



Melissa Hayden, PsyD

At-Large Representative

Term Expires: 12/31/2026



Dr. Hayden is a licensed psychologist with extensive expertise in clinical practice, program management, and executive leadership. She earned her Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) degree from Spalding University and a Master of Science in Research Psychology from the University of Tennessee. Currently, she is pursuing an MBA at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Hayden's career has been dedicated to the intersection of psychology, trauma, and youth services, with a particular focus on developing and leading innovative behavioral health programs. Dr. Hayden has held senior leadership positions, including her role as Senior Vice President at Home of the Innocents, where she oversaw behavioral health and residential treatment services. Previously, she served as Director of the Jefferson County Internship Consortium and led psychological testing initiatives across multiple agencies. She was also instrumental in implementing the state's first MST program and has provided numerous trainings and workshops on trauma, mental health, and resilience. An active advocate for behavioral health, Dr. Hayden has contributed her expertise to several committees, including the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health, the Center for Promoting Recovery and Resilience of Traumatized Children and Youth, Citizens Foster Care Review Board, and Community Shield. With a commitment to both service and research, Dr. Hayden continues to shape the future of behavioral health, advocating for vulnerable youth and families.