



Wellpoint Care Network Subject Matter Experts

At Wellpoint Care Network, our leaders and team members bring a wealth of expertise. We are practitioners and caregivers who actively shape policy, practice and the public conversation to help children and families thrive. Our team members are regularly invited to speak at professional conferences and events, advise on policy and practice, and are published and featured in local and national media, professional journals and podcasts.

Below are topics our Subject Matter Experts can lend our voice to for a story or consultation. To consult with one of our experts, please contact our Marketing & Communications team at marketing@wellpointcare.org.

Organizational Operations

Ann Leinfelder Grove, President and CEO

Ann Leinfelder Grove has served Wellpoint Care Network for over 30 years in a number of senior leadership roles, including Executive Vice President and COO with oversight of all agency programs. She has championed the program implementation of Wellpoint Care's Trauma Informed Care model, as well as the Seven Essential Ingredients (7ei), including programs in child welfare, where translational research has demonstrated improved outcomes through the use of 7ei-based, trauma-informed program practice. As CEO, Ann's strategic vision has enhanced Wellpoint Care's partnerships in the community and has advanced a culture of equity and inclusion at Wellpoint Care.

Ted Uczen, Chief Operating Officer

Ted Uczen has served as Wellpoint Care Network's Chief Operating Officer since 2022. He is known as a collaborative leader with a record of success by achieving results through holistic relationship development, strategic marketing and an emphasis on growing revenue. His reputation is that of an industry-thought leader with a track record of transforming corporate culture, building brands and growing customer and partner relationships.

Kristi Scharl, Chief Financial Officer

Kristi Scharl has experience in public accounting, specializing in not-for-profit audit. Her focus is on process and systems improvements, as well as aligning financial policy and practice with the organization's mission and vision. At Wellpoint Care Network, Kristi oversees financial affairs and information technology.



Child Welfare / Child & Family Well-being

Maria Andrade, Vice President of Child and Family Well-being

Maria Andrade began her career at Wellpoint Care in 2009. She leads over 200 employees and supports the programming in case management, foster care licensing, treatment foster care, youth transitioning to adulthood, supervised independent living, family services and child welfare administrative services. Andrade received her master's degree in social work from UW-Milwaukee in the first cohort of students funded by federal IV-E dollars. Andrade embraces Wellpoint Care's DEI commitment. Her passion as a leader of the mentor program has helped create great employee engagement, relationship building and professional development for dozens of Wellpoint Care employees

Jenni Erdmann, Director of Out of Home Care

Jennifer (Jenni) Erdmann, MSW, is the Director of Out of Home Care at Wellpoint Care Network. Jenni has been working for Wellpoint Care Network since 2009. She has a long history of working in the case management department before transitioning to the Out of Home Care position in 2019. She is currently overseeing the Treatment Foster Care Department, as well as Licensing and Kinship Navigation.

Nicole Ruder Johnson, Program Manager for Treatment Foster Care

Nicole Ruder Johnson is the Program Manager for Treatment Foster Care Program within the Out of Home Care Department. She has her MSSW from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has worked in a variety of settings in child welfare prior to her current role, including licensing, placement, training and adoption. Wellpoint Care Network's Treatment Foster Care Program specializes in serving children in treatment foster homes, shift-staffed Level 5 homes and Level 2+ homes using trauma-informed practices, including Trust Based Relational Interventions.

Laura Halonen-Schultz, Program Manager for Foster and Kinship Care

Laura Halonen-Schultz is the Program Manager for the Foster & Kinship Program within the Out of Home Care Department. She is a licensed Advanced Practice Social Worker (APSW) and has a master's degree in social work with an emphasis in child and family wellbeing. She has an extensive background in child welfare, including work in case management, foster care licensing and leadership within the Foster & Kinship programs. Laura is passionate about serving the community and understanding individual needs. She is a strong advocate for children and caregivers within out of home care and promotes Trauma Informed Care within the Foster & Kinship programs.



Mindy Calderon-Pitchford, Director of Community Services

Mindy Calderon-Pitchford began working at Wellpoint Care Network in 2017 as a Care Coordinator with Wraparound Milwaukee. After several transitions, she settled into her current role as the Director of Community Services. This position allows her the opportunity to directly impact a community group she is very passionate about — older teens who will be (or have already) aged out of foster care. This often-forgotten group of our community might need tangible help, as well as emotional support as they navigate toward becoming adults and all that entails. Working in social services in the greater Milwaukee area for over 30 years has afforded Mindy the privilege of working with diverse people groups and has provided her with a broad range of skills, knowledge and training. Being able to draw upon that expertise to help the staff she works with grow both professionally and personally is another fulfilling part of her job.

Mental Health

Jody Pahlavan, Vice President of Clinical Services

With more than 25 years of clinical experience, Dr. Pahlavan oversees the development and operation of clinical services, assuring ongoing strategic growth, clinical excellence and sustainability. For 10 years, she had operated a private outpatient practice specializing in the provision of clinical services for children and adolescents. She has extensive experience in the provision of clinical services in acute care settings, serving as an Attending Psychologist for inpatient, partial hospital and intensive outpatient units for 25 years. Dr. Pahlavan has served as director of outpatient services and Chair of Psychology services at two psychiatric hospitals, leading extensive program development and expansion projects. She has a passion for mentoring new clinicians, and has served as the Training Director of an APA-accredited psychology internship program for many years.

Carey Jacobsen, Director of Clinical Services

Carey Jacobsen is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over 20 years of experience, focusing on community-based, school-based and trauma-focused clinical work. Carey's background is in art therapy and engaging multiple modalities to meet the mental health needs of children and families. Her experience includes direct clinical work with children from infants through adulthood, teachers and education administrators, early childhood providers, offering mental health consultation and professional development training. Carey has significant training in the neurodevelopmental impact of trauma and multiple evidence-based practices, as well as reflective supervision and trauma-informed supervision. Currently, she provides Clinical oversight to multiple programs, develops strategic goals, participates in grant writing and operationalizing and monitoring for excellence. Carey is passionate about bringing equitable access and quality mental health services to all by bringing the service to youth and families and adjusting the service delivery to meet the needs of the recipient.



Melanie Heindl, Clinical Services Supervisor

Melanie Heindl, DAT, ATR-BC, LPC, is a doctor of art therapy and licensed professional counselor providing clinical supervision within the outpatient clinic. Melanie has over a decade of experience working in mental health services with individuals from infants to elders in community, outpatient and in-home settings. Additionally, Melanie has significant experience developing and delivering training and curriculum to individuals of all skill levels and backgrounds. Melanie believes that the creative process can be inherently therapeutic, providing alternative ways of communication while also being regulatory in nature. Melanie finds a strengths-based, person-centered approach to be most beneficial to her therapeutic work, but also takes into consideration the social and systemic issues clients face. Melanie has significant training in clinical supervision, reflective practice, the Neurosequential Model, anti-oppressive practice and other trauma-informed modalities.

Scott Orth, Medical Director

Dr. Scott Orth is a seasoned, board-certified psychiatrist with specialization and additional board certification in child and adolescent psychiatry with over 15 years of experience. Dr. Orth completed osteopathic medical school at Kansas City University in Kansas City, Missouri, followed by residency and fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Orth has experience treating patients of all ages and in a variety of settings, including outpatient, inpatient and via consultation while hospitalized. Dr. Orth has also held various leadership positions, including serving as chief resident during training, owning and operating a private practice and leading a department of over 15 as chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Psychology at Mayo Clinic Health System at Austin/Albert Lea. Dr. Orth strongly believes in patient autonomy and patients being educated in their own role in recovery. Dr. Orth believes that mental health is only one aspect of personal well-being. As such, Dr. Orth's care involves providing choices, education about those choices and ensuring patients have an active role in their care.



Trauma Informed Care

Tim Grove, Senior Director of Trauma Informed Strategy and Practice

Tim Grove serves as the Senior Director of Trauma Informed Strategy and Practice at Wellpoint Care Network. Tim has more than 25 years of experience in the social service field in a variety of programs and roles. Tim has been a mentor with Dr. Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT), is a master trainer of ACE Interface and is the creator of Wellpoint Care's Trauma Informed Care (TIC) curriculum, 7 Essential Ingredients (7ei). In addition to leading the TIC efforts across all Wellpoint Care programs, Tim has been providing training and consulting on trauma, ACEs, secondary trauma/caregiver capacity and other related topics for 15 years. Tim has worked with and trained a diverse group of professionals — including judges, police officers, juvenile justice and child welfare staff, hospitals and healthcare staff, child development staff, veteran groups, college/university staff and professors, Boys and Girls Clubs, religious groups, correctional staff, employers/employment staff and many others.

Liz Davison, Clinical Supervisor and Child & Family Therapist

Elizabeth (Liz) Davison is a Licensed Professional Counselor with more than 15 years of experience. Liz has experience working in a variety of treatment settings, including intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization, school-based care and traditional outpatient care. Liz is certified in DBT as well as trained in CAMS suicide intervention. She uses a variety of treatment techniques, including CBT, DBT, TFCBT, ARC and Motivational Interviewing. Her clinical focus is on clients who struggle with suicidal and self-harming thoughts and behaviors, as well as those who have experienced trauma and live with dissociative symptoms. Liz believes that change starts when people feel seen and understood on a deep level, and she works to partner with her clients to help them better understand themselves and overcome the challenges they may be facing. Liz's current role is a Clinical Supervisor for therapists in both Project Thrive and our School Based Mental Health Services.

Julie Scott, NM Supervisor

Julie Scott, LPC is the site supervisor of the NM program for Wellpoint Care Network. Julie is a licensed professional counselor. She's certified in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics™ (NMT) and is certified as a Phase II/Train-The-Trainer for NMT. Julie provides the on-going training and maintenance requirements for individuals to maintain their NMT certification. In addition, Julie provides consultation for schools, professionals and families working to support children in their care who have been affected by trauma through both the clinical mental health and NM lens. In addition, Julie's work includes being a facilitator and developer for training in Trauma Informed Care, Trauma Sensitive Schools and specific trauma-related topics.



Human Resources

Sonja Williams, Vice President of Human Resources

Sonja Williams is an accomplished leader with 25 years of talent optimization, diversity, equity and inclusion, and organizational development experience. She leads the delivery of innovative and equitable employee-centered services for Wellpoint Care Network's workforce. Driven by a desire to support the work of community-based organizations with compelling missions, she has performed impactful work at organizations such as Acelero Learning, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, American Cancer Society, Milwaukee County and Next Door. Sonja actively serves on the boards of Vision Forward and Triangle of Hope as a volunteer in her efforts to support the Greater Milwaukee community.

Community Engagement

Alex Williams, Director of Community Engagement

Alex Williams is a community leader, organizer and educator with a background in curriculum writing and youth development. As an experienced program coordinator, he has led learning at all levels from structured after-school activities for kindergarteners to skill-targeted literacy interventions for middle school students, all the way up to adult learning training sessions, including "Literacy as a Social Justice Issue" and "The War on Black Males." Alex is a lifelong humanitarian and has been serving and volunteering in the community for over 20 years at organizations, including City Year Milwaukee, Milwaukee College Preparatory School and Safe & Sound. As the Director of Community Engagement for Wellpoint Care Network, he works to bring the continuum of care and many other services Wellpoint Care provides into the communities and neighborhoods that need them the most.