

Cara Stewart (she/her)

Director of Policy Advocacy | Kentucky Voices for Health

Born and raised in Floyd County, Kentucky, and a lifelong Kentucky resident, Cara is a graduate of Pikeville High School, Berea College and Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Currently serving as Director of Policy Advocacy for Kentucky Voices for Health, Cara works to develop strong working relationships with substance use disorder (SUD), behavioral health (BH), and supportive housing providers. She participates in local and statewide coalitions to advocate for policies related to SUD and BH services, peer support and navigation assistance, and housing, as well as work collaboratively with state agencies, Medicaid providers, and community organizations to improve coverage and access to care for justice-involved and housing-insecure Kentuckians. Cara identifies and tracks benefits-eligible clients experiencing barriers to coverage or care, mitigates the causes of enrollment churn and access to care barriers, and acts as the liaison between media and boots-on-the-ground partners to collect stories from impacted individuals. Her past experience includes Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, and most recently, Chief of Staff for the Kentucky House Democrats.

During her time with KEJC, Cara was able to play a larger role in Kentucky's continuing success with implementation of the Affordable Care Act by conducting community education presentations across the Commonwealth and by interviewing with various local, regional, and national media outlets, including The New York Times, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, The Huffington Post, The Economist, USA Today and more. Governor Steve Beshear appointed Cara to the Kentucky Healthcare Improvement Authority Board to represent consumers through Sept 2017, and the Kentucky Bar Association appointed Cara to serve on their Committee on Child Protection & Domestic Violence until 2018. In 2014, she was presented with the Young Lawyer Service to Community Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the Kentucky Bar Association, Berea College's Young Alumnus Award in November 2015, and the Families USA Health Advocate of the Year Award in 2019.