



## HCBS STRATEGIES, INC.

IMPROVING HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SYSTEMS  
[WWW.HCBS.INFO](http://WWW.HCBS.INFO) 410-366-HCBS (4227) [INFO@HCBS.INFO](mailto:INFO@HCBS.INFO)

### Melanie E. Thomasson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Senior Principal  
HCBS Strategies, Inc.

Melanie Thomasson, PhD, MPH, is a Senior Principal at HCBS Strategies. She has been working in long-term services and supports since 2011, supporting LTSS evaluation, policy development, and systems transformation in Alaska, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Projects have included assessment development and implementation; level of care redesign support; case-mix system development; systems redesign for purposes of rebalancing; and evaluation of many initiatives, including Money Follows the Person, options counseling, and No Wrong Door programs. She is also involved in national and international LTSS research as an interRAI Fellow and Vice Chair of the interRAI Network for Integrated Care and Aging.

Dr. Thomasson holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Social Science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Health Systems and Services Research from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Her dissertation research focused on “level of care” eligibility policies used across states in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services.

Prior to joining HCBS Strategies, Dr. Thomasson held a variety of positions in academic, nonprofit association, and state agency settings. Most recently, she served as Vice President of Data and Financial Policy at the Arkansas Hospital Association, where she provided broad-based, data-informed support to healthcare providers and supported evidence-based policy development.

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## Education

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**University of Arkansas for Medical Systems, Little Rock, AR**

- Ph.D., Health Systems and Services Research

2024

**University of Arkansas for Medical Systems, Little Rock, AR**

- Master of Public Health, Epidemiology

2008

**University of Missouri at Kansas City, MO**

- Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Social Science

2004

## Experience

### Senior Principal, HCBS Strategies, Inc

2023-Present

- Consultant providing evaluation and systems development support to states and agencies serving individuals with disabilities or care complex needs.

### Fellow, interRAI

2020-Present

- Assist jurisdictions in implementing assessment systems and contribute toward national and international scientific development of evidence-based assessment.

### Vice President of Data and Financial Policy, Arkansas Hospital Association

2021-2023

- Lead AHA Analytics, the Arkansas Hospital Association's data program. Monitor, analyze and evaluate health policies and health systems trends. Provide access to timely and accurate data, research, and policy analysis to member hospitals. Act as association epidemiologist and support member hospitals' pandemic response efforts.

### Director of Data, Arkansas Hospital Association

2018-2021

- Developed and led the association data program, providing data and policy analysis for legislative efforts, and data support, analysis, and decision tools for member hospitals.

### HCBS Consultant, Freelance

2016-2023

- Advisor and analyst for state Medicaid Home & Community-Based Services programs, specializing in assessment, level of care, and resource allocation design.

### Research Area Specialist, University of Michigan

2014-2018

- Researcher and consultant specializing in program planning and evaluation, health assessment, and evidence-based systems design for state Medicaid programs serving individuals with complex or long-term care needs. Projects included evaluation of case-mix resource allocation approaches, comparisons of medical eligibility policies, and applied research and assessment implementation assistance.

## Selected Presentations

- “Understanding & Improving Nursing Facility Level of Care Criteria to Support Efficiency & Equity” (with Steven Lutzky, Mary Killough, Bea Rector, and Bonnie Silva), 2024 Home and Community-Based Services Conference, August 2024.
- “Using better data, better: interRAI implementation strategies from Indiana and the District of Columbia” (with Steven Lutzky, Yemi Geteye, and Steven Counsell), 2023 Home and Community-Based Services Conference, August 2023.
- “The Impact of Level of Care Policy on Access to Home Care in the US” (with Brant E. Fries and Mary L. James), World interRAI Conference, Leuven, Belgium, February 2020.
- “Characterizing the Advance Care Directive Gap among older adults in Australia” (with Tracy Comans, Leila Hanjani, Bertha Lee, Lacey Loomer, Nancye Peel, and Kathleen Norman, presenter), World interRAI Conference, Leuven, Belgium, February 2020.