



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PROFILE

Representatives serving on the Leadership Council advise, assist, support and advocate on issues of strategic importance to the operations and functions of the SelfMade Health Network in fulfillment of its mission.



David Coffman

**Social Services Program Consultant
Georgia Council on Aging**

Mr. David Coffman has spent the last decade working with food banks to address hunger in vulnerable and underserved families, and understands the complex factors that increase risk for chronic disease in these populations. He has also worked to develop local and state advocacy coalitions and increase awareness among policymakers regarding the needs of low-resourced populations. In his role as Social Services Program Consultant at the Georgia Council on Aging, he advocates for improved senior services and strong policy that protects access to affordable health care for seniors.



Mr. Coffman believes access to care barriers impact the elderly and other low-resourced populations heavily, and are compounded by financial constraints, limited educational resources, and the lack of reliable transportation.

In Mr. Coffman's experience, populations in rural areas have increased challenges when access to basic care is difficult to receive, and thus specialty care to treat a chronic illness can feel insurmountable. The most difficult patient barriers to overcome are ensuring reliable, consistent transportation to providers and financial stability to maintain adequate living situations when balancing the cost of health care.

Mr. Coffman believes reducing health disparities in vulnerable communities really boils down to understanding the needs of the community. Additionally, he states that it's not just solely about connecting those in need to healthcare resources once; it's about building up their skill set so they

"The biggest issues I see now are access-to-care issues, especially when someone has been diagnosed with a serious or chronic illness."

Mr. Coffman joined the Leadership Council in August 2015.

The SelfMade Health Network is a member of the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s consortium of national networks established to advance prevention efforts related to tobacco-related and cancer health disparities among vulnerable populations, specifically those with low socio-economic characteristics.