2017
Missouri Rural Health Conference

SPEAKER SHOWCASE

AUGUST 15-17, 2017
The Lodge at Old Kinderhook
Camdenton, MO

Collaborating Partners
Combining forces to bring the most up-to-date information and trends to Missouri’s rural health provider.
Keynote BRIAN BAUER
Partnering for Success

Shareholder in the law firm of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath, and Lyman, PLLC Health Law with over 20 years of experience in health law. Brian concentrates his practice in the areas of health care regulatory compliance, business transactions, reimbursement and governance. He has assisted a number of providers (hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs and independent physician groups) to form Accountable Care Organizations and to apply for participation in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. Brian's hospital clients include multi-hospital systems, critical access hospitals and municipal health facilities corporations.

Brian has extensive experience in dealing with Medicare, Medicaid and private payor reimbursement and credentialing issues. He also routinely works with clients on governance, board development and succession planning.

Wednesday, August 16
8:30 to 9:30 am

General Session
Responding to the Opioid Crisis in Missouri

Alison Williams, RN, BSN, MBA-HCM, CPHQ, Vice President of Clinical Quality Improvement, Mo. Hospital Association and Shawn Billings, Behavioral Health Network/Project Epic - Grand Ballroom A&B

ALISON WILLIAMS

Alison Williams is currently the Vice President of Clinical Quality Improvement at Missouri Hospital Association where she and her team of clinical experts support members to improve the quality of care provided in Missouri’s hospitals. Ms. Williams has been an RN for 17 years and has a Master’s in Business with a focus in Healthcare Management and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. She has worked across the health care spectrum from newborns to skilled nursing, including over a decade in nursing leadership roles.

SHAWN BILLINGS

Shawn Billings currently serves as a Projects Manager for Behavioral Health Network of Greater St. Louis. Previously, he worked as a Treatment Court Administrator for the 31st and 39th Judicial Circuits, based out of Springfield, MO. For the past ten years he has been responsible for managing local, state and federally funded programs to enhance and expand substance abuse and mental health treatment services for high-risk and high-need populations. He has managed and coordinated various community collaborations delivering behavioral health services for youth and adults in both urban and rural settings. He has a Masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Drury University and holds a certification in Court Management from the National Center for State Courts.
Joni Adamson
As the Manager of Recruitment and Workforce Development, Joni is dedicated to increasing access to health care services in underserved areas. For over 18 years, she’s worked closely with healthcare professionals of various disciplines and specialties to assure they are aware of career options and employment opportunities in Missouri’s Safety-Net System and to identify resources to help them reach their goal of working in an underserved area. She provides a great deal of assistance and guidance to community organizations to assist with recruitment and workforce development. She currently serves on the National Advisory Council for the National Health Service Corps; former Board of Directors for the Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet); and Program Advisory Committee for Concorde Career College. Additional professional memberships include: Association of Clinicians of the Underserved; Association of Staff Physician Recruiters (ASPR) and their regional affiliate the Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas (MINK) Physician Recruitment and Retention Network; Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM); and the American Society of Association Executives. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from William Woods University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management and Administration from Columbia College.

Suzanne Alewine
Prior to forming Community Asset Builders, LLC, Suzanne Alewine was the Director of the Community Health Assistance Resource Team for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Her expertise includes community assessment and data analysis, budgeting, accounting, resource development, and event management and planning. Suzanne completed an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Missouri – Columbia. She is a founding member of the Association for Community Health Improvement - and served as an Advisor from inception; is a past co-chair of the national Healthy Communities Network; and is a graduate of the Health Forum’s Creating Healthier Communities Fellowship.

Kimber Andersen
As Director of Operations and Staffing for H3C Chronic Care Coordination, Kimber is responsible for all call center operations as well as process development for onboarding and training. Kimber comes from seven years in the commercial staffing industry, most recently as the Business Services Manager with several direct reports in account management and operations roles. She developed and implemented processes maintaining constant awareness for improvement to ensure top efficiencies and strategic revenue growth throughout the company.

Kelly Ast
Kelly Ast is the community coordinator at Healthy Nevada, driving innovation in rural health care. Kelly oversees project development for population health for the coalition and executes strategies for youth and adult wellness. Innovations have helped drive new policy adoption, rural transportation initiatives, increased food security, and mental health projects. Most recently, advocating for local health policy for tobacco use and prescription drug monitoring program.

Ryan Barker
Ryan Barker is the Vice President of Health Policy at Missouri Foundation for Health (MFF). He joined the Foundation in 2002 and assisted in the establishment and growth of the Health Policy area. His work has included research and education on the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Missouri’s Medicaid program, and increasing health equity for all Missourians. He currently oversees the Foundation’s Cover Missouri Coalition, which has over 950 members and is working to reduce the uninsured rate in Missouri to less than 5 percent in the next 5 years.

Doris Boeckman
Doris is co-founder of Community Asset Builders, LLC, providing community assessment, strategic planning, and resource development services to primarily non-profit organizations; i.e., federally qualified health care centers, hospitals, health systems and state associations. She is also a co-administrator of HealthTran, a program operated by the Missouri Rural Health Association. HealthTran links health care coordination and transportation mobility management services to create a simple, effective approach to improving access to care. She is the Missouri Rides to Wellness Director for the Missouri Rural Health Association, serving as the liaison between local, state and national organizations on issues that relate to improving health care access by reducing transportation barriers. Doris has previously been employed with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Infertility Prevention Program and Missouri Medicaid Program. She has a BS Degree in Business Administration from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO.

Alexis Brown
Alexis has 13 years of health care experience at hospitals and clinics in Southwest Missouri. She has been with Jordan Valley Community Health Center for the last 3 years and during that time has been instrumental in increasing access to care for residents in Jordan Valley’s service area. Under her leadership, Jordan Valley has expanded medical services, introduced a medical express care clinic, and opened new satellite local teams. In addition to her role at Jordan Valley, Alexis sits on the board of Abilities First, Beanie Brigade, and the Mayor’s Commission for Children. Alexis lives in Springfield, MO with her husband, Derek, and her two children, Thomas and Tabitha.

Kelly A. Cochran
Kelly A. Cochran is a clinical associate professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy at MU and is a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist. In 2010 she developed the first ambulatory care clinical pharmacy services at the University of Missouri General Internal Medicine Clinics in Columbia, where she serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist and precepts pharmacy students and residents. Pursuing her interest in rural health she developed Pharm to Farm, a mobile practice and teaching service which provides on-site farmstead medication assessments to farmers/ranchers throughout Missouri and has partnerships with Missouri Extension and Missouri AgriAbility Project. She has completed a certificate in Agricultural Health and Safety-The Core Course with the Great Plains Extension and Missouri AgrAbility Project. She has completed a certificate in Appalachian Health and Safety and is a AgriSafe Certified Member. Her current research includes evaluation of medication-related agricultural injury among Missouri farmers. She grew up on a farm in Indiana and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Butler University in Indianapolis. She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City and an Ambulatory Care Specialty Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy and Medical Center.

Amy Conrick
Amy Conrick is an assistant director at the Community Transportation Assn. of America, and Co-Director of the National Center for Mobility Management. She has 16 years’ experience in the transportation field, with 11 years as a writer and 9 years as presenter, trainer, facilitator, and program manager in the employment transportation, mobility management, and innovation fields. She has brought her wide-ranging transportation knowledge into the development and delivery of in-person and on-line trainings. Amy has been teaching and guiding teams in design thinking methodology since 2012. She has planned and facilitated many mobility management, transportation coordination, and team meetings, and has presented on these topics in workshops and conferences as well as on webinars. Amy has also written and edited educational materials on employment-related and other transportation issues, provided direct technical support to communities and individuals, and developed community and agency self-assessment tools that lead to increased collaboration between the transit community and human service and workforce development agencies.
Kathryn Curtis
As Vice President of Commercial Plan Development for Caravan Health, Kathryn is responsible for the development and implementation of the commercial Payor strategy for client providers on a national level. During her 20 years in managed care, Kathryn’s experience includes Contracting and Network Development work across both the public and private sectors, on both the provider and payer side, bringing a unique perspective to the organization. Much of the work Kathryn has done in her tenure has been within rural markets, where she developed a deeper understanding of the unique challenges that face rural providers. Kathryn has developed solid relationships with both providers and payors within these markets and is experienced at bringing the two together to form strategic relationships.

Jane Drummond
General Counsel & Vice President, Legal Affairs-BKD
Dynamic and well-rounded business professional with expertise in legal services, management, communications, negotiation, problem-solving and litigation. Experience in healthcare, human resources, public health, dispute resolution and government affairs. Skilled in strategic leadership and workforce management. Specialties: Assistance with legal issues affecting the workplace and the healthcare industry, public policy development, human resource strategy and dispute resolution.

Steve Feder
CPSM - CEO and Chief Procurement Officer, Lionfleet
Steve has a 40-year career in procurement and corporate finance. He is recognized by the Institute for Supply Management for his accomplishments and has written and presented widely in the field. Steve also has a record of accomplishments in venture capital and leveraged buyout operations.

Deborah R. Frost, Ph.D. Vice President of Operations
Dr. Frost began her tenure with Pathways in 2001 as a licensed Psychologist. In her current role as VP of Operations, she oversees the operations, program coordination, community relations, and charitable fundraising for the Eastern Region of Pathways. In addition, Dr. Frost is responsible for forging the organization’s process between clinical service delivery and technology. She teams closely with senior managers in an effort to develop new business opportunities and regularly evaluates data for tracking client engagement, client outcomes, and staff productivity. Data driven management is key to her current organizational role. Dr. Frost completed her Doctorate at West Virginia University and was classically trained in Behavioral Therapies and Geriatric Psychology. She completed her doctoral internship at the Brockton VA/Harvard Medical School and specialized in Medical Psychology prior to relocating to Rural Missouri. She is published in several American Psychological Association texts and Periodicals in the areas of Geropsychology and Medical Psychology.

Denisea Gilliam
Denisea Gilliam, RN, BSN, Director of Emergency Services & Hospital Program, Ozarks Medical Center

Mary Gordon, Project Manager, HealthTran
Mary Gordon is an experienced community organizer and has worked with grassroots collaborations to bring positive changes. With a focus on high risk families and specifically youth, she has worked from an in-home case manager to leadership positions. Her work as the Workforce Investment Program Functional Manager of the Mexico Missouri Career Center lead various state programming and assisted low-income families, dislocated, and youth with employment and career assistance. Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Callaway County Missouri for 3 years, she started the annual 55&GO Senior Expo serving over 200 seniors and families with resources and information. She is most proud of the team effort of the county community grass roots collaborative which resulted in a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center offering dental, family medicine, and behavior health services into the area. Earlier in her career, Mrs. Gordon owned and operated two businesses in her home town of Fulton, MO.

Dr. Cathy Grigg
Dr. Cathy Grigg is the Director of Psychiatry Services for Compass Health. Dr. Grigg completed her doctorate of Psychology from the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in October, 2004. Prior to her position as Director of Psychiatry Services, Dr. Grigg served as the Director of Special Projects for Pathways Behavioral Health, after completing a six year stint as an Outpatient Therapist with Pathways Behavioral Health. Dr. Grigg has had the honor to supervise and provide guidance to a number of other psychologists while they worked to obtain their doctor degrees, as well as working with the Heart of American Psychological Training Consortium to develop the appropriate Internship program to comply with the APPIC requirements. Dr. Grigg finds the most satisfaction in the work she is able to do with ICPT/IMET. She has had the opportunity to serve on the Board of IMET (International Medical and Educational Trust) for five years. With this, she has worked with hundreds of teachers to provide the appropriate training and support to children after disasters. Through IMET, Dr. Grigg had the opportunity to work with Training Teachers As Therapists in the Aftermath of Disaster in Joplin, MO, as well as Training the Trainers Course in Trauma Psychiatry for Joplin Mental Health Professionals, Physicians and Others. Dr. Grigg has also presented in the Post-Katrina New Orleans, as well as Gaza in the aftermath of war.

Jim Jaffe
EVP and Chief Operating Officer, Lionfleet
Jim has over 40 years of highly successful experience as President/CEO of a diverse group of individual and conglomerate public and private companies. Jim has been active in overseas business operations and entrepreneurial develop programs and was extensively involved in developing and installing cost management systems for mid-sized and larger firms.

Valerie Lefler
Valerie Lefler’s passion for rural communities and extensive background in the research and transportation industries compelled her to create Liberty Mobility Now, the first rural-focused Mobility as a Service (MaaS) provider in the US. Under Lefler’s leadership, Liberty will launch its transportation services in seven states in 2017, including Missouri, with plans for nationwide coverage within three years. With its ride-hailing smartphone app, 24/7 call center, and enterprise booking portal for hospitals, clinics, and businesses, Liberty technology offers unprecedented accessibility to transportation in rural and small urban areas. One of Liberty’s main areas of focus is improving health outcomes by providing individuals needed transportation to healthcare providers. Ms. Lefler previously worked extensively with program sponsors at the state and federal levels, and has over 15 years of project management experience involving over $37 million in nationally-recognized research, education, and technology transfer initiatives. In under four months, Liberty’s unique business model has received recognition from the New York Times, NPR, and the Christian Science Monitor.

Joe Lopez
Focused in the areas of Strategic Growth and Development, Joe has extensive experience in resource development, primarily in the areas of negotiation, procurement, and operations in both the for profit and not-for-profit fields. Recognized for his thought leadership and over 15 years of expertise in resource and fund development and operational cost mitigation for both public and private sectors, his diverse perspective and innovative approach offers CEOs, non-profits, and corporations the opportunity to not only envision, but reach their potential.
**Presenter Showcase**

**JoAnn Martin**  
JoAnn Martin is currently the Administrator of the Pettis County Health Center and previously served as an Epidemiology Specialist and a short time as a Response Planner. Her interest in the challenges mental health issues presented to the community increased when she saw the difficulty finding mental health services for clients of the Health Center as well as in her practice as a nurse practitioner. Prior to working in public health, JoAnn worked in a variety of positions including staff nurse, director of nursing education, university faculty member teaching Pediatrics and Community Health, coordinator of a program to improve health and safety in child care, home health pediatric staff nurse and school nurse. She served 25 years in the Army National Guard in a variety of positions. JoAnn graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a BSN and Post-Masters certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner, Master of Arts in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Master of Science in Nursing- Community Health Nursing from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She lives outside of Sedalia on a small farm with her husband and a collection of pets including goats and donkeys.

**Shawntee (Taya) Moheiser, CMPE, CMOM**  
As Director of Client Services & Health Policy for H3C Chronic Care Coordination, Taya is responsible for the initial discovery for all new clients to drive the appropriate quality metrics and setup. Taya is responsible for informing all health policy decisions for H3C including compliance, government regulatory guidance and also serves as the HIPAA Privacy Officer. Taya has served in management and director positions for several physician practices and currently sits on the national Cross Specialty CMS Workgroup with the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) that exists to provide feedback to CMS. Taya has spent quite some time in various physician advocacy roles including several terms on government affairs and legislative committees lobbying for physician rights.

**Steve Parde**  
Managing Director at BKD CPAs & Advisors  
Steve Parde assist health care organizations with strategic, operational, financial management and third-party reimbursement issues. He also consults with health care providers on a variety of reimbursement issues.

**Nick Pfannenstiel**  
Nick Pfannenstiel is a general dentist at Jordan Valley Community Health Center, in addition to providing care to patients he also serves as the Vice President of Oral Health, with responsibilities for all dental services provided at any Jordan Valley location. Outside of Jordan Valley he stays busy in the dental profession by serving on the following boards, committees, and collaboratives: Greater Springfield Dental Society Board, Smiles for a Lifetime Board, National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) planning committee, Dentauxquest Institute Dental Caries Management collaborative.  
Prior to beginning his dental professional career Nick spent most of his time completing his education. He attended Bethany College in Kansas for his undergrad. After graduation he utilized his Chemistry major and worked for a year as a chemist for the State of Kansas. While working as a chemist he applied for dental school and was accepted in the next year’s class at UMKC Dental School. Nick currently lives in Springfield, MO. He and his wife met each other while attending dental school and have been married for 9 years. They have three very active children; Lincoln is 7, Miles is 5, and Kynlee is 3. Outside of work, Nick enjoys doing whatever he can to get away and enjoy time with his family.

**Denise Schuele**  
Denise Schuele is a senior program coordinator of Healthy Communities for Cerner Corporation’s Population Health. Denise develops advanced strategies for technologies for health systems to know, engage and manage populations to improve the health of workforce and social determinants of health for communities. She is currently engaged with communities across Kansas and Missouri to identify opportunities available to meet pathways within the population health model that can be applied to their well-being initiatives. Denise has prior experience in business development, program management and community events since joining Cerner in 2012. She has most recently organized and executed several Cerner client events for physicians, nurses, executives and other health care IT professionals, overseeing the content and delivery of presentations within several areas of Cerner. Denise has served on several internal committees within Cerner, developing fundamental training tools for new associates and acted as a mentor to new administrators. She served on the Executive Women’s International- KC Chapter board, as a Cerner representative for more than two years.

**Francis Slay**  
Francis Slay has been with the Centene Corporation for over three years. He took a role last August with Home State Health as the Supervisor of Community Outreach. Francis is a lifelong Missourian and graduated from the Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

**Charles Smith**  
Charles Smith has a 25 year history work as an ICU and ER nurse. In 2010, he began Innovative Health Media to increase health literacy among patients who came into the Emergency Department. Over the past 7 years, he morphed his approach so that Primary Care Physicians can educate patients, create a health record system and improve overall patient outcomes through the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit.

**Chris Stewart**  
Chris Stewart was hired as the Chief Executive Officer of Katy Trail Community Health on August 1, 2005. Since 2005, KTCH has grown from a one site federally qualified community health center to a five site health center with a mobile dental program serving almost 17,000 people annually. KTCH has been recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration as a Health Center Quality Leader for three consecutive years (2014, 2015 and 2016). KTCH is held the PCMH recognition at all four site and has made behavioral health integration a key component of the primary care visit. Ms. Stewart has more than 25 years of experience in health care administration in Missouri, Arkansas and North Carolina. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Deborah M. Tannenbaum**  
CFP, Executive Vice President  
Mrs. Tannenbaum graduated from Vanderbilt University and pursued her MBA studies at University of Tennessee. She worked in the graphic arts industry prior to joining Shearson/American Express where she served as an investment counselor. She spent over 22 years with Bank of America prior to serving as a principal with a private trust company. Mrs. Tannenbaum joined Sanderling Healthcare in 2010 as the Director of Business Development and Client Relations.

**Toniann Richard**  
Toniann Richard is CEO of the Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri, a Rural Health Network supported by the multiple funders, partners and investments. Toniann has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit, and as many years of experience working with community networks. In the last four years, her expertise has been instrumental in successfully implementing and launching programs that improve access to care and health care delivery to underserved populations.
Jerome Tannenbaum  M.D., Ph.D., FACP  
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Tannenbaum holds an M.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University School of Graduate Studies. He completed his training in Internal Medicine at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis and his Nephrology training at Barnes Hospital, both affiliates of Washington University School of St. Louis School of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP). He was the founder of REN Corporation-USA (formerly NASDAQ: RENL), a publicly traded provider of dialysis services, where he served as President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1987 to 1993. In 1993, he founded Medical Information Management Systems, Inc. (MIMS), a medical software company and developer of the robust PEARL EMR system. In 1998, Dr. Tannenbaum became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Nephrology Associates, Inc. (NNA), a nationwide dialysis services provider that he co-founded with some of his original management team from REN. Dr. Tannenbaum left NNA in June 2003 to co-found Diversified Specialty Institutes, Inc. (DSI) with Dr. G. Patrick Maxwell, and certain former members of the NNA, MIMS, and REN management teams. In 2005, Dr. Tannenbaum led the formation and expansion of DSI Renal, Inc. (an affiliate of DSI), a company that operates over 120 dialysis centers across 26 states, and served as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. In late 2008, Dr. Tannenbaum left DSI Renal in order to found Sanderling Healthcare, LLC, to commercialize his pre-engineered construction methodology for hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Robert “Bob” White,  BA, PT, CPHQ  
Robert “Bob” White BA, PT, CPHQ is a Program Manager, Hospital Services. Bob works with health systems, ancillary settings and hospitals on projects to advance initiatives in patient safety, systems improvement, organizational culture, health information technology, healthcare acquired infections (HAI), and quality improvement on national quality indicators.

Bob has over thirty years’ experience in healthcare, including over sixteen years as a practicing Physical Therapist, in acute care and rehabilitation hospital settings; private clinical practice, and some eighteen years in healthcare management and administration. Prior to coming to Primaris, Bob was the Director of Clinical Services and project lead in performance improvement, for the Rusk Rehabilitation Center and affiliated clinics – University of Missouri, Columbia. Bob is Lead for HAI quality initiatives and Antibiotic Stewardship efforts for QIN work in Missouri.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Kansas-Lawrence, and a Physical Therapy Credential from the Mayo Foundation School of Allied Health Professions in Rochester, Minnesota.

Edward Williams  
Edward Williams, Sr. Manager, Community Relations and Marketing, MO Care/Well Care Health Plans attended Missouri’s Central Methodist College. He is an experienced Pharma sales, Medicaid and Medicare managed care professional. Highly-motivated, results-driven professional with 15+ years of experience delivering success in the healthcare industry. Respected for building a solid record of achievement and enhancing skill set to meet and exceed all organizational expectations. Regarded as a subject matter expert in the field of Medicaid Managed Care with an understanding of knowledge in regulatory compliance and policies. Excels in managing staff, developing staff, and implementing marketing strategies to attract new members, providers, and key community partners. Thrives on challenges, adds value, and contributes to the overall success of the organization.

David Wilson  
David Wilson has 20+ years experience as an educator. The past 10 years have been specifically dedicated to improving patient health literacy. His role in Innovative Health Media is to ensure wellness staff are trained to educate patients in ways that improve health outcomes, improve clinical quality measures thus making the Medicare prevention programs more useful and valuable to patients and their providers.

Stephenie Thomeczek  
Director of Marketing and Community Outreach at UnitedHealthcare resides in Jefferson City with her three daughters but her territory covers the entire State of Missouri. Working not only in Medicaid, Ms. Thomeczek began working in the Dually Eligible population of diabeted and Medicare individuals, this year. Her team builds relationships and networks to find ways to connect with members and potential members through educational events, intervention strategies and activities. Though she’s worked in the Medicaid and Non-profit field for over 12 years, Thomeczek has been in the health field since 2005 and hasn’t looked back. “I cannot believe that this young girl with an Agriculture degree would one day end up in PR and Marketing,” she chuckled, “though I always knew I would be helping people.” Ms. Thomeczek is also a Mental Health First Aid trainer and a Team Rubicon ‘Kick Ass Citizen’ working in disaster remediation.

The eldest daughter of six children, Thomeczek learned early what it felt like to have limited resources. “I can emphasize with my members. I know what it’s like to be hungry…to have the lights turned off…to go to school in dirty clothes. We must all pull together to help where we can. IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN? A little can go a long way, but when many refuse to give and no one shows up at the table…we all lose. At UnitedHealthCare we are here to help Missourians Live Healthier Lives. I’m thrilled to be a part of this wonderful company.”

Matt Weaver  
Executive Vice President and Employee Benefits Consultant  
15 years experience, 3 years at Cobb’s Allen  
Matthew Weaver is the executive vice president of our Kansas City office as well as head of our Multi Employer consulting division. Matthew has over thirteen years of industry experience. Prior to joining Cobb’s Allen, he worked as a consultant with the Power Group where he specialized in enterprise risk consulting, focusing on core benefit packages, alternative funding mechanisms, multiple employer organizations, benefits communication, HR & ERISA compliance solutions, ACA guidance, and integrated cost containment solutions. Matthew used detailed research to identify and recommend options to create integrated, comprehensive solutions that matched the uniqueness and strategies of the organizations he worked with. After observing the organization’s past performance, present situation, and future objectives, he helped to create a three to five year strategic benefit plan. In 2013, Matthew was part of the ownership team that purchased Power Group from a local private equity company. He sat on the board of directors and executive committee, as well as managed the benefits consultants and large group service team. The team helped grow the Power Group Companies from a small, family-run insurance agency into the second largest privately held insurance agency in Kansas City over a 12-year period.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his juris doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Karla Weng,  MPH, CPHQ
Karla is a Senior Program Manager and the rural program lead for Stratis Health. In that role, she provides expertise to Stratis Health initiatives focused on rural providers and communities. Since she joined Stratis Health in 2000, Karla has worked on a wide variety of projects supporting rural hospitals and providers to improve quality and patient safety, including developing palliative care services, implementing quality management teams, improving patient safety culture, preventing readmissions, and clinical quality efforts on topics such as heart failure, pneumonia, and diabetes. Karla is currently the technical assistance lead for the HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) funded Rural Health Value program implemented in partnership with the RUPRI Center for Health Policy Analysis at the University of Iowa. She also leads the FORHP funded Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance program which assists rural providers with quality reporting and improvement. Karla has a master’s degree in public health administration from the University of Minnesota, an undergraduate degree in community health education from Minnesota State University – Moorhead, and is a certified professional in health care quality. She is on the board of the Minnesota Rural Health Association, and was a 2008 National Rural Health Association Fellow.

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He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his juris doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Stephanie Witthar, Healthcare Consultant
Stephanie Witthar is a Healthcare Consultant at Phoenix Home Care, where she works with clients and their families for the transition and continuum of healthcare in the comforts of their home.
Stephanie has been in the healthcare industry for close to a decade, also consulting in the St. Louis area.
Stephanie earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/Sociology and has served as a counselor for at-risk youth and as a Program Director for grants on a Hospital Board. She resided in St. Louis for close to 18 years, where she served in sales, administration, and then moving into healthcare.
Stephanie currently resides in the Lake of the Ozarks and covers the Central Region in Healthcare Consulting.

Chris Zeilinger
Chris Zeilinger is Assistant Director at the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), where he has worked since 1988. His areas of activity at CTAA encompass an array of technical assistance to transportation agencies, transportation-related community and economic development initiatives, training and professional development, transit technology, and helping guide the association's policy agenda around topics of public transportation planning, programming, and community participation.

Chris's current projects at CTAA focus on using transportation as a catalyst for economic development in rural communities, helping improve the participation of low-income and minority community stakeholders in promoting environmental justice in rural areas and small cities, and advancing the ways in which all modes of transportation are planned and designed in smaller cities and metropolitan areas. Over his years at CTAA, Chris has managed several of CTAA's federal technical assistance projects, developed the association's perspectives on policy matters for federal agencies and congressional offices, and has trained hundreds of rural and urban transit managers in the skills of public transportation management.

Chris came to CTAA's predecessor from the Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority in Austin, Texas, where he supervised the transit authority's paratransit reservation and dispatching systems. Before entering the transit industry, Chris was a junior high school math teacher for several years. While he considers himself a native of rural California, the standing joke around CTAA's offices is that he's either lived in, or has personal ties to, just about every rural community in the country. Chris got his bachelor's degree in mathematics and education from Washington University in St. Louis, with additional academic concentrations in music and African-American studies.

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