



a human approach
to mental health + healing

JOE YANCEY, MPPH

Executive Director
Places for People

Executive Director Joe Yancey says the “simple most compelling message” about clients served by Places for People is that they “desire the same things out of life that everyone does.” As leader of the merged organization, Joe vows to “collectively create a system of care that is accessible, efficient, effective and accountable to those who are dependent on it being so.”

With more than 30 years’ experience in the mental health care field, Joe understands how critical it is for those in need to have access to quality mental and behavioral health care. He joined Community Alternatives in 2007 as Executive Director but began his professional career with PfP’s Club. Joe was later named the first director of PfP’s West Pine Group Home, which opened in 1983 as the first psychiatric group home in the St. Louis area.

Following his first tenure at Pfp, Joe’s career included 15 years of experience with the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), serving as director of community-based services for the East and Southeast regions and interim deputy director for the division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services.

He has emerged as a leader in the mental health community and served as lead adult policy coordinator for the Missouri Mental Health Transformation Initiative through the governor’s office.

Additionally, Joe has a long history of leadership roles in St. Louis.

- Current Chair of St. Louis Regional Health Commission Community Advisory Board
- Current commissioner on the St. Louis Regional Health Commission
- Current board member on SIRV (St. Louis Initiative to Reduce Violence)
- Current board member (former chairman) of Behavioral Health Network
- Served as lead adult policy coordinator for the Missouri Mental Health Transformation Initiative

