



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 Ucen, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Ted Ucen 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, Chief Human Resources Officer

Sonja Williams is an accomplished leader with 25 years of talent optimization, inclusion and belonging, and organizational development experience. She leads the delivery of innovative and equitable employee-centered services for Wellpoint Care Network's workforce.



Community Engagement

Christa Shields, Vice President of Advancement & Marketing

Christa Shields is a relationship-driven nonprofit leader with more than 20 years of experience in fundraising, marketing and community engagement. She's spent her career helping mission-based organizations grow their impact by building meaningful donor relationships, telling authentic stories and creating systems that work.

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.

Child Welfare / Child & Family Well-being

Maria Andrade, Chief Community Services and Engagement Officer

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.



Mental Health

Nancy Reed, Chief Clinical 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.

Nili Karul, Clinical Program Director for Mental Health Division

Nilufer “Nili” Karul is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, recently promoted to Clinical Program Director of the Mental Health Division for Wellpoint Care Network. Previously, she was the Program Manager for the WCN CCS Team based out of Washington County. She has been working with children, youth and families since 2009 in various roles providing respite, personal care, child welfare case management and permanency planning.

Gary Schnell, Medical Director and Psychiatrist

Dr. Gary Schnell attended the Medical College of Wisconsin and obtained his medical degree in 1983. He subsequently completed a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in child psychiatry through the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals. Gary is board certified as both an adult and a child and adolescent psychiatrist. He subsequently worked in a successful private practice for 33 years before pursuing semi-retirement in 2021.

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).

Allison Mitchell, Clinical Therapist and Trainer

Allison Mitchell is a clinical therapist with Wellpoint Care Network, providing trauma-focused therapy to youth at local Boys & Girls Clubs and Milwaukee-area schools. Allison’s clinical work in school settings is shaped by her background as both an educator and family services coordinator, as well as her experience working with families impacted by domestic violence and housing instability in a Milwaukee-area shelter. As a Trauma Sensitive Schools trainer, Allison draws on her clinical expertise and real-world school experience to help educators understand the impact of trauma on students’ behavior, learning, and relationships.