

LeadingAge Minnesota

2020 Board Candidate Profiles



Better Together

LeadingAge[®]
Minnesota

Virtual Annual Meeting &
Leadership Forum
September 16-18, 2020

OFFICERS

ERIN HILLIGAN – Chair (First, one-year term)



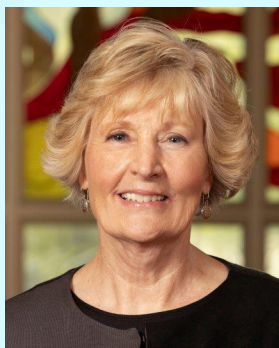
Erin Hilligan is Vice President of Operations for Ebenezer in Minneapolis, a faith-based, multi-site organization and affiliate of M Health Fairview. Prior to serving in that role, she was the Corporate Director of Skilled Services for two years and previously was the campus administrator at Ebenezer Ridges in Burnsville for 14 years where she oversaw the operations of the full continuum including memory care, adult day, child care, HUD independent living, assisted living and skilled care.

Erin served as Secretary-Treasurer of the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors for two years and Chair-Elect for two years. She also served four years as a Board-appointed director-at-large and has a long history of service on committees and work groups including the Integrated Service Delivery/Managed Care, Survey Review and Analysis, SNF Regulatory Committees, Care Center Cabinet, Nominating Committee and the LeadingAge National Public Policy Committee. Erin served as a Leadership Academy Coach for the first cohort.

She also was a professor at St. Mary's University in the master's program teaching Ethics and Public Policy. Erin was a recipient of the Spirit of Advocacy Award and continues to be a strong voice on public policy and grassroots advocacy chairing the LeadingAge Minnesota Public Policy Steering Committee and as a member of the Long-Term Care Imperative Steering Committee. Erin holds her MBA from St. Thomas University with a concentration in leadership and her BA in Hospital and LTC Administration from Concordia College, Moorhead.

"It is an honor to step into the role of Board Chair of LeadingAge Minnesota. I am humbled to be nominated for this position and will work very hard to ensure the best collaboration and innovative thinking will continue to lead our association forward. I am often guided by the values of LeadingAge and think of "better together" – we are a strong association because of you, our members. I am looking forward to 2021, what the future holds in store for us and how together, we will lead through it."

BARB KLICK – Chair-Elect (First, one-year term)



Barbara Klick is the CEO of Sholom, which provides the full continuum of senior care services at two Twin Cities locations as well as home care and hospice services to individuals in their homes. Barbara served a three-year term on the Board of Directors as an appointed director-at-large and two years as Secretary-Treasurer. She served on the LeadingAge Minnesota Abuse and Prevention Task Force, Rapid Response Team guiding the Association's Medicare and managed care futures work, and currently serves on the LeadingAge Steering Committee that is designing a new member-led collective focused on managed care.

Before joining Sholom, Barbara served as the Chief Operating Officer for Fairview Physicians Associates managing a network of over 2500 physicians. In addition to her experience in operations, Barbara has been actively involved in strategic planning that includes population health, competitive marketing strategies and developing community relationships. She brings a wealth of experience having worked in non-profit and government health care arenas. Barbara holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas and maintains her licensure as a registered nurse.

"We are all just walking each other home" Ram Dass.

OFFICERS, *cont'd.*

JERRY CARLEY – Secretary-Treasurer (First, one-year term)



Jerry Carley is President and CEO of Benedictine, a mission-based senior care organization sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. Benedictine provides the full spectrum of senior care services including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, rehabilitation, at-home care and adult day programs. Benedictine's communities are located in five Midwestern states – Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois – and are home to nearly 5,000 residents and guests.

With 30 years of experience in senior care services, Jerry's strength and knowledge includes mission-focused governance, financial and operational oversight, organizational repositioning, service expansion and diversification, quality processes, strategic planning, and new project and program development.

Prior to joining Benedictine in 2017, Jerry was President and CEO of CSJ Initiatives, Inc., in Wichita, Kansas. He also served as President and CEO of Via Christi Villages, Inc., as a divisional director of operations for Care Initiatives, Inc., in West Des Moines, Iowa and as an administrator for Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls, S.D. He is a licensed nursing home administrator in Minnesota and is HSE credentialed.

For the last two years, Jerry has served LeadingAge Minnesota as a board-appointed director-at-large term. Additionally, Jerry served on the LeadingAge Kansas board of directors, the public policy committee for LeadingAge Iowa, and committees for the Iowa and Missouri Health Care Associations.

"Many years ago, I began my career in senior services as a nursing home administrator. This rewarding work has inspired a life-long dedication to older adults and to creating communities that help people live their best lives with purpose and meaning. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served on the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors for the last two years. I look forward to contributing to our collective work as an association and making a difference to our aging adults both now and long into the future."



DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

CHRISTINE BAKKE – *Director-at-Large (Second, three-year term)*



Christine Bakke is Regional Director of Skilled Nursing Facilities for St. Francis Health Services of Morris, where she oversees six senior living campuses in Minnesota. St. Francis is a faith-based, multi-site organization providing assisted living, home healthcare, therapies, senior housing and services, skilled nursing care, and community and residential services to people with physical and mental disadvantages in 15 rural communities throughout Minnesota. Before joining St. Francis, she was CEO/Administrator at Madonna Senior Living in Red Wing, a Benedictine Living community.

Christine was elected as the District D Board representative in 2016 and served a three-year term as Director-at-Large. She currently serves on the Reimbursement Committee and the Housing, Home Care & Assisted Living Committee. Christine is also the Treasurer of the PAC Board and serves on the Leading Age MN Solutions Board. Her previous service the Care Center Cabinet, PAC Board, Public Policy Steering Committee and Imperative Payment Committee. She was the District D Chair in 2008-2009.

“It would be a tremendous honor to continue serving on the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to participate in many activities within the association over the last 20 years and have seen us make significant improvements in how we serve seniors in Minnesota. I strongly believe in serving our seniors and advocating for the highest quality of life possible. Serving on the Board allows me to be part of a larger voice impacting legislation, services, workforce and innovation.”

GAIL SKOGLUND – *Director-at-Large (Final, one-year term)*



Gail Skoglund is Regional Director of Adult Day Services for Cassia in Edina. Cassia is a faith-based, multi-site organization that provides senior housing, health care and community-based services to older generations and others in need with communities in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming.

As Co-President of the Minnesota Adult Day Association she participated in the 2015 merger with LeadingAge Minnesota and joined the Board of Directors as a Chair-Appointed Director. She served two years of a board position created as a temporary three-year position and was elected in 2017 to serve a three-year elected term. She is being nominated to serve the final, one-year term.

As a member of LeadingAge Minnesota, Gail serves on the Adult Day Leadership Committee, the ADS New Services Team in response to COVID-19, and the DHS Adult Day License Stakeholder Group.

Gail has 35 years of experience in adult day services, and is a passionate advocate for older adults, family caregivers and underserved populations. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Augsburg College.

“I am honored to be nominated for one last term on the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors. It is my intention to continue to be the voice for adult day providers and all individuals and families served in the aging services continuum of care as we persevere from the devastating impact of COVID-19. As a passionate advocate for those we are honored to serve, I will continue to keep the focus on them as we strive to further LeadingAge Minnesota’s vitally important work.”

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE, *cont'd.*

DUSTIN LEE – *Director-at-Large (First, three-year term)*



Dustin Lee is President and CEO of Prairie Senior Cottages, an organization providing small home memory care in seven cities throughout Greater Minnesota since 1998. Prior to joining the organization in 2012, he was a Regional Director with Ecumen in Mankato. He is an original co-founder of Birchwood Cottages in Owatonna and North Mankato and sold his ownership in 2018.

Dustin has a rich history of service to LeadingAge Minnesota. He currently serves on the Workforce Solutions, Housing, Home Care & Assisted Living, Quality, Safety & Performance Excellence, and the Nominating Committees.

“For over 17 years, I have enjoyed and benefited from being a part of LeadingAge Minnesota. Serving on the board will allow me to give back to the organization that has nurtured me to my current position. If elected, I plan to listen, learn, inform, and advise vested stakeholders to ensure Minnesota’s dementia care providers are among the best in the nation.”

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

SANDRA BENSEN



Sandra (Sandy) Bensen is a Registered Nurse and a Nursing Home Administrator who spent a career as a tireless champion for our field and embodies our Association’s mission to *transform and enhance the experience of aging*. From 1968 to her retirement in 2019, her career spanned a full spectrum of acute care, skilled care, home care and hospice; ranging from direct care and nursing administration as a Registered Nurse to her time serving as a Nursing Home Administrator and Vice President of Senior & Community Services, where she led the creation of Sanford Health’s WoodsEdge Senior Living Campus in Bemidji. Sandy provided leadership in strategic initiatives, which culminated in the building of a multi services senior campus, designed and operated in the Household/Person Directed model. She was a pioneer in culture change and innovation in how we care for older adults.

As a respected leader among her provider peers and an international expert for person-directed care philosophy, Sandy put her MBA and experience to work for our field in numerous ways. She was an influential voice on our Board of Directors when the vision of an elevated direct care career was first established in 2006 and volunteered her time on our early HSS Curriculum Committees to leverage real-world experience in designing and implementing a new career and training model. She later served with distinction on our staff as LeadingAge Minnesota’s HSS Transformation Coach.

Sandy embodies the values of “unwavering commitment” and “trustworthiness.” As a provider member, Sandy served on the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors and on many committees, including the LTC Culture Change, Emerging Technology, Awards & Recognition, HSS Advisory, and Workforce Solutions Committees, Care Center Cabinet, and Integrated Service Delivery Working Group.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, *cont'd.*

BETH DENEAU



Beth Deneau retired as Chief Administrative Officer of Walker Methodist in 2020 after a 40+ year career of service in the senior services field. At Walker, Beth oversaw and supervised Quality Improvement, Education, and Health Information. She spent the majority of her career in nursing leadership roles, having served as Director of Nursing and Director of Quality Assurance in a hospital-based TCU, skilled nursing facilities, and in private and state-run organizations. Beth serves on the Board of the Care Choice Cooperative and Bethel University's Nursing Advisory Committee.

Beth's professional interests were keenly focused in the areas of regulatory compliance and project management. In her years at Walker she facilitated several cross functional teams in the evaluation and improvement of their work. As a key member of the Crisis Management Team, Beth led infection control efforts of the organization through the COVID-19 crisis.

Beth served on several LeadingAge Minnesota committees throughout her career including Care Center Regulatory; Quality, Safety & Performance Excellence; Clinical Practice; and the I-SNP Advisory Council. She was a presenter at the association's Institute & Expo many times. Beth was instrumental in Walker Methodist's Transitions Program, a partnership with Lifsprk, for which both organizations received LeadingAge Minnesota's prestigious Innovation Award in 2019.

LeadingAge Minnesota
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