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Community Health in the Fox Valley: How are Local Groups Sharing What They Know? *Speaker Biographies*

Lynn Ann Clausing Rusch

Fox Valley Memory Project

Program Coordinator

Lynn Ann Clausing Rusch is dedicated to helping persons in need of information and assistance relating to dementia. She began working with the Fox Valley Memory Project in Appleton in 2015 as a Community Counseling intern and is now the Program Coordinator. Among other duties, she provides resources and support for those living with dementia, as well as their family and friends through the Memory Loss Resource Center, 10 Memory Cafes in the Fox Valley and community outreach services. Her past professional experience was as an administrator with USDA in Northeast Wisconsin for 37 years.

Melissa Kraemer Badtke

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Principal Transportation Planner

Melissa Kraemer Badtke is a principal transportation planner and Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Melissa's primary duties include overseeing East Central's Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, working with staff and local SRTS coalitions to implement SRTS programs, and implementing active transportation accommodations and educational efforts throughout the region. She also works with government organizations within three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) on long range transportation projects, corridor studies, and active transportation facilities. She is also involved the integration of health into transportation planning. Melissa serves on the Safe Routes to School National Partnership Local Leaders Advisory Committee.

Paula Morgen

ThedaCare

Director of Community Health

Paula Morgen is Director of Community Health for ThedaCare, a seven-hospital health system based in Appleton. She has held several roles in her 30 years with ThedaCare including positions in marketing, market research, community affairs and media relations. For the past 18 years, she has led the system's Community Health Improvement function including responsibility for Needs Assessments, Implementation Plans, Community Benefit Tracking, Contributions and Sponsorships, Employee Volunteerism, and their Community Health Action Teams (CHAT). With her leadership, ThedaCare is a two-time finalist for the Foster G. McGaw Award for Excellence in Community Service through the American Hospital Association and Baxter International. Paula is married with two children currently in college. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from UW-Madison, and is a graduate of the Creating Healthy Communities Fellowship offered through the Health Forum.

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Maren Peterson, JD

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Fox Valley

Executive Director

Maren Peterson serves as the Executive Director of NAMI-Fox Valley, the Appleton-based affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and is on the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters-Appleton. Maren returned to her hometown of Appleton in 2014 after nearly twenty years away, most of which she spent in New York City, where she practiced law as a commercial litigator with a focus on antitrust and trade. She recently earned a certificate in nonprofit leadership from Fox Valley Technical College, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Grinnell College, and law degree from Fordham University School of Law, where she was an editor of the Journal of Corporate and Financial Law.

Bonnie Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh College of Nursing

Assistant Dean, Director of Evaluation and Projects, Assistant Professor

Dr. Bonnie Schmidt oversees the Center for Nursing Research and is responsible for collaborative research studies with clinical partners. Her specialty is community health nursing and has taught community health theory, community health clinical, ethics, leadership, and adult health nursing since 2004. Her research background includes professional nursing values, diversity, men in nursing, older adults, and nursing education. She has authored or co-authored several articles on these topics, as well as community health and inclusive excellence.

Sarah Wright, MBA

Weight of the Fox Valley

Program Manager

Sarah Wright is committed to working with others to create a healthy community and a culture of health in the Fox Valley. She joined Weight of the Fox Valley in February, 2017 as Program Manager, and has been involved in the program as an Action Team member since its inception in 2013. Sarah previously led similar community-based health initiatives through her work at the Winnebago County Health Department and their healthy living partnership, re:TH!NK. This includes leading local Farm to School and Farm to Early Care programs, developing partnerships with area restaurants to offer healthy and locally-grown food, and participating in regional and statewide community health efforts, such as the Wisconsin Farm to School Leadership Team, the Wisconsin Healthy Food Systems Alliance and the healthTIDE Healthy Food Retail Team. She is a registered nurse with a Master's in Business and over 15 years of experience in project management. Sarah has a passion for cooking healthy food and spending time with her family, including her two daughters and her yellow lab, Charlie.