CAREER RESILIENCY in SENIOR LIVING LEADERSHIP

and installation of Dr. Dennis Myers as the Danny and Lenn Prince Chair in the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work

ELIZABETH "CHICK" DEEGAN

Chick Deegan has served for seven years as the Program Manager for Staff Spiritual Support for the Baylor Scott and White Health system. She also serves as the Elective Director for the Texas A&M Health Science Center's History of Medicine and Humanities elective. A nurse, nursing educator and consultant, and a trained Courage & Renewal facilitator, she has offered her expertise, experience and heart in efforts to improve patient care by enriching the culture in which health care workers operate and helping those workers connect who they are with what they do.

Prior to BSWH, Chick served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Leadership in Nursing and Health Care at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing; and as a Senior Consultant in Organizational Performance and Learning at the Henry Ford Health System. Chick has also served as parttime faculty for several Universities throughout the country, including the University of Maryland School of Nursing; the Villanova University School of Nursing, the Mercy College of Detroit and Oakland University, to name a few. She is a facilitator prepared by the Center for Courage and Renewal, formerly The Center for Teacher Formation, based on the work of Parker J. Palmer. Chick graduated with a BSN from the University of Maryland, and an MA in Counseling from Oakland University.

SUSAN FARRIS

Susan Farris is known as a leader in the caring and management of memory care facilities. In 2018, Susan retired after 14 years of service as President and CEO of the James L. West Alzheimer Center in Fort Worth, Texas. During her time at the Center, she launched the highly-regarded Community Education and Outreach department, expansion of formalized medical professional training and direction of the Center's project. Susan served on the national board of directors of the American College of Health Care Administrators, and as Texas chapter chairman. She received ACHCA's national award for Distinguished Service in 2016.

She was a member of the board of directors of the Texas Health Care Association for 11 years and has been active with the public policy committee of LeadingAge Texas. In 2017 she received LeadingAge Texas' Excellence in Advocacy Award for her years of leadership in bringing awareness of eldercare issues to the Texas Legislature.

MICHAEL JAMES KELLER

Michael Keller has more than thirty years of experience in most areas and settings of healthcare delivery and education. This experience comes from being a Registered Nurse since 1981 (BSN – West Texas A&M), a licensed nursing facility administrator (LNFA) since 1986 (MBA – Wayland University), a graduate of the U.S. Army War College in 2011 (MS-Strategy) and his work as a hospital & long-term care CEO, Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. He is a board-certified healthcare administrator earning Fellowship status with the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) in 2005. Michael earned a Ph.D. at Texas Tech University, studying Leadership & Research in early 2017. He now serves as the Manager and Case Manager for the Amarillo Veterans Administration Health System's Department of Geriatrics & Extended Care at the Lubbock Outpatient Clinic. A veteran himself, Michael served for 29 years in the United States Army, retiring in June 2016.

Prior to this role, Michael served on the faculty of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center from 2005 - 2017 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Healthcare Management & Leadership. During his 12 years of service to TTUHSC Keller served as program director of the Bachelors in Healthcare Management, and later Chair for the Department of Clinic Administration and Rehabilitation. Following Keller's recommendation for renaming the undergraduate and graduate programs in healthcare administration both programs experienced explosive increases in applications and enrollment.

TODD MACKENZIE

In November 2012, Todd was appointed executive director and Austin Market Leader for Brookdale Senior Living; he is a respected leader in health care and rehabilitation services. With Texas State University since 2002, Todd is currently serving as an assistant clinical professor and the LTCA Program Coordinator. In 2014, Todd was named Director of the Long Term Care Administration Graduate Certificate program at Texas State.

Todd brings to Brookdale a track record of success both as a healthcare executive and educator. Most recently he was with Remington Medical Resorts for five years, opening its inaugural rehabilitation facility in San Antonio, and later moving to Dallas as chief executive officer. Prior to Remington, Mackenzie spent 11 years at the helm of Deer Creek of Wimberley, where he built exceptional community support for his successful turnaround of a declining nursing facility there. He was named Texas Health Care Association (THCA) Administrator of the Year in 2001 and American Health Care Association (AHCA) Future Leader of America in Long Term Care in 2007.

LES STRECH

Les Strech serves as President of Thrive Senior Living. Previously, Les founded Burdenlight Memory Care in 2015 to pair his industry-leading care model for people battling memory loss with a much more familiar living environment. One of the suburban solutions came in the form of a scalable, "small-house" based, secured village environment that maximizes freedom for people with memory loss. Prior to founding Burdenlight, as Chief Operating Officer, he led a Texas memory care operator. Les built the team that doubled the company's revenue and more than quadrupled profits in less than 18 months through his "build people first" leadership philosophy. Previously, Les has led multiple sales-oriented organizations and has excelled at building profitable, people-centered culture in various environments.

Married for 15 years to his bride Emily; together they have four children – Carter, Micah, Tobias and Isabella. Isabella is the newest addition, adopted in 2014. Les has a BBA in Finance from Baylor University.