

# Former DHHS Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee Joins Center for Practical Bioethics Staff on November 1



## **Advocate for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Will Expand the Center's Profile Regionally and Nationally**

A major boost to its three-decade commitment to serving Americans facing the challenges of aging, serious illness and decision making at the end of life will arrive at the Center for Practical Bioethics on November 1 when Kathy Greenlee joins its staff as Vice President of Aging and Health Policy.

"Kathy's deep and abiding commitment to elders and those living with disability will raise the Center's profile not only in Kansas City but regionally and nationally," said John Carney, President and CEO, in making the

announcement. “Respect for her work with Older Americans and within the arenas of Disability and Independent Living are really unequaled in public health and health policy worlds. We are delighted to have her join our small but mighty workforce.”

As Assistant Secretary for Aging in the US Department of Health and Human Services since 2009, Greenlee was responsible for leadership and management of the Administration on Aging and program implementation of the Older Americans Act. At the same time, Greenlee led creation of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which will have more than 200 staff and a \$1.9 billion budget by the end of 2016. Contained within the ACL are the Administration on Aging, Administration on Disabilities and National Institute for Disability and Independent Living Research and Rehabilitation.

Greenlee’s other accomplishments in Washington include:

- Projects to increase visibility and engagement around elder abuse, including leadership of the federal Elder Justice Coordinating Council and Adult Protective Services
- Co-Chair of HHS’s LGBT Issues Coordinating Committee

A longtime resident of Lawrence, Kansas, Greenlee brings not only a deep commitment to public service, but a lifelong passion for the dignity and independence of older adults and people with disabilities. At the Center, Greenlee will focus on its work in advance care planning and advocacy for honoring patients’ values and preferences.

“My greatest passion is working on issues of human dignity,” said Greenlee. “Advanced illness and end-of-life care need greater attention and more broad conversation. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to join the Center for Practical Bioethics. I will put my heart and soul into helping improve care for people, patients and families.”

Soon after earning her law degree from the University of Kansas in 1988, Greenlee joined the Office of the Kansas Attorney General in Topeka. Appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of Aging for the Kansas Department of Aging in 2006, Greenlee was responsible for the administration of Older Americans Act programs, Medicaid payments for nursing home residents, oversight of Medicaid home and community-based waivers for frail elderly, and regulation and nursing home licensure and

survey. Previously, she served as State Long Term Care Ombudsman advocating for residents of long-term care facilities, Assistant Secretary for Aging in the Kansas Department on Aging, Chief of Staff/Operations in the Office of Governor Sebelius, and General Counsel for the Kansas Insurance Department.