



Board of Directors

2024



Terry Landry President

Terry is currently the Vice President Community Program and Long Term Care at Providence Care serving Southeastern Ontario. His education includes a BSc. Occupational Therapy from Queen's University; Bsc. Kinesiology from University of New Brunswick; Adjunct Professor – School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen's University and Faculty Trainer – Community Networks of Specialized Care Eastern Ontario.

Memberships include the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT); Member in good standing with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO), member of Queen's School of Rehabilitation Academic Council 2008-2012 as well as community service experience with the Toronto Brain Injury Association.

Terry is a strong supporter of Peer Support and brings value to the Board through advocacy and the ability to promote system change as a service provider in community mental health.



Joshua Decaire Treasurer – Lead for Finance

Joshua graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2013 where he earned an Honours Bachelor of Social Sciences Degree with Specialization in Criminology and Minor in Psychology. Previously employed with Queen's University in the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research under Doctors Heather Stuart and Terry Krupa, in a mental health research role, Joshua currently is employed with Professional Investments, a financial services company.

While at the University of Ottawa, his studies focused on problems relating to mental health and addictions issues, as well as the stigma surrounding those issues. Joshua felt that being able to join an organization working to address those issues at a community level was a tremendous opportunity.

Joshua joined the Board of PSSEO in September 2014 because "the idea of an organization doing such great work, with a relatively limited budget and outside of a clinical model" was extremely appealing to him.

Being a relatively recent university graduate who also worked within a mental health field, Joshua feels that he can contribute a fresh perspective to the issues the organization faces. Joshua accepted the Board position for Lead for Finance beginning 2016/2017.



Carmela Ruberto

Lead for Nominations

Carmela joined the board of PSSEO because of her passion surrounding community, affordable housing and her desire for people to be treated equally no matter where they are in their journey. Carmela wants to continue to advocate for people to have the necessary supports for being successful. Carmela's experience in working with various social services organizations will provide a unique perspective to the Board to Directors.

Currently Carmela is the Manager of Housing, Hastings County and works with community agencies in Hastings County to help support individuals living in poverty, homelessness and those with addictions and mental health. Carmela has gained knowledge of the peer support model through working with the community over the past 18 years and assisting with the administration of funding related to food security programs in Hastings County.

Her governance experience includes: past Board Member of the United Way where she retired from the Board after serving 10 years; secretary to the United Way Board of Directors and Chair of the Personnel Committee; member of the Poverty Roundtable of Hastings and Prince Edward and member of the Housing Working Group. Carmela is Secretary and Vice Chair to the Community Resource Centre Quinte (CRCQ), which is a cooperative of six agencies working together to provide a wide range of services to individuals located in Belleville.



Terry Shepard

Director, Lead for French Language Services

Terry joined the Board in November 2012 and was appointed Lead for French Language Services in December filling the need for a Francophone Board member. Serving the Kingston region, Terry's formal education was in mathematics while his informal education was primarily in computing. Terry has prepared and taught more than 25 courses in computing during his 23 years on the faculty at the RMC, mostly in French. He retired in 2007.

In addition to his French language skills, Terry brings family experience with mental illness, a daughter with schizoaffective disorder and a mother and sister with bipolar illness. Terry's family learned how to support their mentally ill family members starting more than 60 years ago.

Terry has taught the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family Course multiple times, where there is considerable awareness of the possibility of outside peer support. His Board experience includes Gandalf Systems, the Cable Television Research Institute and the Kingston Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

He brings a wealth of community service experience including fundraising and canvassing for various charities including Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada, Heart and Stroke, Canadian Cancer Society and Canadian Diabetes. Terry is also a recipient of the Pioneer of Computing in Canada award from IBM.

Marianne Kobus-Matthews

Director, Lead for Governance



Motivated by her commitment toward advancing individual/collective empowerment and equity, in tandem with her experience and expertise in mental health promotion, Marianne joined the PSSEO Board of Directors in September 2019.

As former Senior Health Promotion Consultant for 22 years with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Marianne was the CAMH lead at various provincial, national and international planning tables related to applying health promotion and mental health promotion principles and practices in the development of resources and specialized education and training for health and allied professionals.

For seven years, Marianne had been a member of the Administrative and Coordination Committee of PEC Syria, a community-based organization sponsoring and assisting in the resettlement of Syrian refugee families in Prince Edward County. Her role included being the lead of health teams (physical and mental health) to ensure the family members flourished while laying down roots in their community.

With previous experience on advisory committees at the local, provincial and national levels, Marianne now holds the position of Governance Lead on the PSSEO Board of Directors.

Sarah Hanna

Secretary, Director



Sarah Hanna joined the Board of Directors January 13, 2022. Sarah is currently an Occupational Therapist with Providence Care serving Southeastern Ontario. Sarah works with individuals with severe mental illness, developmental disabilities and dual diagnosis.

Sarah has amassed an extensive volunteer history desiring to give back and effect change. She recognizes the importance of social belonging and supportive environments, as experienced in both her work and volunteer capacity.

Sarah indicated that in her Occupational Therapist role at Providence Care she has seen the immense and positive effect peer support has on the wellbeing and recovery of individuals that she supports and she is dedicated to assisting in further enabling opportunity and creating safe places for individuals to exist within our communities.

Sarah values being able to contribute to PSSEO Board which focuses on inclusion, belonging and taking care of those who are often the most marginalized.



Taylor Decaire

Director

Taylor Decaire joined the PSSEO Board of Directors in September 2022. Taylor is a Correctional Manager of Operations Assistant at Joyceville Medium Institution – Assessment Unit. She was a Regional Communications Assistant with the Parole Board of Canada, formerly a Case Management Assistant with the Henry Trail Community Correctional Centre in Kingston and a Personal Support Worker with the John M. Parrott Centre in Napanee.

Taylor graduated from St. Lawrence College with a Community and Justice Services Diploma. Taylor then attended Athabasca University in Alberta – Undergraduate in Human Psychology with a Minor in French as a Second Language.

Taylor has significant Volunteer experience with offenders at the Trail Community Correctional Centre and a Board Member of Community and Justice Services Program Review Committee at St. Lawrence College. Taylor facilitated a Children’s Mental Health Support Group “Kids Get Stressed Too” with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Taylor joined the PSSEO Board of Directors with an aim to expand her knowledge and awareness around mental illness and addictions and to help those suffering from mental health and addiction issues, with a view to early intervention.

Aaron Crawford

Director

Aaron Crawford joined the PSSEO Board of Directors in November 2023. Aaron is a Police Constable with the Belleville Police Service working as a Community Support Officer, with the Belleville Police Peer Support Team (POST). In 2019 Aaron received a Chief’s Commendation of Merit Award for apprehending an armed person who was experiencing a mental health crisis and assisted in the evacuation of a burning building. Aaron served as a member of a Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team and has had experience dealing with those in crisis, drug induced psychosis and suicidal ideation.

Aaron has a Diploma of Business Management from Georgian College and has had many post graduate courses and education through the Ontario Police College including crisis intervention, interrogation and interviewing skills.

Aaron has volunteered and supports the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Organization and has contributed to and attended a number of Kinsmen activities. He has been active with the local Masonic Lodge. In his role as Community Support Officer, Aaron has worked with and troubleshooted with many of Belleville’s community partners.

Aaron joined the PSSEO Board of Directors in hope that he can bring a supportive perspective to the Agency with the skills, experiences and knowledge he has of addictions and mental health both from his professional and personal experiences.