



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

Reggie Newson, President and CEO

Reggie Newson joined Wellpoint Care Network in 2025. Community building is at the core of his 'why.' Reggie is an accomplished, high-performance, dedicated CEO and senior leader with 20+ years of success driving organizational change with proactive, positive influence, helping teams and leaders to embrace new processes and structures. His passions include creating opportunities, strengthening communities and enriching lives.

Ted Uczen, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Ted Uczen joined Wellpoint Care Network in 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 Operating and 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 the daily operations and administration of the organization, including operational efficiency and optimization.

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.



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.

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 Director of Community Services, she has 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.



Mental Health

Nancy Reed, Chief Program Officer

Nancy Reed has almost 30 years of healthcare experience, including experience in both mental health and child welfare. She is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and has an MBA from Marquette University. Nancy is a value-centered leader who is passionate about equity.

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.

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.

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.



Trauma Informed Care

Julie Scott, Director of Trauma Informed Strategy and Practice

Julie Scott, LPC, serves as the Director of Trauma Informed Strategy and Practice at Wellpoint Care Network. In her role, she leads initiatives that integrate trauma-informed care across various services, including mental health, education and child welfare. Julie's work also includes being a facilitator and developer for trainings in Trauma Informed Care, Trauma Sensitive Schools and specific trauma-related topics. In addition, Julie is a licensed professional counselor with specialized training in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics™ (NMT).

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.

Community Engagement

Andrew Bonner, Community Partnerships & Volunteer Coordinator

Andrew Bonner leads Wellpoint Care Network's partnerships with Milwaukee Diaper Mission, our Diaper Pop-Up Events, Diapers for Dads, and many other engagements like our work with US Cellular and the hot spots we are distributing to the families and youth in our care. He also works to expand Wellpoint Care's advancement strategies and focus as determined by our organizational and program needs to grow mission and impact. This includes volunteer coordination.