

Region IV Area Agency on Aging and Spectrum Health Lakeland have a long history of collaboration. Central to this collaboration is the 5-member Steering Team who have worked together on multiple projects and who represent key areas within the medical field and home and community-based organizations.

Melinda Gruber- President, Caring Circle and VP of Continued Care Services

Dr. Melinda Gruber administers palliative care services, hospice care, and bereavement services for Spectrum Health Lakeland serving Southwest Michigan. Dr. Gruber is responsible for two long-term care facilities, family bereavement center, primary care services for homebound patients, facility provider services, and home-based care programs, including home health care, personal care services, home infusion, medical equipment, and non-emergency medical transportation. She initiated the development of a community and health system-wide advance care planning program and was instrumental in establishing a post-acute care network with expectations, agreements, and measures for Spectrum Health Lakeland.

Debbie Lull- Chief Nursing Officer, Post-Acute Care

Debbie is the Chief Nursing Officer of Post-Acute Care (CNO-PAC) and is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the overall operation/integrations of nursing in post-acute settings. The CNO-PAC supports the strategy of clinical integration with post-acute services, facilities, and ambulatory settings for the purposes of improving individual care, standardizing processes, and lowering the cost of care. The CNO-PAC aligns acute with post-acute nursing strategies, standardization, and education.

Samantha Fell- Samantha Fell, Director, Clinical Integration & Process Improvement for Lakeland Care Network & Spectrum Health Lakeland

Samantha Fell is the Director of Clinical Integration and Process Improvement at Lakeland Care Network and Spectrum Health Lakeland. She is responsible for the development and implementation of a division-wide strategic and transformational roadmap systematically improving operational execution through the adoption and application of improvement science. Her role also includes developing a sustainable culture of excellence, accountability, and collaboration in the delivery of standard and efficient solutions sustaining overall value. In her role she leads a dynamic team of process improvement champions, nurses and pharmacists who work throughout the system to coordinate care in the right place at the right time. A strong proponent of system innovation, she is engaged in several system and community projects that support the mission and vision of Spectrum Health Lakeland.

Lynn Kellogg- CEO, Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Lynn Kellogg is CEO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in St. Joseph, Michigan. She is a known innovator & champion for business development & collaboration. She has led state demonstrations in care management design and efficacy, shifts to person-centered rather than agency-based service contracting, and is involved in multiple collaborations to structurally link AAA's core competency in home and community-based services (HCBS) with health & community partners committed to wholistic health. AAA runs a Pre-Paid Ambulatory Health Plan (MChoice) for nursing home eligible adults aged 18+, has a vendor network of over 70 providers, and operates a myriad of HCBS designed to foster independence. The agency has received seven national innovations awards since 2009.

Christine Vanlandingham- COO Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Christine Vanlandingham is COO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging. She is responsible for overseeing overall agency operational strategy and daily operations crucial for organizational growth and success. She leads policy and advocacy strategy and coalition building activities, at local, state and national levels, to accomplish agency mission objectives. She is a known innovator, strategist and coalition builder developing both policy and programmatic solutions to allow older adults and people with disabilities to live their best lives as defined by them. She serves on hospital, health system, PACE and faith-based community boards of directors and, as such, is well-positioned to build coalitions across home and community-based and clinical care systems and faith-based communities.

Peggy Schaffer- Project Manager, Independent Contractor, Region IV Area Agency on Aging



Peggy Schaffer is the Project Manager for this Continuum of Care Transformation Strategy Planning Grant through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Peggy assists the cross-functional team highlighted above by managing contracts and service providers, serving as a liaison between various programs and community-based organizations, and the development and execution of project objectives and timelines. Peggy was instrumental in writing the 2-year Implementation Grant that will continue the exciting work of this Planning Grant and its Steering Team. She is an experienced leader with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit/public administration industry. Peggy has also contracted with the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, Girls on the Run, Spectrum Health-Lakeland, and has written several grants in the areas of law enforcement, mental health, and community improvement.