



## **Stephanie Wardein, MTS**

System Director, Community Affairs  
Lee Health

Stephanie Wardein is the System Director of Community Affairs at Lee Health in Southwest Florida where she is responsible for all community relations activities, community health strategies, outreach, education and collaboration with other community organizations to develop working solutions to address local health-related needs. Her responsibilities also include developing and expanding relationships with community leaders and supporting Lee Health's ongoing community benefit activities and reporting.

Wardein has been with Lee Health since 2012, serving in various roles on community projects including Community Health Visioning 2017, now known as Healthy Lee, to improve the health status of Lee County residents. The collaborative community leader effort guides research and outreach efforts for community health. Many of the projects have received top tier recognition including the NOVA Award from American Hospital Association, the Gage Award from America's Essential Hospitals, the Community Benefit Award from Florida Hospital Association, and the first Unite Award from our local United Way and Southwest Florida Community Foundation. Results in Lee County include a 29% reduction in deaths from both heart disease and from stroke, 15% reduction in adult obesity, 34% reduction in childhood obesity, 22% increase in those who meet physical activity recommendations.

Wardein is current Chair of Tobacco Free Florida – Lee County; Chair of the American Heart Association Chairman's Board of Directors; member of the LARC (Lee Association for Remarkable Citizens) Board of Directors; member of the SWFL Economic Development Advisory Committee; Co-Chair, Lee County Action Team with SWFL FutureMakers; member of the Ave Maria University School of Nursing Advisory Committee, member of the School Advisory Committee at Babcock Neighborhood School; and an active community volunteer.

In 2018, she was named one of Southwest Florida's "40 under 40" by Gulfshore Business magazine. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts – Theology from Franciscan University and a master's degree in Theological Studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology at Madonna University and earned Lean Six Sigma Advanced Yellow Belt Certification from the Florida Sterling Council.

Wardein is passionate about equitable health care and collaborating for impact. She is committed to fostering the Lee Health mission of being a trusted partner, empowering healthier lives through care and compassion. When she is not at work, Wardein enjoys spending time with her husband and six children, ages 14, 12, 11, 8, 3 & 2.