

# KPAC Matters

(Forum of ESRD Networks Kidney Patient Advisory Council)

The **MISSION** of the Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks and to improve the Quality of Care to Patients with renal disease.

The **VISION** of the KPAC is: Being the primary patient eyes, ears, and voice for CMS bridging the gap between patient experience and provider performance.

**KPAC CHAIR:**

Maggie Carey  
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**KPAC VICE-CHAIR:**

Derek Forfang  
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**Forum Coordinator**

Dee LeDuc  
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## Premier Issue of the KPAC Forum Matters: . . .

The KPAC is very excited to announce this premier issue of our KPAC Matters Newsletter. This is intended to be a communication device and enable us to keep you, the Networks, informed on our activities and achievements.

## KPAC Satisfaction Survey Results . . .

Thank you to all the Executive Directors and Patient Service Directors and Coordinators that responded to our KPAC Satisfaction Survey in May of this year. The information we received is helping us formulate our programs and deliverables as we go forward. Some areas, in particular, came up consistently:

- Attendance Records of KPAC Representatives
- Project Updates
- More effective communication between the KPAC and the Networks
- Ideas on Patient Engagement that can be passed on to the Units

With those thoughts in mind, the following changes are being instituted.

- ⇒ KPAC minutes will be sent to all EDs and PSDs - Yes, I know that the last thing you need is another e-mail each month. But our minutes are an easy read and include the Attendance Record for the month and Project Updates. These minutes can then be forwarded to your PAC at your discretion to help keep them in the loop of our endeavors.
- ⇒ This Newsletter will be published quarterly – it is intended to be a quick update of what we have accomplished, what we are working on, and what we are considering. It, coupled with our Minutes, will be the first step toward a more effective communication strategy.
- ⇒ The KPAC will develop a “best practices” idea page on Patient Engagement which will be updated as new ideas are shared and collected. It is our hope that as you become aware of successful programs in your Network, you will pass them on to us for inclusion.

## Welcome to our Newest KPAC Members . . .

Stephanie Dixon, Network 2  
Amanda Wilson, Network 6  
Reatha Anderson, Network 13  
Don Soto, Network 18

*Next Monthly KPAC Call: Tuesday, June 14th at 6 pm ET*

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## Current Technical Expert Panels

NQF TEP – Bobbi Wager, Network 14  
Emergency Room TEP – Maggie Carey, Network 11  
Ambulatory Surgical Center TEP - Robin Blomberg, Network 16

## CMS Forum Leadership Call

During the latest CMS Forum Leadership call, the KPAC was able to comment on CMS' commitment to improving transplant options and to help start the conversation on the development of a tool being considered by the Forum to educate patients on engagement opportunities (QIPs, TEPs, Comment Solicitations, etc.). CMS was intrigued by the idea and has asked for a paper outlining the potential scope of the project.

## Advanced Care Planning Brochure

The KPAC was asked to review and comment on a new brochure entitled *Advance Care Planning: For Dialysis Patients and Their Family* being developed by MARC and AED. We were pleased to have a patient perspective solicited for this project and gave several suggestions which are being duly considered.

## Grievance Toolkit

The Grievance Toolkit, developed by patients for patients, is in the final stages of development and is being reviewed by Yessi Cubillo (Nw 3), our new PSD Liaison to the Networks. Our goal is to have the new Toolkit available to the public this summer.

## Quality Conference Webinars

Several KPAC members are involved with the planning of the webinar series. Our hope is the webinars help more dialysis facilities create and foster an environment where staff and patients work together to improve the patient experience and quality of care. Derek Forfang (KPAC Vice-Chair) is a co-chair of the QC Planning Committee.

## KPAC Business Plan

The KPAC Business Plan is our roadmap to guide the work we do in support of the Forum and ESRD Networks. The Plan outlines current KPAC projects and the member leads for each task. Copies of the Plan are available for your review; contact the [Forum Office](#) to request an updated copy any time.