

Michelle Ratigan, People First Representative

Michelle has been a member of People First of Wahoo for over 12 years. She has served on the Board of People First of Nebraska for 5+ years. She has attended SACK conferences in Kansas and People First conference in Missouri and the People First of Beatrice mini-conference. Michelle works at Region V Services in Wahoo.

Susan Kringle, CAB Chair & Family Member

I am a mom to Stephanie and 2 other children. Stephanie has a developmental disability and requires 24/7 care. I have served on many different boards at the local, state and national levels.

Tim Kolb, Self-Advocate

Tim Kolb is the CEO and Executive Director of the Kolb Foundation for Disability Education (KFDE) in Franklin, Nebraska. Currently, Tim also serves as the President of the Board of Directors at Independence Rising, the CIL of Central Nebraska Inc. in Grand Island, he is a member of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Monroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha, and is a member of the Nebraska Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD). Over the years, Tim has served in a number of disability based organizations in the state including the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC), the Association of Community Professionals (ACP), the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), Nebraska Advocacy Services (now called Disability Rights Nebraska), and the Assistive Technology Partnership's Advisory Council.

Adam Musfeldt, Family Member

Adam Musfeldt was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended Millard North High School, graduating in 2000. Adam attended the University of Nebraska Omaha, where he studied Political Science and History. Adam is a partner with Quantum Financial Partners, LLC., in Omaha, where he is Managing Partner and an Investment Advisor Representative. He is a veteran of the United States Army, in which he served over eight years as a sergeant. He currently lives in Southwest Omaha with his wife, Alicia, and two daughters, Kylie and Zoe. His youngest daughter, Zoe, lives her life with autism. Adam focuses on resources and education for families about early intervention services for their children, along with providing searching out grants and community-based awards for school districts and individual awards to special education teachers, behavioral therapists, and speech therapists. Adam is interested in expanding this, looking into start a foundation of his own to help all children and adults with disabilities.

Joe Valenti, Family Member

Joe Valenti, former CEO of CBSHOME Real Estate, has a history of exceptional business achievement, underscored with an ability to foster a culture of collaboration. He was educated at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He holds multiple licenses and designations in real estate, as a Real Estate Agent, Real Estate Broker, Certified Residential Specialist, and Certified Residential Broker. Joe has a passion to "give back," having served as the President of the Omaha Area Board of Realtors and the Nebraska Realtors Association, as well as participating on numerous association committees. In addition, he is heavily involved in philanthropic service, as an advocate for the developmentally disabled. Joe enjoys spending time with his wife, four children and 10 grandchildren.

Kristen Larsen, DD Council Representative

I have been serving as the Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities since December 2014. The Council has 24 members appointed by the Governor who advocate for improvements in services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Similar to Munroe-Meyer Institute's UCEDD, the Council receives federal funding authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Act to support its work.

My passion for advocacy is a result of years of personal experience as an advocate for my 25 year-old son, Carl, who has autism and an intellectual disability. Serving as Carl's advocate while navigating systems led to my pursuit of a career that focuses on helping individuals and families who face the obstacles, challenges, and rewards that having a disability may pose. Before coming to the Council, I served seven years at The Arc of Buffalo County in Kearney, Nebraska directing services and encouraging families. I have been recognized for my advocacy efforts in disability awareness, inclusive recreation, and experience with developing and implementing a wide variety of recreational programs for individuals of all ages who have developmental disabilities. I count it a privilege to have the opportunity to contribute to the Munroe-Meyer Institute UCEDD Community Advisory Board.

Skylar Simmonds, Self-advocate

I am a Special Olympics athlete and ambassador. I have two brothers and two sisters. My life hasn't been easy with disabilities, but "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger". I spoke at a panel and a lady asked me to apply for this group. I enjoy feeling part of something important so I was up for the idea. My future goal is to be a stand out person and make Nebraska an easier place to live for people with disabilities. That is one of my many goals for the future.

Steve Simmonds, Family member

My wife Lynn and I are from Omaha and the parents of five children. My daughter Skylar is on the autism scale. Through our involvement in Special Olympics I was made aware of and asked to join the CAB along with Skylar.

Sherry Stansberry, Support staff

Sherry Stansberry has been involved with disability issues since birth. She has worked for many years in the ID/DD field as a direct care worker, an employment specialist, and in a managerial capacity as well. Through her role with People First, she has developed a passion for supporting self-advocates to find their voice.

Susan Hauver, Support staff

I was born and raised on a farm in Franklin County, Nebraska. I attended Wilcox Public School and graduated in 1991. I then attended Concordia Teachers College (Now Concordia University) in Seward, Nebraska. I received a degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Special Education in 1997. I started working for Tim Kolb as a Home Health Aide part time in 1995 and have been working for him now for almost 20 years. I recently got married to Richard Hauver, in October of 2015 and we live in Franklin. Rich has two children from a previous marriage, Robert and Ashlee, and I have a son, Ryan Adam.

Sharon Ohmberger

Sharon, Community Engagement Director, has been with our agency for over 20 years. Her primary responsibilities are to strengthen Disability Rights Nebraska's relationships with the community and educate Nebraskans about our vision, mission, and work. She coordinates the public comment process to make sure the public has the opportunity for input into our program priorities, and works to build support for the organization through donor stewardship, fundraising mailings and online appeals. Outside of the office, Sharon is a potter and a member of The Burkholder Project group of artists in Lincoln's Haymarket.

Danielle Ohlman

My son, Logan, who is now 15, was diagnosed shortly after birth with meningitis. Logan survived the illness but as a result was left developmentally disabled with a number of special health care needs. Raising Logan has brought me immeasurable joy, but it has not been without its challenges. Logan has inspired me to stay active in legislative issues as well as other boards and committees to ensure that families like ours have what they need to be healthy and happy. I have served as the LEND Family Trainee at MMI, participated in the Title V Needs Assessment and currently serve as the vice chair of the Community Advisory Board. I am proud to serve on this board to help represent the many families in the state raising children with disabilities.

Pam Mann

Personally, I live in Brady, a small rural community in western Nebraska, and am married with two adult children and twelve grandchildren. I have been a guardian for nearly 30 years for a friend who has a wealth of talents and an intellectual disability. It has been my privilege in my career to serve individuals and their families on several different levels.

Currently, I am the Executive Director for Region II Services supporting people with developmental disabilities. My past experiences supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families include direct support staff, staff training, and management in a private provider agency. Later, I worked as a Behavior Specialist for a regional provider agency. When the Home and Community Based waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities were introduced in Nebraska, I had the opportunity (as a DHHS Disability Services Specialist) to reach out to individuals and families to assist them in understanding their choice of community-based services. Prior to my work with Region II Services, I was a manager/administrator for the Developmental Disabilities Division/Service Coordination team. I currently serve on the Association of Community Professionals Board and the Region II Developmental Disabilities Council. I have been involved with Project Search in North Platte, ESU #16 Transition Council, and Association of People Support Employment First.

Katie Ziemba

I live in Omaha, Nebraska. I am the mother of three children, with my middle child having several medical interventions due to the diagnosis of Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV), as well as an undiagnosed neuromuscular disorder. I have worked with the National CMV state advocacy group as a Nebraska representative, as well as our school district's regional planning team. Shortly after my daughter was born, I started an online community of special needs mom to communicate, support each other and share experiences. I believe in acceptance, inclusion and doing everything I can to make sure my children grow up in a world of kindness.

Gloria Kennedy

I have been an advocate my whole life for persons with special needs. I have worked as a job coach both for Educational Service Unit 13 and as a private contractor. Currently, I am an Outreach Specialist for United HealthCare, a Medicaid provider. I am a past board member for Camp Scott, an organization in Scottsbluff that provides a summer camp for children with disabilities. I have been thoroughly engaged in the educational needs and service opportunities for my daughter with Down syndrome. Along with my husband, I am the head of delegation for the local Special Olympics team.