

La Rabida Children's Hospital

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Paula Kienberger Jaudes, M.D.



Paula Kienberger Jaudes, M.D. has made waves as an advocate of children for nearly 30 years. She has devoted herself to the health and protection of children who are underserved as a hospital administrator, practicing pediatrician and medical researcher, educator, and public servant.

She championed chronic illness as a pediatric medicine specialty, helped codify the response to sexual abuse in children, and continues to raise awareness of the signals and effects of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment. Her voice has effected positive changes in the health management of children in foster care across Illinois and the U.S.

In the private sector, Dr. Jaudes is President and CEO of La Rabida Children's Hospital, a 49-unit, not-for-profit hospital specializing in the treatment of children with lifelong conditions. She has held the position since 1996, following increasingly responsible medical and administrative leadership roles. She established and served as Section Head of the country's first Pediatric Chronic Disease program.

In the public sector, she is Medical Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), a post she has held since 1993. She helps ensure that Illinois' foster children have access to the health services they require. Dr. Jaudes was the first physician in the United States to be named medical director of a state child welfare agency.

A Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago and a board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Jaudes has received numerous honors recognizing her medical leadership. In 1996, she was named Dr. Albert Pisani Pediatrician of the Year by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2000, the Chicago Pediatric Society presented her the John Cook Award for Devotion to the Larger Social Issues of Children. Two years later, the Illinois Health and Hospital Association awarded her the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her accomplishments as a physician leader.

Throughout her career, Dr. Jaudes has served on numerous boards and committees of professional, advocacy and government organizations. She now serves on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption and Dependent Care of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

She is a director on the boards of the Child Advocacy Council of National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) and Hyde Park Bank.

She is a member of the Economics Club of Chicago and The Chicago Network.