

# Governor's Social Services Policy Council

## Executive Order 15-03

### Biographies of Council Members:

#### Chuck Allen:



Charles Allen is passionate about serving the youth of Wyandotte County. As founder and director of The Urban Scholastic Center (USC), he had made it his mission to develop socially responsible Christian leaders. The organization offers mentoring services, programs that support school athletics, internship opportunities and much more.

Over the years, Allen's drive to serve youth has paired him with countless organizations, including the National Center for Fathering, Youthfront and the Hillview Church of God. Under his direction, the Urban Scholastic Center has earned the prestigious National Christian Foundation's Passion Award four times for the life-changing programs it provides.

#### Brian Pekarek:



Brian Pekarek is a college professor of School Finance and Educational Leadership at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. Pekarek consults and lectures on many youth, educational and school finance issues throughout Kansas. He received his undergraduate degree at Fort Hays State University in 1997, his master's degree at Kansas State University in 2003, and his doctorate degree in education from Kansas State University in 2013. In completing his doctorate studies at Kansas State University, he finished his five-year research dissertation entitled: Kansas School District Leaders' Handbook for Maximizing Nontraditional Donations and Grant Funding. The purpose of his study was to research, develop and validate a handbook of effective strategies that Kansas school district leaders can use to increase their ability to maximize their school districts' nontraditional funding. Before being a college professor and educational consultant, he served as a school superintendent in both eastern and western Kansas. Pekarek has served children and schools for more than 20 years as a public educator in Kansas.

### David Crum:



David Crum, a retired Augusta optometrist and Kansas Representative, graduated from Eureka High school in 1963, and has been married to his wife, Betty, for 46 years. David graduated from the University of Houston with a Doctorate of Optometry in 1969. He then practiced optometry in Augusta and Valley Center from 1969 to his retirement in 2012. During this time, he served as the President of the Kansas Optometric Association and as Mayor of Augusta for eight years, starting in 1990. Crum served as a Kansas Representative for the 77<sup>th</sup> District for eight years, starting in 2007.

### Bev Eversmeyer:



Bev Eversmeyer was born in 1937, an only child of a teacher and an engineer on the Rock Island Railroad. She grew up in Kansas. She graduated from high school at the age of 16 and continued her education at Kansas State University, where she graduated at the age of 20 with a degree in technical journalism. Eversmeyer went back to school and received her teaching certificate from Emporia State University. She taught school for USD #383 and was also elected to be on the school board for a total of 14 years. During this time, she received her master's degree and a doctorate. Bev retired at the age of 58, to travel with her husband.

Eversmeyer is active at her local church and has served on committees and boards, including the United Way, various chamber of commerce committees and the Salvation Army.

### Treatha Brown-Foster:



Treatha Brown-Foster, who retired after 25 years as a financial services representative and a bank examiner, is a community activist in Wichita. She serves on the Board of Directors of Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association; she is chair of the Community Unity Action Group in support of all law enforcement agencies; and has served on the Board of Directors for the Wichita Library. In addition, she chaired the Ashley N. Brown Sickle Cell Anemia Scholarship Fund in 2014. The mission for the scholarship fund was to provide assistance and scholarships to Kansas students with sickle cell disease. She has served on the Sedgwick County/Wichita Ex-Offender Re-entry Task Force. Brown-Foster continues to advocate for safer neighborhoods, better schools and other community improvements.

## Barry Feaker:



Barry Feaker is a lifelong Topeka resident and a graduate of Washburn University. He has served as the Executive Director of the Topeka Rescue Mission since 1986. He has successfully directed the expansion of the Mission from 50 to 286 beds. Currently, Barry is overseeing a \$12 million expansion project to create additional shelter. This expansion will also expand dining capacity, provide educational space for adults and children, and include a new medical clinic.

Feaker provides executive oversight to all areas of the Mission, including a kitchen which provides meals to Mission guests and individuals in need; a Distribution Center, which provides food, clothing, furniture and household items; an outreach program targeted at reaching individuals who are homeless; programs that establish community collaborations for health, mental health and educational opportunities; and a Thrift Store. Newer Topeka Rescue Mission initiatives include: NET Reach, which was developed to strengthen impoverished neighborhoods; and the Doxazo Missions Training Institute (currently under development) to help individuals and families gain necessary tools for missionary training locally, nationally and internationally.

In addition to his role at the Rescue Mission, Feaker served as President of the Topeka/Shawnee County Safe Streets Coalition for seven years and remains active in other state and local organizations as well. He has also recently authored the book, *In Darkness, a Light Still Shines*, based on his experiences at the Mission. Through all areas of service, Feaker is dedicated to advocating for the needs of the homeless and impoverished populations while working to continually better the overall Topeka/Shawnee County community.

## Joe Gardner:



Joe Gardner was born and raised in Kansas with the help of the social and rehabilitation services, now the Kansas Department of Children and Families. He was a victim of abuse and neglect in his biological parents' household and was in State custody for the majority of his childhood. Gardner was lucky enough to eventually be placed in the loving care of a couple whom he is proud to now call his parents. He graduated high school in 2010, and began working. After two years, he realized that he would find the most purpose in life by helping children who are in similar situations to what he experienced.

Gardner is currently in his junior year of college, working toward a bachelor's in elementary education. He attends Neosho County Community College full time as well as Kansas University. Gardner currently works full-time as a detention officer at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center. He also works part-time at the Elizabeth Layton Center in Ottawa, and serves on the Kansas Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency as well as the Youth Committee.

### Lorie Johnson:



Lorie Johnson, born and raised in Columbus, Kan., is a graduate of Columbus Unified High School and Pittsburg State University. After earning her bachelor of science in elementary education, Lorie decided to return to her family business where she works as a demolition contractor. Lorie and her husband, Jason, also own a small retail tire store in Columbus. Lorie has served on the Columbus Community Crusaders and Cherokee County Extension Council. She currently serves as the Chairwoman of the Cherokee County Republican Party. Lorie resides in rural Columbus with her husband and their three children.

### Gina Meier-Hummel:



Gina Meier-Hummel has worked in health and human services for more than 20 years in Kansas. She has expertise in child welfare, mental health and substance abuse programming. She has worked both in the private and public sector. Meier-Hummel has been married to her husband for 22 years and has three children. She currently resides in Lawrence. Meier-Hummel is the Executive Director at The Shelter, Inc., a private child placing agency and residential program, and provides an array of prevention services. Meier-Hummel has a master's degree from the University of Kansas in both clinical and administrative social work.

### Marcos Navarro:



Marcos Navarro resides in Johnson County with his wife. Navarro has four adult children and seven grandchildren. Navarros' two sons have both served in the military and both have been deployed. Navarro was originally a native of the Philippines and was sworn in as a naturalized U.S. citizen in September 1979.

His current pastoral assignment is to work in prison ministry, reaching out to the spiritual and practical need of those incarcerated. To this end, Navarro is serving as volunteer with the Mentoring for Success (M4S) program at the Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) and as a volunteer to visit and provide for the spiritual needs at the Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center.

In the capacity of mentor, Navarro serves as one of the mentor leads for the veterans group of inmates at the minimum facility of LCF. This group capitalizes on the values and ethics instilled by military service and helps the inmates plan for transition back into society. As a mentor, Navarro serves to counsel and help the inmates develop their plans for employment, leisure and relapse prevention. Navarro serves as a role model and provides positive reinforcement by supporting the job preparation "Offender Workforce Development" program at the minimum and maximum facilities and participates in Catholic religious services with the inmates at the maximum facility.

**Denise Rhoades:**



Denise Rhoades has been a professional writer with the fundraising and management firm of Hartsook Companies for almost two decades. She works with nonprofit clients from all sectors in the U.S. and abroad. She is a board member with Health Ministries Community Clinic—a FQHC located in Newton, and has been active with social service and poverty issues for many years as a grassroots volunteer.

**Pat Terick:**



Patrick Terick is Director of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas Governmental Activities. During the 35-year history at CPRF, political advocacy has played a vital role in furthering CPRF's goal of providing people with disabilities opportunities to pursue their chosen economic and personal independence.

After graduating in 1976 from Bethany College, Terick worked for the State of Kansas at the Kansas Neurological Institute in Topeka, where he served as an Administrative Assistant and Account clerk for the business managers. Later that year, he met CPRF Founder John F. "Jack" Jonas Jr. and became a member of the CPRF team. The following year, Terick became the Research Utilization Specialist for Rehabilitation Engineering, a national center that was funded by the U.S.

Department of Education. In 1999 Terick became President of DCSS Ability, L.L.C., a partnership between CPRF and Digital Consulting and Software Services of Houston. Terick currently serves as the Public Education Specialist for United Cerebral Palsy of Kansas, speaking to organizations across the state. He lives in Augusta with his wife, Judy, and their two children, Megan and Joey, and enjoys playing golf whenever the opportunity presents itself.