

Oral Health Advisory Panel

Member Bios

(updated 11/16/2011)

Lynne Brehm

Lynne Brehm has been the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Lifespan Health Services since the grant project began in 2003. She oversees the ECCS, Together for Kids and Families (TFKF) strategic plan implementation which includes systems change strategies around the topic areas of: early care and education, dental/medical home, mental health, family support and parent education.

Early childhood stakeholders have prioritized oral health access and education since the inception of the systems work with TFKF, and Ms. Brehm has assisted in fostering collaborations to implement strategies to improve oral health outcomes.

Ms. Brehm holds a M.S. Degree from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and has worked to support children and families in a variety of capacities in state government since 1985. Prior to joining Lifespan Health Services, she worked in the area of child welfare, specifically coordinating a program designed to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect through provision of supportive services such as home visitation and respite.

Dr. David Brown

Dr. David Brown is the Executive Associate Dean of the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. A native of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, he attended McMaster University in Hamilton and then earned a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Colorado. Dr. Brown completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the department of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University College of Medicine in Baltimore.

In 1981, Dr. Brown joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Dentistry as the chairman of the department of oral biology, the basic sciences department of the college. Over the course of the past 25 years at the UNMC COD, he has been research director, assistant dean and currently serves as executive associate dean.

Throughout his career, Dr. Brown has been involved in teaching, research and service. In 2001, he earned a Master's Degree in Legal Studies from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. His current responsibilities include supervising the academic programs of the college, coordinating professional accreditation activities and administering a highly regarded program of rural outreach and service learning. Dr. Brown has been a member of several professional organizations and state governmental committees and is a reviewer for the Journal of Dental Education.

Jennifer Carter

Jennifer Carter is Nebraska Appleseed's Director of Public Policy and the Health Care Access Program. Appleseed, through the Health Care Access Program, has been actively engaged in national health care reform for more than two years and is now engaged on implementation of the law at the state level.

Ms. Carter and Appleseed have also worked extensively on children's health care, particularly the reauthorization of the state children's health insurance program in Congress and improvements to Nebraska's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program, Kids Connection.

Ms. Carter earned a B.A. from Columbia University and received her J.D. from Boston University's School of Law. Prior to joining Appleseed nearly eight years ago, Jennifer was in private practice as an attorney in New York.

Dan Cillessen

Dan Cillessen has been the Administrator of the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Public Health since 2002. This unit is responsible for the development and management of programs to expand and support community efforts to respond to a wide range of diseases and health behaviors that limit the well being of Nebraska citizens, including oral health.

Prior to serving in this current position, Mr. Cillessen was the Administrator of the DHHS Office of Economic Assistance from 1987 to 2002. He is also the former Director of the Lincoln District Office for the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Cillessen received his Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1969.

Roxanne Denny-Mickey

Roxanne is a dental hygienist and serves as the Coordinator of the 'Young Children-Priority One' Program which provides preventive oral health services to children and their families throughout the Two Rivers Public Health service area. YCPO is a pilot program that became a template for NE DHHS- Department of Oral Health & Dentistry's 'Program in a Box'. Roxanne also works as a clinician in a private practice and was previously adjunct faculty with CCCs' Dental Hygiene Program. She has been a practicing dental hygienist for more than 20 years with auxiliary training in pediatrics and cultural competency and holds a Dental Hygiene Public Health Authorization.

Roxanne Denny-Mickey is President of the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association and an advisory board member with the Nebraska Child Identification Program. She is a member of numerous professional organizations.

Roxanne believes the integration of dental and medical care is the path to achieving comprehensive care and better overall treatment and health outcomes. Roxanne's ambition is to promote oral health care access for all of Nebraska through collaboration between professions and agencies.

Dr. Kimberly Galt

Dr. Kimberly Galt is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Associate Dean for Research for the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions at Creighton University. She also serves as the Director of the Creighton University Health Services Research Program.

Dr. Galt's work emphasizes patient safety and quality, research and evaluation methods, outcomes research, continuous quality improvement and management, and the integration of computing technologies into research, teaching and patient care. She serves as the primary evaluator of the Office of Oral Health's HRSA Oral Health for Young Children Grant.

Dr. Galt's research has been published in an extensive list of medical and pharmacy journals including *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, and *Perspectives in Health Information Management*. She received her PhD from the University of Nebraska and pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan.

Sara Goscha

Sara Goscha is the Child Welfare Program Specialist for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Children and Family Services Division. She has worked for DHHS for more than 8 years in the welfare

division as a case worker, supervisor and now a program specialist. Prior to working for the DHHS in Nebraska, she worked for a private contractor for child welfare services in Kansas.

In her current position, Ms. Goscha is the team leader for the Healthcare Oversight Team which is a partnership between the Divisions of Medicaid, Children and Family Services, and Public Health related to ensuring children who are wards of the State of Nebraska have their medical needs coordinated. This initiative grew out of the Federal Fostering Connections Law.

Mary Gordon

Mary Gordon is the Director of the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities in the Public Health Division. The Council has 23 members appointed by the Governor to address improvements in services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. It receives federal funds from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Council has identified oral health as a concern for several years. Persons with developmental disabilities, both children and adults, are one of the most underserved populations in the state in the area of oral health. The Council has funded grants with Pediatric Dentistry at UNMC/MMI to develop a DVD for caregivers on oral health strategies as well as a Blackboard based curriculum at UNMC for both pre-service and in-service oral health professionals on the care of persons with developmental disabilities.

Kelly Gould

Kelly is a dental hygienist and public health educator. She received a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the UNMC College of Dentistry and a Master of Arts in Health Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has worked in public health education in both administrative and educational roles in the areas of oral health, tobacco and asthma. As an administrator she directed a large community coalition and a local school-based dental sealant program both for non-profit health organizations. As an educator, she has created educational programs for clinicians, patients and students. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Community and Preventive Dentistry and Director of Extramural Programs at Creighton University School of Dentistry. Her responsibilities include directing service-learning rotations for dental students to increase capacity of the oral health safety net. She is a co-investigator of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to recruit more American Indian/Alaska Native students into dentistry. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, a member of the American Public Health Association and American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Her interests are in population-based health, community engagement and improving access to health care for underserved populations.

Gary Hastings

Gary Hastings has served as the Executive Director of the Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center since 2005, heading a group committed to enhancing healthcare opportunities, accessibility, and quality for the people of western Nebraska.

Mr. Hastings spent 35 years as a teacher and administrator in Nebraska public schools and also has exhibited a long commitment to public health. From 2001 to 2005, he was the Emergency Medical Service Coordinator of Northeast Nebraska and is a former recipient of Nebraska's Emergency Medical Technician of the Year Award.

Mr. Hastings is a member of the Nebraska Rural Health Association, the Red Cross, the Western Nebraska Community College Partnership, and the National Education Association. He earned a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Chadron State College in 1972 and a Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of Nebraska - Kearney in 1990.

Dr. Kenneth P. Hermsen

Dr. Kenneth Hermsen is the current President of the Nebraska Dental Association. He currently serves at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, where he shares his time between the Department of General Dentistry in the Acute Care Clinic and the Department of Endodontics.

Dr. Hermsen joined the Creighton University School of Dentistry Faculty in March 1977. He taught full-time, attaining the rank of Associate Professor and maintained a part-time, private endodontic practice for 13 years. He retired from teaching in 1989 to devote full-time to his endodontic practice and continued to practice for 16 years. In 2006, he retired from practice and returned to Creighton.

Dr. Hermsen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1971. In the fall of the same year, he entered the UNMC College of Dentistry, graduating with a DDS degree in 1975. Following two years in private general practice he returned to the University where he earned an M.S. Degree and Certificate in Endodontics in 1980.

Dr. Hermsen is a member and past president of the Omaha District Dental Society, a member and past Trustee and currently serves as President of the Nebraska Dental Association, a member of the American Dental Association and a Delegate to the ADA's House of Delegates, a member and past president of the Nebraska Association of Endodontists and a member of the American Association of Endodontists. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the American College of Dentists.

Julane Hill

Julane Hill serves as the Coordinated School Health Director for the Nebraska Department of Education where she oversees the Health Education, Physical Education and HIV Education programs.

Ms. Hill is a veteran teacher in health and physical education with 20-plus years in both private and public school in Nebraska. She was the principal author of the Nebraska Physical Education Essential Learnings, Nebraska's Physical Education Standards and co-authored a food safety program "Cold Pizza for Breakfast" which received two national awards. She is the co-chair of Nebraska's Coordinated School Health Statewide Initiative and was a key player in the passage of the Coordinated School Health Policy by the Nebraska Board of Education in March of 2010.

Ms. Hill, a native Nebraskan, received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education and Recreation from Wayne State College and Health Education and Special Education degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She lives in Lincoln and enjoys camping, fishing, reading, and walking her dog "Bean".

Megan Kelley

Megan Kelley has served as the Dental Health Coordinator in the Nebraska Office of Oral Health and Dentistry since May 2011. Prior to this position, she worked as a Program Specialist in the State Unit on Aging and as a Community Health Educator in the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity.

Ms. Kelley, a Lincoln native, is a Certified Health Education Specialist and has earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Eastern University in Pennsylvania and a master's in Health Promotion from Mississippi State University.

Currently, Ms. Kelley is pursuing a PhD in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Dr. Jessica Meeske

Dr. Jessica Meeske currently practices pediatric dentistry at Pediatric Dental Specialists of Greater Nebraska in Hastings and serves as an adjunct faculty member of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry.

Dr. Meeske is board certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and is a member of the American Dental Association and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Meeske earned her DDS degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Certificate of Pediatric Dentistry from the University of Iowa. She and her husband Todd have two children, Robert and Sofia.

Claudine Martin

Claudine Martin is a project coordinator and graduate assistant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Ms. Martin has worked in several positions coordinating with government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels with an emphasis on public health preparedness. She previously has worked as the Education and Exercise Coordinator at Iowa Region 6 Public Health and Hospitals and served as a senior analyst at the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Ms. Martin currently is pursuing a PhD in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at UNMC. She has studied previously at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Michelle Mertz

Michelle Mertz is a Project Manager at the Boys Town Institute for Child Health Improvement, working with primary care physicians across the state to help spread the medical/dental home model.

Ms. Mertz serves as the coordinator of the Nebraska Medical Home Learning Collaborative and has built a working relationship with pediatric clinics in the urban and rural areas of Nebraska, including much of the underserved areas of Omaha. The ultimate goal of the NMHLC is to establish and spread best practices that will best serve all children across the state by providing optimum primary care services, maximizing coordination and efficiency of care, and lowering overall healthcare expenditures.

Through her work at the Institute, Ms. Mertz helped establish the Professional Parent Consultants in the Medical Home pilot program, which places trained parents of children with special healthcare needs in medical homes to help support, educate, and empower fellow parents to ensure that their children receive the best possible care.

John Naujokaitis

John Naujokaitis has worked for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care since 1999 and has been the Program Specialist for the Medicaid Dental Program for the last five years.

Mr. Naujokaitis is the former chairperson of the Omaha Asthma Alliance/Nebraska Lung Association Alliance Epidemiology and Data Task Force where he authored a number of reports on asthma in Omaha-area communities.

The emphasis of his education and research has been in race, ethnic, and cultural diversity. Mr. Naujokaitis has earned Master's Degrees in Urban Studies from the University of Nebraska - Omaha (1998), Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma (2001), and Health Service Administration from Central Michigan University (2003).

Patricia Patton

Patricia Patton has worked as the staff assistant in the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry since July 2010, processing contracts and coordinating with local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers for all OOHD programs.

Ms. Patton previously worked for the Department of Health and Human Services' Data Statistics team from 1996 to 2010 where she served with the Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry and the Nebraska Ambulance and Rescue Surveillance Information System (NARSIS).

Her education includes coursework completed at Southeast Community College in Office Technology.

Barbara Pearson

Barbara Pearson has been the Coordinator of the Block Grant for the DHHS Office of Preventive Health and Health Services since 1986 and also supervises several Health Promotion Unit programs, including the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry.

Ms. Pearson coordinates all aspects of Nebraska's block grant allocation (currently \$1.2 million), including preparation of annual plan and report, monitoring of subgrants, and facilitation of advisory committee. She has served as Region Representative for Region VII for 15 years.

Ms. Pearson has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and performed graduate course work in adult education and health education.

Dr. Fouad Salama

Dr. Fouad Salama is a professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and a Fellow of of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American College of Dentistry, the International College of Dentists, and the Academy of Dentistry International.

Dr. Salama is board certified by the American College of Dentistry, the International College of Dentists, and the Academy of Dentistry International. He is a member of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and of the editorial board of the Pediatric Dentistry Journal and a reviewer for manuscripts of the Journal of Dental Education, MedEdPORTAL, General Dentistry Journal, Advances in Medical Education and Practice Journal, and Journal of Rural Health. He has published more than 90 publications and presented more than 200 abstracts and table clinics.

Dr. Salama was a team member of the first ever "Open Mouth Survey of Nebraska Third Graders" which was completed on 2005. He earned his Certificate of Pediatric Dentistry from the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry.

Tammie Scholz

Tammie Scholz currently is the Interim Manager for the DHHS State Unit on Aging and has worked for the SUA for more than 17 years.

Ms. Scholz earned a Master's Degree in Dietetics from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She is a Registered Dietitian as well as a Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist. Her work experience includes a variety of health care settings, including hospital, nursing home, and county health department venues. Ms. Scholz provides oversight and technical assistance to the eight Area Agencies on Aging in Nebraska. Some of her primary work at the SUA includes being responsible for the statewide Disease Prevention/Health Promotion programming, Congregate and Home-Delivered Meal programs, and the statewide Reporting System.

One of her biggest goals she works to achieve is to serve as an advocate for healthy aging, so that older adults can remain independent and age gracefully.

Jeff Sheldon

Jeff Sheldon is a Community Health Educator in the DHHS Office of Oral Health and Dentistry. His current roles include assisting the state dental health coordinator in the development of community health programs, researching potential grants, preparation of oral health presentations and educational materials, and coordinating social marketing campaigns.

Mr. Sheldon has previously served as an account executive in the financial services industry and as creative director at NRG Media in Lincoln. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 2004 and a Master of Arts from UNL in 2007.

Eleanor Shirley-Kirkland

Eleanor Shirley-Kirkland has served as Director of the Nebraska Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), housed in the Nebraska Department of Education, since 1997. As part of her work, the Collaboration Office either created or supported statewide initiatives in oral health on behalf of Nebraska Head Start and Early Head Start programs and all young children living in poverty.

The Collaboration Office works closely with Head Start and Early Head Start grantees across the state to support their connections to state oral health issues and to garner their support in shaping relevant policies and promoting best practices in oral health care.

Prior to her work with the Collaboration Office, Ms. Shirley-Kirkland directed the Nebraska Head Start-Early Childhood Transition Demonstration project and helped develop a therapeutic community treatment program for women with substance abuse issues and their young children. She has been engaged in program development, community partnership development, broad-based state and community systems development and has many years of clinical mental health/substance abuse practice in her experience. She is a certified mediator and licensed social worker and experienced addictions counselor.

Ms. Shirley-Kirkland has a degree in social work from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Master's Degree in Adult Education with an emphasis in social and systems change.

Dr. Jonathan Simpson

Dr. Jonathan Simpson is a pediatric dentist practicing in North Platte since 2008. He currently serves on the regional Craniofacial Team in west central Nebraska and is affiliated with the University of Nebraska College Of Dentistry for rural education opportunities.

As a native Nebraskan who grew up in a rural community, Dr. Simpson has an interest in improving oral health care in more rural areas of the state. He is a strong advocate for oral health education within the community and improved access to care for some of our state's most vulnerable citizens, our children.

Dr. Simpson graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College Of Dentistry in 2006 and completed his residency in Pediatric Dentistry at the UNMC's Pediatric Dental Program.