

## **Healthcare Advocacy Committee Profiles**

### **Sarah Brunner, Committee Co-Chair and Healthcare Advocacy Initiative Project Manager**

Sarah Brunner is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University Chicago with a specialization in mental health and a Bachelor of Social Work and Sociology degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sarah started her career dedicated to advocating with and improving the quality of life for underserved members of our community and has a background working with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and individuals experiencing homelessness. Sarah started as an intern and has now worked at The Village Chicago for over seven years developing systems and services to support members in navigating older adulthood.

### **Ruth Ann Watkins, Committee Co-Chair and Healthcare Advocacy Initiative Project Manager**

Ruth Ann Watkins has a BS from the University of Illinois in Occupational Therapy and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Her background includes working as an Occupational Therapist in the fields of mental health and in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (now the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab) as well as administrative positions. She also had a small business working with community dwelling older adults. Watkins has been Co-Chair of the Service Committee of The Village Chicago (formerly Lincoln Park Village) since its inception prior to the Village opening in 2009.

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### **Beth Joosten, Committee Co-Chair**

Beth Joosten has been active in the healthcare industry for over 30 years as a nurse, clinical administrator and consultant to nurses, hospitals and health systems. As the healthcare system became more specialized, complex and regulated, Beth found a new focus for her expertise as a Healthcare consultant and advocate for individuals and families when facing life altering medical situations.

Beth B. Joosten – Founder Healthcare Management Resources, LLC  
BSN, University of Virginia; MSN, Vanderbilt University  
National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants Member

**Liz Metzger- Committee Co-Chair**

Liz Metzger has a BS/MS from Boston University Sargent College. She has worked as an Occupational Therapist in the Chicagoland area over the past 7 years in various hospitals and has recently transitioned to a role as a Global Professional Instructor with the Crisis Prevention Institute as a specialist in the area of Dementia. Liz has been involved with The Village Chicago (formerly Lincoln Park Village) in many capacities since its inception in 2009, including first Village intern, annual events coordinator and group pelvic floor fitness instructor.

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**John Craib-Cox, Committee Member**

John Craib-Cox has lived in Lincoln Park since 1974 and has a daughter who lives in Chicago and a son who lives in London. Primarily an interior designer concentrating on older buildings, his initial experience with Chicago architecture was teaching training classes for the Architecture Foundation with a focus on historic preservations. For many years he taught classes on history of architecture and interiors with special interest in retrofitting older building to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Guidelines for Historic Restoration. John is actively involved as a member of the Village Chicago Program committee, the Research committee and the Fund Development Committee as well as serving on the board of the Village. He has also been active in helping friends navigate health care systems.

**Betty Dayron, Committee Member**

Betty Dayron has a BA degree in Psychology from Brandeis University and an MA in Social Work from the University of Chicago. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she had a long career at Jewish Family and Community Service, doing counseling, supervision, resettlement work, field instruction, and administration. She held positions of Associate Executive Director and Director of Human Resources. After retiring ten years ago, she joined the Village Services Committee. Prior to the opening of the Village and, as a Village member and volunteer, has been the Loyola University Field Instructor for 29 Social Work graduate student interns here... so far.

**Sarah Squires-Doyle, Committee Member**

Sarah Squires-Doyle has dedicated her career to health promotion and disease prevention over the past 25 years. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health from Southern Illinois University and certification from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing. She holds additional certifications in gerontology, advance care planning, health coaching and fitness. Sarah currently works for CJE SeniorLife as a community health educator and program facilitator of numerous evidence-based health promotion programs for older adults. She helped the Village create an Adult Children Task Force and also serves as a program subcommittee member of the Healthcare Advocacy Initiative.

**Tom Eley III, Committee Member**

Born and raised in the Old Town Triangle, Chicago. Husband of Victoria, father of TC, Teddy, and Katherine, walker of Cosmo and petter of Grey and White kitties. Son of Salli (Tom's mother, Salli, was one of the first members of the Village). Still learning. Property manager. Tom is a Village board member and joined the Service Committee in 2017. He has personal experience navigating the healthcare system managing the care of both of his aging parents and believes the system has room for improvement to better care for individuals.

**Debra D. Feldman, Committee Member**

Debra D. Feldman is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has a Master of Social Work from The University of Michigan, and a B.A. from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri in Psychology and Sociology. She has a Care Management Certificate from the National Academy of Certified Care Managers. She established Debra D. Feldman & Associates, Ltd. in 1991, an Aging Life Care® Management company (formerly known as geriatric care management). In addition to serving on The Village Chicago Health Care Advocacy Committee, Debra is currently a Board Member for Aging Life Care Association®. She also served two terms as President of the Midwest Chapter of the Aging Life Care Association (2013-2016).

**Niki Fox, Committee Member**

Niki Fox has a Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University Chicago with a specialization in healthcare. She completed two intensive internships as part of Loyola's Masters program, one with the Women's Cancer Center at Northwestern and one here, with The Village Chicago. Niki received a graduate certificate in patient advocacy through University of Toledo and also has a BA in Elementary Education. Prior to accepting the full time position at the Village as the Member Services and Internship Coordinator, she has been a nanny, supervisor for a veterinary reference lab, and currently considers herself the Village office "Jackie of all trades".

**David C. Ganch, MD, Committee Member**

Received BS and MD at Ohio State University 1958-1965 and completed rotating internship at Detroit Receiving Hospital in 1965-1966. From 1966-1968 was Captain of United States Air Force and General Medical Director at Nellis AFB. Completed Residency in Urology at Hines VA hospital in Maywood from 1968- 1972 and practiced at Glen Ellyn Clinic now DuPage Medical from 1972-1996. In 1975 passed boards in urology and is a member of the American Urological Association, Chicago Urological Society. Dr. Ganch and his wife Sheila have a son Steven and a daughter Lisa. They have been members of the Village since 2009, are both physically active and have traveled extensively.

**Christine Hackney, Committee Member**

Christine Hackney has a diploma in nursing from Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Ia, a BS in Health Arts from University of St Francis in Joliet, IL, and an MS in Adult Education from Drake University in Des Moines, Ia. Her background includes working as a Registered Nurse in Des Moines, being a healthcare analyst implementing computerized systems in hospitals in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois and Wisconsin, managing data centers for IBM in multiple locations, and managing an Information Department for a rural hospital in north central Iowa. Hackney has been Co-Chair of Program Sub-Committee for the last year.

**Carolyn Johnson, Committee Member**

Carolyn went to University of Wisconsin she majored in dance with a liberal arts adjunct. After several years of teaching, Carolyn pursued not-for-profit management, fundraising and architectural preservation advocacy. Carolyn has been a member of The Village Chicago (formerly Lincoln Park Village) since its inception and has volunteered on the Service Committee to help develop the Village's vetted provider and volunteer program.

**Marcia J. Opp, Committee Member**

Marcia J. Opp has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri. She worked as a general assignment and health/science reporter at the Chicago Tribune, Midwest bureau chief for Medical World News, a McGraw-Hill publication for physicians, and an Education Program Manager for the last 16 years at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (now the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab) LIFE [Learning, Information, Family, Empowerment Center]. At the hospital, she provided information and education to inpatient stroke patients and families and developed and edited content for the LIFE Center website. Her volunteer commitments include serving as a Founding Board member of The Village and co-chair of the original Technology Committee and a longtime member of St. Pauls Church Connectors Committee, which provides assistance to parishioners who need rides, meals, and connections to services in the community.

**Mary Rigdon, Committee Member**

Mary has a BA from Oberlin College, an MA in Japanese Studies from Yale University and a JD from DePaul College of Law. Her career was focused on civil litigation in the U S Department of Justice in the offices of the U S Attorney in Chicago for 12 years and in Detroit for 17 years. In particular she defended numerous charges of magical malpractice against federal health care facilities. A founding member of the Village she has been a member of the Services Committee since its inception and has assisted in organizing many health related events over the years.

**Padraic Stanley, Committee Member**

Padraic Stanley is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and program coordinator for health promotion & disease prevention programs for Rush's Department of Social Work and Community Health. He graduated with his MSW from Loyola University Chicago, where he was a Schweitzer Public Health Fellow, graduate assistant for Undocumented Student Access, and completed a practicum at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Heartland Care Services Unaccompanied Immigrant Minor Program. Padraic received his bachelor's degrees in International Relations and Spanish Linguistics from the University of Findlay in Ohio.

**Richard Sullivan, Committee Member**

Richard Sullivan has a BA from Harvard University in Engineering and Applied Physics. He spent his entire career as a business consultant for Accenture Ltd, with a focus on process improvement, people change, and leading-edge technologies. In the mid-2000s he founded and chaired the Chicago Debate Commission and the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, to re-introduce highschool and middle school debating leagues into the Chicago Public Schools system and into very large low-income urban school systems around the country, respectively. His high interest in healthcare advocacy stems from his time as family caregiver for his aged mother and stepfather, and his observations of healthcare needs for seniors in their last phase of life. Mr. Sullivan has been a member of The Village Chicago since 2015 and is currently Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

**Janet Walters, Committee Member**

Janet received her Master's degree from the program in psychiatric social work at the University of Michigan, and taught at the Children's Psychiatric Hospital in Ann Arbor while in private clinical practice. She has also worked in a Michelin-star restaurant kitchen, taught classes in chocolate and desserts, and worked on program development at Y-Me cancer support organization. Janet has served on the board of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) in Chicago, and currently she serves on the Life 3.0 Committee and the Healthcare Advocacy subcommittee of the Service Committee of The Village Chicago (formerly Lincoln Park Village).