2023 Advocacy Day Topic Presenters

**Emily Coddington, MSSW - Raise the Age Wisconsin**

Associate Director - WI Association of Family & Children’s Agencies

Emily joined the Wisconsin Association of Family & Children’s Agencies (WAFCA) in 2019 following 20 years of child welfare experience, including direct service, supervisory, and management roles. Prior to joining WAFCA, Emily served as a Section Chief with the Department of Children and Families – first, with the Child Welfare Licensing Section and then with the Bureau of Youth Services. Emily also spent many years in the non-profit sector and began her career in Child Protective Services. Emily’s career has focused on supporting and advocating for children, youth, caregivers and parents, as well as those connected to the county, tribe, state, and non-profit workforce. Emily is passionate about improving systems of care, so children and families have what they need to safely live their best lives. Emily obtained her Bachelor’s in Social Work from UW-Whitewater and her Master’s in Social Work from UW-Madison.

**Marc Herstand, MSW, CISW - Licensure Issues / Anti-racism, Anti-sexism, Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation Legislation**

Executive Director - NASW Wisconsin Chapter

Marc Herstand has served as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter since 1992. In this position, Marc has facilitated the passage of bills on telehealth, licensure, mental health services in schools and vendorship through the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the passage of several rules benefiting clinical social workers through the Department of Health Services. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he successfully petitioned the Evers Administration to allow telephone therapy and implement the telehealth bill in record time. Marc has also successfully organized campaigns to stop several bills and rules that would have harmed the social work profession. Marc has organized statewide coalitions on the Extreme Risk Protection Order (Red Flag legislation), the Child Victim’s Act and Conversion Therapy, and has organized over ten NASW WI Advocacy Days. Marc greatly expanded the Wisconsin Chapter’s annual conference, began the Chapter’s Winter Webinar series and home study program, and oversaw the development of NASW WI’s Fact Sheets on Child Welfare, Corrections and Hospital Social Work. Previous to this position, Marc served as Executive Director of Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee, the San Diego AIDS Project, Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa, and as Social Services Coordinator at the Council for the Spanish Speaking, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In the mid-70’s, Marc served as a VISTA Volunteer in the Central Valley of California, where he recruited farmworker and other low income families to participate in a self-help housing program. Marc has served as an adjunct instructor of social work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, George Williams College at Aurora University, and Marian University in Fond du Lac. Mr. Herstand earned his masters degree in social work from the University of California, Berkeley.
Emily Kenney, LCSW - Affordable Housing/Housing First
Chair, WI Housing First Coalition
Emily Kenney serves as the Chair for the WI Housing First Coalition. She is also the Director of Systems Change at IMPACT in Milwaukee County and directs the Coordinated Entry System there. Emily believes we will end homelessness in her lifetime, and is passionate about being part of the solution by creating cross-sector collaborations around complex issues. Emily has a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Torrie Kopp Mueller, MSSW - Affordable Housing/Housing First
Treasurer, WI Housing First Coalition
Torrie Kopp Mueller serves as the Treasurer for the WI Housing First Coalition. She is also the CoC Coordinator for Madison/Dane County. She works to end homelessness by developing relationships to coordinate, evaluate and improve the homeless services system. Previously, she provided direct services in housing at YWCA Madison. Torrie has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from UW-Madison.

Kristin Schumacher, PhD, MSSW - Wisconsin State Budget
Research Director, Kids Forward
Kristin Schumacher is Research Director at Kids Forward where she oversees policy research in close coordination with community engagement and advocacy efforts. She works to ensure state resources are invested in a way that broadly benefits all children and families in Wisconsin—regardless of race and ethnicity, income, or zip code.

Previously, Kristin conducted public policy research and analysis to advance gender and racial justice for women, children, and families at the California Budget & Policy Center. In that role, she led the development of the award-winning California Women’s Well-Being Index. Kristin received a Ph.D. in public affairs from the University of Colorado Denver and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Texas at Austin. Kristin and her spouse are raising two boys to be anti-racist feminists in Madison. When not doing math, Kristin can be found reading books, quilting blankets, or eating cheese.

Jack O'Meara, BA - Advocacy 101
CEO, O'Meara Public Affairs LLC
Jack O’Meara has had his own lobbying and public relations firm for 28 years. Jack represents a variety of clients, including the Wisconsin School Social Workers Association. Jack previously worked as a senior legislative and communications aide in both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature, and on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Jack has also managed and advised political campaigns. Jack holds a B.A. in Political Science from UW-Madison. He and his wife Bridget have three grown daughters. In his free time, Jack gets out on the tennis court as often as possible.