

Michelle Niedens, L.S.C.S.W.

Michelle is the Director of My Alliance for Cognitive Health, a KU Alzheimer's Disease Center initiative to advance early detection and response to Alzheimer's and other dementias through collaborations with Primary Care Providers and integration of a patient empowerment model. Prior to coming to the ADC, she spent 17+ years as the Director of Education, Programs and Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter. Her career working with elders and those with Alzheimer's disease spans 34 years. A part of her career has been spent in geriatric psychiatric inpatient settings where the majority of patients are those with neuropsychiatric challenges associated with a dementia. This earlier work resulted in her long-term focus on the neuropsychiatric challenges of dementia and guided special projects with both the State of Kansas and the State of Alaska. She also served as adjunct faculty for the KU School of Social Welfare, teaching social work practice for 20 years. She holds clinical social work licenses in both Missouri and Kansas.