

About the Founder of Our Mother's Voice



Kathy Bradley is founder, CEO, and Board President of **Our Mother's Voice**, a nonprofit organization that provides information to empower families to advocate for quality care and services for their loved ones who need long-term care at home or in nursing facilities.

Kathy spent a 33-year career serving people in South Carolina with developmental disabilities both in their homes and in care facilities. Her service ranged from direct care, to program and staff management, to Nursing Home Administrator, to Executive Director of a county Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, where she directed lifespan services for people with disabilities for over 16 years. She served over 750 people and their families while also advocating for their needs, impacting thousands of lives.

She retired in 2009 – just in time, as her father-in-law and her mother both suddenly declined into severe dementia, and both families needed her expertise. Her mother, a lifelong advocate for those without a voice in our country, had lost her own ability to speak and required care in a nursing home, thus becoming one of those for whom she had advocated. The challenges Kathy confronted in her efforts to secure quality services and supports for her loved ones led her and her sister to establish **Our Mother's Voice**. Through this nonprofit organization Kathy has empowered families throughout the country to advocate for better care.

Kathy works on the state and national level. She serves on the SC Adult Protection Coordinating Council and the SC Coalition on Dementia Care; acts as an AARP SC Volunteer Advocate; and worked with the SC Oral Health Coalition and its Older Adults Work Group. She serves on the Leadership Council for the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, participating in numerous committees and work groups, served two terms as Vice-Chair of the Council, and currently serves as Secretary. She is working with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on their national project to improve nursing home care, now in the phase of developing implementation plans via the Moving Forward Coalition; and participates in two federal GAO technical expert panels: to expand the quality measures for a new nursing home payment project to support high quality of care, and to examine the impact of COVID on infection prevention and control in nursing homes. She is a member of the Patient/Family Advisory Council for Health Quality Innovations, a technical assistance project of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In 2013 Kathy completed a certificate course from Johns Hopkins University in Care of Elders with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Major Neurocognitive Disorders, and in 2018 she was designated by CMS as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in behavior as communication in those with dementia. She conducts workshops and seminars, presenting to diverse groups locally, nationally, and internationally, and has provided testimony to Congressional committees, with her message of advocacy and well-being for vulnerable people.