

Dr. Kocher is a native West Virginian who lived in a small, rural town where everybody knows your name. He was the first in his family to attend college and obtained his medical degree at West Virginia University. He married another Mountaineer and moved to Columbia where he completed his Ophthalmology residency at the University of South Carolina and practiced in Columbia for forty years.

He and his family have extensive experience with the problems that unexpectedly arise from a tragic health event that dominates the family's priorities. Karson, the younger daughter, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age eleven that completely changed the focus of their lives. They have faced the myriad challenges that any family in this situation would confront over the last eighteen years. They are blessed that Karson has achieved an amazing recovery, but know that without significant assistance from family, friends, and even strangers, this result would not have been possible.

With this background, Dr. Kocher wants to use his experience as a Commissioner for Disabilities and Special Needs to assist fellow South Carolinians who have or will have their lives thrown into turmoil. The goal is to achieve the best possible outcome for a devastating situation that is no one's fault. He is anxious to work with DSN and will utilize the expertise of the professionals who work daily with the problems of the people to achieve the best possible results.