

Donna C. Nichols, MEd, CHES

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Qualifications Summary: Highly qualified, motivated and skilled senior executive able to develop and execute a mission driven strategy in collaboration with Board members, diverse staff, volunteers, and national, state and local partners. Proven ability to translate research findings and shared knowledge into scalable programs and evidence-based practice. Successful resource developer, knowledgeable content expert, and highly influential national and state partner and health policy advisor. Principled and distinguished leader of high performing teams and diverse staff. Results oriented and accountable business manager. Published author and nationally recognized presenter in community health promotion. Builder of sustained community connections and relationships. Recognized for her public health expertise by a former US President, a former US First Lady, the first African American Surgeon General and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on four separate occasions for her leadership in state and national health promotion practice.

Education: BS-Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance 1974
Longwood College, Farmville, VA

MEd- Health Education 1980
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

CHES-Certified Health Education Specialist 1989

Work History and Experience (Listed by Organization and Dates):

DCN Consulting, Cedar Creek, TX (my personal consulting firm); January 2019-Present; Job Titles: Executive Leadership Consultant, Strategy and Organizational Development Director, Contract Faculty for two Texas Universities, Policy Advisor, State Agency and Corporate Contractor, Non-Profit Consultant

- Serve in various program, practice, policy and partnership capacities with executive leadership of non-profits, corporations, state agencies, universities and healthcare foundations.
- Engage in leading next generation strategy work around social influences of health with a multi-generational, diverse workforce and stakeholders.
- Lead a county wide Accountable Communities for Health Initiative aimed at reducing health inequities.

Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus, Austin, TX; August 2007-December 2018; 30% FTE, and Job Title: Faculty Associate and Community Health Specialist

- Serve as a liaison, guest lecturer, child health policy advisor and educator for University of Texas, School of Public Health (UTSPH), Austin Regional Campus faculty members and for Dell Center for Healthy Living (DCHL) staff, faculty and community members.
- Lead the annual Texas Health Champion Ceremony and Texas Obesity Awareness Week events in collaboration with more than 15 organizational representatives.
- Contribute to writing and implementing for more than \$20M in federal and foundation grants focused on obesity prevention and control in children.
- Co-wrote Active Texas 2020: State of Texas Physical Activity Plan

Directors of Health Promotion and Education, Washington, DC (a national non-profit public health association); August 2007-October 2015; 80% FTE; and, Job Title: Health Policy and Partnerships Director

- Developed and led a national health policy and partnership strategy for all 50 states and territories representing more than 1000 members focused on state and community prevention approaches and interventions.
- Represented the organization on Capitol Hill and developed in collaboration with the national health policy committee the “funding asks” for strategic public health initiatives. These congressional appropriations funding requests totaled more than \$200M per budget year for nutrition, physical activity, obesity, school health, behavioral health surveillance systems, and preventive health and health service grants. Developed collateral materials including policy briefs and fact sheets for The Hill briefing portfolio.
- Created and developed partnerships with more than 50 different national organizations with a similar mission and collaborated on multiple projects to improve population and community health.
- Provided oversight and direction to more than 10 contractors and directed more than \$10M in resources to support their efforts.
- Developed workforce competencies, trainers and trainings for more than 43 states and more than 3,000 public health professionals.
- Secured more than \$100K in additional resources from corporations and philanthropic organizations.

Texas Department of State Health Services (Formerly the Texas Department of Health), Austin, TX; August 1983-July 2007; 100%FTE; and, Job Titles: 5 different management positions with increasing responsibility for health promotion and chronic disease prevention)

- Acted as the chief architect for the Texas State Strategic Health Partnership which included more than 100 health organizations and which led to the “Declaration of Health” document for the State of Texas.
- Served as the senior policy advisor to the Commissioner of Health on obesity prevention and control issues in Texas and developed key economic, stakeholder and policy documents that leveraged the issue among state decision makers.
- Testified in front of US House Appropriations Committee (as a member of DHPE) on a national program for physical activity and nutrition with an “ask” of \$60M (testimony was requested and provided twice).
- Directed, managed and led a state health promotion program with 12 state staff and 8 regional managers with a budget of more than \$2M. Selected, supervised, guided, coached and developed diverse professional, administrative and technical staff and directed the architecture associated with all electronic communications including the utilization of distance learning facilities and networks, web-based instruction and web page development and maintenance.
- Created state plans for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, indigent care, the Texas State Health Plan, obesity, and organ transplant at the request of funding organizations and state legislature.

- Wrote administrative rules and guidelines for the community health workforce as required by legislation. Recognized as the first state in the nation to certify community health workers.
- Oversaw and directed DHPE, a Washington DC based executive office (volunteer role accomplished during my tenure with the Department of Health) of two staff, an executive board of 15 members, a lobbyist, more than 14 contractors, and \$2.2M in assets.
- Secured and directed a \$2M Breast and Cervical Cancer Control NCI Program in El Paso, TX which included working with a cancer service consortium of 20 organizational providers, conducting 300 household surveys, engaging 200 promotoras to implement the program each quarter and supporting 12 staff.

Arkansas Department of Health, Little Rock, AR; January 1981-August 1983; 100% FTE; and, Job Title: Director of Public Health Education

- Managed a statewide health promotion and education program including preparation of budgets, contracts, and administrative actions; supervising state (6) and local area staff (6); and creating new public health programs.

Prince Edward County, VA; September 1980-December 1980; Substitute Teacher Grades 1-3

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; August 1979-May 1980; Women's Assistant Track and Field Coach

Executive Community Fitness Class; Harrisonburg, VA; August 1979-August 1980; Women's Coordinator

Rockingham County Health Department, Harrisonburg, VA; January 1980-June 1980; Public Health Educator/Evaluator

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, Burkeville, VA; June 1979-August 1979; Special Activities Supervisor

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; August 1978-May 1979; Recreational Staff Supervisor

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, Burkeville, VA; February 1976-August 1978; Special Activities Supervisor in Occupational Therapy

Veterinary and Office Assistant; September 1975-February 1976; Farmville, VA

Lancaster High School, Lancaster, VA; August 1974-August 1975; Physical and Health Education Teacher and Coach and Women's Athletic Director

Honors

Eta Sigma Gamma (Honorary Health Education Fraternity)

Delta Psi Kappa (Honorary Physical Education Fraternity)

American Cancer Society Aging and Wellness Leadership Award 1986

Helen Hill Distinguished Service for TSOPHE 1989

Outstanding Women in Texas Government Nomination 1990

American Cancer Society Lifeguard Award 1990

TPHA Health Education Fellow Nomination 1991

CDC/ASTDHPPHE State Coalition Award 1997

Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service as a Texas Medicaid Program Procurement Team Leader 1997

CDC/ASTDHPPHE Medal of Excellence in Health Promotion Award 1998

National Public Health Education Leadership Fellow 1999

CDC/ASTDHPPHE Leadership Award 2000

CDC/ASTDHPPHE Evans/Muneoka Award 2002

CDC/DHPE Health Promotion and Education Advocacy Award 2007

Publications and Presentation Provided Upon Request