

**AHEC-SSW Training Partnership
Consultant Information Sheet**

Name: Karen Luken

Position/Title: Disability and Health Consultant

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Education/Degrees: MSRA Recreation Administration with a concentration in therapeutic recreation. Leisure Studies. BS Leisure Studies with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation, University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. Certificate in Public Health, UNC-CH.

Academic Experience:

- Instructor, Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies, UNC-CH, 1989-2002.
- Practicum Supervisor, UNC-CH School of Public Health, Student Service-Learning Team, Program Assessment class, 2014.
- Practicum Supervisor, UNC-CH School of Public Health graduate internship, 2013.
- Practicum Supervisor, UNC-CH School of Public Health, Student Service-Learning Team, Program Assessment class, fall 2013.
- UNC-CH School of Public Health, Student Service-Learning Team Program Assessment class, 2012.
- UNC-CH School of Public Health, Student Service-Learning team, Program Assessment class, 2011,
- UNC-CH APPLES intern, 2010.
- Practicum Supervisor, UNC-CH School of Social Work intern, 2008–2009. Internship Supervisor, Washington University OT PhD. student internship, 2007

Brief Summary of Work Experience:

Karen Luken has more than 40 years of experience in disability and health, recreation therapy, public health, and grants management. Early in her career Karen worked as a recreational therapist in community mental health, in-patient and out-patient psychiatry, and long-term medical rehabilitation. She then transitioned to teaching and developing innovative services for people with significant disabilities living in the community. She has contributed to research on cancer screening for women with developmental disabilities, and published articles on cardiovascular disease and adults with disabilities, community design and active living, retirement options for adults with developmental disability, and creating inclusive environments for people with disabilities. During her

tenure with the NC Office on Disability and Health Karen worked to ensure individuals with disabilities were included in public health priorities and initiatives addressing disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency response activities. The past ten years her work has on focused on promoting policies, and practices that advance integrated, person-centered care for people with disabilities and their families. Karen believes collaboration is a key to quality services and systems change and values the opportunity to learn with and from individuals with disability, family members and professional colleagues.

Specialization/Research Areas: Individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, Project ECHO, family support

Available for presentations on the following: Supported HealthCare Decision - Making