

Mayor's Substance Misuse Task Force Bios

Updated January 26, 2021



Dr. Karen Barbee

Dr. Karen Barbee is the owner and CEO of [Renaissance Wellness Services, LLC](#), a NC mental health and substance abuse agency located in Chapel Hill and nearby Pittsboro, NC. Dr. Barbee runs the day-to-day operations of these two locations and provides clinical oversight to therapists assigned to her throughout the state of NC. Dr. Barbee specializes in providing her clients with a “holistic” whole-person approach with an emphasis on balancing self-esteem. Dr. Barbee leads a staff of 17 employees who work in the local schools and communities providing mental health services to children, adolescents, and families.

[Contact Dr. Barbee](#)



Officer Victoria Carter

Officer Victoria Carter has been employed in Law Enforcement since October 2017 and has been with the Apex Police Department since 2019. After a year and a half on the streets as an Apex police officer, Victoria found her passion within the Community Policing department, where she hopes to use her position as a platform to strengthen relationships between the Apex Police Department and the communities they serve.

[Contact Victoria](#)



Officer Jayden Fairclough

Jayden Fairclough is a New York City native, Blue Lights College graduate and has served as a police officer within the Apex Police Department since 2019. He has been directly affected by substance misuse within his household as a child and is determined to positively impact the lives of those struggling with addiction. Jayden's intentions are to shine the light of Jesus Christ so that He is glorified through chains that are broken, and he plans to serve selflessly by continuing to build connections with those who feel helpless within our community.



Mayor Jacques Gilbert

Jacques Gilbert, a lifelong resident of Apex, NC has worked tirelessly for his hometown community for more than 33 years, including 29 years with the Apex Police Department, where he retired in 2019 as Captain Gilbert. In addition to graduating in the 220th FBI National Academy, Jacques has written three books, is a certified personal trainer, and is the founder of TheVine919. In 2015, Jacques was invited to the White House where he was recognized as a Champion of Change by President Obama for making the Rodgers Family Skate Plaza in downtown Apex a reality. In 2017, Jacques launched [Blue Lights College](#), a community college in Apex whose mission is to bridge the gap between community and police by approaching conflict with compassion.

[Contact Jacques](#)



Tahira 'Abi' Hyman

Rooted in the idea that change begins with knowledge and understanding, Tahira 'Abi' Hyman is on a mission to bring awareness to the opioid crisis in Apex, NC. In 2017, Abi hosted her first opioid awareness panel discussion at Apex Friendship High School in coordination with the Apex Police Department, administrators and staff of Apex Friendship Highschool and community members directly affected by substance misuse. The event was a resounding success which led Abi to create Opioids to Rest, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reach middle and high school students with real people, real stories and real success.

[Contact Abi](#)



Danelle Kubisiak-Louder

Danelle Kubisiak-Louder is the Assistant Clinical Director for [Renaissance Wellness Services](#), a NC mental health and substance abuse agency located in Chapel Hill and nearby Pittsboro, NC. She also serves clients from a wide range of ages, works collaboratively with schools and community stewards, and aids parents in discovering their child's potential. An empowerment coach to all, she works from a holistic perspective helping individuals live their best lives.

[Contact Danelle](#)



Pastor Kevin O'Brien

After struggling for the better part of two decades with a crippling addiction to alcohol, Kevin entered a treatment program in 1996, and got sober. In 2005 he recommitted his life to Jesus Christ and his journey into full-time ministry began. Kevin founded [One Step Ministry](#) in 2011, where he and his wife Mary Grace bring light to broken lives, allowing them to shed their addictions and experience healing through their Christian faith.

[Contact Kevin](#)



Hollan Steen

For 10 years, the disease of addiction took control of Hollan's life and sent him on a path of destruction, which included multiple rehabilitation attempts, incarceration, subsequent probation, and ultimately, despair. In 2018, exhausted and ready for help, Hollan entered a residential treatment program in Asheville, NC. Through hard work, the will to change, and a loving, caring recovery community, Hollan created a new life for himself. Today, he works around the clock coaching and guiding men and women struggling with substance misuse, both at [Asheville Recovery Center](#) where he himself found recovery in 2018, and as the executive director of [Rise Recovery](#) sober living homes for men. The Mayor's Substance Misuse Task Force was Hollan's vision and he is determined to help create a community willing to embrace substance misuse in his hometown of Apex, NC.

[Contact Hollan](#)



Brenda Steen

Brenda Steen is Hollan's mother and has loved him unconditionally for more than 28 years. Substance misuse and its collateral damage is very personal and raw to the entire Steen family. After 10 years of living in turmoil and battling feelings of shame, Brenda is sharing her journey with other parents feeling alone and helpless. She is honored to be part of the Mayor's Substance Misuse Task Force and is eager to help build a community of support for those desperately seeking hope.

[Contact Brenda](#)