

# 2023 Human Service Summit

## From Me to We

### Tackling the Big Issues in Our Community - Together

#### AGENDA

June 21, 2023

#### Welcome & Introductions

Julie Brewer, Executive Director, United Community Services of Johnson County

#### **Presentation: From Me to We: Our Housing Journey Began with Community**

**Presenters:** Julie Brewer, UCS Executive Director  
Kristy Baughman, UCS Director of Education and Planning

#### From Me to We: Impact to Solutions Panels

**Impact Panelists:** Lee Jost, Executive Director, NCircle  
Jarrod Sanderson, COO, Nautical Manufacturing and Fulfillment  
Robert Welch, Sales & Team Mgr, Select Quote Insurance Company  
Tim DeWeese, Director of the Johnson County Mental Health Center  
Rita Carr, UCS Director of Community Planning & CoC Lead Staff

**Moderator:** Julie Brewer, UCS Executive Director

**Solutions Panelists:** Joe Karlin, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Dignity Project  
Lindsay Hicks, President and CEO, Habitat KC  
Heather Bradley-Geary, Director of Supportive Housing, The Vecino Group  
Megan Foreman, Housing Coordinator, Johnson County Government

**Moderator:** Kristy Baughman, UCS Director of Education and Planning

#### **BREAK**

#### **Breakout Session: From Me to We: Tackling the Big Issues in Our Community - Together**

**Facilitators:** Wayne Powell, President and Chief Executive Officer, iBossWell, Inc.  
Lynne Brown, Vice President Strategic Planning, iBossWell, Inc.

**Closing & Call to Action:** Julie Brewer, UCS Executive Director



Doors Open 8:00 a.m.  
Event Ends at 12:10 p.m.



**From Me to We: Our Housing Journey Began with Community**



**Julie Brewer** is the Executive Director of United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS). Julie leads UCS' focus on poverty and health and human service issues impacting Johnson County residents. UCS' core work is illuminating needs and solutions through education and advocacy, fostering a framework for collaboration through mobilizing and planning, and prioritizing community investments through targeted resource allocation. Julie has more than 30 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and for-profit sectors. Prior to coming to Johnson County, Julie was the first Chief Operating Officer of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, a political subdivision located in Omaha, Nebraska focused on educational equity. She led the annual giving, endowment and major gifts programs for United Way of the Quad Cities in Iowa/Illinois and provided consulting services to non-profits for more than a decade. She has also directed public relations, advertising, and marketing programs for both nonprofit and private sector organizations.



**Kristy Baughman** is the Director of Education and Planning at United Community Services of Johnson County. Kristy leads the Johnson County Health Equity Network, a multi-sector collaborative focusing on safe, stable, attainable housing as the foundation for healthy communities. Kristy uses state and County-level data to help UCS develop and implement strategic planning processes to address health and human service issues in Johnson County. She also chairs the Children's Coordinating Council, working to improve the availability and delivery of health and human services for Johnson County children and youth. Prior to joining UCS, Kristy spent more than 12 years working internationally with a focus on improving the lives of women and girls in nine different countries. Her international career led her to work in Russia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Haiti, and Philippines with organizations such as CARE International, Save the Children, United Nations, and UNICEF. Kristy also worked for Rose Brooks Center (RBC) leading Community Education, Legal Advocacy, and Non-Residential Advocacy programs.

**From Me to We: Hear From Our Impact to Solutions Panelists**

View our panelists' full comments by following the QR code or going to [www.ucsjoco.org](http://www.ucsjoco.org)



**Lee Jost, Executive Director of NCircle**

"I am motivated to work towards stable housing for all residents because I love living in Johnson County. I am proud that our county leads the nation in its mental health and criminal justice work. I want to tell others how our community is home to all who want to live here – from the paraprofessional in my children's school to the executive who leads a company. I want my community to support each other when challenges hit."

**Joe Karlin, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Dignity Project**

"The fact is that individuals experiencing homelessness are in the community. The lack of a shelter doesn't mean they don't exist, but instead that we have chosen not to provide resources. These are our brothers and sisters. Many individuals are in this situation through no fault of their own. They deserve the resources they need to build a better life."





**Jarrod Sanderson, COO of Nautical Manufacturing and Fulfillment**

"It's more about a community's philosophy toward homelessness than it is about programming. A lot of the lack of progress is that we don't yet have collective agreement that the need is worth addressing for **everyone** experiencing hardship, not just those individuals who we've deemed 'worthy' of helping."

**Robert Welch, Sales and Team Manager, Select Quote Insurance Company**

"For every person experiencing homelessness you see on a corner, there are four others you do not see. Many are working. It is hard to be productive at work, or even show up on time, when you do not know where you are sleeping. If employment is lost due to these issues, the ability to exit homelessness is nearly impossible."



**Tim DeWeese, Executive Director of Johnson County Mental Health Center**

"The point of most need is when a person has nowhere to stay. That is one of the greatest needs we have, to provide people with emergency shelter and then begin to work filling in the gaps or addressing needs they have. It's a continuum. Getting an emergency shelter is just one step in that continuum."

**Rita Carr, Director of Community Planning at UCS**

"There has been some lack of awareness in the past and an assumption that we do not have homelessness here. This is the time to really pay attention and see how we can respond before the problem becomes insurmountable."



**Lindsay Hicks, President & CEO at Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City**

"We are intentionally partnering to uplift the community, to bring visibility that attainable housing is needed and attainable housing is beautiful and attainable housing makes a stronger community here in Johnson County."

**Heather Bradley-Geary, Director of Supportive Housing at The Vecino Group**

"The crux of community and the economy is always housing. People can't succeed in our country without an address — you can't get a job, social security card or photo ID without an address. I believe it's my job to make housing a human right."



**Megan Foreman, Housing Coordinator at Johnson County, KS Government**

"Solutions for our unhoused population has been something the community has been calling for — for a long time. The county recognizes that it's not a one size fits all solution and that our activities are going to have to be as diverse as the population that we serve."

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## Notes


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