

## Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory

### Member Biographical Sketches

September 2022

**Jessica Aguilar** is a strong advocate for families of children with special needs and serves in many roles as an active voice for North Carolina (NC) families. She recently completed NC MomsRising's anti-hunger advocacy fellowship program, and now engages with lawmakers, the media, and community members to influence policy changes. She is involved in MamasConPoder/ MomsRising as a community hub leader for the national member engagement program; has been a leading force for the Union County Hope and Power Support Group for parents of children with special needs; is a board member of the Center for Exceptional Children; and is an active part of: North Carolina Parents of Children Advisory Council; State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC); Partners Healthcare Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC); NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Stakeholder Task Force; NCDHHS Tailored Care Management group; the Hispanic/Latinx Community Response Team of the NC Community Engagement Alliance; Innovative Approaches Steering Committee and Parent Advisory Council; Union County Local Interagency Coordinating Councils; Union County Public Schools Special Needs Advisory Council; Thriving in Transition Advisory Council at the Duke University School of Medicine; Family Engagement and Leadership Coalition; System of Care Community Collaborative of Mecklenburg County; and Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. Most importantly, Jessica is the mother of twin sons, Luis and Christian, who are children with both IDD and mental health diagnoses.

**Jean Andersen** serves on the NC State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) representing those identified with IDD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). As the parent of a son with brain injury, she became acutely aware of changes which were, and still are, needed in services, education and representation. Jean completed NC Council on Developmental Disabilities' Partners in Policymaking training; was in the first cohort of the NC Leadership Fellows Academy; and is currently a student of public health. She is past Vice-Chair and a member of the NC Brain Injury Advisory Council and remains active on the Council's Legislative Committee. She is also a past member of numerous stakeholder engagement groups; and represented her local CFAC on the board of directors for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. Jean is currently a member of the board of directors for the Brain Injury Association of NC, and a member of the board of directors for Monarch, Inc.

**Sam Antkowiak** is a 23-year old student who lives in his own apartment with roommates, works at Harris Teeter and attends college. He graduated from Southwest Guilford High School with a diploma in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Program in 2018. Sam started working part-time at Harris Teeter as a bagger in April of 2018. Since middle school, he has been interested in photography and videography. He "loves to take photos and videos" and is learning to edit videos. Sam says he would like to work in video production in the future. He is a Junior in the Beyond Academics™ program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG).

**Stephanie Antkowiak** was born and raised in Duncan, SC. She graduated from Clemson University with a BS degree in Accounting and Financial Management in 1987 and worked for 12 years in the paper and printing industry. Her husband, Steve, works in the printing industry. She moved to Jamestown in 2001. Her children, Sam, 23, and Caroline, 20, both have a diagnosis of autism, and both are college students. Stephanie worked for Guilford County Schools for seven years as a Parent Liaison in the Exceptional Children's Department. Since 2012, she has worked for the Arc of High Point as its Executive Director.

**Director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services** (To Be Determined) (Renee Rader, alt.). The Director of the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse Services (DMHDDSAS) has responsibility and oversight of the public community-based mental health, intellectual and other developmental disabilities, substance use, and traumatic brain injury system in North Carolina.

**Senator Sydney Batch** is a Democratic member of the NC General Assembly, representing the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate district since 2021; she formerly represented the State's 37<sup>th</sup> House district from 2019 until 2021. Sydney is a small business owner, social worker and attorney who practices family law, child welfare law and appellate law in Wake County, while serving in the NC Senate. She is an active volunteer in a variety of organizations involving both family law and juvenile matters. In August 2020, Sydney won the 2020 Lillian's List Jan Allen Courage Award for being a fierce advocate of women's equality. In 2020, Sydney was also nominated for the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award, recognizing her advocacy for women in her community. In 2019, Sydney was awarded the Wake Woman of the Year Award, honoring her contribution to supporting women and advancing the rights and welfare of women under the law.

**Karen Burkes** (Niki Ashmont, alt.) is the Director of the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities. In that role, Karen oversees and manages 14 state-operated healthcare facilities that treat adults and children with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders and neuro-medical needs. Previously, she served as the Deputy Director and Chief Operations Officer for the DMH/DD/SAS. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Karen led the state's COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) effort to ensure that PPE was available across the state, especially in historically marginalized communities.

**Heather Burkhardt** is the Executive Director of the NC Coalition on Aging. The statewide coalition has over 90 member organizations that work collaboratively to give voice to issues that affect older North Carolinians through collective advocacy, education, and public policy work. Heather has over 25 years of experience working with or on behalf of older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers, spanning both the non-profit and state government sectors. Her career started by providing direct care support to individuals with IDD and older adults.

**Cherene Caraco** is the Chief Executive and Global Strategist of the peer-run organization, Promise Resource Network in Charlotte, NC. Cherene has served as an international and national consultant on mental health recovery and trauma-informed systems, practices and policies for 28 years, using her combined lived experience as a suicide attempt and psychiatric survivor with her professional experience in multiple systems, services and states. Cherene is the Project Director of the Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Administration-funded, NC statewide mental health consumer movement, Peer Voice NC. This program mobilizes people with lived experience to impact policy, social justice and systems change.

**Yvonne Copeland** (Anne Odusanya, alt.) is the Director of the Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFV), a newly established division in NCDHHS, designed to address the social, emotional, and health needs of children and families. She is focused on standing up DCFV, as well as increasing access to child behavioral health services and reducing food insecurity. Yvonne is new to state government, joining NCDHHS in October 2021, although she has worked closely with NCDHHS and many in this group in her capacity as the Executive Director of the trade association for Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO) and as the Senior Vice President for a federally designated quality improvement organization, The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence. Her 30+ year career has been focused on improving the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people groups through system change.

**Representative Carla Cunningham** of Charlotte represents the 106th District in the NC House of Representatives. A nurse, she has experience in multiple specialties, including Critical Care and Hospice Nursing. She serves on the House Standing Committees of Appropriations, Appropriations Health and Human Services; Health – Vice Chair; House Select Committee on COVID-19; and is Chair of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Work Group, along with serving on the following Non-Standing Committees: NC Child Fatality Task Force, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice, and as an Advisory Member on the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion. Carla also serves on the NC Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome; NC Minority Health Advisory Council; NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Reforming States Group, Milbank Memorial Fund; NC Institute of Medicine; NC Institute of Medicine/SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health - Carolinas Pandemic Preparedness Task Force, Serious Illness Task Force and previously served on the NC Commission for MHDDSAS. Carla is a staunch and fearless advocate whose passion for health care, mental health, seniors, families, women and children and education causes her to bring to the forefront issues that impact everyday North Carolinians and their quality of life.

**Barton Cutter** describes himself as “a disruptor... whose irreverent wit cuts directly to the heart of an issue while illuminating spaciousness within paradox.” The Communications Director for Disability:IN North Carolina, he lives at the intersection of accessibility, inclusion, and challenging perceptions of what’s possible and impossible. His 20+ years in human and culture development include spearheading multiple initiatives around disability community communications, advocacy and leadership. He transitioned to executive coaching to unify his work in advocacy organizations with a passion for contemplative practice and neuroscience in a way that examines “perceived ability” and its unspoken role in the larger context of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Barton is an International Coaching Federation Credentialed Professional Certified Coach, inclusive design expert, and mindfulness instructor who uses deep sensory awareness to disrupt systems of power and privilege and restore dignity within human systems.

**Bryan Dooley** is the Community Co-Chair of the Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory. He lives in Winston-Salem, NC, and is “a vehement self-advocate” for those with disabilities. Bryan is the Chair of

the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities; sits on the boards of the Post-Secondary Education Alliance, Solutions for Independence Center for Independent Living, and the NC Empowerment Network; and works as a social media content provider for Bailey Liipfert, III, an attorney who specializes in elder law and special needs trusts. Bryan strongly affirms the significance of the *Olmstead* decision and looks forward to assisting the state with its implementation.

**Corye Dunn** serves as Director of Public Policy for Disability Rights NC (DRNC). DRNC, the state's federally mandated Protection and Advocacy agency, is a private, independent 501(c)(3) non-profit working to advance and defend the legal rights of people with disabilities in NC. Since 2011, Corye has advocated for people with disabilities at the NC General Assembly and with state agencies. An attorney, she has also worked in higher education and community development policy, always with a focus on marginalized communities. Corye has worked as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in group homes and supporting people to live more independently in the community.

**Chris Egan** is the Senior Director for Employment Services with the NCDHHS and an ex officio member of the OPSA. Reporting to Chris are the Directors of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, Division of Services for the Deaf Hard of Hearing, Disability Determination Services and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. These divisions engage in services and supports that reduce barriers to employment, independent living and financial security for people with disabilities. Chris believes that expanding employment opportunities leads to financial gains and better overall health and well-being. He is driven by his deep belief in the value of all people, the importance of expanding integrated and inclusive communities, and the value of person- and family-centered approaches in promoting positive outcomes.

**Cindy Ehlers** is the mom of three sons who are medically fragile people with IDD, but who all live in the community with supports. Cindy, who represents the LME/MCOs on the OPSA; has been with Trillium Health Resources since 2002; and is currently its Chief Operations Officer. She says, "I live this system from the inside out and the outside in as a decision maker at Trillium and as a mom. I am a fierce advocate for people and work to find innovative solutions and make our system design work for people. I am humbled to have the opportunity to work alongside this group of amazing people."

**Sareefah Emanuel** made her move to the community with the help of Transition to Community Living (TCL) in the Alliance LME/MCO. Sareefah lives in an apartment in Cary. She says that what likes about living there is the freedom she enjoys every day. In her spare time, she likes to go shopping and spend time with friends.

**Debra Farrington** is the Deputy Secretary/Chief Health Equity Officer for the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) where her role is to advance health equity and reduce disparities in opportunity and outcomes for historically marginalized populations. Previously, Debra served as Chief of Staff for NC Medicaid. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she provided leadership in the development and implementation of a broad set of telehealth modernization policies that have dramatically impacted access to care for people living in often underserved, rural communities. This year, Debra was honored with the John R. Larkins award, recognizing her commitment to justice and equality in the workplace and in the community. She is an ex officio member of the OPSA.

**Lacy Flintall, Jr.** identifies as an individual with lived experience, coping with behavioral health conditions, and as someone who has transitioned through our state's juvenile and adult justice systems as a youth/young adult. His lived experience, combined with secondary education and professional training, is utilized as the youth transition program director at North Carolina Families United. Lacy has served in leadership positions on various committees, including but not limited to: City of Burlington's Community Police Advisory Team; Chair of the NC Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council; and Chair of the System of Care State Collaborative's Transition Age Youth Subcommittee.

**Dotty Foley** and her family have called North Carolina home for 15 years. Her oldest son, Dylan, has a diagnosis of autism. Dotty is a former Special Educator; a business owner; and currently works as a student advisor for an international functional medicine program. She is Co-Chair of two Triangle area groups that serve parents of adult children with IDD: Parent Advocates for Adult Children with Intellectual Disabilities (PACID) hosts monthly meetings where leaders in the IDD field speak on a variety of topics, while Housing Options for People with Exceptionalities (HOPE), is a nonprofit organization that addresses the critical unmet need for inclusive housing for adults with IDD. Together, both groups represent over 250 Triangle area parents and caregivers.

**Kelly Friedlander** is the owner and Principal Consultant of Community Bridges Consulting Group. She has worked on stakeholder engagement and policy analysis projects for clients such as United Health Care, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, RHA Howell, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and Anthem Healthcare. Prior to consulting, Kelly worked as the Director for Systems Change Management at the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. Kelly began her career over 15 years ago as a DSP. She holds a Master of Social Work, a Master of Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Social Work degrees. Kelly is serving as an ex officio member of the OPSA.

**Edith K. Harris** is a person with lived experience. She transitioned from a skilled nursing facility (SNF) to the community in 2018. A person with lived experience, she would like to see transportation burdens for people with disabilities reduced. She is interested in supporting organized advocacy groups for others with lived experiences; addressing disparities in access to services; supporting integrated employment; supported education and pre employment transition services; and helping people with disabilities leave institutions and live successfully in the community.

**Bridget Hassan** is the Service Director for Easter Seals UCP of NC and VA. She has worked in human services for almost 30 years, with the last 20 years dedicated to community-based, integrated employment. She has helped to move facility-based services to community-based employment and has seen the impact of those efforts improve the lives of the people involved. Bridget's goal is to increase awareness of and promote Employment First's philosophy and practices. She has served as the NC Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) state chapter board president; as a co-chair of Employment First NC; and on the board of National APSE.

**Jenny Hobbs** is co-founder of Advocates of Medically Fragile Kids NC, a non-profit focused on the Community Alternatives Program for Children (CAP/C) waiver and the pediatric population's Medicaid needs. She serves on the NC Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee and is Co-Chair of their Beneficiary Engagement Subcommittee. Jenny is also on the NC Medicaid CAP/C Advisory Committee

and is a mentor for the NC Child Parent Advisory Council. She previously served on the NC Stakeholders Engagement Group and the i2i Cross System Navigation Advisory Group. When she's not busy advocating, in her free time, Jenny loves her job as a CAP/C social work case manager, assisting children and families to maximize their potential and live their best lives at home and in the community, instead of a hospital or institution. Jenny is from Winston-Salem and has lived in NC almost half of her life. She is married with four children, three of whom are medically fragile and who receive nursing level services through the CAP/C Medicaid waiver.

**Jeff Horton** retired from the NCDHHS in 2017 after 30 years of service, five years working at two different state psychiatric hospitals, 20 years with the Division of Health Service Regulation and, in his last five years, working for the Medicaid program. Since leaving state government, Jeff has been serving as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Senior Living Association, which represents 300 adult care home and family care home providers across the state.

**Judy Jenkins** is President of the Board of Directors of NAMI NC, the state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Judy is a 25-year healthcare professional, formerly with Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, where she served as an Associate Director of State Government Affairs and Advocacy. She has been a NAMI member for over ten years and has served on the board for four years. Before joining Otsuka, Judy worked as Associate Director at Bristol-Myers Squibb; with Early Head Start in Colorado; and as a weekend charge nurse at Southern Maryland Hospital.

**Ashley Large** is the Chair of the North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), a board promoting self-determination for people with disabilities in NC. In addition to a Master's, she has 10+ plus years of disability advocacy experience. She has worked in such areas as supportive employment and assistive technology and has also presented publicly through the Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee organization. Ashley currently works as a Community Inclusion Specialist with Alliance of Disability Advocates, a Center for Independent Living in Raleigh, with Transition to Community Living (TCL), an Olmstead-based effort that assists people with serious mental illness to reach their goals before and after transitioning into the community. She is passionate about ensuring equity and inclusion for people with disabilities.

**Senator Michael Lee** is a Republican member of the NC General Assembly representing the 9<sup>th</sup> District. He is also a husband, father of four, and an attorney. Michael has served at the county and state level on public boards and is a current and former member of numerous nonprofit boards. He founded his own law firm in 2012 and specializes in commercial real estate, trusts and estates, land use and litigation. Michael's deep commitment to education policy has earned him numerous honors and awards. In 2018, NC APSE awarded him their Legislator of the Year Award for establishing and Co-Chairing the Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

**Patricia Lee** moved to her home with the assistance of Transition to Community Living in the Eastpointe LME/MCO area of the state. She is the proud grandmother of ten grandchildren. What she enjoys most about community life are her good neighbors.

**Betsy MacMichael** is the Community Co-Chair of the OPSA; the Executive Director of First in Families of North Carolina; and the parent of an adult daughter with a developmental disability who lives in her own apartment in an inclusive neighborhood in Durham. Betsy is a former Chair of The Coalition, a

group representing some 50 organizations concerned with behavioral health and IDD. She has worked in the field of IDD for over 20 years. She is dedicated to systems change efforts that lead to improved quality of life for individuals and families, and equity in the distribution of resources. The organization she directs complements the formal service system to meet the needs of over 2500 families or individuals each year through a public/private partnership approach.

**Michael Maybee** is the President/CEO of Watauga Opportunities, Inc., an organization that provides vocational, residential, and community opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment and community involvement. He has provided services to NC citizens for over 30 years. Michael is Treasurer and Legislative Chair of the NC Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; a founding member and Treasurer of NC NCAPSE; President of Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers; past Chair of the NC State Rehabilitation Council; and past Commissioner on the NC Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders. In 2011, he was named a “Champion of Equality and Justice” by DRNC for his work “advocating for community inclusion and employment for people with disabilities.”

**Peyton Maynard** is the owner of G. Peyton Maynard and Associates and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Developmental Disabilities Facilities Association. Over the past thirty years, Peyton has represented a variety of business interests in the disability service sector.

**Karen McLeod** is the President/CEO of Benchmarks, a statewide association representing providers of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders; child welfare; and juvenile justice services. She is committed to and actively involved in driving policy and legislation to improve the quality of life for the people that Benchmark serves.

**Victoria Chibuogu Nneji** founded AKALAKA.org, drawing on her 20+ years of experience as a sibling and family care partner. AKALAKA creates opportunities for sibling care partners from different families to connect with each other, learn together, grow together, and handle life together. For over 15 years, Victoria has also served as an engineer, entrepreneur, and educator, including at Duke University where she earned her Ph.D. in robotics. Her mission in life is to enable greater access to mobility, in every sense of the word ‘mobility,’ for people who have historically not had equitable access.

**Susan Osbourne** (Lisa Cauley, alt.) has worked in the human services field for more than 34 years, working for the Alamance County Department of Social Services for more than 28 years in diverse roles and serving as the agency’s Director for more than 18 years. Susan believes that strong community collaboration and partnerships are at the center of our work to improve the well-being of our citizens and has committed her energy, the agency and the resources available to improving outcomes for North Carolinians. Currently, Susan serves as the Assistant Secretary for County Operations for NCDHHS, working with counties and the Division of Social Services programs to reform, coordinate and collaborate for an improved social services system in North Carolina.

**David Owen** comes from Winston-Salem, NC. He is a graduate of the UNC School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Music, with a concentration in saxophone performance; he also completed one year at William Paterson University towards an MBA in Music Business. For the past 25 years, he's been involved in the live music performance, concert promotions and production, venue management and

the touring industry. For the past six years, he's been a DSP for OPSA Co-Chair Bryan Dooley, assisting him through his journey as one of North Carolina's prominent disability rights advocates.

**Matthew Potter** is an independent contractor working for systems change for individuals with IDD, mental health issues, and substance use disorders. A native of New Jersey, Matt has served on multiple boards of directors, including The Enrichment Center of Winston Salem and the former CenterPoint Human Services. He continues to serve on many advocacy-based committees and to present at conferences throughout North Carolina and the United States. He represents the NC Empowerment Network on the OPSA.

**Wilson Raynor** is the Executive Vice President for LIFE, Inc., an organization that provides community-based Medicaid Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) and Medicaid Innovations waiver services to people with intellectual disabilities (ID) throughout eastern North Carolina. He is active in various organizations that support people with ID throughout the state. He represents the NC Providers Council.

**Dave Richard** (Sam Hedrick, alt.) has been the Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid in the Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) since 2015. In 2013, he became the Director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Prior to working for NCDHHS, he spent 31 years as Executive Director of The Arc in Louisiana, Delaware, and North Carolina. In all three states, community support was a priority for the organization.

**Ed Rizzuto** joined the Board of Directors of Disability Rights North Carolina in February 2020 and became Board Chair in July 2022. He obtained his law degree and law license in California where he practiced employment, civil rights, personal injury and child abuse law. Since moving to Durham in 2015, Ed has devoted a great deal of his time and energy advocating for North Carolina's community of people who are blind or visually impaired, co-organizing in 2017 Durham's Vision InSights Support and Advocacy Group. He currently serves on Durham's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission and Durham's Long Term Comprehensive Plan Transportation Policy Working Group. Ed teaches self-advocacy, Accessible Technology and Independent Living Skills classes with the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind and is a firm believer that the voices of people with disabilities should be prioritized in matters of public policy that impact their lives. He lives in Durham with his wife, Kennedy, their three teenagers, Brendan, Benjamin and Quinne and his seeing eye dog, Gifford.

**Pam Shipman** is an ex officio member of the OPSA. She is formerly the Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer at Monarch, a statewide provider of comprehensive specialty mental health and human services. She also led the implementation of the state's Medicaid 1915(b)(c) waiver, now known as the Innovations waiver. In 2011, she became the CEO of Cardinal Innovations and became a champion for local engagement across diverse communities, and for customization of the system of care to meet the unique needs of these localities. Pam has also served as a consultant for NC Medicaid Managed Care and Special Populations. She has been involved in a number of initiatives at GHA Autism Supports in Albemarle, NC and, previously, at HSC Healthcare in Washington, DC.

**Aundra Singleton** moved to the Wake Forest community after being in a rehabilitation program for 3 years and 8 months. She made the move with the assistance of Money Follows the Person (MFP). She has 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Aundra says Wake Forest is "nice," but



she'd love to get back to Raleigh, where she previously lived. Aundra loves to write and is the author of a post called "Life Has to Happen." "We never know what is coming our way," she says, "but God continues to amaze."

**Annette Smith** and her family moved to Cary in 1990. Annette, now a widow, advocates for both her sons: Ben, 33, who has cerebral palsy (CP) and Aaron, his older brother, who is a writer. Her top four disability issues are: 1) the DSP shortage; 2) the "marriage penalty" for the disability population; (3) the Social Security monthly spend-down that occurs when a parent dies before a child reaches 18; and 4) local community housing options. Annette is presently the Alliance LME/MCO - Wake Consumer and Family Advisory (CFAC) Chair; Co-Chair of the NC Direct Support Professional Work Group and happy to have been tapped to lead OPSA's Workforce Development subcommittee.

**Joyce Massey-Smith** (Karey Perez, alt.) is the director for the NCDHHS' Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). Previously at DAAS, she was a Regional Adult Programs representative, Chief of Budget, Planning and Systems Support, and Adult Services Section Chief. She also worked with the Region I Area Agency on Aging (AAA), ultimately as AAA's director. Joyce has served in leadership positions with both the North Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NC4A) and the NC Association on Aging and Disaster Services at the Northwestern NC Chapter of the American Red Cross. In 2018, Governor Cooper named her to the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs. She also served as staff to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

**Kathie Smith** is the Vice President of Home Care and State Relations for the Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC located in Raleigh NC. She has worked in home care since 1990 and has "a passion for home and community-based services." Her association has advocated for Home Care services, both at the state and national level for the past fifty years, when the organization was started by a group of public health nurses. Kathie serves or has served on a number of coalitions and committees, state and national, as an advocate for home and community-based services. Kathie says, "I look forward to learning, collaborating, and contributing to the OPSA implementation committee work."

**Chad Stage** is the Associate Director Behavioral Health for UnitedHealth Group. Chad represents the Standard Plans on the OPSA. He was formerly the Manager of Behavioral Health Programs for Emtiro Health; the Director of Behavioral Health Programs for Northwest Community Care; and an Integrated Care Specialist at Center Point Human Services.

**Kurtis Taylor** has long been a leading voice for citizens seeking long-term recovery from substance use disorders. He served as an appointed member of Governor Pat McCrory's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders; has served for multiple terms as Chairperson for the NC Substance Use Disorder Federation; and is active on the NC Departmental Waiver Advisory Committee (DWAC). He is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the i2i Center for Integrated Health and a board member for the Emerald School of Excellence – the first Recovery High School in North Carolina. In his work life, Kurtis is the Executive Director of the Alcohol Drug Council of NC, where he is dedicated to making their information and referral hotline, perinatal, and prevention services the best in the country. Committed to eliminating the stigma attached to the subject of recovery, he is "an extremely vocal advocate for all citizens faced with the challenges that accompany substance use disorders." As a person in long-term recovery, Kurtis shares that he has not used alcohol or any other substance since December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.

**Jessie Tenenbaum** serves as the Chief Data Officer (CDO) for NCDHHS, where she oversees data strategy across the Department, enabling the use of information to inform and evaluate policy and improve the health and well-being of residents of North Carolina. She is also a faculty member in biomedical informatics at Duke University. Jessie was a Program Manager at Microsoft for six years before pursuing a PhD in biomedical informatics. She is a strong promoter and advocate of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Jessie is an ex officio member of the OPSA.

**Sandy Terrell** (Deborah Goda, alt.) is the Chief Clinical Officer of Benefits and Services and leads the clinical units for the North Carolina Division of Health Benefits (DHB, NC Medicaid). In this position, Sandy provides executive leadership, strategic planning, policy development, and clinical operations for Medicaid benefits and services to populations, including low-income parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. She also directs NC Health Choice, a comprehensive health coverage program for low-income children from families whose incomes do not allow them to qualify for Medicaid or who cannot afford private insurance.

**Sarah Tomlinson** is the State Dental Director and Chief of the Oral Health Section in the NCDHHS Division of Public Health. In this role, she provides vision and leadership for improving oral health in NC by offering dental public health programs across the lifespan and supporting dental workforce development. Since joining the Oral Health Section, Sarah has restructured for statewide reach, grown preventive services, and added programs to serve additional vulnerable populations. In addition to convening oral health stakeholder groups (frail elderly and perinatal), her staff launched an oral health program for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in the fall of 2021. In this changing landscape of Medicaid Managed Care, with its accompanying provider networks, care coordination, and technological connectivity, Sarah envisions a transformed dental workforce, strengthened all along the provider ladder, that effectively engages patients, medical colleagues, and communities for improved oral health throughout North Carolina. Sarah is an ex officio member of the OPSA.

**Kathie Trotter** (Kenny Gibbs, alt.) is the Director for the NCDHHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR). The mission of the DVR is to assist North Carolinians with disabilities in the pursuit of competitive integrated employment and independence in their homes and communities. The Olmstead decision, like the work of DVR, is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and further reinforced by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The DVR has over 70 offices statewide that serve over 31,000 persons with disabilities across the state through individualized plans for employment and independent living services. Kathie notes that these plans “can only be further enriched and supported by a strong NC Olmstead Plan.”

**Representative Donna White** is a resident of Clayton and is in her fifth year as a member of the State House, serving District 26 in Johnston County. She currently serves on several House committees, including as Chair of both the committees on Health and on Appropriations, Health and Human Services and as the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee. She is also a member of the General Assembly's policy committees on Education - K-12; Environment; and Families, Children and Aging. Prior to being elected to the General Assembly, Donna served on the Johnston County Board of Education and on the Planning Board. She is a Registered Nurse who was a Nurse Consultant for Home Care and Aging

Specialist at the Division of Aging and Adult Services in NCDHHS for 12 years prior to election to the House.

**Karee White** is the Chair of the Brain Injury Advisory Council of North Carolina. She is an Army veteran, having served ten years of active duty during the Cold War and Persian Gulf War. After service, Karee worked as a correspondent for several local news media sources and taught fitness and wellness classes. Eight years ago, she became a caregiver to her oldest daughter, who acquired a severely debilitating TBI while on active duty. Karee is the NC Fellow for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. She is currently finishing her MBA, using her skills to advance her own nonprofit, one focusing on support to critically wounded and ill individuals in NC. Karee and her husband have nine children; the oldest seven of these are currently serving, or have served, in the military.

**Charlene Wong** serves as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). In this role, she provides vision and leadership for supporting whole child and family health in North Carolina and oversees two Divisions: the Division of Child and Family Well-Being and the Division of Child Development and Early Education. She is a practicing primary care pediatrician, specializing in adolescent and young adult medicine. She also serves as the Executive Director of North Carolina Integrated Care for Kids, an innovative model serving Medicaid-insured children in central North Carolina that integrates supports and data across health care, educational, and social sectors (e.g., schools, housing, food, early care and education, child welfare). Earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic, she served as the Chief Health Policy Officer for COVID-19 at NCDHHS. Charlene is an ex officio member of the OPSA.

### **Olmstead Plan Staff Support**

**Vickie Callair** is a Program Manager in the Office of the Senior Advisor for the ADA, where she supports both Transition to Community Living, an Olmstead -based, Settlement Agreement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the State to assist people with serious mental illness to live in the community, and the Olmstead Plan development and implementation process.

**Sam Hedrick** is the Senior Advisor for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Olmstead in the Office of the Secretary, NCDHHS and is both a Registered Nurse and an attorney. As an Assistant Public Defender in Durham, she worked with youth in juvenile detention; people involuntarily committed to psychiatric units; and others charged with criminal offenses. Sam is the former President of RHA Howell, a statewide, non-profit providing community mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use disorder services to children and adults. Today, she oversees both the implementation of a DOJ Settlement Agreement (Transitions to Community Living) and the Olmstead implementation, including the work of the OPSA. Sam is the designated alternate to Deputy Secretary Dave Richard on the OPSA.

**Sherry Lerch** has over 30 years' experience in the mental health and substance abuse service systems, ranging from direct service provision to system administration. Her public sector experience includes developing and implementing approaches that meet the needs of individuals with mental illness and cooccurring disorders, justice system involvement, and homelessness; providing holistic care for individuals with high risks/high needs, with a focus on addressing social determinants of health; assessing compliance with the *Olmstead* decision; and identifying inter-agency and cross-systems

approaches and solutions to resolve complex issues. Ms. Lerch's areas of expertise include systems assessment, strategic planning, group facilitation, program development, and financing strategies. Prior to joining the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), Ms. Lerch served as Acting Deputy Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Pennsylvania.

**Holly Riddle** is the Assistant Director for Olmstead Plan Implementation for NCDHHS' Office of the Senior Advisor on the ADA. Over her four decades in the NCDHHS, she has served, in addition, as a policy advisor to the DMHDDSAS; Executive Director of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities; General Counsel to the former Division of Youth Services; and staff at NCDHHS' Wright and Whitaker Schools. By training, Holly is an attorney and special educator and has served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, and as an officer of the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. She is particularly proud to have been voted, many years ago, as "Best Camp Counselor" at Camp Wediko, a Vermont summer camp for children with behavioral health issues, and to have had the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities create an award in her name, recognizing professional leadership in developmental disabilities.

**Pam Scott** is an Assistant General Counsel at NCDHHS, a role she began in 2016. Pam is a dynamic, versatile health care lawyer with extensive experience advising private and governmental clients in regulatory compliance; contract negotiation, drafting and analysis; policy development; the development of settlement agreements; proposed legislation; implementation, litigation and risk management; and the implementation of state and federal laws. She provides legal advice and consultation to NCDHHS divisions with an emphasis on DMH/DD/SAS; the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities; and the Privacy and Security Office. Relative to the OPSA, Pam advises the Department and the Staff Workgroup on the legal and policy issues that impact Olmstead implementation in North Carolina.