



Community Advisory Committee

Bios for members serving 2023-2024

Roxanne Cornell – Term ends 2/1/2025

Roxanne Cornell is a licensed independent clinical social worker and social entrepreneur who has spent decades helping people navigate life transitions, as a mental health therapist, a life care planner at an elder law firm, and as the founder of a small business that reimagines the possibilities of shared living for women as they age.

Roxanne has spent much of the past 10 years as a family caregiver, helping loved ones navigate end of life experiences. She believes in the power of community networks and is active in the LGBTQ+ community. Roxanne is a member of Edina Professionals Serving Seniors and the Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association, including serving as past Chair of the Board's Education Committee.

Jeff Dains – Term ends 9/1/2025

Jeff Dains is a Lauderdale City Council member and former Mayor. During his time in office, he has created two new parks and established a nature area. He also oversaw the reconstruction of most of the city's road and storm sewer infrastructure. He expanded Lauderdale's environmental programs and helped it achieve GreenStep City status. He is retired from his primary career as a labor representative for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and serves on the Mississippi Watershed Management Board. As a person aging with vision loss, Jeff is also interested in issues of accessibility and serves on the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Pat Fitzgibbon - Term ends 2/1/2025

Pat Fitzgibbon has a B.A. in Nursing and an M.A. in Health and Human Services. She was a staff nurse on an adolescent mental health unit and has extensive experience in long term care and assisted living facilities. She spent 27 years working at the Minnesota Department of Health as a nurse surveyor and supervisor in the Licensed and Certification Section and as a nurse investigator in the Office of Health Facility Complaints. Fitzgibbon also has experience as a caregiver and an interest in improving aging for all individuals across the metro. Fitzgibbons notes that her family includes African American, Latino, Asian and Native individuals and some family members for whom English is not their first language. She has a high level of awareness of different cultural practices, especially related to health care and home services.

Nicole Gackstetter - Term ends 1/1/2024

Nicole Gackstetter is a Program Manager at Stratis Health with more than twenty years of experience working in health care quality, ranging from the community to the national level providing support, facilitation, and technical assistance with a focus on health equity. She has also played the role of caregiver for elderly grandparents and parents who have dealt with a variety of chronic conditions including dementia. Nicole has worked on projects related to healthcare, aging and chronic conditions including: the statewide Health Plan Performance Improvement Plans (PIP) for MN, the Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA) program conducting Quality Innovation Labs as well as developing Quality Basics Peer Learning Network for the Rural Quality Program grantees, the MDH Arthritis, Diabetes, Hypertension and Alzheimer's programs and the CMS funded Quality Payment Program working with small, rural, and underserved providers. She also works with Social Determinants of Health and Pathway HUBS. She is a Certified Professional Project Manager (CPPM) and has a BA degree in Organizational Communication.

Barbara Greene - Term ends 2/1/2025

Barbara Greene is a public health specialist in the field of healthy aging and end-of-life care. Her career focuses on the health and well-being of marginalized communities. She has served as a consultant for national and state hospice & palliative care organizations, area agencies on aging, organizations with healthy aging initiatives, and nonprofits focused on advance care planning. Her training in cultural anthropology (B.A.) and international public health (M.P.H.) provides a lens of health from a transcultural perspective. Barbara is a board member of Giving Voice Initiative, a national organization which reduces marginalization through music for persons living with dementia.

Diane Grooms - Term ends 11/1/2024

Diane Grooms was an Elder Support Services/Housing Specialist for American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC). She recruited and assisted elders in qualifying elder housing in 2012 for the Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi project and worked with the elders ever since. Diane is an enrolled member in the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. She has been a member of a number the committees in the Native American community such as MAIC Elders Picnic, Urban Elder, Elder Abuse Conference, Native American Advisory and the Shared Power Advisory.

Diane obtained her Bachelor of Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Before working for AICDC, Diane spent 24 years in the airline industry working for Northwest/Delta Airlines in accounting as an analyst and in customer service. Diane is also a co-founder and an avid member of the Native Elder Games and has participated in the Senior Games since 2018.

Rev. Harry Hartigan – Term ends 2/1/2025

Rev. Harry Hartigan is a caregiver in the LGBTQ community. He checks in regularly with many older adults in his life and works as a paid caregiver for Right at Home. He also helps organize Let's Do Lunch, monthly luncheons for older members of the LGBTQ community to enjoy each other's company and learn about services and resources for seniors. Rev. Harry is an ordained priest in the [Catholic Apostolic Church in North America](#) and serves St. Theresa Parish in Minneapolis as well as providing spiritual support for people incarcerated in the prison system in Minnesota.

Lina Jau – Term ends 12/1/2025

Lina Jau brings over thirty years of experience working in nonprofits and the Minnesota state government as well as being involved in the community. As an immigrant herself, she has a good understanding of the challenges of people with limited English proficiency and accessing government and community services. Prior to working for the government, Lina worked in nonprofit organizations for about 10 years serving victims of domestic violence and child abuse. She is a former member of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and has worked on many community projects including the Malaysian Community Oral History Project.

Gloria Kumagai – Term ends 2/1/2026

Gloria Kumagai was a caretaker for her father who is now deceased and volunteers with Japanese American elders through the Minnesota Nikkei Project. She has a deep interest and concern regarding the needs of Japanese American elders who live alone with minimal family contact. She knows how the work of volunteers who provide services such as transportation, assistance with moving, community meals and activities, etc. make a big difference in the lives of these elders.

Reyna Lopez – Term ends 12/1/2025

Reyna Lopez is an avid cyclist and co-captain of "Latinos en Bici MN". She has been a Volunteer since 2018 in various Non-Profits in the Latino Community. She has volunteered with CLUES in "Canasta Familiar", VEAP as a front desk greeter, HACER and the Consulate of Mexico Developing Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa, and the Alzheimer Association teaching lessons in Spanish about Alzheimer Disease.

B. Jan McCulloch, Ph.D. – Term ends 11/1/2024

Jan McCulloch spent her professional life as an educator, social science researcher and academic administrator. She was recruited to the University of Minnesota to serve as Department Head and Professor in Family Social Science, College of Education and Human Development. Her academic specialties include social science research and methods, family gerontology, and family relationships. Before her tenure at the University of Minnesota, McCulloch held a joint appointment in the Department of Family Relations and the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky. She also has served on several

professional boards and served for 10 years on the Metropolitan Area of Agency Board of Directors with roles including Secretary and President.

Regassa Oljirra – Term ends 12/1/2025

Regassa Oljirra is a health care policy analyst in the Health Care Eligibility and Access Division at the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Oljirra interprets, analyzes and explains the health care eligibility and helps health care eligibility workers throughout the state by answering policy questions. Oljirra also participates in several projects run by the Health Care Administration and represents the health care policy team. Originally from Oromia, Ethiopia, where the brutality by the Ethiopian government against the Oromo people has caused many to flee to the United States, he is an active member of the Oromo community in Minnesota. He holds a master's degree in political science and international studies from the University of Leipzig, Germany. He also earned a master's degree in public policy and leadership from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. When he isn't at work, his family is the top priority in his life, taking every possible opportunity to spend time with his wife and two daughters.

Beverly Propes – Term ends 11/1/2024

Beverly Propes is a semi-retired health consultant, licensed public health nurse and registered nurse in Minnesota. She was a school nurse in Minneapolis for thirteen years. She has been a health ministry/wellness educator for community churches and the northside community for over twenty-five years. Propes has completed health facilitation/wellness trainings for Arthritis, Alzheimer's/ Dementia, American Heart Association, Diabetes Association, American Cancer Survivor and Living a Healthy Life. She has served as an advisor and committee member for countless health initiatives including North Point Health and Wellness, Act on Alzheimer's West African ACT and Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller ACT, Way to Grow, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Infant Mortality Among African Americans Project: Community Voices and Solutions (CVAS), and The Anika Foundation.

Bob Roepke (Chair) – Term ends 11/01/2024

Bob Roepke retired in 2002 from 3M after 35 years providing leadership in human resources and organizational development. Since his retirement, he has increased community engagement among older adults and supports cities in preparing for the growing aging population. He is a partner in the Community Asset Development Group that, in partnership with the Community Asset Foundation and the Good Samaritan Society, are building assisted living facilities in small towns across Minnesota. Roepke has served as mayor of Chaska and as a Chaska City Council Member. He has chaired the Community Foundation for Carver County. Roepke has served as a board member for many organizations, including Carver County Health Partnership, Carver Scott Education Coop Foundation, Ridgeview Medical Center Foundation and Moravian Care. He is a past board member and chair of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.

Art Serotoff - Term ends 12/1/2025

Art Serotoff has been committed to strengthening his community his whole life. In the beginning, he worked with youth as the director of an alternative education program. Later he worked at the systems level as funding director for the Minneapolis United Way. Here he led the United Way's Undoing Racism project and developed United Ways program evaluation and funding processes. Coming closer to the community, he was programs director at Sabathani Community Center where he supervised six programs, all focused on strengthening BIPOC and low income families and individuals. Sabathani's Senior Center was one of these. Today, Art volunteers for the Sabathani Chapter of the AARP where he continues his advocacy work for community elders. He also participates in the South Minneapolis Anti-racism Collaborative.

Patty Thorsen - Term ends 11/1/2024

Patty Thorsen brings her education and experience in Library and Information Science to seek new ideas and solutions for caregivers and people aging with disabilities. As a person who has lived her entire life with various disabilities (cerebral palsy and epilepsy) and has developed other disabilities later in life, she has combated perceptions of diminished mental capacity. As a caregiver for her parents and as a person aging solo, Patty brings unique perspectives to older adults' needs. Patty has served on the Citizens League committee to study "senior solos" and their Transit Study Committee. She also served on the Snelling-Midway Redevelopment Community Advisory Council, which examined the proposed Minnesota United soccer stadium and the surrounding area. She serves on the Metropolitan Councils' Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee and is an AARP volunteer.