



Dennis Wagner, MPA
Principal and Managing Director
Yes And Leadership, LLC

Dennis Wagner, MPA, has served as the Principal and Managing Director for Yes And Leadership, LLC since October of 2020. In this capacity he has served as a speaker and session leader at in-person and online events for a wide array of organizations such as the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, the Gift of Life Institute for Organ Donation and Transplantation, the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, the National Association of State Pharmacy Associations, the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and others.

Wagner and his colleagues also organize and conduct engaging, highly-interactive and content-rich Board meetings, state and national conferences and other events aimed principally at supporting leadership development, quality improvement, action learning and results for participating organizations. Dennis currently serves in an uncompensated capacity on the expert advisory panel of the recently formed Kidney Transplant Collaborative and provides expertise in grant applications for new funding opportunities. Dennis is the former director of the iQuality Improvement and Innovation Group in the CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality.

Wagner and his team supported healthcare providers who are using systematic quality improvement to make care better in tens of thousands of hospitals, nursing homes, clinical practices and communities across the nation. This team of public and private quality improvers actively work to spread the best practices of highest performers, so that “best practices become common practice.” Prior to his most recent role at CMS, Dennis served as the Associate Director for Campaign Leadership in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), and as Deputy Director and then Acting Director of the CMS Office of Clinical Standards and Quality.

Wagner was successful in supporting Cross-Departmental work to develop and announce a major national Departmental & Presidential Kidney Health Initiative, which included CMS Innovation Center initiatives to support, increased kidney procurement and utilization.

While at HRSA’s Division of Transplantation, Dennis led a series of major national initiatives, including the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative, from 2003-2007 to increase the donation and transplantation of organs. This work generated unprecedented and lasting national increases in organ donation over this four-year period. In addition to numerous honors and awards from CMS, HHS, HRSA and EPA, Dennis is a recipient of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (known as the “Sammies”) 2016 Federal Employee of the Year Award. Dennis received his B.A. and M.P.A. degrees from Montana State University.

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