

A Better Way Coalition, Inc.
Idaho Statewide End-of-Life Coalition
Board of Directors
2007 ~ 2009

PRESIDENT ~ CAROL TAYLOR

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 co-authored, 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. cthrive@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT/TREASURER ~ ROBERT VANDE MERWE

As the Executive Director of the Idaho Health Care Association 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 been the Idaho Health Care Association representative on a Better Way Coalition leadership team for the past four years, enthusiastically supporting the development of A Better Way Coalition and seeking new collaborations and partnerships. robert@ithca-net.org

SECRETARY ~ PEG MUNSON

Peggy Munson retired from a lengthy nursing career during which time she worked for a pediatric oncologist and a general practitioner. However, most of her career was in skilled long term care where she was a Staff Development RN that hired and trained staff, and provided staff training and education for nursing assistants. Peg is an Idaho native who raised her family in Weiser until she moved to Boise in 2004.



Peg is a member of the AARP Idaho Executive Council and chaired the 2006 Capitol City Task Force, a team of AARP volunteers assigned to legislative committees during the Idaho Legislature session. She was part of the AARP team that traveled throughout the state providing Medicare D information for seniors and attends Health & Welfare Medicaid meetings with other volunteers and staff to keep abreast of the changes in the Medicaid system. She served as the AARP representative to A Better Way Coalition leadership team from 2006-2007. pegtops@peoplepc.com

NORTH IDAHO REPRESENTATIVE ~ PAUL WEIL

Paul has been the Executive Director of Hospice of North Idaho for approximately 5 years. His academic credentials include graduate training in health care administration, health sciences and pastoral ministry. As a healthcare professional, he has work experience in medical practice administration, surgery center 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 and was their representative on the leadership team for A Better Way Coalition. He continues to serve as the Hospice Organization's liaison to A Better Way Coalition. weilp@honi.org



SOUTH IDAHO REPRESENTATIVE ~ BRUCE STEVENS

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 twelve 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 President-Elect of the Twin Falls Kiwanis Club 2007-08 and President of Compassionate Connections – the Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition. Bruce and his wife, Carole have four children of their own and have been foster parents to 22 children. bstevens@ooa.csi.edu



LEGAL LIAISON ~ PETER C. SISSON

Pete is a partner in the Boise law firm Sisson & Sisson, the Elder Law Firm. 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 has been an active member of A Better Way Coalition Advance Care Planning Committee since 2004.



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

MEMBER AT LARGE ~ BECKI HENDERSON

Becki has been a nurse in the Boise area for the past thirty two years. The last ten years have been spent trying to relieve suffering and improve end-of-life care through her work with hospice. She joined forces with A Better Way Coalition four years ago to help with these shared goals. She is currently the Clinical Director for Care First Hospice in Boise. Special interests are to partner with Assisted Living Facilities and Skilled Nursing Facilities to jointly tackle these same issues and to provide education to the public on the importance of advance directives and advance care planning. Becki is a quilter and enjoys camping and other outdoor activities. becki@carefirsthospice.com



MEMBER AT LARGE ~ CURTIS GEDNEY

Curtis (Curt) is the full-time Medical Director of XL Hospice, Inc. He has had a diversity of experiences that have prepared him to be a practitioner of palliative medicine. Curt holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. He earned a Master's degree and Ph.D. in English from the University of Arizona and later his M.D. degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. A research fellowship from the American Cancer Society made it possible for Curt to work with Dr. David Weissman in the area of cancer patients and hospice care. At that time he committed himself to become a specialist in hospice and palliative medicine. Board certified in Family Medicine he practiced in Emmett, Idaho for six years, and during that time attained board certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Curt is one of the founding members of the Idaho Pain Coalition and currently serves as President. His wife Nancy is a hospice chaplain. The Gedneys raise alpacas on their ranch in Emmett.
dr_curt@msn.com



MEMBER AT LARGE ~ SISTER PATRICIA MULVANEY, 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 has been an active member of A Better Way Coalition since its inception in 2003. patrmulv@sarmc.org

MEMBER AT LARGE ~ Jonathan Krutz, MBA

Jon is the Executive Director of the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Jon comes to Idaho from Nebraska and started his position as the Executive Director of the Idaho Hospice and Palliative Care Organization on November 1, 2007. His wife is a nurse at St. Luke's hospital downtown and they have two children (10 and 11 years old). Jon is excited to be in Idaho and active with a Better Way Coalition. He also let us know that in Idaho roughly 50% of those facing end of life use hospice care; he is dedicated to growing end of life care in Idaho. He volunteered to help in any way he can as time permits.

Coalition Coordinator ~ Jill Darrington

Jill Darrington, LSW graduated from Boise State University in May 2006 and is the Member Services Coordinator at the Idaho Health Care Association. Previous to joining IHCA, she worked as a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Aging at Boise State University. Currently, she is enrolled in the Masters of Health Science program at BSU studying Health Promotion and Gerontology. She has been acting as Coordinator for A Better Way Coalition since June of 2007. If you have any questions regarding the Coalition or how to become more involved, please contact Jill by phone or email. (208) 343-9735 or jill@abetterwaycoalition.org



Promoting Compassionate Care at the End of Life

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