

Presenter Biographies

Mary Brinkley is the Executive Director of LeadingAge Oklahoma which represents not-for-profit providers of aging services across the continuum of care. Her work with the association includes education, advocacy, and outreach to improve long term care in Oklahoma. She received a B.S. in Finance from the University of Oklahoma and is a licensed nursing home administrator.

Alisa West Cahill is a licensed social worker with an administrative specialty and has been practicing social work for 20 years. She joined the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work as the Lead Organizer of the Knee Positive Aging Initiative in Sept. 2016, after having served as a Community Faculty member since 2013. Her background includes a B.S. in Sociology and an MSW with a concentration in Administration and Community Practice. She is a second-year Policy Fellow with the Network for Social Work Management.

Lance Robertson has been the Director of Aging Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, since August 2007 where he now oversees 13 major programs and leads a statewide team of nearly 200 staff members. A career gerontologist, Lance has a B.S. from Oklahoma State University and M.S. in Public Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a past president of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), nationally the most influential aging professional organization. Lance has also been an active participant on numerous aging and disability task forces and work groups in Oklahoma and nationally.

William Whited serves as the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman for the State of Oklahoma. He is responsible for the daily operations of the Oklahoma Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and systems and legislative advocacy for long-term care residents. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Central Oklahoma and is a certified disaster preparedness specialist. He has more than two decades of experience in the development and delivery of aging, mental health, juvenile justice, and human services programs in Oklahoma. His background includes 20 years of service with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, including service as an Adult Protective Services investigator before becoming a Long-Term Care Ombudsman in 2003. He currently serves as a member of the Long-Term Care Facilities Advisory Board, The Focus on Excellence Advisory Board, and the Alliance on Aging Board of Directors.