

2026 Nebraska Home Care Association Board Candidates

President-Elect

Melissa Vietor currently serves as the Director of Faith Regional Home Health and Hospice, where she has worked for more than 26 years, with the last 16 dedicated to home health and hospice. She began in direct patient care, where she spent seven years working closely with patients and families, before transitioning into leadership. Melissa is a graduate of Bryan School of Nursing (1999) and earned her BSN from Aspen University in 2021. She is a lifelong resident of Northeast Nebraska. Melissa has been married to her husband Jason for 26 years, and they have three children: daughter Vanessa and her husband Garrett; Austin and his wife Nicki (parents to Melissa's two granddaughters); and son Peyton.



Melissa said, "Throughout my career, I have been passionate about ensuring patients and families receive compassionate, personalized care, particularly during times of illness, transition, and loss. My experience in inpatient units highlighted how much families need continued support and education beyond the hospital. This realization drove my commitment to home health and hospice, where I could provide meaningful, ongoing interactions and advocate for patients and families during some of their most vulnerable moments.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the Nebraska Home Care Association, where I have previously served as both Director-at-Large and Treasurer. These roles have given me valuable insight into state and national legislation, financial and operational challenges, and the collaborative efforts required to strengthen our field. Working with colleagues across Nebraska has been an invaluable experience, allowing us to share best practices, tackle process improvements, and advocate for sustainable home health and hospice services statewide.

As I step into the role of President-Elect, I am eager to continue serving and contributing to the Nebraska Home Care Association. It is an honor to bring my knowledge, leadership, and passion for advocacy to help ensure that home health and hospice agencies across Nebraska remain empowered to deliver the highest quality of care to our patients and families."

Secretary

Jody Evans is the Director of Columbus Community Hospital Home Health and Hospice. She has worked as a nurse since 1999, starting as an LPN in long term care and transitioning to home health and hospice in 2000. Jody returned to school and completed her associate's degree of nursing in 2008. During that time, she worked as a field nurse in home health and hospice, transitioned to the



office manager and assumed billing and coding duties for a short time. After graduation with an associate's degree in nursing, Jody returned to field nurse work in home health and hospice. She transitioned to the swing bed unit for about a year and returned to home health as the manager, was appointed director in 2014, and has remained in that role since that time. Jody completed her bachelor's of nursing in 2014 and MSN in 2025.

Jody said, "While I was not initially on track to become a nurse, I can't think of anything else I would rather do after 25+ years of nursing. I love to see patients improve and meet their healthcare and personal goals and see them thriving in the community after discharge! I am interested in joining the board for the Home Care Association to promote home care in Nebraska, advocate for agencies and patients and encourage communication between agencies and other community resources. My husband and I have 4 kids, ages 10-20. If we aren't running to one of our kids' activities, I like to walk, read, airboat, camp and enjoy the outdoors."

Treasurer

TBD

Home Health At-Large Directors

Keri Carraher, RN, Health Director, Boone County Health Center in Albion graduated from the UNMC College of Nursing with a VSN in 2001 and began her career as a med-surg nurse at St. Francis, where she worked for 3 ½ years. For over 20 years, Keri has been with Boone County Health Center, gaining experience in ER, labor & delivery, pediatrics and geriatrics. She helped build and implement BCHC's first electronic medical record system and later implemented the first EMR in home health. Since 2016, Keri has worked in home health, serving as Director since 2017, and became wound care certified that same year.

Keri said, "I wish to be considered as a candidate for the Nebraska Home Care Association Board of Directors because I am passionate about advancing home health services, supporting rural communities, and advocating for patients and providers. I bring experience in clinical care, leadership, and technology implementation, and I am eager to collaborate with other leaders to strengthen and grow home care across Nebraska."



Charity Ebert, Administrator, Home Health Care for Tabitha in Lincoln – information coming soon

Kelly Heiman, Market Director of Operations for CHI Health at Home in Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Clarkson College (1997) and a Master's in Forensic Science from Nebraska Wesleyan University (2004).

Kelly's professional journey spans over two decades in healthcare, with significant leadership roles. She served as Area Director of Operations (2019-Present) and Area Director of Clinical Services (2018-2023) at CHI Health at Home, where she developed and implemented operational processes, managed budgets, oversaw performance, and led teams across multiple locations. Prior to this, Kelly was a Clinical Nurse Consultant at United Healthcare Community and State (2016-2018), contributing to the development of a new Care Management program and managing state and member complaints.

Kelly's experience also includes a Director of Nursing role at Walgreens Infusion/Option Care Home Infusion (2010-2016), where she focused on increasing revenue, developing workflow processes, and staff management. Earlier in her career, Kelly held positions as a Nursing Team Lead at Children's Home Healthcare (2008-2010) and an RN Case Manager at REM Health (2005-2008), gaining extensive experience in patient care, staff scheduling and maintaining professional relationships. She also has additional experience as a Primary RN Home Health Nurse and Private Duty Nurse Case Manager, as well as a Hospital Floor Nurse.



Kelly said, “With a comprehensive background in home care hospice operations, clinical services, and program development, I bring a wealth of experience in leadership, strategic planning, financial management, and quality improvement. My dedication to patient care, strong communication skills, and proven ability to develop and implement effective processes align well with the mission of the Nebraska Home Care Association. I am eager to contribute my expertise to further enhance the quality and accessibility of home care services in Nebraska.”

Private Duty Personal Care Home At-Large Directors

Kerin Zuger, Chief Operations Officer for Caretech holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Master's in Business Administration from Bellevue University.

Throughout her career, Kerin has demonstrated a passion for improving patient outcomes and operational efficiency through strategic innovation. She spent 13 years at Air Methods, a global

leader in air medical transport, where she was instrumental in growing a national division responsible for coordinating interfacility transfers. During her tenure as Vice President of Strategic Growth, she led Operations, Business Development, and Technology. Notably, she designed and implemented a proprietary system to streamline critical patient data transfer, reduce time-to-care, and improve clinical outcomes—ultimately supporting lower mortality rates and enhancing hospital throughput.

Following Air Methods' acquisition, Kerin transitioned to the post-acute care industry as Chief Strategy Officer for Right at Home corporate. In this role, she managed government contracts and affairs while spearheading growth through acquisitions and strategic partnerships, including collaborations with major home health providers like Kindred and Enhabit. She led the development and implementation of innovative interdisciplinary care models and launched the successful Hospital to Home program, aimed at reducing costly hospital readmissions through coordinated, high-quality in-home care.



Today, Kerin serves as Chief Operations Officer for Caretech, one of the largest independent home care organizations in Nebraska, with service areas across Wyoming, Kansas, and Iowa. She oversees multi-state operations across both Home Healthcare and Home Care, offering a unique perspective on regulatory compliance, care coordination, and integrated service delivery. Her leadership fosters collaboration across diverse scopes of practice to ensure exceptional patient care.

In addition to her executive responsibilities, Kerin is an adjunct professor at Bellevue University, where she teaches graduate courses in business and marketing. A lifelong Nebraskan, she finds joy in her family—her husband of 21 years, Kevin and their two children, Owen (17) and Lauren (15) —and believes Nebraska just might be a great place for everyone.

Tim Martens is a resilient, forward-thinking leader with more than 20 years of experience driving operational growth and management success. As the Chief Operations Officer of AmanaCare, a rapidly growing non-medical home care company serving families across Nebraska, Tim has demonstrated a proven ability to align strategy, people, and systems to deliver sustainable results.

Throughout his career, Tim has consistently advanced the mission of non-medical home care—building companies that not only grow but also provide exceptional client and caregiver experiences. He is recognized as a trusted strategist, out-of-the-box thinker, and thought leader in the industry, with a track record that includes:

- **Transformative Growth** – Led a 160x revenue increase in 12 months as President at Home Care Advocacy Network and drove 575% revenue growth over five years at Hillcrest Caring Companions.



- **Industry Expertise** – Achieved three consecutive years of record growth at Home Instead, outperforming the national franchise average.
- **Operational Excellence** – Developed and implemented KPIs, cost-saving measures, and process improvements that advanced productivity, employee experience, and client satisfaction.
- **Thought Leadership** – Served as a speaker for the Nebraska Home Care Association and advised Home Instead Senior Care franchise owners on strategy, budgets, and staff alignment.

Tim is passionate about elevating the non-medical home care industry and ensuring providers across Nebraska have a strong voice in shaping its future. His leadership is marked by a commitment to strategic planning, continuous improvement, employee and client experience, and community engagement.

Outside of his professional life, Tim is active in his community through Citylight church of Omaha and is the head Throws Coach for Fort Calhoun High School. He and his wife Amy are raising four children and spend much of their time in community, athletic events and the arts.

With his combination of vision, experience, and advocacy, Tim is eager to serve on the Board of the Home Care Association of Nebraska and represent the interests of non-medical home care providers statewide.