



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY:

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all that planned, assisted with, presented and/or attended the first in person KARQM conference since 2019! The KARQM fall conference on August 18th was filled with inspirational and insightful learning along with networking and collaboration. The KARQM Board is pleased to announce several open positions have been filled following the election board members at the Fall conference. These amazing individuals will transition into their roles by January 2023. Of note, more specific information is included in this newsletter.

October 16 – 22 is Healthcare Quality Week to honor all the dedicated and hardworking professionals that lead, guide and do the work of continuous improvement. The National Association of Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) is offering complimentary webinars highlighting healthcare quality all week long in celebration of Healthcare Quality Week. To register, visit the NAHQ schedule of events webpage at: <https://hqw.nahq.org/schedule-of-events/>. I encourage you to share with your colleagues as well.

Be sure to check out our website for event information, the KARQM Toolbox and past newsletters at: <https://www.kha-net.org/AlliedOrganizations/KARQM/>

Cody Utz, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, RDCS

President Elect – Christine Winkel



Christine Winkel is the Director of Infection Prevention, Quality and Risk Management at Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems (MCHHS). She coordinates the Quality assurance performance improvement activities, including the performance indicators, objectives, and goals, to establish and support patient safety and quality outcomes. Christine leads and coordinates the Risk management program that includes the intake of incident reports, complaints, concerns, grievances and investigations to support and determine a standard of care. In addition Christine is the Infection Preventionist, and has been striving to apply the most recent evidence based practices to ensure patient and staff safety and compliance

for the ongoing pandemic. She began her career with Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems as a Medical Laboratory Scientist and Infection Preventionist in August of 2013 and moved into Quality and Risk Management in 2014. Christine has been an active member of KARQM since 2014 holding the North Central District Chair position, Board member position, and then moving up to her current

position as Vice President and Education Chair where she has been responsible for working with the Board to organize the KARQM spring and Fall Conferences, design the save the date and conference brochures, gather the presenter bio's, resumes, presentations, and handouts.

Christine holds a BS degree in Medical Laboratory Science University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Ohio. She has over 30 years in the Medical Field starting out as a Medical assistant, then progressing to a Medical Laboratory Technician and gaining education throughout her career. She is currently working to become CIC certified Infection Preventionist. Christine believes in participating in professional organizations. She is a past president for the Kansas Clinical Laboratory Society (KSCLS) and held many positions on that Board as well. Christine loves to spend time outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and waterskiing. In addition, Christine loves to spend time with her four grown children and being a NANA is the pride and joy of her life to her seven beautiful grandchildren. Christine's favorite inspirational quote is ***"Promise me you'll remember that you're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think"*** – Christopher Robbin to Winnie the Pooh

Vice President/Education Chair – Shawna Blanka



Shawna Blanka is the COO at Cheyenne County Hospital, where she has served for 19 years. She has been the Director of Quality for 14 years and Risk Manager for 9 years. As we all know we wear multiple hats and she also serves as the HIPAA Privacy Officer, HIPAA Security Officer and Public Relations for the facility. She has been a KARQM member since 2013 and currently serves as the NW District President. She completed the KHA Leadership Institute and received her Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications from Kansas State University.

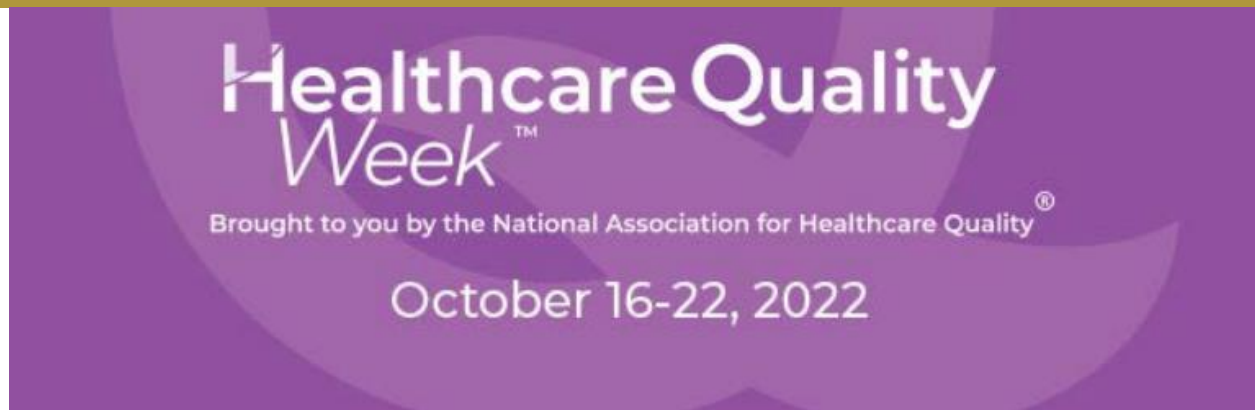
She lives on a farm and is the mom of two boys, who are 25 and 19. She is active in her community and serves on the school board and Farm Bureau board and her personal hobby is barrel racing.

Treasurer – Melissa Briscoe



Melissa Briscoe currently leads the Quality Risk Management and Infection Prevention Employee Health, and Utilization Review departments at Kansas Spine & Specialty Hospital in Wichita, KS. She earned her Bachelor's in Nursing from the University of Kansas. In addition to her current role in the acute care hospital setting, Melissa has served as Director of Quality and Infection Control, Director of Nursing and Regional Director of Nursing in the long-term care and assisted living space for the past 6 years. Melissa's commitment and passion for team collaboration, patient safety and quality improvement has resulted in

significant improvements in Quality Star Ratings, staff retention, healthcare acquired infections, rehospitalizations and hand hygiene compliance. Melissa has a strong desire to participate with other quality focused leaders to help impact the overall continuum of care through education, staff engagement, and evidence based safe practices.



HISTORY OF NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY WEEK

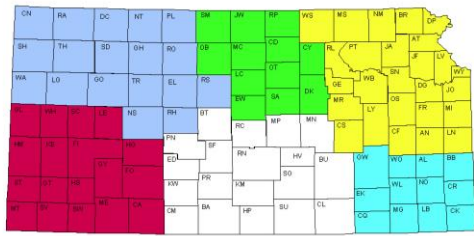
The National Association of Healthcare Quality (N.A.H.Q.), founded in 1976, is responsible for the start of National Healthcare Quality Week. Frank Demuth, the institute's first executive director, was the one who came up with the idea of forming a professional organization for healthcare personnel. This was in response to the 1972 Bennet Amendment to the Social Security Act, which compelled healthcare groups to account for federal expenditures. Demuth also saw organizations and professionals working together to ensure the greatest possible medical care at all times. Within a few years, N.A.H.Q. had spawned a slew of subsidiary organizations to carry out its mission.

The National Healthcare Quality Week was established by the National Association of Healthcare Quality in 1985, among other things, to recognize and celebrate the contribution of healthcare quality experts in their various organizations. Every year, N.A.H.Q. holds a week-long celebration in collaboration with groups dedicated to improving healthcare quality. In the United States, healthcare quality is a top priority, due to the country's high healthcare spending. As a result, experts are required to investigate and address these issues. N.A.H.Q. awarded certain persons Certified Professionals in Excellent Assurance (C.P.Q.A.) certificates in 1983, and in 1989, it founded the Healthcare Quality Education Foundation to further its understanding of quality healthcare delivery.

Healthcare quality professionals work to ensure patients receive the best quality healthcare possible and that they are treated with the best equipment available, as well as managed properly to prevent them from frequently coming back to the hospital for the same problem. Because of the critical role that healthcare quality experts play, their relevance has been emphasized every third week in October for more than three decades.

Resource: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-healthcare-quality-week/>

****For [Healthcare Quality Week \(HQW\)](#), the link connects to complimentary webinars and content NAHQ is providing over the course of the week.**



■ Northwest
 ■ North Central
 ■ Northeast
■ Southwest
 ■ South Central
 ■ Southeast

DISTRICT NEWS

ARE YOU A LEADER LOOKING TO SERVE?

KARQM currently has the following positions vacant:

- Northwest District Chair

Interested applicants contact:

Liz Carlton lcarton@kumc.edu or

Aimee Zimmerman azimmerman@lchoakley.com

With Shawna Blanka transitioning to the Vice President/Education Chair position, the Northwest District Chair position is open. If you have a passion to grow as a Risk Management and/or Quality leader, then this is the opportunity for you! As District Chair, not only can one lead and influence activity in a regional area/level but also collaborate and engage with leaders across the state of Kansas. Our District Chairs are highly involved and participate in the planning and conducting of all KARQM events. Please thoughtfully consider the chance to be part of something rewarding, amazing and worthwhile!



Resource: <https://magnovo.com/what-leadership-qualities-make-a-great-leader/>

Need more information about the KARQM mentoring program?

Aimee Zimmerman, Past President



azimmerman@lchoakley.com



785-672-1333

Not yet a
member?
Please join!

KARQM -Why should you join? In addition to great networking and learning, your membership fees allow for economical programs and scholarships for our members.

How can you join? Visit us @ <https://www.kha-net.org/alliedorganizations/karqm/>



Annual membership application @ [membership](#) application

Your Board Members

President– Liz Carlton, RN, MSN, CCRN-K, CPHQ, CPPS

Vice President Quality & Safety
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Past President - Aimee Zimmerman, RN, BSN, MHA CEO

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Vice President/Education Chair - Christine Winkel

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Northeast District Chair – Amber Styles, BS, MSM

Senior Director Regulatory & Risk Management
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Northcentral District Chair – Serenity Johnson

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Northwest District Chair – Shawna Blanka

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Southwest District Chair –Tina Pendergraft, BSN, RN CEO

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Southcentral District Chair – Tracy Jarrell

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Southeast District Chair – Rachel Merrick, RN

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KHA Liaison – Ron Marshall

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