

Idaho End-of-Life Coalition

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT ~ Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, MSW

Cheryl is part of a national movement to promote compassionate care for people who are completing life through illness, injury or advanced age and those who care for them. She is founder and past executive director of Idaho's national award winning statewide end-of-life coalition--A Better Way Coalition, Inc. Cheryl is past coordinator of the Boise State University Center for the Study of Aging and primary author of the 2006 Idaho Statewide End-of-Life Survey Report. Together with Carol Taylor, Cheryl authored an on-line training course for Boston University on end-of-life issues for social workers. Cheryl was a member of the National Advisory Committee to Caring Connections, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded program at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. She is a former commissioner on the Idaho Commission on Aging. Most recently she acquired funding and produced *The Right Choice at The Right Time* resource manual on advance care planning in Idaho, for A Better Way Coalition, Inc. and the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. cksw46@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT ~ Carolyn Nystrom, RN

Carolyn has been a local, state and national leader in end-of-life care for nearly 30 years. She has directed Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley since 1990, a program that has served as a national model for providing hospice and palliative care in rural and frontier areas. Prior to coming to Idaho, she was a volunteer coordinator and hospice director in the San Francisco Bay Area for 10 years. Carolyn has been an active board member of the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization since 1992, serving as its President from 1995-1999. From 1995 until 2008, she represented Idaho nationally on the Council of States. She has served on NHPCO's Governance Committee and Rural Access Task Force. Carolyn has been a member of Better Way Coalition since its inception, a member of the Idaho State AIDS Prevention Task Force, the Blaine County Interagency Council, the Strategic Planning Committee for the Blaine County Senior Center and the National Board of the Girl Scouts. Carolyn has received a number of awards, most recently ISHPCO's Lifetime Achievement (2008) and her hospice was recognized as a Health Care Hero by the Idaho Business Review (2008). Carolyn has made a lifetime commitment to quality care and access at the end-of-life, promoting advance care planning in the community and educating healthcare professionals.

TREASURER ~ Robert Vande Merwe, MBA

As the Executive Director of the Idaho Health Care Association-Idaho Center for Assisted Living, Robert represents skilled nursing facilities, MR/DD providers and assisted living communities in Idaho. The IHCA provides legislative and community advocacy for their members and the elderly and disabled whom they care for. It also provides education and training for members at workshops and conventions.

Prior to this position, Robert was a nursing home administrator and an assisted living community administrator. He enjoys making a difference in the lives of the elderly and disabled and has made this his life's work. At the university of Utah, Robert specialized his masters degree work into a unique MBA focusing on "Management and Aging". Robert has was a representative on a Better Way Coalition leadership team for more than four years, enthusiastically supporting the development of A Better Way Coalition and seeking new collaborations and partnerships. He is delighted to continue to serve on the Idaho End of Life Coalition. robert@ithca-net.org

SECRETARY ~ Peggy Williams, RN

Peggy is director of Four Rivers Hospice in Boise.

PAST CHAIRPERSON ~ Teresa Dixon, RN, CHPN

Teresa is director of Hospice Alliance in Pocatello.

AAA/ICOA REPRESENTATIVE ~ Donna Denney

Donna is Public Information Officer/Health Promotion and Medicare Education Program Coordinator with the Idaho Commission on Aging.

AARP REPRESENTATIVE ~ Cheryl Tussey

Cheryl has more than 40 years' of experience developing and managing community-based, social-change programs, as well as volunteer service and grassroots advocacy programs for nonprofit organizations. She directed the RSVP program of Orange County, California, one of the nation's largest senior corps programs. During her three years of service with the Life Answers Team at the AARP National Office, Cheryl served as the National Field Manager for the Experience Corps for Independent Living. For eleven years she owned and operated CRM Marketing and Public Relations, a comprehensive service agency providing public relations, governmental affairs, and targeted direct marketing programs. Cheryl has served as an associate state director for AARP Idaho since 2001. Her work has focused on media relations related to advocacy and public education. She has assisted the development of statewide consumer education programs on long-term care and end-of-life planning; financial security and retirement planning, fraud prevention and kin care...people raising children not their own.

NORTH IDAHO ~ Paul Weil, MBA, MA

Paul has been the Executive Director of Hospice of North Idaho for 7 years. Paul has graduate training in health care administration, health sciences and pastoral ministry. As a healthcare professional, he has work experience in health care administration and healthcare delivery research. As a volunteer, Paul has experience in state and local end-of-life volunteer organizations, hospice ministry, youth ministry and urban renewal projects. He is the past president of the Idaho State Hospice Organization.
weilp@honi.org

SOUTH WEST IDAHO ~ Vacant

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO ~ Gloria Misbach, RN

Gloria's bachelor's degree in nursing was obtained at the University of Iowa in 1970. With experience working at the U of I and several skilled nursing facilities and raising three children while farming with her husband in East Central Iowa, the family moved to Idaho in late 1989. Gloria 'answered the call' and has been involved in hospice and end-of-life issues for the past 17 years, working for Idaho Home Health and Hospice initially as staff nurse, then as Hospice Coordinator, then as Director of Hospice, and currently as Intake RN - doing admissions not only for hospice, but also for home health, PCS, private duty, and private pay. During that time, she also chaired the effort to create Kids Count Too, Inc., a Magic Valley children's bereavement support group and is still very involved in that organization as well as Compassionate Connections - the Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition. gloria@idahohomehealth.com

SOUTH EAST IDAHO ~ Ray Puccinelli, Jr.

Ray is director of Hospice of Eastern Idaho in Idaho Falls.

MEDICAL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE ~ Sister Patricia Mulvaney, MSN, CSC
Sister Patricia has been a staff member in Mission Services at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center since 2000. Her special emphasis is improving care for patients at the end of life. Through her efforts a Palliative Care Consulting Service was established at SARMC in 2002. Sister Patricia's Bachelor's degree in Nursing was obtained at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and her Master's in Nursing at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In the 60's and early 70's she served as administrator when the location of Saint Alphonsus was changed from 5th and State Streets to its present Curtis Road site. In the late 1980's and early 90's Sister Patricia served in the General Administration of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and had the opportunity to visit many of the Congregation's missions in and outside the United States including those in Uganda, Israel, Bangladesh and Brazil. Sister Patricia has served on numerous hospital boards and on Saint Mary's College Board. Sister Patricia was an active member of A Better Way Coalition, Inc. since its inception in 2003. patrmulv@sarmc.org

LEGAL LIAISON ~ Peter C. Sisson, CELA

Pete is a principal in the Boise law firm Sisson & Sisson, the Elder Law Firm, PLLC. He is a Board Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation, member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Boise Estate Planning Council, and the Idaho State Bar Section on Taxation, Probate, and Trust Law. Pete was an active member of A Better Way Coalition Advance Care Planning Committee since 2004 and is the Coalition's formal liaison for legislative issues. Sisson & Sisson emphasizes a holistic and comprehensive legal practice approach to the issues seniors face as they age called Life Care Planning. The firm is committed to helping clients and their families navigate the long-term and health care system and advocate for good care during their loved one's journey through the elder care continuum. Pete has in the past served on or currently serves on the board of directors for numerous local organizations and the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association (a national affiliation of elder law firms that have incorporated a health care professional into the elder law practice to comprehensively

address senior chronic care issues.) Pete's law practice also includes: Medicaid and estate planning, guardianships, conservatorships, special needs trust planning and probate work. petesisson@idahoelderlaw.com

LONG TERM CARE REPRESENTATIVE ~ Linda Simon

Linda Simon has 30 years of experience in the retirement/assisted living field—28 years as an administrator. She is one of only 32 administrators in Idaho who is licensed in both nursing home and residential care. Her skills have been proven through her work in managing all aspects of facility operation to ensure high-quality care that complies with all state regulations. Her work with the Idaho Assisted Living Association has made her well known to, and highly respected by, the residential care industry in Idaho. She is also highly respected by residents in her facility, their families, and her staff. plantationplace@aol.com

PALLIATIVE CARE REPRESENTATIVE ~ Curtis Gedney, MD

Curtis Gedney, M.D. is the full-time Medical Director of XL Hospice and Interim Medical Director of the Palliative Care program at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. He holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, and pastored churches in San Diego and Phoenix. He then earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Arizona. He began medical studies at the age of 42 at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he earned the M.D. degree. While at MCW he worked with Dr. David Weissman in the area of cancer patients and hospice care, and as a result of that experience committed himself to become a specialist in hospice and palliative medicine. He then completed a family practice residency at the University of Arizona and was board certified in Family Medicine. He practiced family medicine in Emmett, Idaho for six years, and during that time attained board certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Gedney has also participated in medical work in Mexico, Chile and Peru. He is one of the founding members of the Idaho Pain Coalition and currently serves as President. His wife Nancy is an ordained minister, and together they raise alpacas on their ranch in Emmett. dr_curt@msn.com

PSYCHO/SOCIAL/SPIRITUAL REPRESENTATIVE ~ Bruce Stevens, MDiv

Bruce is the Retired and Senior Volunteer Manager for the Area Office on Aging at the College of Southern Idaho. An ordained Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1982 he has fifteen years experience as Hospice Spiritual Care Chaplain and Bereavement Specialist for St. Luke's Magic Valley Home Health and Hospice. He is on-call Crisis Care Chaplain at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Bruce is co-founder & past board chairman of Porterville Senior Adult Day Care in Porterville, CA, a respite program for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and slight stroke patients and their caregivers. Bruce earned a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, Ca. He is the President of Compassionate Connections (the Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition), a member of the Governor's SERVE Idaho Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and Past-President of the Twin Falls Kiwanis Club. He also volunteers as an adult mentor for The RSVP Amachi Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program at the College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging. Bruce has 3 boys from a

previous marriage. He and his wife, Carole have four children of their own and have been foster parents to 22 children. bstevens@ooa.csi.edu

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE ~ CAROL TAYLOR, MSW

As a medical social worker for nearly 30 years, Carol has worked in hospital, home health, hospice and long term care settings as well as mental health clinics and assisted living facilities. As founding director of Teton Valley Hospice in eastern Idaho, she was privileged to serve many community members and their families as well as developed staff/volunteer training modules, lay chaplaincy programs and community outreach projects. Through her professional firm, Above & Beyond Consulting, Carol provides clinical training and education, organizational development consultation, facilitation and mediation, retreats and workshops to facilities and agencies nationwide. In addition, she works at the St. John's Medical Center Oncology Department where she counsels patients, families and staff. She recently coauthored, with Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, a Boston University course for social workers providing end-of-life care. Carol received her Masters in Social Work and Masters Certification in Gerontology from the University of Denver. She has served on the Idaho Commission on Aging and was nominated for the national Robert Wood Johnson Community Service Award. Carol is the Past President of A Better Way Coalition, Inc. cthrive@aol.com

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE ~ Jamie Kelley-Kinyon, LCSW

Jamie is employed with Boise State University as the MSW Program Coordinator in Twin Falls. She also provides Medical Social Work services in the hospital's Home Health/Hospice program, specializing in end of life care and bereavement counseling. Jamie served as the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Social Service Department Manager for 23 yrs and developed a plan for inpatient interdisciplinary palliative care and hospital grant programs. Jamie was involved with many other activities, including co-chair for 18 years on the MVRMC Ethics Committee; representative to the St. Luke's Institutional Review Board; 6 years on the National Association of Social Work Board, Idaho Chapter; and Delegate to the 1996 NASW National delegate assembly. She served on several community service advisory boards, including the CORE Lodge, American Cancer Society, and the CARES program. Jamie is the co-founder and chair of Caring Connections for the Magic Valley, and served several years as a member of the United Way Allocations Committee. She currently is on the Twin Falls County Health Initiatives Trust Board and is an alternate to the St Luke's IRB. jamiikelley2@boisestate.edu

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ~ Jonathan Krutz, MBA

Jonathan Krutz, MBA, has been a leader with the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition and its predecessor organizations since 2007, coming to Idaho after seven years of end-of-life improvement work as director of the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership. He serves on the operating committee of the Idaho Pain Initiative, as treasurer of the Comprehensive Cancer Alliance for Idaho, and as chair-elect of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee of the state Medicaid program. Krutz has served as a paid consultant to both Rallying Points, a national end-of-life outreach effort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Caring Connections, the on-going community outreach

campaign of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). He serves nationally on the Ethics Committee and the Veterans Advisory Council of NHPCO and he is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Hospice Foundation. He has presented on end-of-life topics at the local, state, regional, and national level. He was named 2006 Nonprofit Executive of the Year in Lincoln, Nebraska. Krutz earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Valparaiso University in Indiana in 1984 and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Iowa in 1993..

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