



Pearl Bouchard, Director

Pearl has been with the Area Agency on Aging since spring of 2001, coming to us with more than 15 years of experience in the aging network. She is a 1999 graduate of the University of Idaho with a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

Pearl has a special interest in quality information and referral services. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Alliance of Information and Referral Systems and takes the lead for the Idaho Association of Area Agencies on Aging working with information and referral peers across the state.

She has written several successful grant applications that have helped to shape the aging network for northern Idaho, including grants funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Inland Northwest Community Foundation. Volunteers have been a key component toward making these efforts sustainable over time.

“I’m always ready to speak to any individual or group interested in knowing more about how to age successfully in our community. The Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho partners with many individuals, families, and organizations to make success likely.”

In her spare time Pearl enjoys vegetable gardening and fishing with her husband. When the season turns cold she takes up cross country skiing so she can say “Yippee!” when it starts to snow.



Marilyn Anders, Contract Manager

Marilyn began working with the Area Agency on Aging in 2000. She is a native of Coeur d’Alene, living most of her life in the area. She has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Hawaii, and her work experience includes bookkeeping and office management.

Marilyn oversees contracts with senior centers, personal care services and other organizations throughout North Idaho to bring valuable community and in-home services to seniors.

“When my parents reached a crisis stage in aging in the early 1990’s, caring for them became a new, and overwhelming, role in life. We walked this path alone, not realizing there were local organizations with resources to assist us. The Area Agency on Aging is the first step in identifying those resources, and will assist individuals and families in accessing community and in-home services that will enable older adults to remain in their homes and make the needs of daily living more manageable.”

Marilyn enjoys relaxing and fishing with her husband on their boat. She is also a volunteer with US Figure Skating, assisting with competitions throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Jennifer Giesbrecht, Community Services Manager

Jennifer’s previous background in community mental health including Assertive Community Treatment, treatment of mental health disorders, substance abuse treatment, multi-agency coordination and psychological critical incident response are crucial contributions to the work of the Area Agency on Aging.

An MS from Portland State University and M Ed from the University of Idaho prepared her to address the needs of our community. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in 3 states including Idaho and trained in critical incident response through FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

She consistently advocates for services that enhance and protect the lives of vulnerable adults, promoting self determination and a least restrictive approach to meeting the needs of seniors.

Jennifer spends her free time enjoying outdoor activities. She likes walking, biking and gardening. Her dog Katie is always at her side. Her favorite place to camp and bike is Farragut State Park.



Jan Young, Long Term Care Ombudsman

Jan is the Sub-State Ombudsman for the five (5) Northern Counties of Idaho and has been employed by the Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho since 2000. An Ombudsman is an advocate and problem solver for individuals over the age of 60 residing in long term care facilities, including assisted living facilities, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.

In addition to resolving complaints, Jan provides education, information and referrals regarding resident's rights, benefits and entitlements. Jan works with individual families, community and long term care staff through personal contact, public presentations and regular visits to nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

Jan has been an advocate for senior citizens either through work or volunteering in the community for over twenty (20) years. She enjoys working with seniors and has strong communication and empathy skills. She encourages seniors and residents to practice independence, self-reliance and self-determination about problems that occur. By educating, referring to community resources, or by advocating for them, Jan helps people get the answers they need.



Betsy Bullard, Options Counselor

Betsy has worked with the Area Agency on Aging since 2006. She is an Options Counselor and Certified Information and Resources Specialist for Aging, assisting seniors, their families and caregivers to find services and understand resources that will help them maximize their independence and quality of life throughout the aging process.

Betsy has worked in the field of counseling for over 20 years. She has a Masters Degree from Columbia Teachers College in NYC and a BA from the University of Colorado. She enjoys playing the violin with the Coeur d'Alene Symphony and has begun dancing lessons with her husband.