educational Counseling from Emporia State University, and a Bachelors of Education in Elementary Education from Washburn University. He is a member of NAECHY (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth). He has been a Youth Mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka.

**Christine Tomkus** is the Homeless Plan Specialist for the Division of Human Services in Sedgwick County. She ensures the Wichita-Sedgwick County 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness is implemented, and collaborates with City government to run the Housing First program. She is also a SOAR trainer and assists in coordinating and running trainings for Sedgwick County, as well as other CMHC's and agencies who are interested in training. Christine grew up in New Jersey and began her career as a Program Manager developing and implementing a Cognitive Therapy program and a Life Skills program to assist traumatic brain injured and developmentally disabled adults in their rehabilitation. She has also worked as a Clinical Case Manager assisting severe and persistent mentally ill adults in working toward independent living to remain free of inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations. In 2007 Christine moved to North Dakota and began working at an inpatient psychiatric hospital as an Access Coordinator as well as an Admissions Counselor. Moving to Kansas in January 2009 she began her career with Sedgwick County as the Homeless Plan Specialist. She currently is a member of the Sedgwick County Continuum of Care Coordinating Team. She received her Master's degree in Business Administration from Walden University in 2009 and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Rowan University in 2002.

**John Trembley** is Director of Northwest Kansas Community Corrections. John started working for Northwest Kansas Community Corrections (NWKCC) in August 1993. He worked as a juvenile officer, community corrections officer, and parole officer before becoming Director in July 1998. He received his B.S. in Psychology in 1993 from Fort Hays State University. Prior to 1980 he worked as lumberjack, saw mill operator, and logging foreman. From 1980 to 1998 he worked in oil fields as a roughneck, driller, and drilling supervisor. In 1990 he went back to school to obtain his degree after being severely burned in an oil field accident. In 2006, Trembley was selected as the Paul J. Weber memorial award winner.

**Emily Wagner** is interim Executive Director of Manhattan Emergency Shelter and Client Service Director.

**Cheryl Walters** is the Emergency Assistance Coordinator for Catholic Charities of Salina, Inc. She screens people for public assistance and emergency assistance using the Kansas Benefit Bank and MAACLink. Utilizing a variety of funding and referral sources, she helps people optimize their financial resources to prevent homelessness. She also screens and approves people for an innovative loan guarantee program being piloted in Salina called SASSE, Salina Area Savings, Service and Education. This program is a partnership between Catholic Charities, Consumer Credit Counseling, University United Methodist Church, and The Bennington State Bank.

**Sherrie Watkins-Alvey**, LMSW, is a Service Manager at Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. She has worked in the mental health field for over 15 years, and served a variety of populations including children, older adults, adults with severe and persistent mental illness and individuals experiencing homelessness.

**West Region SRS Panel:** Staff members on this panel are individuals who have a wide range of backgrounds and education. They represent programs and services available to individuals within our communities who are in need of help. This includes staff members who work in the divisions of Economic & Employment, Social Services, Child Support Enforcement, Rehabilitation Services and Working Healthy. They work with a wide range of individuals including families, disabled individuals, homeless individuals and those with mental illness. They are a group of experienced and professional staff who will endeavor to help individuals in need.

**Anita Poe Wiley**, LMSW is entering her 10th year as the Ottawa USD 290 School District Social Worker. Through her position at USD 290, Anita is active in The Franklin County Children's Coalition, The Multi-Disciplinary Team, Communities in Schools, Franklin County Early Childhood Coordinating Council and the Franklin County Temporary Shelter Association. She is an Education Advocate for the State of Kansas, and was recently appointed to represent Homeless Children on Kansas Special Education Advisory Board. She is one of the Eastern Region Representatives for Kansas School Social Worker Association. Anita is a Field Practicum Instructor for Social Work students from Washburn University and the University of Kansas. She is also a past president and member of the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare Alumni Board. She earned her Bachelor & Master Degrees in Social Welfare from University of Kansas.

**LaTonia Wright**, MSW, is the Balance of State Coordinator for the Kansas Statewide Homeless Services Coalition. She provides oversight and facilitation for the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. She has spent the last 4 years working with the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless assistance programs which include: the Emergency Shelter Grant, the Supportive Housing Program, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care and the Community Development Block Grant. LaTonia holds a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree from Washburn University and a Master's Degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Kansas.

**Sharon Zehr** is a licensed master's level social worker employed by the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence, Kansas. Sharon has worked at Bert Nash since 1991 in many different capacities, including: case manager for adults with a severe and persistent mental illness, liaison to Topeka State and Osawatomie State Hospitals, emergency screener and team leader for the Access Center. She has also provided group and individual therapy for people with substance abuse issues and sex offenders. Currently, she is the team leader for the Homeless Outreach Team and the Mental Health Coordinator at the Douglas County Jail. Sharon received her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas as well as her Masters Degree in Social Welfare.



**KANSAS STATEWIDE  
HOMELESS COALITION**



## *A New Frontier*

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing**

**October 20 – 22, 2010**

**Ramada Conference Center, Hays**

**Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition extends a huge**

**THANK YOU!!!**

**to the members of the Local Host Committee of Hays:**

Janet Kuhn, Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau (facilitator extraordinaire)

Troy Hickman, First Call for Help, Ellis County (Summit Co-chair)

Shara Gonzales, New Beginnings in Hutchinson (Summit Co-chair)

Jennifer Clark, student at Fort Hays State University

Phyllis LaShell, Kansas Department of Commerce KansasWorks

Shawn Linenberger, SER Corporation

Charlotte Linsner, NW KS Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Director

Ken Loos, High Plains Mental Health Center

Vicki Lumpkins, SER Corporation

Doug Ptacek, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Bonnie Werth, Living Independently in NW Kansas (LINK)

**And to....**

### **Prize and Gift Donors**

Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Inc. (LINK)  
Ramada Conference Center, Hays, Kansas  
Randy Crandall  
Diane Etzel-Wise and Patrick Wise

### **Information Fair Vendors**

Catholic Charities Inc. - Diocese of Wichita  
First Call for Help of Ellis County  
Heartland Lions Eye Banks  
High Plains Mental Health Center  
Kansas Housing Resource Corporation  
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition  
KansasWorks Department of Commerce  
Living Independently in NW Kansas, Inc. (LINK)  
Northwest Kansas Domestic & Sexual Violence Services  
USDA Rural Development  
West Region SRS  
Western Kansas Association on the Concerns of the Disabled  
Wichita State University  
Working Healthy/Rehabilitation Services

### **Community Reception Vendors**

Coffee Rules  
Terry's Backyard BBQ  
Chartwells Catering