



# SOAR Healthy Communities

## Obesity & Diabetes Roundtable Bios

### SOAR



**Jared Arnett** is a native of eastern Kentucky. He has a heart for the people of the region and for the businesses of eastern Kentucky. In November of 2014, he began his new role as the Founding Executive Director for Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR), a special initiative launched by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear (D) and Congressman Hal Rogers (R) in 2013. SOAR's mission is to expand job creation, enhance regional opportunity, innovation, and identity, improve the quality of life, and support all those working to achieve these goals in Appalachian Kentucky. Prior to taking his post at SOAR, Arnett was leading the 530 member Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as President/CEO. He was instrumental in the expansion of the organization both geographically and strategically. Before being employed at the chamber, Arnett's career had included serving as the director of finance for Sound House Music, Inc.; general management consultant for the East Kentucky Small Business Development Center; and at age 26, starting his own consulting firm, Beacon Management Solutions, Inc. Through his consulting work, he was instrumental in more than 10 successful start-ups in eastern Kentucky, including the most recent, as a partner in Mountain Music Exchange, LLC. He has a bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies and a minor in Government, as well as a MBA from Morehead State University. At age 32, he has nearly 10 years of experience in executive leadership and entrepreneurship. Jared resides in Harold, KY with his wife, Bethany and their six-year-old daughter Rosalind (Roz).



**William D. Hacker, MD, FAAP, CPE**, a Manchester native brings a wealth of experience and expertise to SOAR. In 2001 Dr. Hacker joined the Kentucky Department for Public Health as a physician consultant in the Division of Adult and Child Health. Following the terrorism events in the fall of 2001 Dr. Hacker transferred to the Division of Epidemiology as Manager of the newly formed Public Health Preparedness Branch. He was appointed by the Governor in 2004 to server as the State Health Commissioner and served in that role until he retired in 2011. He currently serves as the Chair of the SOAR Community Health and Wellness Advisory Council.

## Featured Speaker



**Dr. Bryce Smith, PhD, MSSW** joined the Division of Diabetes Translation in February, 2015 with the charge of standing up the Translation, Health Education and Evaluation Branch. The Translation Branch's primary focus is to develop, synthesize, and translate the best possible science and practice for use in various public health settings. This goal is being achieved through the use of applied research, evidence synthesis, practice evaluation for performance improvement, health education and promotion through numerous media (e.g., websites, toolkits, curricula), and various field studies. Since its inception, the branch has begun several applied research and evaluation projects and systematic reviews, restructured the focus of the National Diabetes Education Program, and become an innovation leader in novel behavior change strategies using behavioral economics.

Prior to joining Diabetes, Dr. Smith served as the Team Lead for Prevention Research and Evaluation in the Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH). While there Dr. Smith led the planning, management and evaluation of a 35-site program designed to increase testing and is the lead editor of a Public Health Report supplement publishing the results. He developed the HCV research agenda and led numerous screening, modeling, epidemiology and field studies which culminated in the expanded HCV testing guidelines published in MMWR in 2012. Subsequently, Dr. Smith chaired the WHO HCV screening and treatment recommendations for low and middle-resource countries issued in 2014.

Prior to working in DVH, Dr. Smith worked in program evaluation in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP). While there he led the implementation of a national monitoring and evaluation system via development of training materials, webinars and guidance documents which had a significant impact on the use of data to improve program among the 200 participating grantees. He also led outcome monitoring studies to evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions in the field.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Smith served as the Clinical Director of a community-based organization providing mental health and prevention services and as a clinical social worker in substance abuse treatment centers in Atlanta.

## Speakers



**Janet (Jan) Johnson** is a Registered Dietitian and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Jan has worked at the Pike County Health Department in Pikeville, KY as the WIC Program's Regional Breastfeeding Promotion Coordinator for 10 years. Through her position she provides community education and outreach, provides training for health department and hospital staff members, guest lectures for college training programs, and assists with state-level initiatives to support breastfeeding including the Kentucky Kangaroo Care Initiative. Jan is an Adjunct Clinical Instructor of Nutrition for the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, has served as one of Kentucky's Designated Contributors to the United States Breastfeeding Committee, is the Chairperson for the Eastern Kentucky Breastfeeding Coalition, and is the webmaster of [www.kybreastfeeding.com](http://www.kybreastfeeding.com). In her free time, Jan enjoys volunteering with church, making music, instructing color guard and teaching ballet.



**Valerie Horn** serves as Appal-TREE Project Director in Letcher County. Appal-TREE (Appalachians Together Restoring the Eating Environment) is a joint community-university research and demonstration project to increase access to healthy foods in Eastern Kentucky. Valerie recently retired from the Letcher County School system and coordinates the Grow Appalachia program at the Cowan Community Center. She serves as Co-chair of the Letcher County Farmer's Market and volunteers at the local Food Pantry. Valerie earned degrees from Eastern Kentucky University and Morehead State University and most recently attended Spalding University. Valerie has a strong connection to community and believes together we have the opportunity and responsibility to make a better life for all. [valerie \(at\) cfaky.org](mailto:valerie(at)cfaky.org)



**Eric Stockton** is the Health Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership that works for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia. ARC's health programs include documentation of the region's health disparities and their economic impacts; strategic grantmaking for government agencies and non-profit organizations; and the deployment of multi-sector public health partnerships that support Appalachia's economic growth and stability. Mr. Stockton's activities include management of a large grant portfolio; implementation of long-term regional interventions in diabetes, substance abuse, and cancer; and engagement with the Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Council. Mr. Stockton received a BA in English from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1987. His background includes extensive work in leadership and capacity building for small communities, environmental infrastructure, and partnership initiatives in public health. He has been with ARC since 1996 and lives with his family in Washington, DC.



**Sandra Noble Canon (Sandy)** serves as President of Bluegrass Harvest for Community Ventures. Her work is to fill infrastructure and programming gaps within local food economy with strategies that secure small farmer financial stability and reach into low income populations with local food access and equity.

Formerly, Sandy served as Kentucky's state child care administrator, created a new national model for minor league baseball operations in numerous communities across the country; served as the Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ – Bluegrass Region); State Coordinator for Kentucky IMPACT as well as working in the fields of online homeownership education (eHome America), child abuse prevention and women's reproductive health.

She is known in the community for her work in collaborative efforts, strategic and long-term planning, team development, training, public relations, and resource development. She has been a strong community activist and leader through past and current involvement with the Fayette County School's Equity Council and the Vision 2020 Early Childhood team, the Lexington Commission on Race Relations, Child Care Council of Kentucky, Asociación de Hispanos Unidos, Lexington Human Rights Commission, and the Lexington Rotary Club. She is currently serving on the boards of Fayette Alliance and New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future.

Sandy has served on state and national teams, committees, and task forces for juvenile justice, criminal justice, and education issues. She is the former treasurer for the Lexington Farmers Market. Sandy is married to Chris, a retired clinical psychologist at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, KY, where they are sustainable produce growers for local restaurants and in the Lexington Farmer's Market where she also sells her natural fiber knitted works, and together have two fine adult sons.