

Human Well-Being Research and Policy Making

Series Editors: Richard J. Estes · M. Joseph Sirgy

Jennifer L. Johs-Artisensi

Kevin E. Hansen

Quality of Life and Well-Being for Residents in Long-Term Care Communities


Perspectives on Policies and Practices

 Springer

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Series Editors

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This series includes policy-focused books on the role of the public and private sectors in advancing quality of life and well-being. It creates a dialogue between well-being scholars and public policy makers. Well-being theory, research and practice are essentially interdisciplinary in nature and embrace contributions from all disciplines within the social sciences. With the exception of leading economists, the policy relevant contributions of social scientists are widely scattered and lack the coherence and integration needed to more effectively inform the actions of policy makers. Contributions in the series focus on one more of the following four aspects of well-being and public policy:

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Jennifer L. Johs-Artisensi • Kevin E. Hansen

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I dedicate this book to my family and friends who have supported me throughout the writing process.

My husband, John, has always encouraged my professional pursuits, as he picks up extra responsibilities at home and keeps me caffeinated, fed, and comfortable when I'm writing at nights and on weekends.

As I've worked on this book, my incredible children, Alexis and Evan, have sacrificed time with me, but I hope they have seen that with education, determination, and a strong work ethic, they can do hard things.

I'm so appreciative that my friend Kevin agreed to co-author this book with me—deciding to tackle this together is what made it feel possible.

My other biggest cheerleaders have been my sister, Stephanie, my parents, Carol and Perry, and my friend Lindsey—so thank you for all your words of encouragement along the way.

I fell in love with working with older adults in my 20s and their unique stories changed the trajectory of my career, but one incredible older woman has been an inspiration and role model for my entire life—my grandma Melba. She taught me that a strong, independent woman can do anything, including living her long, final chapter with love, family, meaning, and peace.

Growing older is both a challenge and a privilege. We can all play a role in maximizing older adults' quality of life and well-being as they continue their journey through the life course.

—Jennifer L. Johs-Artisensi



To my work colleagues and friends, my sincere thanks for helping carry the load and for being a constant source of inspiration and wisdom for improving care and quality of life for older adults.

To my friends, too innumerable to list here, thank you for keeping me grounded and for making me take a break now and again for an adult beverage.

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To my dog Thor, destroyer of books and master of sass, we are done with the long weekends in the office, buddy. Thanks for napping and snoring loudly under my desk to keep me company.

Lastly, and most importantly, to my mom Sheri—quite possibly the most amazing social worker and grandma that I know—thank you for listening to me, pushing me to be my best, caring for others as much as you do, and for always being there when you were needed. Love you more than you know, lady.

—Kevin E. Hansen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Hansen", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Acknowledgement

Sadly, after completing final edits on our manuscript, but prior to its publication, Dr. Kevin Hansen unexpectedly passed away, way too soon. His passion for education, research, and elder care rights has already improved care and services for older adults, and he will continue to effect positive change as his knowledge and desire to enhance the lives of older adults is shared through this book. Although he still had so much left to do in this world, his reach will continue, as everyone who knew him carries his influence in their heart.

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Kevin Hansen is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Care Administration and Public Health at Bellarmine University. His research primarily focuses on quality of care and quality of life in nursing homes, as well as abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and substitute decision-making with powers of attorney, health care directives, and guardianships and conservatorships. Dr. Hansen has taught courses related to health law and policy, quality improvement in long-term care organizations, leadership in health care settings, ethical and legal issues in aging, elder abuse and neglect, legal issues within health care administration, risk management in health care, and long-term care facility operations. Dr. Hansen has previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and at the University of South Florida. He has worked as an attorney and ombudsman specialist with the Minnesota Ombudsman Office for Mental Health and Developmental

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