

Marlene L. McNeese

Contact Information

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Capabilities

- Strong executive leadership skills and experience
- Grant proposal writing and fund development
- Identifies problems and proposes creative solutions between government and civic groups
- Works effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds
- PC literate with knowledge of current operating systems and software

Accomplishments

- Authored successful federal and state grant proposals totaling over \$35+ million
- Authored a family system model of care based on actual case study that received national recognition and publication in the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment newsletter
- Developed, implemented, and coordinated Criminal Thinking Errors Curriculum for use with incarcerated or recently released adults.
- Consistently organizes local City Council Members, other elected State officials, and staff from over 25 community-based organizations for community event participation with national awareness campaigns targeting HIV disease in communities of color.
- Provided consultation to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Minority AIDS Council, the U.S. Health and Human Services Offices of Minority Health and HIV/AIDS Policy, and other national agencies to provide input on HIV, STD, Viral Hepatitis program implementation issues of national importance.
- Served as Incident Commander role for emergency management incidents on behalf of the City of Houston and the Houston Health Department. Served successfully in Unified Command structures that included FEMA, the Texas State National Guard, Houston Police, Fire Department, and Mayor's Office of Emergency Management.

Experience

Assistant Director

Houston Health Department

April 2018-Present

Houston, Texas

- Oversee the Division of Disease Prevention and Control's annual operating budget of \$47 million in federal and state grants, special funds and state Medicaid 1115 Waiver projects for the Bureaus of Epidemiology, Laboratory Services, Tuberculosis Control, Public Health Preparedness, Informatics, and HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention.
- Supervises 10 direct and 300 indirect staff that are housed across 4 health centers, 1 central laboratory, 6 multi-service centers and one mobile lab unit
- Establishes strategic planning goals for the Division of Disease Prevention and Control (DPC)
- Monitors program performance and quality improvement metrics to assure accurate reporting for programs within the division
- Provides executive leadership for public health accreditation, new initiatives, and leads emergency response efforts
- Provides workforce development by aligning human capital solutions with current and emerging mission and programmatic goals

Bureau Chief

Houston Department of Health & Human Services

April 2005-April 2018

Houston, Texas

- Provided consultative and educational expertise to the Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention
- Expanded Bureau annual operating budget from \$5.2 million to \$15 million.
- Supervised 9 direct report, and 87 indirect employees

- Reorganized and expanded the Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention to incorporate funding variances, align staff with appropriate job functions, integrate viral hepatitis prevention activities and the Community Reentry Network Program
- Guided and developed the quality assurance and quality control programs for Bureau activities, and for its community agency sub-contractors
- Interfaced with governmental, business, professional, civic and other groups to develop and implement HIV/STD, Viral Hepatitis policies, programs, and objectives
- Developed and Co-Chaired Scientific Advisory Council along with Baylor/UTSPH Center for AIDS Research academicians providing scientific guidance for HIV/STD prevention activities for Houston/Harris County.

Administration Manager

May 2004-April 2005

Houston Department of Health & Human Services

Houston, Texas

- Supervised 6 direct report, and 22 indirect employees
- Managed daily activities of the HIV prevention program to include counseling and testing, health education, community planning, and prevention case management, capacity building, and evaluation
- Authored grant proposals submitted for HIV/STD Prevention activities
- Monitored an annual program budget of approximately \$5.2 million
- Assisted in drafting and releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for HIV/STD Prevention Services in Harris County in the amount of \$3.2 million
- Assisted in planning and implementing a new, routine, opt-out HIV screening project within Houston Level I trauma centers which involved creating new partnerships and securing new grant funding
- Served as a government representative to the Urban Coalition of HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)
- Participated in a process to develop HIV prevention standards for subcontractors
- Overhauled the monitoring and evaluation process for subcontractors
- Assisted in transitioning all subcontractors from a fee-for-service reimbursement system to a cost-reimbursement system
- Oversaw a HRSA-funded SPNS project targeting young men of color who have sex with men (YMCSM)
- Conducted annual performance evaluations on all direct reports
- Conducted subcontractor meetings quarterly

Program Manager

Nov. 2002-May 2004

People in Partnership, Inc.

Houston, Texas

- Development of welfare to work program focused on therapeutic intervention and social skills building
- Assisted Executive Director in grant proposal writing
- Co-Developed three additional organizational programs serving low income families
- Supervise staff of 4 persons

Project Director

Feb. 1998-Nov. 2002

New Directions Club, Inc.

Houston, Texas

- Co-developed and supervised TCE-HIV Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration collaboration project between three local community-based organizations targeting African American ex-offenders.
- Authored 4 successful federal and state grant proposals for the organization
- Assisted CEO with compilation and analysis of monthly quantitative measures of a \$1+ million-dollar budget
- Worked with CEO on project evaluation and other research regarding substance abusing, recently released populations

Unit Director

Dec. 1995-Feb. 1998

Correctional Medical Services

Dayton, Texas

- Supervised clinical counseling staff for one out of the three dorm units serving adult female offenders on a substance abuse felony punishment facility for TDCJ

- Developed relapse prevention program for soon to be released adult females
- Staff trainer for over 300 company personnel in the state on the automated Addiction Severity Index Assessment tool, to include travel to six TDCJ prison units

Education

BS-Behavioral Science	May 2000
<i>University of Houston, Clear Lake</i>	<i>Clear Lake, Texas</i>
Graduate Cum Laude	

Licensures/Certifications

Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor	1999-2007
Instructor/Trainer for CDC SISTA intervention	2004

Awards

Mary McLeod Bethune Impact Service Award	2013
<i>National Council of Negro Women</i>	<i>Houston, Texas</i>
Community Leadership Certificate	2013
<i>City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker</i>	<i>Houston, Texas</i>
Director's Award	2009
<i>Houston Department of Health and Human Services</i>	<i>Houston, Texas</i>
Community Service Award of Excellence	2007
<i>Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Bay Area Alumnae Chapter</i>	<i>Houston, Texas</i>
Outstanding Leadership Award	2006
<i>Houston HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee</i>	<i>Houston, Texas</i>

Professional Memberships

<i>National Black Alcoholism and Addictions Council</i>	2000-2016
Vice-President of the National Board of Directors-Providing administrative oversight with an annual operating budget of \$1+million, and over 20 chapter affiliates nationwide.	
<i>National Forum for Black Public Administrators</i>	2006-Present
<i>American Public Health Association</i>	2005-Present

Related Volunteer Experience

<i>NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)</i>	2020-2021
<i>Washington, DC</i>	
Board Chair – Providing oversight for administrative, policy and program decisions toward ending the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building and social justice.	
<i>Black AIDS Institute, Los Angeles, CA</i>	2016-Present
Executive Board Member – Providing oversight of a diverse group of medical, community, political and media experts committed to the organization and its mission to interpret public and private sector HIV policies, conducts trainings, offers technical assistance, disseminates information and provides advocacy mobilization.	
<i>Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, Washington, D.C.</i>	2004-2018
Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee – Policy setting sub-committee for the organization to advocate for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS & the organizations that serve them.	
Co-Chair – Presiding over 10 jurisdictional city/county government and community leadership responsible for planning and implementation of HIV programs.	
<i>City of Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group</i>	2002-2009

Co-Chair – Presiding over 25-member planning group responsible for prioritizing HIV prevention strategies for at risk communities.

Co-Chair, Priority Setting & Interventions Committee- Responsible for analyzing data and interventions for effectiveness with priority populations for HIV prevention efforts

Houston Area Ryan White Planning Council

2000-2005

Chair-Presiding over 38-member council responsible for designing services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and allocating a \$20+million funding award

Chair, Priorities and Allocations Committee- Responsible for prioritizing and allocating \$19+million dollars for medical care services.

Presentations

1. **McNeese, M.**, Mitts, B. (2007). Creating HIV/STD prevention standards to improve quality management activities: A Houston perspective. Oral presentation, 2007 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, GA.
2. **McNeese, M.**, Mitts, B., Miertschin, N., et al. (2009). Routine, opt-out HIV screening in Houston. Oral presentation, 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, GA.
3. **McNeese, M.**, Mitts, B., Thornton, L., et al. (2009). Partner Services: From recommendations to practice. Oral presentation, 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, GA.
4. **McNeese, M.**, Mitts, B., Lukan, N., et al. (2010). Community Mobilization: How to get community partners involved in HIV prevention. Oral presentation, 17th Texas HIV/STD Conference, Austin, TX.
5. Hallmark CJ, Hill MJ, **McNeese ML**, Blue N, Ross MW. (2013) “HIP HOP for HIV Awareness: An innovative approach to community-level HIV prevention, capitalizing on hip hop culture as a motivator for bolstering HIV testing among youth”. *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo*.
6. Hallmark CJ, Oweis D, **McNeese ML**, Thornton L. (2013) “Outbreak in the age of syphilis elimination: Houston’s 2012 syphilis outbreak and response”. *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo*.
7. Hallmark CJ, Gomez J, Thornton L, Chronister K, **McNeese-Ward M**. (2012) “Predictors of New STI Acquisition in the 5 Years Post-DIS Interview”. *National STD Prevention Conference*.
8. Hallmark CJ, Yang B, Watkins K, Grimes RM, Wolverson ML, **McNeese M**. “Utilizing Surveillance Data to Determine When the ‘Out-of-Care’ Return to Care”. *20th International AIDS Conference*, July 2014.
9. Watkins K, Hallmark CJ, Grimes RM, Yang B, Wolverson ML, **McNeese M**. “Re-Linking HIV-Positive Patients to Care: Utilizing Existing Data Systems”. *20th International AIDS Conference*, July 2014.
10. Watkins K, Hallmark CJ, Grimes RM, Wolverson ML, **McNeese M**. “Innovative Approaches for Identifying Out-of-Care Persons for Re-Linkage”. *9th International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence*, June 2014.
11. Muhetaer K, Yang B, Hallmark C, Allred K, Wolverson M, Khuwaja S, **McNeese M** and Arafat R. (November, 2014). Impact of electronic laboratory reporting on completeness of reporting for Syphilis in Houston, TX. Poster session presented at the APHA’s 142nd Conference, New Orleans, LA
12. Watkins K, Hallmark CJ, Yang B, Wolverson ML, Grimes RM, **McNeese M**. “Building an Active Re-linkage Program for HIV Care”. *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo*, Nov. 2014.

Publications

1. Yang B, Hallmark CJ, Huang JS, Wolverson ML, **McNeese-Ward M**, Arafat RR. Characteristics and risk of syphilis diagnosis among HIV-infected male cohort: a population-based study in Houston, Texas. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. 2013 Dec; 40 (12):957-63. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000000056.
2. Giordano TP, Hallmark CJ, Davila JA, Arya M, Chen GJ, Shaw C, Williams-Ellis L, Darko T, and **McNeese-Ward M**. Assessing HIV testing and linkage to care activities and providing academic support to public health authorities in Houston, TX. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*. 2013 Nov; 64 Suppl 1:S7-S13. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0b013e3182a90183.
3. Hallmark CJ, Skillicorn J, Giordano TP, Davila JA, **McNeese M**, Rocha N, Smith A, Cooper S, Castel AD. HIV Testing Implementation in Two Urban Cities: Practice, Policy, and Perceived Barriers. *PLoS One*. 2014 Oct 13;9(10):e110010. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0110010. PMID: 25310462
4. Flash CA, Pasalar S, Hemmige V, Davila JA, Hallmark CJ, **McNeese M**, Giordano TP, et al. (2015). Benefits of a routine opt-out HIV testing and linkage to care program for previously diagnosed patients in publicly funded

- emergency departments in Houston, TX. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 69, S8-S15.
5. Grimes RM, Hallmark CJ, Watkins KL, Agarwal S, **McNeese M**. Re-engagement in HIV Care: A Clinical and Public Health Priority. *Journal of AIDS and Clinical Research*. 2016 Feb; 7(2): 543. doi 10.4172/2155-6113.1000543.
 6. Hill, M., Prater, S., Bonnette, A., Tinder, A., and **McNeese, M**. 2020. An assessment of emergency nurses' perspectives on nurse-driven HIV testing in the emergency department. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, in press.
 7. Fujimoto, K., Bahl, J., Wertheim, J.O., Del Vecchio, N., Hicks, J.T., Lambodhar, D., Hallmark, C.J., Lavingia, R., Mora, R., Carr, M., Yang, B., Schneider, J.A., Hwang, L., **McNeese, M**. Methodological synthesis of Bayesian phylodynamics, HIV-TRACE, and GEE: HIV-1 transmission epidemiology in a racially/ethnically diverse Southern U.S. context. *Scientific Reports* **11**, 3325 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-82673-8>