



One K9 Board Overview

Purpose

One K9 Corp's Board of Directors was intentionally assembled to address the complex realities of homelessness, veteran suicide, addiction, food insecurity, and community crisis response. This is not a ceremonial board. It is an operationally engaged leadership team composed of professionals, healthcare providers, veteran advocates, suicide prevention leaders, nonprofit executives, and community stakeholders who actively contribute to the organization's mission and strategic direction.

Unlike many nonprofits whose boards meet only periodically, One K9's board members provide ongoing guidance, oversight, professional expertise, community connections, and direct mission support. The board's collective experience reflects the populations served and the challenges addressed through One K9's daily operations.

Strategic Value

Collectively, One K9's board provides:

- Veteran suicide prevention expertise
- Clinical healthcare experience
- Grant development and nonprofit leadership
- Corporate leadership and business management
- Tribal leadership and community development experience
- Veteran advocacy and systems navigation
- Community outreach and crisis intervention experience
- Financial oversight and accountability
- Professional advisory and governance support

What Our Board Signals

To donors, partners, grantmakers, and the public, One K9's Board demonstrates:

- Strong mission alignment
- Direct experience with the populations served
- Veteran-informed leadership
- Clinical and behavioral health awareness



- Financial accountability
- Community credibility and trust
- Commitment to suicide prevention and crisis response
- Operational involvement beyond traditional governance

Board of Directors and Leadership

One K9 Corp is governed by a five-member board intentionally composed of professionals, community leaders, medical practitioners, and disabled combat veterans with extensive experience in suicide prevention, veteran services, crisis intervention, healthcare, nonprofit leadership, and community outreach.

Unlike many organizations that rely primarily on administrative or fundraising expertise, One K9's leadership was deliberately structured around individuals with direct experience serving the populations most affected by homelessness, suicide risk, substance use disorders, trauma, and veteran-related challenges.

Collectively, the Board provides oversight and guidance for programs that deliver approximately 36,500 meals annually, more than 10,000 community engagement contacts, over 1,000 veteran-specific engagements, thousands of crisis-response interactions, and extensive harm-reduction and suicide-prevention outreach throughout Northeast Indiana.

Christopher James McKenna, PMP

Executive Director & Founder

Christopher James McKenna is a disabled combat veteran, nonprofit founder, community advocate, federal contractor executive, and veteran suicide prevention leader whose professional experience and personal journey form the foundation of One K9 Corp's mission.

Christopher is the Founder of One K9 Corp and the architect of the organization's outreach model, having built the program from the ground up to serve veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, people struggling with addiction, and community members facing crisis. What began as a commitment to help those often



overlooked by traditional systems has grown into a multifaceted community outreach organization providing food security, suicide prevention engagement, harm reduction services, veteran support, resource navigation, and crisis-response assistance throughout Northeast Indiana.

As a recovering addict and disabled combat veteran, Christopher brings both lived experience and professional leadership to the organization. His personal experiences with recovery, mental health challenges, and veteran reintegration provide firsthand understanding of many of the barriers faced by the populations One K9 serves. This perspective helps ensure that the organization's programs remain grounded in compassion, practical support, and real-world understanding.

Christopher is the Founder of the FOB (Forward Operating Base), a community-centered initiative designed to provide stability, mentorship, connection, and support for veterans and individuals working to rebuild their lives. He is also the Founder of the Fort Wayne chapter of Stack Up, a nationally recognized veteran support organization that combats isolation and promotes mental wellness through peer connection, gaming, and community engagement.

Beyond One K9, Christopher maintains extensive partnerships and working relationships throughout the veteran, healthcare, and nonprofit communities. His collaborative network includes Veteran Service Officers (VSOs), VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators, VA Community Affairs personnel, VA Homeless Program teams, physicians, nurses, behavioral health professionals, grassroots organizations, faith-based organizations, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Out of a Jam 501(c)(3), and numerous community service providers. These relationships help One K9 connect individuals to critical services and resources that support long-term stability and recovery.

Christopher also serves on the Board of Directors for Action Over Silence: End Veteran Suicide, an organization dedicated to reducing veteran suicide through training, peer engagement, education, and community collaboration. Through this role, he contributes to statewide efforts to improve suicide prevention outcomes for veterans and their families.

Professionally, Christopher is the CEO of Iecusoft Corporation, a federal contracting company serving government and commercial clients. He also serves as Vice President of Wakaga Economic Development Group, supporting economic development and



community advancement efforts associated with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. His background includes leadership in federal contracting, workforce development, business operations, nonprofit management, grant development, and community engagement.

As the primary financial supporter of One K9's operations, Christopher has personally invested substantial resources into sustaining and expanding the organization's mission. His commitment reflects a belief that service to others requires action, accountability, and a willingness to step forward when support is needed most.

Christopher's leadership combines lived experience, professional expertise, community relationships, and an unwavering commitment to helping individuals facing crisis. His vision continues to guide One K9's growth while ensuring the organization remains focused on direct service, measurable impact, and compassionate engagement with those who need help most.

Strategic Value

Christopher strengthens One K9 through:

- Founder and Executive Director leadership
- Disabled combat veteran lived experience
- Recovery and addiction-survivor perspective
- Veteran suicide prevention advocacy and leadership
- Governor's Challenge and Action Over Silence involvement
- Extensive veteran-services and VA network relationships
- Community outreach and crisis-response leadership
- Federal contracting and executive management experience
- Tribal economic development leadership experience
- Nonprofit development and organizational growth expertise
- Resource development and partnership building
- Community coalition and stakeholder engagement
- Workforce development and mentorship experience
- Strategic planning and mission execution
- Primary philanthropic and financial support for organizational operations

Christopher's leadership ensures that One K9 remains deeply connected to the populations it serves while maintaining the operational discipline, partnerships, and strategic direction necessary to create meaningful and lasting community impact. His



combination of lived experience, executive leadership, and frontline engagement allows him to bridge the gap between individuals in crisis and the systems, resources, and relationships that can help them move toward stability and recovery.

His presence reflects One K9's core belief that service, resilience, accountability, and compassion can transform lives and strengthen communities.

Sarah Marie McKenna

Secretary

Sarah McKenna is a published author, nonprofit leader, community advocate, and CEO of Gov Grant. As the spouse of a disabled combat veteran and mother of three, she brings both professional expertise and personal insight into the challenges facing veterans, military families, and individuals experiencing crisis.

Sarah has extensive experience in grant development, organizational administration, program documentation, community engagement, and nonprofit operations. Her work has helped organizations strengthen funding strategies, improve organizational capacity, and develop sustainable systems that support long-term mission success.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Sarah has been actively involved in community service, volunteer initiatives, and efforts supporting vulnerable populations throughout Northeast Indiana. Her understanding of family dynamics, caregiver challenges, and the realities faced by military and veteran households provides an important perspective within One K9's leadership structure.

Strategic Value

Sarah strengthens One K9 through:

- Grant development and funding strategy expertise
- Nonprofit administration and organizational management
- Program documentation and compliance support
- Community outreach and relationship development
- Military family and caregiver perspective



- Long-term organizational sustainability planning
- Volunteer coordination and community engagement
- Mission continuity and operational support

Her leadership helps ensure that One K9's frontline service efforts are supported by strong administrative systems, responsible documentation practices, and sustainable organizational planning. Sarah's combination of professional expertise, community commitment, and firsthand understanding of veteran family challenges makes her a vital contributor to One K9's mission of serving veterans, families, and individuals in crisis.

Betsy Hendricks, PA-C

Treasurer

Betsy Hendricks is a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C) with more than four decades of direct clinical and patient care experience spanning some of the most challenging environments in healthcare. Throughout her career, she has served patients across behavioral health, emergency medicine, trauma care, rehabilitation, home health, rural medicine, and long-term care settings.

Her professional experience includes work within locked psychiatric units, suicide prevention and behavioral health environments, traumatic brain injury and neurological rehabilitation units, trauma care settings, emergency and urgent care services, rural healthcare systems, and home-based care programs serving medically complex and mobility-limited patients, including amputees and other vulnerable populations. This breadth of experience has provided her with firsthand understanding of mental health crises, chronic illness, disability, recovery, rehabilitation, family caregiving challenges, and barriers to healthcare access.

Over the course of her career, Betsy has cared for individuals facing severe mental illness, substance use disorders, traumatic injuries, physical disabilities, social isolation, and complex medical conditions. Her experience extends beyond clinical treatment to understanding the social, economic, and behavioral factors that affect long-term health and stability.

Strategic Value

Betsy strengthens One K9 through:



- * More than 40 years of clinical healthcare experience
- * Behavioral health and suicide prevention insight
- * Experience within locked psychiatric and behavioral health units
- * Trauma and emergency medicine expertise
- * Rehabilitation and traumatic brain injury care experience
- * Home health and community-based care knowledge
- * Rural healthcare experience
- * Understanding of disability, recovery, and long-term care challenges
- * Healthcare systems navigation and patient advocacy
- * Financial oversight and organizational accountability

Her extensive clinical background provides One K9 with invaluable healthcare perspective when serving veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, people struggling with mental health challenges, and community members facing crisis situations. Betsy's leadership helps ensure organizational decisions are informed by decades of real-world experience caring for some of society's most vulnerable populations.

Few nonprofit organizations benefit from board-level healthcare expertise that spans such a broad range of clinical settings. Her experience strengthens One K9's ability to respond compassionately, responsibly, and effectively to the complex needs of the individuals and families it serves.

Terry Padgett

Board Member

Terry Padgett is a disabled combat veteran whose life and professional experience provide One K9 with invaluable insight into the realities faced by veterans navigating military service, combat trauma, disability, recovery, and reintegration into civilian life.

During his military service, Terry served as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunner and combat soldier, later serving within the command element at Fort Hood. His military experience provided him with both frontline operational experience and exposure to the leadership, organizational, and support structures that sustain military personnel and their families.

Following his military service, Terry developed extensive firsthand experience navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs system, gaining a deep understanding of the



challenges veterans often encounter when seeking healthcare, disability benefits, mental health services, and community support. His personal experience, combined with years of veteran advocacy and suicide prevention involvement, allows him to provide practical guidance and real-world perspective on issues affecting veterans in crisis.

In addition to his military and veteran-service experience, Terry has worked in both the railroad industry and as a private investigator. These roles strengthened his problem-solving abilities, attention to detail, personal accountability, and commitment to serving others through difficult circumstances.

Terry is widely respected for his reliability, work ethic, and willingness to engage directly with veterans and community members who need assistance. He is not simply a board member who attends meetings—he is an active participant in the mission, consistently contributing his time, experience, and leadership to support those facing crisis and hardship.

Strategic Value

Terry strengthens One K9 through:

- Disabled combat veteran lived experience
- Bradley Fighting Vehicle combat operations experience
- Military command and organizational experience
- Extensive VA systems navigation knowledge
- Veteran suicide prevention involvement
- Peer support and mentorship capabilities
- Understanding of veteran disability and recovery challenges
- Crisis response and community engagement experience
- Investigative and problem-solving expertise
- Strong operational mindset and mission commitment

Terry's leadership helps ensure that One K9's programs remain grounded in the real-world experiences of veterans who have faced combat, disability, transition challenges, and the complexities of navigating support systems. His practical perspective, dedication to service, and commitment to helping fellow veterans make him an important voice within the organization's leadership structure.



His presence reinforces One K9's commitment to veteran-led solutions, peer-based support, and direct engagement with those most affected by the issues the organization seeks to address.

Michael Cochran

Board Member

Michael Cochran is a disabled combat veteran, veteran advocate, recovery-focused leader, and community mentor whose life experience and professional contributions strengthen One K9's ability to serve veterans, individuals in recovery, and community members facing crisis. As a United States Marine Corps combat veteran, Michael deployed in support of military operations in Afghanistan and served as a Marine sniper, developing the discipline, resilience, leadership, and mission-focused mindset that continue to guide his service today.

Following his military service, Michael faced and overcame significant personal challenges, including addiction and recovery. His journey provides him with firsthand understanding of the realities faced by individuals struggling with substance use disorders, mental health challenges, social isolation, and the difficult process of rebuilding stability and purpose. This lived experience allows him to connect authentically with many of the individuals served by One K9 and gives him unique credibility among veterans and others working toward recovery.

Michael currently serves as One K9's Lead Service Dog Trainer, helping develop and manage programs that utilize trained service dogs to support veterans and individuals living with physical, emotional, and psychological challenges. Through this work, he contributes directly to improving quality of life, independence, emotional wellness, and long-term recovery outcomes for program participants.

In addition to his service dog training responsibilities, Michael leads One K9's FOB Automotive Program as a certified mechanic. Through this program, he helps provide practical support, transportation assistance, mentorship opportunities, mechanical education, and workforce-oriented engagement that contribute to individual stability, self-sufficiency, and community resilience.

Beyond his work with One K9, Michael is an active member of the Fort Wayne Stack Up team (StackUp.org), a nationally recognized veteran support organization dedicated to combating veteran isolation and promoting mental wellness through gaming, community



engagement, and peer connection. As an avid gamer and veteran mentor, Michael helps create supportive environments where veterans can build friendships, maintain social connection, and access peer support networks that contribute to overall well-being and resilience.

Michael's combination of combat experience, recovery success, technical expertise, veteran advocacy, and commitment to service makes him a uniquely valuable member of One K9's leadership team. His life reflects the organization's belief that healing, purpose, and recovery are possible through connection, accountability, service, and community support.

Strategic Value

Michael strengthens One K9 through:

- Disabled combat veteran lived experience
- United States Marine Corps combat service
- Marine sniper training and operational experience
- Veteran suicide prevention involvement
- Recovery and addiction-survivor perspective
- Lead service dog training expertise
- Workforce development and mentorship support
- Certified automotive and mechanical expertise
- Community outreach and peer engagement
- Veteran-to-veteran credibility and trust
- Mental wellness and peer-support advocacy
- Stack Up veteran community engagement experience

Michael's leadership helps ensure that One K9's programs remain grounded in practical solutions, peer support, recovery-oriented thinking, and direct engagement with those facing some of life's most difficult challenges. His ability to connect with veterans, individuals in recovery, and people seeking a path forward strengthens the organization's mission and expands its impact throughout the community.

His presence reflects One K9's belief that lived experience, resilience, accountability, and service to others are among the most powerful tools for creating lasting change. Through his leadership, mentorship, and personal example, Michael demonstrates that



recovery is possible, purpose can be restored, and meaningful service can emerge from even the most difficult life challenges.

Collective Board Expertise

One K9 Corp's Board of Directors was not assembled by coincidence. It was intentionally built around the realities of the populations we serve and the challenges we confront every day. Our board combines professional expertise, lived experience, clinical knowledge, veteran leadership, community engagement, and frontline service in a way that few organizations can replicate.

Collectively, our board represents more than a century of combined experience spanning healthcare, behavioral health, veteran services, suicide prevention, addiction recovery, community outreach, nonprofit leadership, business management, workforce development, tribal leadership, and crisis intervention.

Our leadership includes:

- Multiple disabled combat veterans with firsthand experience navigating military service, combat trauma, disability, recovery, and reintegration
- Veteran suicide prevention professionals actively engaged in local, regional, and statewide prevention initiatives
- More than 40 years of direct clinical healthcare experience across trauma care, behavioral health, psychiatric services, rehabilitation, emergency medicine, rural healthcare, and home-based care
- Executive leadership experience within nonprofit organizations, federal contracting, business operations, and community development
- Extensive expertise in grant development, organizational management, compliance, and program administration
- Deep relationships throughout veteran-serving organizations, healthcare systems, community agencies, faith-based organizations, and grassroots support networks
- Lived experience in addiction recovery, homelessness prevention, crisis response, and long-term recovery support
- Leadership within tribal economic development, veteran advocacy organizations, and community-based service initiatives
- Specialized expertise in service dog training, peer mentorship, workforce development, and practical stabilization programs



Our board members do not simply oversee the mission—they actively participate in it. They serve meals, conduct outreach, engage veterans in crisis, build partnerships, mentor individuals in recovery, support families facing hardship, and help connect vulnerable populations with the resources they need to survive and succeed.

Collectively, the board provides guidance and oversight for programs that deliver tens of thousands of meals annually, thousands of community engagement contacts, veteran-specific outreach initiatives, harm reduction services, suicide prevention activities, service dog programs, workforce development efforts, and direct crisis-response support throughout Northeast Indiana.

What Our Board Represents

To donors, partners, grantmakers, and the public, One K9's Board demonstrates:

- Veteran-led leadership grounded in lived experience
- Clinical and behavioral health expertise
- Strong financial and organizational stewardship
- Direct understanding of homelessness, addiction, and recovery
- Community trust built through years of service
- Professional management and operational capability
- Deep connections across healthcare, veteran, nonprofit, and community systems
- A commitment to measurable outcomes and responsible governance
- Leadership that serves alongside the people it represents

Most importantly, our board reflects One K9's core philosophy: those entrusted with helping vulnerable populations should possess not only professional qualifications, but also a genuine understanding of the challenges those populations face.

This combination of lived experience, professional expertise, clinical knowledge, executive leadership, and frontline service creates a governance structure that is both mission-driven and operationally capable. It is the foundation upon which One K9 continues to build sustainable programs, strengthen community partnerships, and improve the lives of veterans, families, and individuals in crisis.

