

## THE PIONEER NETWORK

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**P**ioneer Network, based in Rochester, N.Y., creates communication, networking and learning opportunities; builds and supports relationships and community; identifies and promotes transformation in practice, services, public policy and research; advocates for public policy changes; develops and provides access to resources and leadership; and hosts a national conference to bring together interested parties with a desire to propel this important work.

Beginning in 1997, several organizations that had developed such pioneering approaches, including the Regenerative Community, Resident-Directed Care, Individualized Care and the Eden Alternative, began to meet informally to define common areas of endeavor and opportunities for change. In 2000, Pioneer Network was established as the umbrella organization for the nursing-home culture-change movement. Since that time, a growing number of individual and organizations have coalesced to change the national conversation from a focus on “What’s wrong with nursing homes?” to articulating and disseminating a shared vision and set of practices based on the importance of relationships in creating a “home.”

Over the years, the Pioneer Network has grown and evolved into a center for thought leaders and innovators in the field of aging, although its primary focus remains building home and a sense of community for elders — in nursing homes, or wherever home may be. The Pioneer Network continues to be a resource to the field of long-term and nursing home care, a clearinghouse for ideas, and a facilitator of partnerships focusing on issues of culture change and person-centered care.

Since its inception, Pioneer Network has achieved the following milestones:

- Taken the lead nationally in creating, coordinating and sharing sources of best practice information and templates as a resource for organizations and individuals who are interested in promoting nursing home and elder-care culture change
- Provided leading-edge quality care information to policymakers and others who play a key role in the delivery of elder-care services
- Helped 33 states to form culture-change coalitions and advised a growing number of long-term-care facilities on how to implement culture-change best practices
- Encouraged multifacility organizations to make a commitment to culture change, including Piñon Management, the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and Genesis
- Showcased facilities that exemplify deep system change and person-directed care so that others can “see change in action”
- Implemented new methods of gathering, analyzing and disseminating information about culture-change outcomes
- Reported increased retention of direct-care workers and positive outcomes in residents’ quality of care and quality of life

Pioneer Network is governed by a national all-volunteer board of directors. The executive director, Bonnie Kantor, Sc.D., has been affiliated with The Ohio State University of Geriatrics and Gerontology, she led the development of OSU’s Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging and

Home-Care Curriculum for all medical students at the university. Nationally recognized as a top geriatrics program, the course of study interweaves geriatric medicine into all four years of medical school, producing graduates who are advocates of culture change in aging and long-term care.

For more information on Pioneer Network visit <http://www.pioneernetwork.net/>.

## Pioneer Network At A Glance

**T**he Pioneer Network's mission is to transform policies and practices regarding the culture of aging in America. The Pioneer Network is an umbrella organization which includes professionals representing organizations from all disciplines of long-term care including nursing homes, regulatory offices, ombudsman, universities and government.

### **Financial Status:**

Pioneer Network is a 501c (3) organization based in Rochester, New York. The annual budget is \$1,084,900 (2007).

The Pioneer Network embraces a social entrepreneurial philosophy, generating revenue from conferences, publications, and honoraria to cover operating expenses. Pioneer Network seeks foundation support for new ventures and specific projects.

### **Leadership:**

Pioneer Network is a virtual organization governed by nine-person national all volunteer board that meets twice a year. The chair of the board is Charlene Boyd.

The Executive Director is Bonnie S. Kantor, Sc.D. Prior to joining Pioneer Network in 2007, Dr. Kantor was the director of the Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology at The Ohio State University Health Sciences Center for 12 years. She received her Doctor of Science degree from John Hopkins University School of Public Health in Health Policy and Management in 1984.

### **National Conference:**

Pioneer Network's national conference is a showcase for innovative thought and best practices in the long-term care culture change movement — as well as an opportunity for people interested in many aspects of culture change to network and inspire each other. Past conferences have been attended by more than a thousand people from around the United States and other nations who care about nothing less than changing the culture of aging.

## Board and Staff

### *Convener*

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Carter Catlett Williams, MSW  
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State Long Term Care  
Ombudsman  
Illinois Department on Aging  
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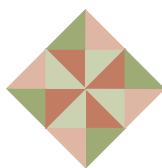
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