



October 27, 2018

Meet the PCA Workforce Council

What is the PCA Workforce Council?

The Council was established in 2012 to represent the interests of the state and PCA employers. The Council, and Office of Policy & Management's Office of Labor Relations, negotiates and administers the PCA collective bargaining agreement with the union that represents PCAs, 1199 SEIU-NE. Members of the Council are appointed by the Governor, the Commissioners of the Departments of Social Services and Developmental Services, the State Healthcare Advocate, and leaders in the Connecticut General Assembly (legislature). The PCA Workforce Council receives administrative support from the Office of Policy & Management.

Website: <http://portal.ct.gov/pcaworkforcecouncil/>

Email: pcacouncil@ct.gov

Phone: (860) 418-6370

PCA Workforce Council Members

David Guttchen, Chair of the PCA Workforce Council, and Director, Health and Human Services Unit, Office of Policy Management

David is the Director of the Health and Human Services Unit for the State of Connecticut's Office and Policy and Management (OPM), which encompasses long-term care planning. Mr. Guttchen is also the Director for the Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care, the State's public/private alliance with the insurance industry to encourage individuals to plan for their long-term care needs, and has served in this capacity since 1992. Mr. Guttchen has also served since 1998 as the Chair of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee, a legislative and executive branch body charged with developing a long-term care plan for Connecticut. In October, 2018, Mr. Guttchen was appointed Chair of the Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council.

Susan Weisselberg, Chair Emeritus of the PCA Workforce Council and Deputy Secretary, Office of Policy & Management

Sue serves as Chair of the PCA Workforce Council and is appointed by the Governor. She is currently the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management (the state budget office). Prior to joining OPM as Deputy Secretary, she served as Chief of Wraparound Services for New Haven Public Schools, Chief Legal Counsel to the House Democrats at the Connecticut General Assembly, and Coordinator of New Haven's \$1.5+ billion School Construction Program.

Mary Caruso, Advocate & Parent of PCA Employers

Mary is a single mom of two young adults who live their life with Friedreich's ataxia, a progressive neurological condition. She carries a unique perspective of important disability issues that relate to her family. She was appointed to the PCA Workforce Council in an effort to support the rights of employers. Mary has a background in the field of art and has extensive volunteer experience at both local and state levels.



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Denise Paladino, Director of Self-Determination, South Region, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Denise Paladino is appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Over the past 20+ years in state service, she has held various positions: QIDP Case Manager, DDS Broker, Case Management Supervisor, Resource Administrator and currently the Director of Self-Determination in the DDS South Region. Her current responsibilities include management and administration of services for those individuals and families who self-direct their support. Denise provides support to DDS' Self-Advocate Coordinators (Individuals with disabilities who are hired by DDS to support self-advocacy initiatives). Prior to her state service she served as a Day Program Manager for the Kennedy Center.

Katie Regan, Specialized Care Manager, Southwestern CT Area Agency on Aging (SWCAA)

Katie was appointed by House Majority Leader Matthew Ritter. She is the Specialized Care Manager for SWCAA. SWCAA handles 14 towns from Monroe to Greenwich, providing CM services and support to seniors and the disabled. Prior to working with SWCAA, Katie worked as a social worker and admissions director for skilled nursing facilities in the state. At SWCAA, Katie is the coordinator of the CT Statewide Respite Care program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, The MS Care Management Program and the Veteran's Directed Home and Community Based Services Program. Katie has worked with SWCAA since 2008.

Sheila Mulvey, Advocate & PCA Employer

Sheila S. Mulvey of Plantsville is appointed by the Connecticut Healthcare Advocate. She is an employer in the federal waiver program representing a family member who receives services from the Department of Developmental Services. Sheila served as Chair of the Board of the former Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and is a former chair of the Department of Developmental Services Advisory Council. For the past 45 years she has worked professionally and voluntarily to support the needs of persons with disabilities.

Kathy Bruni, Community Options Unit, Department of Social Services

Kathy is appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services. She is co-lead of the Department's Community Options Unit.

Kathleen Flaherty, Executive Director of the Connecticut Legal Rights Project

Kathy Flaherty is appointed to the PCA Workforce Council by the Governor. She is a person living in recovery from a mental health diagnosis and is the Executive Director of Connecticut Legal Rights Project, a nonprofit legal services agency providing representation to low-income people with mental health conditions. She is also a member of the steering committee of the Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance and vice chair of the Keep the Promise Coalition.

Therese A. Nadeau, Advocate & PCA Employer

Therese is was appointed by Governor Malloy in 2015 as a member of an organization representing people with physical disabilities. Therese Nadeau has significant experience in various consulting and supervisory positions working with people with a variety of disabilities and their families to plan for supports and options with regards to inclusion in communities of choice. Currently Therese works as an Instructor at Connecticut



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Community Care, Inc. and developed the “You Are Now The Employer” guide to hiring and managing Personal Care Assistants.

Sharon Denson, Attorney, Executive Director of the Connecticut Business Leadership Network and President of Aldot Training

Sharon was appointed by the Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff representing the interests of persons with physical disabilities. Sharon Denson is considered a subject matter expert and thought leader in diversity and inclusion. She is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Business Leadership Network, and President of Aldot Training, a consulting firm that provides human resource and diversity and inclusion training. She had written and presented training programs regarding best practices for hiring individuals with disabilities. Ms. Denson collaborated with Ms. Nadeau on training employers when “You Are Now the Employer” was first created.

PCA Workforce Council Staff & Fiscal Intermediary Staff

Melissa Morton, Lead Planning Analyst, Office of Policy & Management

Melissa is a Lead Planning Analyst for the Office of Policy & Management and helps staff the PCA Workforce Council. Among other duties, Melissa assists individuals who contact the Council through the PCA Workforce phone line and e-mail. She is the contact for the union with respect to the implementation of certain terms in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (contract) including PCA training and orientation.

Karen L. Hansen, Director Quality Assurance and Compliance, Allied Community Resources

Having been with Allied for 23 years, Karen has held a number of positions within the organization. She uses her quality assurance background from other company to assist Allied in its pursuit of providing quality service to all stakeholders. Karen has a particular interest in fraud and works closely with the Medicaid Fraud Control unit Inspectors.

Laura Wells, Director of FI Services, Sunset Shores of Milford

Laura is the Director of FI Services for Sunset Shores. Laura has worked in FI services for over 17 years and is responsible for the overall management of the FI program. She has worked in the field of ID/DD for over 27 years as direct care staff, teacher, program director, clinical director/QMRP in residential, school, day and self-directed settings in CA, NY, and CT. Laura supports her 51 year-old sister-in-law with intellectual disabilities and raised her now 25 year-old daughter.

Bonnie Gilbert, FI Representative, Sunset Shores of Milford

Bonnie is the enrollment specialist for all new referrals and assists with processing self-directed new hire paperwork.