

Speaker Bios and Organizational Descriptions

Pathways to Affordable Housing Development in Chester County

May 3, 2023

Dolores Colligan joined Chester County Government in 1990 working in the Office of Housing and Community Development as a part-time administrative assistant. In 2000, she was appointed Manager of Community Services in the re-named Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD), and then in 2007 appointed as Deputy Director. On February 12, 2022, Ms. Colligan was appointed as Director of the department. As Director of DCD, Dolores is responsible for the administration of federal, state, and local resources for the planning, management and development of affordable housing, community services, economic development, and revitalization of the county's urban centers. Dolores is a strong advocate and leader in promoting the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness, working tirelessly towards achieving Chester County's goal to prevent and end homelessness. Dolores holds a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Dynamics from Immaculata University.

The Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) provides funding to equitably promote affordable housing, neighborhood improvements, and programs to support individuals and families so that they may have the opportunity to live and work in a safe, desirable, and diverse community. DCD administers Federal, State and County funds to address affordable housing, homeless assistance, community, and economic development. DCD serves as the coordinating agency for the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness, county's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Sonia Huntzinger is Executive Director of the Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance. Huntzinger began her career with the Bethlehem, PA Chamber of Commerce as the event coordinator for downtown Bethlehem. Her position grew to include revitalization initiatives in seventeen downtown districts throughout Lehigh Valley, PA. Following her time in the Lehigh Valley, she served as director of a visitors and conference bureau for a small wine destination in Central California. Upon returning home to Pennsylvania, she served as marketing and communications manager for a residential developer, gaining experience in the residential side of economic development. In 2013, Huntzinger earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Before coming to Coatesville, Huntzinger managed the Business Improvement District in York, PA for approximately seven years. Currently, she is an employee of the Chester County Department of Community Development and assigned wholly to improving the economic conditions of the City of Coatesville.

The Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance is a public/private partnership comprised of a group of local community stakeholders and the Chester County Department of Community Development. Established in 2015 when the City of Coatesville celebrated its 100th anniversary as a Pennsylvania City of the Third Class, they are the City's partner in community and economic development, with efforts that include building stronger neighborhoods; bringing jobs and economic opportunities to residents; revitalizing the

downtown; promoting the City's assets to investors and developers; and advocating for progress that will benefit the entire Coatesville community. They work together with mission-similar community partners and government agencies to ensure that Coatesville's "second century" is economically prosperous. Their funding comes through public and private grants and charitable contributions from the private sector. Their mission is to drive economic development in the City of Coatesville that enables the community to thrive.

Brian O'Leary is the Executive Director of the Chester County Planning Commission, where he manages commission staff working on smart growth, land use, comprehensive planning, revitalization, housing, site design, historic preservation, open space, transportation, trails, agricultural development, and sustainability. He has over 30 years of experience in community planning. Brian has a BA in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and an MBA in real estate/urban land studies from Temple University. He has served in a variety of roles in the state planning chapter and is currently on the chapter awards and communications committees.

The mission of the **Chester County Planning Commission** is to provide future growth and preservation plans to citizens, so that they can enjoy a Chester County that is historic, green, mobile and prosperous. The Chester County Planning Commission is a nine-member advisory board appointed by the County Commissioners. Initially the work of the Planning Commission involved inventorying and mapping the County's features and resources. Over time, the Planning Commission has evolved into a modern, professionally staffed, planning organization that uses specialized knowledge and training, along with the latest techniques and technology, to plan for the future of Chester County. The Planning Commission's activities are enabled, and in some matters mandated, by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

Leah Reynolds has been in the role of Executive Director for Kennett Area Community Services (KACS) since July 2019. She holds a Master of Science in Professional Leadership with a focus on non-profits and a B.A. in Legal Studies. Leah has more than 25 years of successful experience leading both small and complex nonprofit organizations, developing initiatives that have led to transformative change. She has also been a life-long volunteer assisting people in recovery from addiction and those facing issues of poverty. Her passion is to create collaborative relationships in order to build up communities so they, in turn, can build up the people in them. This has been a career as well as personal pursuit.

The mission of the **Kennett Area Community Services (KACS)** is to strengthen the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing and crisis services. KACS is committed to serving families and all individuals in the fight against hunger and homelessness in the Kennett area and surrounding communities.