



OAC Steering Committee 2016



**Jana Bitton, MPA,
Oregon Action Coalition Co-Lead
Executive Director, Oregon Center for Nursing**

Jana Bitton serves as the executive director of the Oregon Center for Nursing, and as the co-lead of the Oregon Action Coalition. Jana began work at OCN in 2009 and has served as a program manager, program director, development director and finally, executive director. A native of the Portland area, Jana has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from California State University, Northridge, and a Master's of Public Administration from Portland State University. Jana has a background in marketing, nonprofit management and local government.
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**Tom Engle
Oregon Action Coalition Co-Lead
Oregon Public Health Association**

Tom Engle is mostly retired. He has experience as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, a county health director, and as community liaison at the state health division. Currently he is involved in a number of activities to support the nursing field – the Oregon Action Coalition, the Alliances of Nurses for a Healthy Environment, the Oregon Public Health Association Nursing and Healthy Environment sections, and the Washington County Public Health Advisory Board.
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**Dana Bjarnason, PhD, RN, NE-BC
Health System Representative
Chair, Communication Workgroup
Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer, OHSU Healthcare
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, OHSU School of Nursing**

In addition to the Oregon Action Coalition, Dr. Bjarnason is active in a number of professional nursing organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International and the American Nurses Association. She regularly presents at the local, state and national level and has authored and edited peer-reviewed articles for professional journals. Her doctoral dissertation explored the relationship



OAC Steering Committee 2016

between nurse religiosity and end-of-life care, which built on her master's thesis, which sought to provide insight to further understanding and enhancing the nurse-patient dialogue related to end of life. An ongoing commitment throughout her career has been to work with nurses to create environments that enhance the quality and safety of patient care. Her scholarly interests include end-of-life care, moral leadership, professional practice and diversity. bjarnaso@ohsu.edu



Gladys M Campbell, RN, MSN, FAAN

At Large Representative

Chair, Leadership Workgroup

Gladys has had progressive leadership roles within the acute care practice arena, from Chief Nurse Executive, to Service Line Leadership, Executive Director of a Research Institute, and front line care provision. She has worked in the Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast over the course of her career and spent two decades as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health.

She is a Past President of the American Association of Critical Care Nursing, a past fellow in the College of Critical Care Medicine, a past member of the Board of Directors of the Certification Corporation of AACN and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She has been a member of the Editorial Board of Clinical Issues in Critical Care, a columnist for Nursing Management, and a clinical research mentor in a variety of service settings. Gladys' passions include a commitment to leadership development in nursing, service setting research, and a helping nurse leaders find and use their voice for civic good through policy and advocacy.

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Renee' Menkens, RN, MS

Rural Representative

Faculty, OHSU School of Nursing

RNBS Completion Program

As a member of the Oregon Action Steering Committee, Renee brings a focus on rural health issues. She is a member of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education Curriculum Committee, teaches in an online baccalaureate nursing program at OHSU School of Nursing, and co-chairs the OHSU School of Nursing Undergraduate Academic Council. She serves as a member of the Coos County Community Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee. She is involved in the development of the OHSU Rural Health Campus initiative in Coos Bay, Oregon, works as an on-call RN at Bay Areas Hospital Acute Psychiatric Unit



OAC Steering Committee 2016

and is active in the local Coordinated Care Community Advisory Council. Her interests are in teaching and mental health and community health care. In 2015, Renee was selected as a Breakthrough Leader of Nursing recipient.
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Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN
Nursing School Administration/Faculty OCD Representative
Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs, OHSU School of Nursing
Dr. Susan Bakewell-Sachs was appointed Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs at Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing in July 2013. She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in perinatal/neonatal nursing and a PhD in nursing and health policy from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1995, she completed a PNP post-master's certificate in pediatric acute/chronic care from the University of Pennsylvania. She was selected as a 2007-2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow, and also served as the director of the New Jersey Nursing Initiative (NJNI) from 2007-2013. Dr. Bakewell-Sachs was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2013.
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Edward Brewington
At-Large Representative
Edward Brewington is a volunteer with AARP of Oregon and a member of the Executive Council.
Currently, an Adjunct Faculty member in the Graduate Business School with Marylhurst University.
Subject matter focus: Organizational Behavior and Leading Change.
Professional business experiences include forty years with several corporations, as well as over twenty years teaching at the college level.
At IBM, he held positions in sales, marketing, human resources, executive and leadership development. His last position at IBM was Director of Leadership Development. His positions at Times Mirror included Director of Organizational Development and Vice President of Human Resources. At KinderCare (Knowledge Universe) he was Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Education and Customer Service.
Recipient of numerous awards for significant contributions, as well as being honored by Long Island University as a distinguished alumnus.
A lifetime volunteer, having served numerous organizations in a variety of roles, including board chair.
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OAC Steering Committee 2016



Jordan Ferris, RN, BSN, CMSRN
At-Large Representative
Nurse Practice Consultant, Oregon Nurses Association

Jordan recently began her work at Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) as a Nurse Practice Consultant. Prior to starting at ONA, she worked in the Acute Care Float Pool, floating to 14 different units, at OHSU for more than seven years. Jordan graduated with honors from Walla Walla University in 2006 and is currently pursuing an advanced degree.

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Denise Foster, OHSU
Graduate Student Representative

As a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at OHSU, Denise is focusing her studies on complexity leadership practice with an eye towards implementing the Institute of Medicine's recommendation for expanding opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts. In addition to her graduate studies, Denise is an executive nursing director with 17 years of progressive leadership experience and nearly 35 years experiences in perinatal, maternal child, emergency, perioperative and medical-surgical nursing. She is passionate about professional nursing practice and nursing's role in leading real and sustainable healthcare change.

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OAC Steering Committee 2016



**Stacy Moritz, Secret Aardvark Trading Co.
At-Large Member**

Stacy has over 30 years' experience as a nurse and 20 years administering contracts for federal and state programs. Her clinical practice was predominately in oncology and adult and pediatric bone marrow transplant. Stacy has worked in healthcare quality improvement for over 20 years. Stacy received an LPN from Boise State University, a BSN from University of Nebraska Medical Center and an MBA from Regis University.

Stacy is the owner/operator of Secret Aardvark Trading Co. a Portland based hot sauce and marinade company. She also does consulting work related to healthcare, business management and operations. Stacy is also a board member for The Jeremy Wilson Foundation and supports a number of charitable events. She has a personal interest in promoting health thru better healthcare, health foods and activity.

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**Melissa Jones, Linfield College – School of Nursing
At-Large Member
Education Workgroup Co-Chair**

Coordinator of Online Programs in Nursing Linfield College In addition to serving on the Oregon Action Coalition Steering Committee, Melissa has recently assumed a position as co-lead on the Education Work Group. As a faculty member teaching in the online RN to BSN Program at Linfield, Melissa's teaching and research emphasis is on distance education, community and public health, hospice and palliative care, and health disparities. Her doctoral dissertation examined the impact of generational differences on learning in the online classroom in nursing education. In the community, Melissa is committed to addressing issues related to palliative and end of life care, issues impacting veterans, and health and social disparities affecting the Native American community.

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OAC Steering Committee 2016



Joane Mocerri, University of Portland
Nursing School Administration or Faculty Representative

Joane T. Mocerri is the Dean of Nursing at the University of Portland. Her scholarship includes strengthening the links between nursing education and nursing practice; especially in areas related to social justice and diversity, increasing under-represented populations in nursing, advancing innovation in nursing education, and the examining of the role of overseas study in increasing intercultural development. She serves as an evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and is a member of the Western Institute for Nursing, and Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Mocerri previously taught at the University of Washington Tacoma and was the founding director of the Pierce College Nursing Program. She earned her Ph.D., M.N., and B.S.N. from the University of Washington.

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Paul Ventura, Marylhurst University
Non-Nursing Organization Representative

Paul is an Associate Professor and Chair of Sustainable Business Programs at Marylhurst University in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He recently served as the Acting Dean and Director of its School of Business, stepping down from that role after 18 months. He has served as a founding board member for several nonprofit organizations including Safe Passage to Motherhood, a Portland-based organization that provides support for maternal and child health in Kenya, and the Tibetan Healing Fund, which provides access to traditional medicine to Tibetans living in China. For two years, Paul was the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization in Vermont that served children with special needs and their families. Much of his career has been spent training and consulting in countries outside the U.S., such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Ecuador. Originally from Western Pennsylvania, Paul has lived in the Pacific Northwest for over ten years.

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OAC Steering Committee 2016



Kelly Fox, HPP
Practice Representative

Throughout her 26-year career, Kelly has maintained a commitment to patients and a focus on leadership and professionalism. She has served as a staff nurse in cardiac intensive care and cardiac rehabilitation. Additionally, she assisted in developing Corporate Health NW, a nurse practitioner-operated clinic that provided primary health care and education to employees of a major corporation. In 2007, she established Healthcare Professionals of Portland. Kelly is President and owner of a nurse operated corporation that provides primary healthcare, advocacy, health consultation and coordination of care to clients from birth to death. This community model was developed to increase the quality and safety of client care by creating a focused and intimate client relationship ensuring accurate and centralized 24/7 holistic care.

Kelly has been a member of Sigma Theta Tau and an adjunct instructor at the University of Portland since 2009. She is a 1990 graduate of the University of Portland and received her master's from the University of Washington, focal area, nurse educator. Currently, Kelly is pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice at Yale University.

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Virlena Crosley, Linfield College
At-Large Member

Virlena Crosley's education includes a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Virlena is currently an assistant professor at Linfield College, where she has taught since 2009. She teaches primarily business management courses, including strategic management and human resource management. Previously, Virlena held several upper-management positions with the State of Oregon, the last of which was Director for the Employment Department. During her six years as director, she was responsible for 47 field offices across Oregon and over 1500 employees. Her research interests include leadership, ethics, workforce development, and boards and commissions. It was her interest and experience in the latter that drew her into conversations with Jake Creviston, a prior steering committee member, who also teaches at Linfield College. It was from Jake that she learned about the initiative to increase nurses on boards. Virlena is intrigued by the



OAC Steering Committee 2016

possible connections between business and nursing as the Oregon Action Coalition continues its efforts to increase nurse involvement in the policy arena of boards.

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Mallie Kozy, Linfield College
At-Large Member

Kozy has more than 30 years in the nursing profession including 18 years in nursing education. She has served as chair of undergraduate nursing studies at Lourdes University in Ohio since 2008. She previously taught both undergraduate and graduate courses at the Medical University of Ohio College of Nursing, focusing on mental health and HIV psychiatric nursing. There, she was twice honored for excellence in teaching. She has experience in public health and community care, and is board certified as an adult psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist. In addition, she has maintained a small practice focusing on women recovering from domestic violence. Kozy has a bachelor's in nursing from Duke University, a master's from the Medical College of Ohio (now University of Toledo) and a Ph.D. in nursing from Duquesne University.

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