

2006

CHF HEALTH LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

Ann Abdella is the Program Administrator for the Chautauqua County Health Network, a non-profit hospital based organization working to improve the delivery of health care services in Chautauqua County and the Senior Policy Analyst for the Chautauqua Integrated Delivery System, LLC, an independent practice association of local physicians and hospitals. She is responsible for program development, grant writing, contract management, data collection and analysis, marketing and communications. She is a graduate of the College of William and Mary in Virginia with a degree in health and physical education and has over 20 years of experience in health promotion/disease prevention in both the public and private sectors. She lives in Jamestown with her husband Stephen, an attorney.



LaVonne E. Ansari, PhD is an experienced educator, administrator, recreation therapist and manager with more than twenty years of combined experience in the areas of equal employment opportunity/affirmative action compliance, workforce development, higher education and hospital administration.

Dr. LaVonne Ansari is currently the CEO/Executive Director of Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc. Prior to her recent appointment as CEO; she was Vice President of Operations and Director Equity and Diversity at Niagara County Community College.



Dr. Ansari has a Bachelor's degree from Brockport State College, Master's from Buffalo State College and her Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She also has a certificate in career development and management in Women's Studies from Cornell University.

Dr. Ansari is a member of various local and national boards. She is presently a Commissioner of Mayor's Citizens' Rights and Community Relations Commission, and board member of the Muslim American Society Board of Education.

Dr. Ansari is known for her advocacy work in the areas of education and human rights. She is the wife of Imam Fajri Ansari and they have three children: Tariq, Bashir and Naila.

Michael Aronica grew up in Buffalo (Eggertsville to be specific). My dad was a school teacher so just about every summer we went somewhere else.

Eventually, I left to study Biology at the University of Rochester. I received my Medical degree from SUNY Buffalo and trained in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics here. I was bored, so I returned to school to get my Masters in Epidemiology. I am currently the Residency Program Director for the Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatric Program here in Buffalo, married to my lovely wife Mary, and have three children Meghan, Madeline, and Marykate.



Karen Brown is Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation Services for the Catholic Health System. She is responsible for direct oversight of nine rehabilitation clinics that provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Karen received her BS in physical therapy from the State University of New York at Buffalo and completed her MBA at Canisius College. She resides in Lancaster with her husband Bobbie and two young sons, Mason and Miles.



Michele Brown has been the Director of Compeer of Greater Buffalo since its inception in 1985. Compeer is inspired by the belief that “friendship is powerful medicine”.

Serving Buffalo and all of Erie County, Compeer matches volunteers in one-to-one friendship and mentoring relationships with children, adults, and elders living with diagnosed mental illnesses and/or emotional difficulties, who are striving for optimal mental health and a high quality of life.

Michele, who is originally from Buffalo, resides in North Buffalo, and has a son Joshua, who is a junior at SUNY Buffalo.



Glenda M. Cadwallader has been the Executive Director of The Peter and Elizabeth C Tower Foundation since 1998 and is responsible for all aspects of the Foundation’s internal operations and grant making programs. Prior to joining the Foundation she served in various administrative roles in a number of local not-for-profit organizations. Ms. Cadwallader is a member of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2000 and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of New York at Buffalo.



Maureen Cerniglia is the Director of Continuing Care Services for Community General Hospital (CGH) in Syracuse, NY. In this role, Maureen serves as the licensed nursing home administrator overseeing CGH's 50 skilled nursing beds as well as having administrative oversight of CGH's 20 bed acute rehab unit (PM&R). Maureen has an extensive background in long term care including nursing homes and home care. She holds Nursing Home Administrator licenses in California, Pennsylvania and New York. Maureen is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University Class of 1981 and earned her M.S. from the New School University in 1999. She resides in Liverpool, NY with her husband and three sons.



Max Donatelli, MS, is the Executive Director for the Parent Network of WNY and Director of Care Management for Baker Victory Services. He has a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Canisius College. Mr. Donatelli has been working in leadership positions in the child welfare system for over 30 years, working with needy youth and families in residential care, preventive services, and care management with Baker Victory Services. Many of these youth and families had experienced various aspects of family violence. Since 2001, in addition to working at Baker Victory, he restarted the Parent Network of WNY, which provides training, information, support, and referral services to parents of children with special needs. Many of these families also experience the effects of family violence. He currently chairs the Erie County Safety Net for Youth Committee, which is a multidisciplinary safety net committee that meets monthly and as needed to help facilitate evaluation and treatment services for youth identified by workers that are not being adequately serviced. He is on the board of Good Schools for All, which is community foundation that supports the Buffalo Public Schools; is a parent member on the New York State Education Department Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education, and has been actively involved with the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence and the Coordinated Community Response Family Violence for over 15 years. Mr. Donatelli is an advocate for youth who have special needs and the families that support them.



David Dunkelman is President and CEO of Weinberg Campus, a multifaceted organization that provides *Everything for Aging All in One Place*. Mr. Dunkelman holds a law degree as well as a master's degree in long-term care administration. He writes, consults and speaks nationally about aging.



Teniade Fann, MD, MPH, is a trained family practice physician, clinical researcher and public health practitioner dedicated to addressing health disparities and the needs of medically underserved populations. She is currently completing the final year of an NIH National Research Service Award in health care disparities at UB and is also the new Director of Research, Grants and Community Relations at the Community Health Center of Buffalo. Her community-based participatory research interests include HIV/AIDS (especially in women and girls), diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and stroke. As echoed by Martin Luther King, Jr., she believes that "...health inequality is one of the most shameful injustices..."



Kathy Flynn is the Executive Director for the Continuing Care Foundation of the Catholic Health System. The Foundation achieved not-for-profit status in 2005 and is responsible for conducting a capital campaign for the redevelopment of the former OLVH hospital into a Senior Neighborhood, along with supporting seven long term care facilities, two adult homes, rehabilitation services and home care. Kathy is a graduate of Colgate University and the University at Buffalo with an MBA, Health Care concentration. She has served in several leadership capacities in health care and not-for-profit management, including the American Heart Association and United Ways in Buffalo and Lockport. Kathy was honored in 2001 as one of Business First's 40 under 40. She resides in Lockport with her husband Kevin and four children.



Lisa Holmes is the Interim Director of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging in Ithaca, NY. In this capacity, and in eight years as an Aging Services Planner, she has been involved with the planning, implementation, evaluation and oversight of home-based and community-based services for senior citizens in Tompkins County. Lisa received an MPA from Northeastern University and a BS from Cornell University.



Commissioner Pamela M. Krawczyk has come to be known as a strong voice for changing the misconceptions and stereotypes about aging. After earning her Master's Degree in Gerontology from D'Youville College, Pamela Krawczyk volunteered as a Long Term Care Ombudsman where she advocated for the rights of those older adults residing in Long Term Care facilities. However, her focus then changed as she spent the next eleven years directing the Golden Age Center of The Salvation Army promoting prevention programs and encouraging independent living for older adults. Through her efforts in orchestrating The Senior Olympics for Erie & Niagara Counties, she proved that age should not be an indicator of ability. Her efforts have been directed by her belief that she is a "servant leader" and is committed to helping not only the well elders of our community but also the frail, poor and aged of the Western New York. D'Youville College acknowledged her efforts by awarding her the 2000 D'Youville College Alumni Service Award.



In January 2000, Erie County Executive Joel Giambra appointed Pamela Krawczyk as Commissioner of The Erie County Department of Senior Services. Pamela remains steadfast in her commitment to uphold the mission of the department by providing the leadership necessary to promote the optimal well being of older adults by empowering them to lead lives of independence, health and dignity.

Toby W. Mansfield, husband, father and employee for New York State Department of Health for over twenty years. I have been awarded two Masters during my academic career. Hobbies include numerous community service projects and educating youth through the 4-H program, especially in entomology, where my vast collection of insects comes into play.



Clarice McClure was born in Buffalo and has spent her career working in social work positions in both Erie and Niagara Counties. She is the Vice President at Family & children's Service of Niagara, which is a multi-service, non-profit agency in Niagara County. She has been with "FACS" for over twelve years. Clarice has a Master's Degree in Social Work.



Glenda Meeks is a highly motivated, self-directed accomplished manager with over twenty-eight years of experience in healthcare. She has held various positions at Kaleida Health including Nurse Manager, Manager Quality Improvement and currently is Manager of Health Education and Outreach in Kaleida Health's School Health programs. Glenda is actively engaged in planning, coordinating implementing and integrating a range of health educational services for children and youth in fourteen School-Based Health Centers. Her interests are in child advocacy and the promotion and improvement of health and youth development in the lives of children in our community. Ms Meeks holds a Bachelors Degree in Nursing from SUNY at Buffalo and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from Medaille College.



Heidi A. Milch graduated from the American University in 1993 with a degree in international business, specifically Spanish and Latin American Area Studies. After working in Washington and Miami, she returned to the Buffalo area in 1996 to complete a Masters in Social Work at SUNY Buffalo. As the Director of Program Development at Gateway-Longview, Inc. since July 2005, her primary functions include the development, implementation and oversight of the agency's performance and quality improvement program, agency accreditation, program evaluation, community collaborations, supervision of the training department, new program development and grant writing.



Karen J. Nelson holds the position of Chief Operating Officer of Planned Parenthood of Western New York. Her work was instrumental in the recent merger of two local Planned Parenthood entities, Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Erie County and Planned Parenthood of Niagara County. She is a 12-year veteran of the reproductive health service agency and during leadership transitions in the agency from 2003 and 2004, Karen served as interim Chief Executive Officer. Karen received her Masters of Business Administration from Medaille College in May 2006.



Lizabeth (Liz) Norton – is coordinator of the Adult Protective and Long Term Care units of the Tompkins County Department of Social Services where she has worked for the past ten years. She attended nursing school at Onondaga Community College and at Elmira College where she received her bachelor's degree. She has previously worked as a public health nurse for Tompkins County Department of Health and as a supervisor and staff nurse for a skilled nursing facility. She is currently a member of the Foodnet Board of Directors, the Mental Health Subcommittee, the Health Planning Council's Advisory Board and the PERS Advisory Board.



Victoria Pearson received her bachelors degree from Daemen College and an MBA from SUNY at Buffalo. Since then she became certified as a Dementia Care Specialist and has been the administrator of Gowanda Nursing Home for 13 years. Victoria served as the co-chairperson for the WNY Mutual Aid Steering Committee for 8 years and on the executive board of the New York State Health Facilities Association District 10 for 3 years. In her spare time Ms. Pearson is enjoying learning to play the game of golf.



Mary Pruski is a 1979 graduate of the Sisters Of Charity Hospital School of Nursing and completed by BSN at Daemen College in 2000. My nursing positions have encompassed employment with Sisters through 1988, then with Millard Fillmore Gates/Kaleida Health to the present. I have enjoyed working in multiple ICU's, PACU and Emergency Departments, nurse manager, and Performance Improvement. Currently, I am a Kaleida Vice-President - Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer, fulfilling a personal goal to improve the entire spectrum of hospital care. This would not be possible without the support of my husband of 26 years, two daughters and many dear friends and colleagues.



Charles Rice is the Administrator of the Lutheran Home and Rehabilitation Center in Jamestown, NY. The Home, an affiliate program of Lutheran Social Services of Upstate New York, consists of a 254-bed skilled nursing facility with sub-acute and rehabilitation services, an outpatient rehabilitation services department, and a 52-bed Assisted Living Program. In addition to this position, he has 35 years experience in various healthcare management positions in hospitals and nursing homes in New York and Pennsylvania, including a faculty appointment at SUNY Utica in the Department of Health Care Management. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Nursing Facilities Committee and the Public Information and Marketing Committee of NYAHS, on the Board of NYAHS-PAC, the Board of Hospice Chautauqua County, and the SUNY Fredonia School of Business Advisory Council. He received a BA in Economics from SUNY Fredonia and a MPA from the Johnson School of Management, Cornell University.



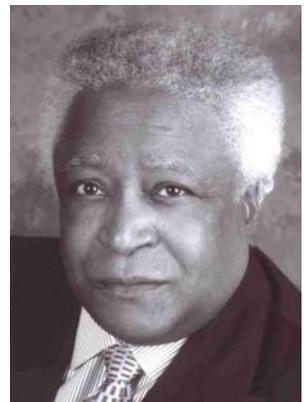
Leola Rodgers is Associate Administrator, Golisano Children's Hospital at University Hospital in Syracuse. Since coming to Syracuse in 1999, she has been responsible for a number of hospital departments and services as an Associate Administrator at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Prior to her current position, Ms. Rodgers was Administrative Director, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Ambulatory Care Services at University Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Her background and experience in healthcare spans over 25 years including community health care centers, multi-hospital systems and academic medical centers throughout the South, Midwest and Northeast.



Ms. Rodgers has a BS in Business Administration, majoring in Finance from University of Detroit and a Masters in Public Health, Health Care Administration from University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Ms. Rodgers current Board roles include Executive Vice President, Enable and a Member of Make-A-Wish Foundation of CNY and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY. She is also a volunteer and mentor with On Point for College. Leola resides in Cicero, New York and has one son, Brandon, who is in college in Michigan.

Douglas Ruffin is currently an Associate Director of N.O.R.C. (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) at Jewish Family Services of Buffalo & Erie County. This project is directed at establishing "senior friendly" communities within the broader residential community to assist interested seniors to "age in place". Mr. Ruffin is a graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury North Carolina, and has continued post graduate studies at the University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Ruffin is an experienced program developer and administrator with over thirty years of experience. He has held several positions including the Director of Employment, Education & Training at the Clarkson Center and also as the former Executive Director of the Erie Regional Housing Development Corporation. Mr. Ruffin also served on several community boards and operated a private social purpose enterprise consultant service.



Linda Sabo, M.S. has been Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York since 1998. After earning her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Ms. Sabo acquired many years experience as a mental health clinician and administrator. In addition to completing post-graduate studies, she has worked as a grant writer, instructor in the Human Services Management and Social Work departments at Buffalo State College, and as a volunteer at a long list of community organizations. Under her leadership, the chapter has more than doubled in size, serving many more persons with dementia and their caregivers. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is close to Ms. Sabo's heart, as the disease has now touched two in her family - her mother and mother-in-law have been lost to Alzheimer's.



Donna Saskowski is currently the Executive Director of Genesee County Chapter NYSARC, Inc. She has been with the ARC since 1989. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Currently she is a member of the NASW. She is also a member of the Executive Directors Association of NYSARC, the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY, and the Collaborative of the Finger Lakes. She serves on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Genesee County and is a member of the Rotary Club of Batavia. She has been married to her husband Paul for 29 years and they have two children, Tracey and Karen. She enjoys gardening and baking.



Tracy Ann Sawicki is the Senior Director of Health, Safety and Community Services for the American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter. This is the Chapter's largest department, providing health, safety and HIV training, transportation and services to the elderly to over 65,000 people annually. Prior to this, she was the Executive Director of Deaf Adult Services. Ms. Sawicki has over 20 years of experience in program and fund development.



Ms. Sawicki is active in the community. She works with several organizations including Planned Parenthood, the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County. She is an alumni of Leadership Buffalo and a 2001 recipient of Business First's "40 Under 40" award.

Beth Sidebottom is the Executive Director of Schiller Park Community Services, Incorporation, a not-for-profit community-based organization that services over 1,100 low income, at-risk youth and elderly residing primarily in the City of Buffalo. Currently, Beth manages two community centers both located in the Eastside of Buffalo. Beth obtained her Bachelors degree from Canisius College, during which time she studied abroad in Switzerland. After graduation, she worked in the for profit sector before returning to school to complete a Masters degree in Business Administration, also from Canisius College. In addition, to her work for Schiller Park Community Services, Inc., Ms Sidebottom sits on the board of directors for the Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.



Joan Skawski is currently the Director of Quality Improvement, Case Management and Social Work Services at Cortland Regional Medical Center. In this position she oversees all aspects of discharge planning and appropriate utilization of services, thus her interest in the needs of the frail elderly. During her almost thirty years of experience as a nurse, she has held staff positions in critical care, emergency departments, home care and case management. She also has experience in management, education and as an ethics consultant. Joan earned a Diploma in Nursing from St. Joseph's HHC in Syracuse, a BSN from The Catholic University and a MA in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University. She resides in Ithaca, NY.



Reed Stewart is Executive Vice President of Child and Family Services and has a Masters Degree in Social Work and Is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in New York. Reed is also a Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work (BCD). He has earned a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from the Alliance for Children and Families and the University of Michigan.

Prior to working with CFS, he worked at Jewish Family Service, NYS Office of Mental Health, and Child and Adolescent Treatment Service. He also operated a private practice.

Reed lives in Grand Island, NY with his wife Linda, and his children Robert, age 16, and Sarah, age 13.



Assunta Ventresca is the Director of Health Related Services for the Buffalo Public School district. The health of the school community and its impact on student academic success is her priority. Prior to joining the district, she was the Wyoming County Public Health Director. She has broad experience in community health and nursing. Born and raised in Buffalo, Ms. Ventresca earned her Associates Degree in Nursing from Trocaire College, and a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and an M.S.N. in Community Health from D'Youville College.



Melva D. Visher, MA, RHIA is the Director, School Health Services at Kaleida Health's Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo. In that capacity, Ms. Visher administers preschool special education services, school nursing services, and school-based health centers that together provide an array of health, mental health and related services for more than 40,000 students attending Buffalo's public and non-public schools. Ms. Visher has been employed at Kaleida Health for a total of 33 years, including more than 20 years serving in management and administrative roles in ambulatory care planning and service delivery. Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Visher served as Assistant Vice President, Ambulatory Services, where she administered ambulatory centers for the newly merged integrated delivery system.



Linda Wright is the Executive Director for the Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area, one of the largest not for profit organizations in Onondaga County. The Salvation Army provides services to more than 31, 000 people every year through 40 programs.

Linda has worked with the Syracuse Salvation Army since 1975 when she received her BA from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. She also holds a Masters of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. Since 1975, The Salvation Army has grown from an organization with 5 programs and 30 staff to a \$14 million organization with 350 full and part time professional employees. The Salvation Army Advisory Board named Linda the Executive Director in December 2001.



Linda serves on a number of community task forces and committees working in the area of human needs. Presently Linda is named to Onondaga County's Task force on Juvenile Detention Reform, a member of the Community Advisory Council for Youth Violence Intervention Strategy, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Syracuse Weed and Seed Strategy, and a member of Syracuse University Thursday Morning Round Table. Linda is also a 1992 graduate of the Leadership Greater Syracuse Program.

Expectations and Office Contacts

The Office

The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York has provided the office for the CHF Health Leadership Fellows at the University at Buffalo's School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University's Main Street campus in Buffalo, New York.

Contacts there are : Virginia Oehler, coordinator of the CHF Health Leadership Fellows program, and Bridget M^cGuinness. The office phone number is 716-829-2905. The office address is: CHF Health Leadership Fellows, SUNY at Buffalo, Suite 435 Kimball Tower, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214-3079

Expectations

In accordance with the initial call for fellows, full participation by the CHF Health Leadership fellows in all activities of the program is required. This includes all four residential sessions, active participation in the monthly inter-session team meetings, active participation in the development of inter-organizational projects and their final presentations. It is hoped that as we move throughout this first class of fellows that we will build and refine this experience for those who will participate in the future. Evaluation processes will be throughout the program, aiding us in the refinement and improvement of all aspects of the experiences.

Cell phone usage is prohibited during the program portions of the residential sessions and during team meetings.

Timeliness in responsiveness to information requests and to sessions and team meetings is greatly appreciated and expected.

The sharing of your learning experiences within the organizations you represent will help to further the goals of the program. We welcome information and anecdotes about those times when organizations embrace and utilize your experiences.

Dress for the residential sessions is business casual.

Please let us know, in writing, of any food or other allergies that may impact your experience as well as any other accommodations you may need, well enough in advance that we may be able to accommodate them.