

The mission of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

# Forum Matters

Advocacy

Products/Services: QI

Products/Services: Education

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susan Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN

Jerry Fuller, MSW, LCSW

Kelly Mayo

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Timothy A. Pflederer, MD

## AD HOC MEMBERS

Louis Diamond, MB, ChB,  
FACP, FCP(SA)

Cynthia Kristensen, MD

## Forum Coordinator

Dee LeDuc

PO Box 203

Birchwood, WI 54817

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www.esrdnetworks.org



*The Forum would like to give special acknowledgement to Susie Stark, Jenna Krisher, Darlene Rodgers, Harriett Edwards, and Demetra Denmon for their many years of service to the Forum Board of Directors and the ESRD Network Program. Thank you!*

Susie: 34 years as Executive Director, 14 1/2 years of service to the Forum Board

Jenna: 31 years as Executive Director, 10+ years of service to the Forum Board

Darlene: 20 years as ED and QID, 10 years of service to the Forum Board

Harriett: 7 years as Executive Director, 2 years of service to the Forum Board

Demetra: 2 years as Executive Director, 1 1/2 years of service to the Forum Board

## Since the last issue:

- Members of the Forum's Board of Directors met in New Orleans on February 19-21, 2016, for the **Winter Forum Board Meeting**. A 1-page bulleted summary highlighting the discussion topics and the President's Message slide set are available for your review. Please contact the [Forum Office](#) for more information.
- Please consider joining us! **Elections** of the Board of Directors will take place this spring. Forum members will be formally contacted in May to solicit nominations for 5 Member-At-Large positions and the Secretary position. Following the nomination period, a two-week ballot period will take place where members will have the opportunity to cast their vote.
- On March 4<sup>th</sup> members of the Medical Advisory Council voted to elect Ralph Atkinson, MD, **Chair of the MAC** replacing Donald Molony, MD, who was elected to President-Elect on July 1, 2015. Dr. Atkinson has been a member of Network 8's Medical Review Board since 2010 where he currently serves as Chair. He has also served as an At-Large member of the Forum's BOD since 2013.
- Forum members, Donald Molony, Glenda Harbert and Stephanie Hutchinson will be part of a panel discussion at the **NRAA Spring Meeting** on May 25<sup>th</sup> presenting an update of the ESRD Network Program. Past President, Cynthia Kristensen, has been invited to present an overview of the Transitions of Care Toolkit. Visit the [NRAA website](#) to register and for more information.
- The **Annual Forum Membership Webinar** will convene on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm ET. All Forum members are invited and encouraged to attend the webinar. If you haven't received the GoToWebinar invitation please contact the [Forum Office](#).
- The Forum Board of Directors will convene their **Summer Forum Board of Directors meeting** on August 5-6, 2016, in Seattle, WA. The agenda is being developed and the Board welcomes topic suggestions from members. Topic suggestions can be sent to the [Forum office](#).
- **REMINDER:** The **Transitions of Care Toolkit** is available for download at the [Forum website](#). Please share with your colleagues.

*Forum Board of Director's Meeting: August 5-6, 2016 — Seattle, WA*

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- Because of the new ESRD Network Contracts and longer-than-expected procurement period, ongoing **regular calls between Forum and CMS leadership** have been on hold. Forum leaders hope to resume these regular calls with CMS in the near future.
- Plans are under way for a **3-part webinar series** addressing the topic of improving the patient experience of care. “How to change the way we look at patient experience of care and how to use new information to improve the patient experience of care.” The Forum’s Quality Conference Planning Committee is working to identify dates for the webinars and more information will be available soon.
- During recent Forum Board of Directors meetings, the **Forum Bylaws** were reviewed and updates were drafted by Board members. The law firm, Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, reviewed these amendments and provided additional recommendations. The combined recommendations will be distributed to the Forum Membership for review and, in accordance with the Bylaws; members will be provided an opportunity to vote on the amendments.

*Established in 2012, the Forum’s Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) is comprised of patient representatives from all of the 18 ESRD Networks. KPAC members enthusiastically embrace their role as the primary patient voice to advise the Board of Directors and Forum membership on the direct impact to patients on healthcare related issues focusing on quality of care and quality of life for our national ESRD patient community. The KPAC has been actively involved in all Forum activities over the past 3 years. In 2015, the KPAC lost two of their members. We remember Danielle Ward and Chenise Dennis who dedicated their lives to making life better for other ESRD patients; always positive, compassionate and warriors to the very end.*

Dedicated    Blessed    Insight  
 Patient    Compassionate    Altruistic    Collaboration  
**In-Memory**    Inspiration  
 Kind    Selfless    Love    Remember    Family  
 Grateful    Warriors  
 Enthusiasm    Friend  
 Perspectives    Positive



Danielle Ward  
Network 6  
Wake Forest, NC



Chenise Dennis  
Network 13  
Darrow, LA