



KRISTEN HOUSER RAPP BIO

Kristen Houser Rapp has built a career making vital contributions to the pursuit of social justice and health. She has long been recognized for her expertise and focus on sexual harassment, abuse, and assault. Today she has expanded her advocacy to embrace a wide range of related issues including trauma, mental illness, substance use disorders, and healthcare for people without health insurance. Kristen served as the **Deputy Secretary, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)**, for the **Pennsylvania Department of Human Services during the entirety of the COVID-19 Pandemic** where she oversaw the publicly funded behavioral health system in Pennsylvania, including six psychiatric hospitals with 3,550 staff providing care to some of the state's most vulnerable citizens. She returned to the nonprofit arena at the end of October 2022 to lead the **Free Clinic Association of Pennsylvania (FCAP)** to support, strengthen, and advocate for member clinics that deliver quality, accessible healthcare to Pennsylvania's low-income uninsured, and under-insured residents. During her first year, she has doubled the membership of FCAP, instituted regular communication and resource sharing, and broadened their partnerships with statewide organizations committed to equity in health care and fighting poverty.

From 2010 to 2019 Kristen served as **Chief Public Affairs Officer** for a family of organizations: **RALIANCE**, a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation, the **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape**, the oldest anti-rape coalition in the U.S., and the **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**, a leading nonprofit providing information and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

During this decade, she provided information, context, and expert opinion on sexual assault issues to regional, national, and international media, and served as a go-to source on high-profile cases such as those of Jeffrey Epstein, Bill Cosby, and Jerry Sandusky. She was regularly tapped as an authority by major industry publications — including the New York Times, Washington Post, Huffington Post, CNN, Bloomberg, and many others — and appeared as a guest on major broadcast networks. Kristen trained professionals spanning human services, journalism, and governing bodies in sport across the U.S., including victim service providers, reporters, and U.S. Olympic team staff. She also assisted with developing and winning support for related state and federal legislation.

Kristen's early career included the following assignments: Executive Director, **CENTRE VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE**; State College, PA **2008-2010** · Task Force Manager, **COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**, Omaha, NE **2006-2007** · Owner/Primary Consultant, **MOXIE RESOURCES, LLC**; Omaha, NE **2004-2007** · President, BOD, **NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**, Washington DC **2005** · Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, **NEBRASKA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION**, Lincoln, NE **1998-2004**

Kristen's academic credentials include an **MPA** with a concentration in non-profit management from the **University of Nebraska-Omaha** in 2005 and a **B.S.** from **Pennsylvania State University** with a concentration in Human Development and Family Studies and a minor in Women's Studies in 1993.

Selected Awards/Recognition include:

Governor Appointed Commissioner: Pennsylvania Commission for Women, 2017 - 2023

Penn State College of Health and Human Development Alumni Society Board of Directors, 2017 - 2023

AAUW Harrisburg Chapter 2014 "Community Woman of the Year"

YWCA Harrisburg, 2013: Tribute to Women of Excellence Award

Graduate of Leadership Harrisburg Area, class of 2013, and Leadership Centre County, class of 2009

PSU Alumni Achievement Award 2006; PSU Alumni Assoc. - Outstanding accomplishments before age 35.

Invited member of Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, 2005.

Melba Cope Community Associate Award, 2004; Women's Studies Department, University of Nebraska

Appointed Member: Nebraska Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Assault, 2004.

Appointed Member: Steering Committee, Nebraska Governor's Office, Management of Sex Offenders, 2003.

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