



Management Bios for JPA

Karen G. Foley was appointed President and CEO of JPA in December 2014. Ms. Foley brings extensive corporate and child welfare experience to her leadership role at JPA. Previously, she served as President and CEO for The Hope Institute for Children and Families, helping children with autism and developmental delays across Illinois. While at The Hope Institute, Ms. Foley worked closely with the Board on governance and growth initiatives resulting in the creation of The Hope Family Centers to better serve parents as they navigate various systems of support for their children, including the introduction of a parent-to-parent mentoring program. From 2004 to March 2013, Ms. Foley served as President of Chicago Scholars, a premier college to career program reaching hundreds of high-potential students from low-income communities annually. She transformed the organization from providing small one-time scholarships to a comprehensive multi-year college-to-career program. Prior to that, she was an Executive Vice President and head of global marketing at CNA Insurance Companies. Karen earned her MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and her undergraduate degree from Hamilton College.

Dr. Stephen Budde, Executive VP, has over 30 years of experience in child welfare as a clinical social worker, researcher, teacher, administrator, trainer, and consultant. Dr. Budde was hired by the JPA as the Director of Clinical Programs in 2005 from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (UC) where he was an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher. He also taught research and child welfare courses at the UC School of Social Service Administration. In 2013, Dr. Budde was appointed Associate Executive Director for JPA. He is particularly interested in practice, theory, and research on the effects of helping relationships, organizational climate, and other dimensions of service quality and outcomes for vulnerable and traumatized children and families. Dr. Budde directs special projects and evaluation activities at JPA, oversees expert permanency planning assessments, and provides consultation and training on mental health and child welfare practice and evaluation to public and private agencies. Dr. Budde consulted with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and multiple child welfare and mental health providers on clinical practice, decision making, ethics, along with evaluation and quality improvement. Dr. Budde received his Bachelor's degree from George Williams College, and his Master's Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

Alec Ross, LCSW, and a Registered Dual Disorder Professional, was appointed to the role of Senior Director of Clinical Practices in November 2019. In this role he provides clinical supervision and support to JPA's therapists and consultations working in schools and community centers. He also had responsibility for developing innovative programmatic interventions aimed at enhancing program and direct services to residents and the community at large. Previously, he served as the Clinical Director at Providence Farm providing services to residents in recovery. During his more than 30 years of experience Alec has engaged in private practice and also served as the Executive Director of Haven Youth and Family Services. He is an Adjunct Professor for the Institute of Clinical Social Work and Loyola University where he is a primary instructor for graduate level students. Alec earned his B.A. in Social Work and Psychology at the University of Iowa and a M.A. in Clinical Social Work at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration.

Selma Walker has been on JPA's staff for more than twenty years. Currently head of JPA's School Partnerships, she also serves as the agency's Business Manager and Administrative supervisor. A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ms. Walker taught art to children ages five to eight for several years, and later to seventh and eighth grade students for two years. She has consistently used her artistic ability and business acumen throughout her extensive work history. Before joining JPA, Ms. Walker worked as both the Art Director and Assistant Editor of a local magazine. Like



many artists, Ms. Walker was drawn to the field of social work and is currently considering further education in the area of Art Therapy.

Michele Lansing is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and serves as the Director of Clinical Operations. Before moving to Chicago, Michele taught middle and high school in Brooklyn, NY – focusing on mathematics, science, and sex education. She was a grade leader and served on the school's Quality Improvement Team. Through her work as a public school teacher, Michele witnessed how many children are tied down by life's stressors, unable to devote themselves to their educations. From these experiences, Michele decided to make the transition into social work. During her graduate studies, Michele interned at Heartland Alliance and JPA. While at JPA, she received extensive psychodynamic and psychoanalytic training. Post-graduate, Michele remained at JPA providing child and family therapy. Michele currently works for JPA as a staff therapist and Director of Connect, providing individual and couples therapy to parents, and providing expert consultation and training to teachers and administrators. She has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of multiple JPA programs (Connect, Connect2Kinder, and Test Anxiety Program) which seek to support students, their families, and teachers in cultivating stronger and healthier relationships. Michele has a BA, Psychology and Child Mental Health Studies, New York University; MS, Education, City University of New York's Brooklyn College; and MA, Clinical Social Work, University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration

Katie Gleason is a licensed clinical social worker who has been with JPA since 2012. She serves as the Director of Connect to Kids (C2K). Katie brings extensive experience in the developmental assessment of young children and in providing individual and group psychotherapy with adults and children to her role at JPA. She also provides expert consultation to other professionals working with children and families including teachers, social workers, other therapists, and family support professionals. Katie's practice incorporates her knowledge of child development, is trauma-informed, and influenced by psychodynamic and other relational theories. Katie seeks to understand, support, and advocate for families who are impacted by community violence, poverty, and social injustices and inequalities.

At JPA, Katie currently provides school-based psychodynamic child therapy as well as mental health consultation and trainings for the staff of several of JPA's community partners. Additionally, Katie collaborates with teachers in her role as the Director and consultant with Connect 2 Kindergarten (C2K), JPA's new pilot program which provides multiple relational interventions that support children and their teachers during the critical transition to Kindergarten. She earned her BA, Psychology and Integrative Psychology, at the University of Colorado Boulder; MSW, Loyola University Chicago; and MS, Child Development, Specialization in Infancy, Erikson Institute.

Jenna Kraft is a relationally-focused psychotherapist who serves as the Director of JPA New Light providing mental health services to children, adults, couples, and families. Jenna brings a strong background in feminist, gender and race studies and the intersection that these identities play within the broader relationship to experiencing the world. Jenna has contributed to multiple large-scale research initiatives exploring the impact of various identities on achievement and self-esteem. Jenna's work has been included in numerous research publications, including Professional Psychology Research and Practice. She has contributed to "Conceptually Sound Thinking about Depression: An Internet Survey and its Implications," drawing attention to the importance of understanding the multiple interacting causes that lead to mental illness.

During her graduate studies, Jenna interned at Heartland Alliance and JPA. Heartland provided Jenna with a robust cognitive-behavioral background, while she received extensive psychodynamic and psychoanalytic training at JPA. Post-graduate, Jenna led a multi-disciplinary team which offered expert



counseling and community support services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness at Chicago's largest and furthest-reaching non-profit, Thresholds.

In 2014, Jenna returned to JPA as a contributing therapist to JPA's Building Bridges to North Lawndale (BBNL) program. Jenna has since transitioned to assist JPA in spearheading the multi-million dollar North Lawndale Reads (NLR) Initiative. Through her integral role, Jenna expertly provides elementary and middle-school aged children and their families with comprehensive therapeutic services to ensure that they are equipped to reach their full potential. Jenna skillfully facilitates small treatment groups, psychosocial skill-building classroom groups, and provides consultation to educators and administrators in school-based initiatives. BA, Psychology and Women's Studies, University of Michigan; MA, Clinical Social Work, University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration

Dana Snodgrass

Dana serves as JPA's Chief Development Officer effective December 9, 2019. As a performance-driven, strategic thinker with experience in operations and fundraising, Dana has a reputation for being upbeat and highly accomplished. Previously, she served as the Senior Director of Development for After School Matters and as the Director of Corporate & Marketing Partnerships for JDRF Illinois. After graduating cum laude from Lake Forest College with a degree in biology, Dana worked at Abbott Laboratories. After several years of working in a lab, she determined that she wanted more interaction with the public and began her career in fundraising and marketing spending almost a decade at the Chicagoland of Commerce. She serves on the Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo and on the Board of Directions of Chicago Gateway Green.

Erin Vanden Brook is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has been with JPA since 2014. She serves as the Director of 9th Gear in addition to her role as a C2K consultant. Erin has a background as a staff therapist providing mental health services including individual, small group, and classroom group therapy for elementary students in addition to providing consultation support to teachers and administration. Erin studied at the University of Seville in Spain during her junior undergraduate year at UW-Madison. Before joining the clinical team at JPA, Erin worked as a bilingual child, adolescent and adult psychotherapist at Pilsen Wellness Center. BA, Women's Studies, and Spanish, University of Wisconsin – Madison; MSW, Loyola University Chicago