

Pearl Barnett
Deputy Director of Operations

D. Pearl Barnett, MPA is the Deputy Director of Operations at Advancing States (formerly NASUAD). In her role, she oversees all grant project management activities in which Advancing States is involved. Additionally, she serves as operational expert on HCBS waiver issues, provides technical assistance and consulting to State Medicaid agencies and Waiver Operating agencies in efforts regarding many aspects of Long-Term Services and Supports including No Wrong Door systems and person-centered practices in Ombudsman programs. She serves on the National Qualify Forum's committee on Person-Centered Planning and Practices.

Before joining the Advancing States team, she worked nine years at Oklahoma Department of Human Services (Oklahoma DHS). At Oklahoma DHS, she served as the Administrator for the Advantage 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid State Plan Personal Care Programs, overseeing many functions including Contracts, Training, Person-Centered Service Authorization, Self-Directed Service Option, Electronic Visit Verification oversight, Claims Resolution, and Quality Assurance. During her tenure as a state Waiver administrator, Ms. Barnett implemented statewide training programs in Person-Centered Thinking, Planning, and Practices through service planning and service delivery training to state staff, providers, and advocates. Ms. Barnett's passion for person-centered practices, continuous improvement and organizational change was reflected by her personal training and research on the practices, as well as her implementation of systemwide change in areas related to the policy revision and promulgation, updated evaluation practices that include quality measures, changes to payment incentives, improved waiver information technology systems, and practices that maximizes an individual's ability to reach their personal goals and remain in their home and community.

Ms. Barnett graduated from the Oklahoma Aging Advocacy Leadership Academy (OAALA) from which she implemented training programs in Person-Centered Service Planning and Delivery, Program Evaluation, and an overview of Long-Term Services and Supports options for Older adults and persons with disabilities. Ms. Barnett received her Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and Organization Studies, a Master's degree in Public Administration, and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Diversity and Development, all from the University of Oklahoma. She has served as the Human Services Topical Interest Group Program Co-Chair and a Graduate Education Diversity Internship fellow with the American Evaluation Association. Ms. Barnett serves as a member of the National Quality Forum – Person-Centered Planning and Practices committee. Ms. Barnett serves in a number of coalitions, community organization, a trained Care Consultant with the Ben Rose Institute of Care Consultation Program and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Human Development and Family Sciences at Oklahoma State University.