

Barbie Long received her Associates of Arts degree in Secondary Education from Mid-Plains Community College, as well as her LPN Diploma and Associates of Science degree. She received her Associates of Applied Science (RN) from Colby Community College and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bellevue University. Barbie is the Director of Community Health Care & Hospice at McCook Community Hospital. She previously served as LPN on the Med/Surg Floor; RN as a Home Health Case Manager; and RN as a Clinical Documentation/Quality Coordinator at the hospital.



Barbie said, "I would like to be considered for the Nebraska Home Care Association Board of Directors as At-Large Director because I have a passion not only for home care & hospice, but to advocate for the healthcare industry. I became a nurse because it was my dream and desire to become a home health and hospice nurse. I have a passion for this area of nursing and my ultimate goal/dream job was to become the director of Community Healthcare & Hospice. I followed this career path because of my 22-month-old nephew Andrew, who was placed on hospice care. The hospice nurse that cared for our sweet Andrew made such a lasting impression on me. Because of that experience, I just knew I had to go into the healthcare field. My brother, Andrew's dad, is an RN as is Andrew's mom. I was able to care for Andrew when they needed assistance. Being a part of a "good death" changed my life and heart forever and gave me the desire to become a nurse. I love to serve people not only in my profession, but in my life. I also have a passion for making a difference in the overall healthcare industry. It is important to me to be an advocate for those that cannot necessarily speak for themselves or who may want to but may not feel comfortable doing so. I am often told that I want to save the world and well, maybe I do! The healthcare industry has been inundated with so many rules and regulations that simply need challenged and questioned. I am most definitely one to speak up when I believe something is not right or there may be a better solution to an issue. Patient advocacy is so important to me. Being a part of the Nebraska Home Care Association is a privilege and I would very much like to serve the association in a more involved capacity. I have no intention of leaving my current position and am excited for what the future holds for this agency. This agency has overcome many obstacles and struggles and is growing by leaps and bounds. Being an active participant in the association will only help me grow and learn within this healthcare industry. I look forward to serving such an active advocacy group. Thank you for your consideration."