2010 Advocacy Fellows

Brutrinia Arellano
Member, Class of 2011
Department of Health and Human Services Emerging Leaders Program
Washington, D.C.

Brutrinia Arellano was recently selected from a pool of 1,200 candidates to participate in the HHS Emerging Leaders Program, a two-year internship program which recruits and trains future leaders for various agencies throughout the Department of Health and Human Services. She will be working in the Bureau of Primary Health as a public health analyst. Prior to this opportunity, Arellano served as the first Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Post-Graduate fellow at the University of Kansas School of Law. Her responsibilities in this position included providing legal representation to medically underserved Kansans, outreach to potential future MLP sites, research, supervising law students enrolled in the Family Health Legal Clinic and assisting with curriculum development.

During law school, Arellano took advantage of several opportunities to expand her knowledge of health law. She has taken courses in Health Care Regulation and Finance, Health Law Policy, Administrative Law and Food and Drug Law. She was one of the first students to participate in the University of Kansas School of Law Family Health Law Clinic. After completing her undergraduate degree, Arellano served as a reservist and active component officer in the Army Nurse Corps. She has also worked as an in-house and an independent legal nurse consultant.

Arellano obtained her bachelor’s in nursing from Texas Christian University and her law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Ric Dalke
Executive Director
Area Mental Health Center
Garden City

Since 1979, Ric Dalke has filled a variety of roles at the Area Mental Health Centers in Garden City and Ulysses. Throughout his 30 years at the centers, Dalke has served as a staff social worker, regional director, associate director of community services and his current position as executive director at the Garden City Area Mental Health Center. Dalke has participated in professional and community activities, including the National Association of Social Workers, Governor’s Mental Health Planning Commission, USD 214 School Board, Communities in Schools, Interagency Team of Garden City, Kiwanis and various church committees. Before devoting his professional career to rural/frontier community health, Dalke worked in community organization and social work at the Mennonite Indian Leaders Council.

Dalke obtained his bachelor’s in social work from Bethel College and his master’s in social work from the University of Oklahoma.
Dee Ann DeRoin  
Family Practitioner and Health Educator  
Community Health and Wellness  
Lawrence  

Since 2001, Dee Ann DeRoin has been a consultant in community health to states, tribes, American Indian organizations and private foundations. She works primarily in the areas of diabetes, cancer, HIV, women’s health and cultural competence.

As a community health consultant Dr. DeRoin develops, implements and evaluates community-based programs; presents workshops and lectures on health topics to health care providers and community audiences; and creates educational materials for providers, patients and communities.

Dr. DeRoin has 20 years of family medicine and health education experience. She is a member of the Ioway Tribe of Kansas and was a founding member and first president of the Four Tribes Women’s Wellness Coalition, serving the Ioway, Kickapoo, Prairie Band Potawatomi and Sac and Fox Tribes, the four reservation tribes of Kansas.

She earned her master’s in public health education from the University of California at Berkeley and her medical degree from Stanford University.

Corrie Edwards  
Interim Director  
Child Placing Agency and Residential Programs Section  
Bureau of Childcare and Health Facilities  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Topeka  

Corrie Edwards was recently appointed by Secretary Rod Bremby to serve as interim director of the Child Placing Agency and Residential Programs Section, Bureau of Childcare and Health Facilities, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Prior to this appointment, Edwards served as executive director of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC), a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to advocate for affordable, accessible and quality health care in Kansas. In this role, which she began in 2006, Edwards served as the chief consumer advocate in the state.

Before joining KHCC, Edwards served as director of programs at Keys for Networking, Inc., a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of parents whose children have serious emotional disturbances. Edwards’ background also includes several years in Nebraska, where she developed two family network organizations that provided information, support and resources to families of children with disabilities.

Edwards has received numerous national awards and serves on a number of state and national committees on health care issues, including the Medical Care Advisory Committee, Kansas Health Policy Authority’s Consumer Advisory Council and the E-Health Advisory Council. Nationally, Edwards serves on the Business Work Group Subcommittee of the Herndon Alliance. Edwards holds a bachelor’s in human services and psychology from Friends University in Wichita and a master’s in public administration from Wichita State University.
Annette Graham
Executive Director, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
Sedgwick County Department on Aging
Wichita

Annette Graham’s more than 25-year career in public service began when she was in college and later included positions as a social worker, a supervisor and – after completing her graduate studies – as a therapist for COMCARE of Sedgwick County.

After meeting the requirements for clinical level licensure, Graham stepped into the position of director of the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging/Sedgwick County Department on Aging. In her current role, she is responsible for the oversight of federal, state and local funds that focus on keeping older adults in the community as long as possible.

Graham is a member of the American Society on Aging, The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association, The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, The Kansas Mental Health and Aging Coalition and the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Graham holds a bachelor’s in social work and gerontology from Wichita State University and a master’s in social work from the University of Kansas.

Craig Kaberline
Executive Director
Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association
Topeka

Since 2002, Craig Kaberline has been the executive director for the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of Kansas seniors and their caregivers. As director, Kaberline lobbies elected officials, provides written and oral testimony to the Kansas Legislature, secures the fiscal integrity of K4A, serves as the chief liaison to the Kansas Department on Aging and other organizations and designs professional development opportunities for association members and other human services professionals.

Prior to his employment with K4A, Kaberline served as the grants manager and legislative advocate for the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. He has been working in the area of human services since 1995.

Kaberline received his bachelor’s in social work from Washburn University and his master’s in social work, administration and planning from the University of Kansas.
Katherine Kelly  
Executive Director  
Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture  
Kansas City, Kansas

Katherine Kelly co-founded the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture (KCCUA) in 2004 after eight years of running her own Full Circle Farm. Prior to the founding of the KCCUA, Kelly spent four years working as part of a field crew on farms in the Boston area.

Kelly has worked professionally as a community organizer, nonprofit manager, fundraiser, grantmaker and organizational development consultant in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Boston and Kansas City. She co-founded the Growing Growers Training Program and the Farmers Community Market at Brookside and is actively engaged in efforts to develop the Kansas City food system.

Deb Kiker  
CEO  
Community Health Ministry  
Wamego

Deb Kiker was recently named CEO of Community Health Ministry in Wamego. She had served as the clinic administrator for the organization since 2006. This rural safety net clinic serves as a medical home for nearly 5,000 people each year. The organization also meets social, housing, dental and mental health needs.

Kiker’s nursing career spans more than 25 years of care and management in area hospitals, home health and hospice agencies. She has also served as a member of clinical faculty at Wichita State University, Butler Community College and Tabor College.

Kiker holds her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Newman University.
Roberta Lindbeck
Executive Director
Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Inc.
Kansas City, Kansas

With a background encompassing more than 20 years in nonprofit education, fundraising and leadership, Roberta Lindbeck joined Cross-Lines Community Outreach in 2008 as executive director. She is responsible to the board of directors for the operations of the organization, including program quality and development, personnel management, fund development, fiscal management and external relations. Under her leadership, Cross-Lines is building on current programs and services through additional educational, supportive and case-management focus.

Lindbeck previously served as the director of development for the American Stroke Foundation and the Johnson County Nursing Center. Prior to these roles, her leadership skills as the executive director allowed the Epilepsy League (now the Epilepsy Foundation of Kansas and Western Missouri) to expand its outreach services throughout Kansas.

Lindbeck received her bachelor’s in sociology and her master’s in English from Fort Hays State University.

Jake Lowen
Principal
Kansas Grassroots Consulting
Lawrence

Jake Lowen has over ten years of organizing experience. His background includes program director, organizer, trainer and event planner, with experience in leadership development, fundraising, program design and implementation. He has worked as a statewide grassroots organizer on several issues. Lowen most recently served as campaign manager for Clean Air Kansas, a public issue campaign supported by the Sunflower Foundation to enact clean indoor air legislation. His work was recognized by the American Association of Political Consultants with a 2010 Pollie Award for Best New Use of Technology. He now serves as principal with Kansas Grassroots Consulting.

Prior to his work with Clean Air Kansas, Lowen served as director, Wichita Labor Federation of Central Kansas, AFL-CIO, as director of organizing, Hope Street Youth Development, Wichita, and as statewide grassroots coordinator, American Cancer Society, Topeka. He has also served as an executive board member of Kansas Action Network, Topeka, and as a board member of Hope Street Youth Development, Wichita.

Lowen graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor’s in political science.
Janette Meis grew up in St. John and has served for 10 years as the state director for the Kansas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Association, a nonprofit organization that recruits and trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. Kansas CASA provides training, technical assistance and resources to the 24 CASA programs in Kansas.

Meis represents local programs by serving on a variety of statewide councils, including the Kansas Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning, SRS – Child Safety and Permanency Review Panel and Kansas Mentors. She is a member of the Hays Kiwanis Club and serves as a Hays Ambassador.

Meis graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor’s in sociology. She is also a 2005 Leadership Kansas graduate.

Monica Murnan was selected as the center’s executive director. Murnan is responsible for grantwriting and management for $7.1 million in local, regional and state funding. As director, she coordinates grants for a variety of programs, including Smart Start Southeast Kansas, Smart Start Crawford County and Pilot Pre-K.

Murnan is a past board member for United Way and is active in Sunrise Rotary of Pittsburg. A founding member of the Friends of PHS Performing Arts, she also sits on the boards of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg State University Alumni Association and the Mt. Carmel Foundation. Prior to her position at the Family Resource Center, Murnan worked as an educational excellence grant coordinator for USD 250 Pittsburg and as a kindergarten/first grade teacher in USD 259 Wichita.

Murnan holds a bachelor’s in elementary education and a master’s in school administration from Pittsburg State University. She is also a graduate of Leadership Kansas.
Anne Nelson
Associate Executive Director
Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation
Wichita

Since 1999, Anne Nelson has managed the Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation as the organization’s associate executive director. As a nonprofit affiliate of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, the organization administers programs including Project Access, which coordinates donated medical care for uninsured, low-income residents, and the Community Coverage Initiative, a community-wide planning process to develop a health coverage plan in Sedgwick County.

Past positions include serving as area manager at Kansas Children’s Service League, treatment coordinator of foster care services at the Salvation Army and a year in private practice providing therapy services for high-risk children and families. Nelson serves on the City of Derby Planning Commission and on the Nonprofit Chamber of Service Board of Directors. She presents at national conferences and has provided technical assistance to people starting health access programs in more than 100 communities.

Nelson obtained her bachelor’s in psychology from Wichita State University, a master’s in family therapy from Friends University and a mini-master’s in public administration from Wichita State University.

Arturo Ponce
Director, HIV/AIDS Education & Outreach, Liberal Clinic & Care Center
United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries
Liberal

Arturo Ponce is AIDS director for the United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries in Liberal. A native of Chihuahua, Mexico, he has called Kansas home since 1988, living in a number of southwest communities, including Dodge City, Garden City, Liberal and Kismet.

Ponce believes in community involvement and participates in a number of organizations on the local, state and national level, including Delta-Domestic Violence Project, 5 de Mayo Council, and Cultural Diversity Council in Liberal; KDHE HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission and University of Kansas – KU/Latino Vision Council at the state level; and the American Red Cross HIV Hispanic Prevention Program, U.S. Mexico Border Health Association and Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission on a national level.

Ponce has a bachelor’s in mathematics from the Federal Bachilleres College and bachelor's in engineering chemistry from the University of Chihuahua, Mexico.
Doug Vance
Executive Director
Kansas Recreation and Park Association
Topeka

Doug Vance is in his sixth year as executive director of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association. In his position, he oversees the more than 1,000-member nonprofit association, which represents local park and recreation professionals throughout the state. Vance has been an advocate in working with member agencies in developing statewide initiatives that are directed at healthy lifestyles in local communities.

Prior to his appointment, Vance worked 20 years as an administrator in the University of Kansas Athletics Department. He served 18 years as assistant athletics director for media relations and the final two years as associate athletics director for communications. A past president of the College Sports Information Directors of America, he was inducted into the organization’s hall of fame in 2000. Vance has authored three books about Kansas athletics – “Max and the Jayhawks,” “Beware of the Phog, 50 Years of Allen Fieldhouse” and “What It Means to be a Jayhawk.”

Vance is a board member and recent chair of the Sunflower State Games and serves on the Conveners Group for the Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature. He is also a member of the Governor’s Child Health Advisory Committee and serves on the executive committee of the Kansas Enrichment Network.

Vance obtained his bachelor’s in communication from Eastern Kentucky University.