

AHEC-SSW Training Partnership
Faculty Information Sheet

Name: Linda Kendall Fields

Position/Title: Clinical Associate Professor, Program Coordinator,
UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Center for Aging Research and
Education (CARES) – based in Asheville, NC

Work Phone: (828) 712-4003

E-mail Address: lkfields@email.unc.edu

Education/Degrees:

- M.Ed., University of Minnesota, Adult Education & Gerontology
- B.A. Psychology & Music, Luther College, Decorah, IA

Academic Experience:

Linda has held leadership roles in health care, government, and non-profit agencies for over 35 years in 5 states. She joined the faculty at the UNC – Chapel Hill School of Social Work in November 2015.

Brief Summary of Work Experience (last two years):

In her capacity at UNC Chapel Hill, and as Coordinator of the Cares Program, she has been facilitating the statewide *Rethinking Guardianship* initiative since 2016; assists the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services in improving DSS Adult Services workforce training, implementing the *Dementia Capable North Carolina Strategic Plan*; and *Building Home & Community-Based Service Capacity* with NC Medicaid's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program.

Specialization/Research Areas:

- Adult guardianship and using less restrictive alternatives
- Aging in Community
- Dementia and family caregiver issues
- Using the collective impact framework for effecting systems change
- Deinstitutionalization & community living for older adults and adults with disabilities (impacted by the ADA, Olmstead and transition programs like Money Follows the Person and Transitions to Community Living)

Available for presentations on the following topics:

- Supported Decision-Making and Other Less Restrictive Options to Adult Guardianship
- Aging in Place/Community: What Are the Options?