



# Annual Report 2007

National Healthy Start  
Association, Inc.



# Letter from the President



The National Healthy Start Association has evolved rapidly since its creation in 1998. The NHTSA has realized that in order to sustain its leadership we must focus on the future. Community involvement will continue to bring the reality of our mission and vision into focus for our leaders. The Members of the Board are committed to hands-on review of its memberships needs. The impact of the NHTSA efforts continues to make a strong commitment to reducing infant mortality and perinatal disparities.

We can report many accomplishments in 2007. With greater expansion of partnerships among our Healthy Start programs, families can be more effectively and efficiently served. As these are somewhat difficult times for many organizations working to improve health, the NHTSA launched a national infant mortality awareness campaign throughout the country, asking citizens for ideas to enhance existing programs and encouraging them to give their opinions on infant mortality, disparities and other important issues facing their communities.

Looking forward, the NHTSA is rapidly reaching a crossroads in terms of the health care issues facing its populations, as gaps in health care and disparities between the regions of our country appear to be growing wider. We know that poverty destroys hope, and we have collected vivid images of real life stories and obstacles of vulnerable populations who represent common themes associated with Infant Mortality, Male Involvement / Fatherhood, Economic Development, Mental Health, Chronic Diseases, Domestic Violence and Housing.

We will continue to look to our members for guidance and are committed to seeking input from our partners. Sharing the vision with our partners this past year has also brought formal partnerships for the purpose of ensuring that Healthy Start becomes a pathway to strengthen coordination, maximize resources, promote best practices and establish a framework that results in positive family outcomes.

The NHTSA will continue to foster communication for its members through a variety of channels, including, brochures, newsletters, press releases, professional alliances and this annual report, which we hope you will find useful.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia Dean*

Cynthia Dean  
NHTSA President

## 2007: A Year of Labor with a View to the Future

The year 2007 will be remembered as one of the most important in the NHSA's history. This is the year we hired our first permanent staff, moved into our first formal office space and dramatically expanded our influence in the maternal and child health arena. The Board of Directors reviewed strategic planning goals and established new long-term desired results.

*In 2008 and beyond, the NHSA will position the Healthy Start Initiative as a program equipped to transform the health care system of the nation and positively impact the infant mortality reduction rate in the United States.*

*The NHSA will be a recognized leader and advocate for reducing infant mortality and perinatal disparities in ways that lead to systematic change, a recognized leader on how to implement community-based public health programs and connected to the larger movement to transform the health system.*

### Building Partnerships

Collaborations and partnership opportunities were maximized with key MCH partners and other compatible organizations in 2007. One example: the NHSA served on the planning committee for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's Preconception Health and Health Care Summit.

*During the upcoming year, national partners will be integrated into the NHSA more formally as collaborating partners, presenters at the Healthy Start Leadership Training Institute and as speakers and exhibitors during the Spring Conference. Partners will continue to participate in educational briefings and testimonials on the impact of Healthy Start on the lives of so many across the country and will join in on the promotion of the NHSA's Infant Mortality Awareness Campaign during September 2008. As partnerships grow, representatives will serve on planning committees of respective organizations' conferences.*



Healthy Start held the first briefing on Capitol Hill to provide information on the importance of Healthy Start on the lives 80,000 women and their babies. Over 20 Congressional staff members attended, along with representatives of the March of Dimes, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and the Nurse Family Partnership.

*This year, the NHSA celebrates its 10th anniversary by highlighting the many accomplishments over the last decade and issuing a Call to Action to challenge all to eliminate health disparities and infant mortality prior to the end of the next decade. Hundreds of visits on Capitol Hill will occur as part of our Annual Spring Conference.*

## Programs / Services for our Members

The NHSA provides a wealth of programs and services for its members, the 100 federally funded Healthy Start programs across the nation. In 2007, these included the Eighth Annual Spring Conference and 10th Annual Meeting, the Healthy Start Leadership Training Institute, a quarterly newsletter, monthly online research updates, materials and support for the National Infant Mortality Awareness Month Campaign and launching of the Peer Learning Network with training sessions.

*Anticipated for 2008: Continued publication of [Getting off to a Healthy Start](#), the quarterly newsletter, and the [Maternal & Child Health and Social Services Updates, Alerts and Healthy Start in the News](#) briefs. The theme for the 2008 Annual Spring Conference / Anniversary Celebration to be held in April 2008 in Washington, DC, is *A Decade of Leadership: "Celebrating our Successes, Creating our Future."* Added website features will include a secure site for board members, a more contemporary look and easier access. Regional Communications Networks will continue to be supported by the NHSA and strengthened through various strategies.*



# NHSA's Board of Directors 2007 – 2008



## Yvonne L. Beasley, Secretary

Yvonne L. Beasley is the Director of Maternal Child Health at the Marion County Health Department and Project Director, Indianapolis Healthy Start. She is the Secretary of the National Healthy Start Association Board of Directors. Yvonne is the CityMatCH liaison for the Marion County Health Department and member of CityMatCH's Education and Training Action Group. Yvonne has a Masters Degree in Nursing with special emphasis in community health and administration. She has over 30 years of cumulative administrative experience with the Department of Veterans Affairs and in Public Health. Yvonne is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Indiana Perinatal Network, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Sigma Theta Tau International Nurses Honor Society and American Public Health Association



## Estrellita "Lo" Berry, Vice President of Programs

Ms. Berry has extensive involvement in creating, developing and implementing programs that service high-risk families in a culturally inclusive fashion. At Central Hillsborough Healthy Start in Tampa (FL), Berry has provided guidance and oversight for nine years to an intensive MCH program whose mission is to increase community capacity for the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality and morbidity. Prior to becoming the NHSA's Vice President of Programs, Lo served as the Spring Conference Chair for several years.



## Cynthia Dean, President

Cynthia Dean has served on the National Healthy Start Association's Board of Directors since 2003, and became President in July 2007. She is currently the CEO of the Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium. Her professional background contains more than 24 years experience in grant funded programs. Ms. Dean also serves as Project Director for the Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start Project.

Prior to joining Healthy Start, she served as Regional Director of Cardiovascular Health Programs for the State of Missouri Department of Health, at the Southeast District Office for 10 years. She has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a liaison with community-based health programs and academic institutions. She has received national, state and regional honors. Cynthia was appointed by the Missouri Attorney General to serve on the Missouri Foundation for Health Community Advisory Committee, where she currently serves as Chair. She has co-authored 12 published journal articles on the topics of Community-Based Risk Reduction Prevention Strategies in Underserved Populations. She attended Alabama State University.

## Lisa L. Derrick



Lisa Derrick has worked as Program Director for South Phoenix Healthy Start for nearly four years. She has worked in the Maricopa County public health and medical system for 19 years, as the Director of Clinical and Non-Clinical Education and Manager of the training department for the Medicaid program in Arizona. Lisa holds an undergraduate degree in Management and Administration and her Master's in Educational Psychology. She also holds a post-graduate certificate in theological studies and teaches theology with the University of South.

Lisa is a faculty member of the local college district teaching courses in social services, management and organizational development. Lisa is a board member of the National Healthy Start Association and serves as the Chair of Professional Education for the local chapter of Postpartum Support International, working to educate the community on post partum mood disorders and the impact of post partum depression on families.

## Mario Drummonds



Mario Drummonds is the Executive Director/CEO of the Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, Inc., a Harlem-based maternal and child health agency working to improve the health status of pregnant and parenting women in Northern Manhattan.

His 27 years of professional experience ranges in the areas of program administration and planning. He brings to the table experiences with child welfare theory, practice and policy development, maternal and child health, social marketing, information technology and public policy development. Over the last 12 years, Mr. Drummonds diversified NMPP's funding base and grew the agency from three small MCH programs and a \$800,000 annual budget to an agency with a \$5.2 million dollar budget, four sites, nearly 120 staff members and 19 funded programs.

Mr. Drummonds has traveled the nation assisting other Healthy Start projects to develop sustainability strategies and plans, worked with them to prepare their competitive Healthy Start applications and lectures on the theory and practice of building a public health social movement locally to decrease racial disparities in birth outcomes. He is a member of the faculty of HRSA's Quality Institute and a faculty member of the National Healthy Start Association Leadership Institute.



## Cindi Garcia

Cindi has been with the San Antonio-based Baptist Child & Family Services (BCFS) since January 1999. She serves as the Executive Director of Federal Programs for the organization. She is responsible for residential facility programs, as well as community-based programs. Her responsibility includes development, oversight and sustainability of all federal programs including Healthy Start Laredo, Texas. In addition, Cindi manages two mobile unit programs that have served as model programs for community based services. The mobile unit teams have received national and state commendations for their crisis response and leadership roles in events such as Hurricane Katrina.

Cindi presently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Healthy Start Association. She is a founding member of the Texas Healthy Start Alliance and currently serves as an officer of that organization. Cindi received her Bachelors degree from the University of Texas at Austin.



## Rick Haverkate

Rick Haverkate is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1989, where he completed a B.S. degree in Community Health Education. In 1992, he re-located to Honolulu, Hawaii, to begin work on a Masters in Public Health Degree, completing his MPH in December of 1993.

During and between his academic endeavors, Rick worked in various positions in the field of Public Health, including serving in the Hawaii State Department of Health's HIV/STD Prevention Program as their Public Information Specialist. In 1997, Rick returned to Sault Ste. Marie and accepted a position as the Public Health Advisor with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITC). Since 1999, he has been employed as the Health Services Director of the Inter-Tribal Council, responsible for a \$6.5 million annual budget, 28 staff people and 17 Native American-specific health promotion/disease prevention programs. Rick maintains direct supervision of the ITC Behavioral Health staff and programs.

In addition to his duties as ITC Health Services Director, Rick currently serves as the Chairperson of the National Native People of North American HIV/AIDS Planning Committee. He is a board member of the National Healthy Start Association and was appointed by the governor of Michigan to sit on the state Mental Health Commission. Rick is a member of the Indian Health Service Literacy Work Group and a member of the I.H.S. Prevention Policy Advisory Committee. Rick also serves on the Board of Directors for the Chippewa County United Way and volunteers as a "Big" with the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

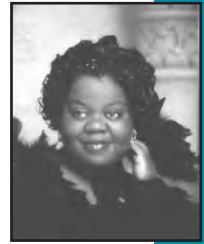
## Judith M. Hill, Chair, Spring Conference & 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee



Judith M. Hill is the Director of Development for Charles Drew Health Center, Inc. (CDHC) in Omaha, Nebraska. In this capacity, she is responsible for fund development, marketing, public relationships and grants management for the health center. She serves as Program Director for Omaha Healthy Start (OHS), a position she has held since September 2001. Prior to her appointment as program director, she served as OHS program manager for two years. Hill was instrumental in developing the OHS male involvement initiative, Fathers for a Lifetime, in 2002. The National Fatherhood Initiative recognized the process used in engaging the community in the development and implementation of the fatherhood initiative in 2003 as a best practice model.

Hill has 27 years of experience in program development and management, community-based marketing and public relations and fund development. Hill serves on a number of local, state and national health care initiatives, coalitions and boards, including the National Healthy Start Association Board of Directors. She is the Chair of the 2008 Spring Conference & 10th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee.

## Corrina Jackson



Corrina Jackson holds a Bachelor of General Business from Oklahoma State University and Masters in the Science of Management from Southern Nazarene University. She has been with the Tulsa Health Department for 10 years, five years as Manager of the Healthy Start Program and the Match Project. Ms. Jackson possesses 20 years experience in program development and implementation such as grassroots in maternal, child health and public health.

In the past, she has been instrumental in structuring and organizing school based programs. Programs initiated by the legislators to assist parents in becoming more familiar with accessing the health care system through the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

Presently, Corrina is a board member of the National Healthy Start Association and co-founder of the Tulsa Fatherhood Coalition, a coalition designed to strengthen families by addressing the important of including fathers and significant others.



## **Lisa M. Matthews, Vice President of Operations and Finance; Chair, By-laws Committee**

Lisa Matthews, MBA, is the Director of the Cleveland MomsFirst Project with the Department of Public Health in Cleveland, Ohio. Her background includes over 27 years experience working in the healthcare field, with the past 17 years specific to maternal and child health care administration. Ms. Matthews joined the Healthy Start initiative in 1993 as the Deputy Project Director and has been the Director since 1999. During her tenure with the Healthy Start initiative, Ms. Matthews has led the development of a model for perinatal depression screening, infrastructure development and capacity building that has been recognized by the County, State, and Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau. She has also worked diligently to provide a seamless continuum of services to families prenatally to age three and has secured local funding to expand program capacity to serve more families prenatally.

Ms. Matthews has a Masters Degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Health Care Administration from Cleveland State University. She serves on many community collaboratives and is also Vice President of Operations and Finance for the National Healthy Start Association Board of Directors.



## **Tamela Milan, Chair, Membership Services Committee**

Tamela Milan is the divorced mother of six with five girls, one son and a grandson. She received an AAS degree from Robert Morris College in 1999. Tamela became involved in Healthy Start in 1997 when she was a methadone maintenance patient and part of an early intervention services program, and her sixth child was high risk for delays. As a client of the program since its inception, Tamela has moved on from client, advocate and volunteer to employee of the Westside Healthy Start program, since 2003.

She was re-elected as consortia chair for the second time and she also serves as a child development specialist for Westside Healthy Start, screening children ages zero to two for developmental delays. Tamela was recently promoted to case management services, which she began April 2008. Tamela is a member of the NHSA Board of Directors, being one of the first consumers to serve on the board and is in her second term on the board. She is currently the Chair of the NHSA's Membership Services Committee and serves on the Spring Conference planning committee, and will facilitate the Consumer Orientation session again in 2008.

## Cynthia Nunnally



Cynthia was appointed by Mayor A.C. Wharton (Shelby County, TN) two years ago to serve as the Deputy Administrator of Population Based Services at the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department. In this role, she is responsible for many of the MSCHD programs that directly impact infant mortality: Healthy Start, Community Health Nursing, Newborn Outreach Screening, Campaign for Healthier Babies and Children's Special Services. In addition, PBS includes the STD Unit, Tuberculosis Control Program, Ryan White Part A/MAI Program, School Health, Employee Health, Health Promotion, Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer and TennCare Presumptive Eligibility.

As a new member of the Board of Directors for the National Healthy Start Association, Cynthia serves on the By-Laws and Leadership Institute Committees. With a concentration in community health education, Cynthia received her MPH from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

## Wilford A. Payne, Chair, Sustainability Committee



Will Payne is the Executive Director of Primary Care Health Services, Inc., and has held that position since 1977. He is responsible for the management, fiscal oversight and day-to-day operations of neighborhood ambulatory care clinics of 13 sites, and employing a staff of over 180. He served as President of the National Association of Community Health Centers in 1989, and is President of the Board of Directors of Healthy Start, Inc., in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In addition to serving on numerous boards and committees, at the regional, state and national levels, Will is a member of the NHTSA's Board of Directors and is chair of the Sustainability Committee. He has a Bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, Ohio, and a Master of Science in Hospital and Health Services Administration from The Ohio State University. He has received numerous awards, including the Human Rights Award in the Domestic Sector: United Nations Association of Pittsburgh.

## Belinda D. Pettiford, Past President



Belinda has been with the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section (state Title V) since November 1995. She presently serves as the Supervisor for the Perinatal Health and Family Support Unit. In this role, she is responsible for the oversight of all Maternal Health Programs (including three Healthy Start sites, the state's Minority Infant Mortality Reduction, Women's Health & Tobacco Use and Sickle Cell Programs), Services and Budgets. Prior to being in this position, Belinda was the Program Manager for the federal Healthy Start Baby Love Plus Initiatives' three sites. In this role, she was responsible for the efforts of three regional programs covering fourteen North Carolina counties.

Belinda presently serves as the Past President of the National Healthy Start Association. She received her MPH from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.



## **Carlton L. Purvis, III, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee**

Carlton Purvis is the President of Wellspring Executive Advisors and has served hospitals, health systems and other health organizations in strategy, operations and facility development roles for 20 years. He is also experienced in non-profit and small business leadership and development. Since 2002, his work has been focused on transforming regional community health systems to integrate service delivery, improve access to healthcare, and eliminate disparities in care.

As Executive Director of a regional coalition, Carlton was Assistant Director for the federal Healthy Start Family Foundations project that serves three counties in Oregon. He also founded the Jefferson Regional Health Alliance in Oregon in 2005. Carlton presently serves as Strategy Committee Chair of the National Healthy Start Association. He has also served as VP of Finance and Operations, as well as Interim President. He received his MBA from the University of Oklahoma.



## **Risë Ross Ratney, Chair, Audit Committee**

Risë Ross Ratney has been involved with Northwest Indiana Healthy Start since the planning stage in 1991. During this time, she was the Director of Community Affairs and Education for a local community mental health agency. She joined Healthy Start in 1993 as the manager of one of the East Chicago community service sites. While there, she implemented a comprehensive clinical and social service program for pregnant women and their infants.

Risë has been Project Director for Northwest Indiana Healthy Start since 1995. The project area consists of the four diverse Indiana cities of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond and Lake Station. In addition to providing administrative direction for the project, she has worked to create collaborative partnerships with State and local providers and policy makers to improve service delivery for women and children.

Along with serving as Chair of the Audit Committee for the National Healthy Start Association Board, Risë is involved with several community based organizations. She is serving or has served as a board member for organizations such as the YWCA, Healthy Families, Healthy East Chicago, the Lake County Minority Health Coalition, the Gary Community Health Center, Inc. and the Northwest Indiana Health Disparities Roundtable.

An adjunct faculty member with Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Risë teaches graduate level courses for the Department of Social Work. She is married and has one adult daughter.

## Jerry Roberson

Jerry L. Roberson is a Senior Associate for United Associates, a Technical Assistance Consulting Firm specializing in program development and evaluation, social and behavioral research, policy development and strategic planning. Jerry's expertise lies in social and behavioral community development around maternal and child health, with a particular emphasis on issues of health disparities.



Mr. Roberson is a board member for the National Healthy Start Association and the Chairperson of the Texas Healthy Start Alliance, which consists of all six Healthy Start sites within the state of Texas. He is an Adjunct Faculty member at Tarrant County College in Arlington, Texas, where he teaches Business and Professional Communication. Additionally, he is a group facilitator for Families First, a court mandated class for divorcing parents in Dallas County. Currently, Mr. Roberson is conducting a meta-evaluation of March of Dimes funded projects within the state of Texas and is the co-investigator on a national assessment of existing Fetal Infant Mortality Review teams.

Mr. Roberson received his Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Northwestern State University in 1991 and his Master's degree in Communicative Studies from Baylor University in 1995. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Public Health, with an emphasis on policy, at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas. His dissertation is focusing on "How does 'neighborhood effect' impact infant mortality?"

## Alma Roberts, Chair, Marketing Committee

Alma Roberts is President and CEO of Baltimore City Healthy Start, Inc., a city-wide infant mortality reduction 501 (c) (3) corporation. Ms. Roberts was previously CEO of the Center for Poverty Solutions spearheading the Center's work in the areas of self sufficiency, and health disparities, helping create the Maryland Health Disparities Coalition.



Ms. Roberts has worked 35 years developing strategies to include the uninsured in mainstream health delivery systems. In establishing managed care subsidiaries for organizations such as Kaiser Permanente, Prudential Insurance, Grady Health System and Detroit Medical Center, she has positioned herself in the forefront for ensuring the inclusion of at risk populations as part of coordinated systems of care.

She serves on boards and committees including Chair of the Board of the Woodbourne Center, Immediate Past Chair of the Maryland Health Disparities Coalition and Vice Chair of the Board of Baltimore Health Care Access, as well as on the board of National Healthy Start Association and the Community Council on Childhood Obesity.

Ms. Roberts received her bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and Masters of Public Health from University of Michigan. She is a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives, a Leaders 2000 Plus graduate, a Weinberg Fellow (2003) and a Johnson and Johnson Fellow (2006). In 2005, she received the Harlow Fulwood, Jr. "Service Before Self" Award from the Rotary Club and was recognized by the Daily Record as being among "Maryland's Most Influential People."



## **Danetta (Dani) Taylor, Treasurer; Chair, Finance Committee**

Ms. Taylor is a health care program administrator with the Maternal, Paternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section of the Alameda County Health Department in San Leandro, California. She currently serves as director of Alameda County's Healthy Start program, the Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Program (IPOP). IPOP provides case management/care coordination, community health promotion, depression screening and fatherhood services to low-income African Americans in zip codes with high African American infant mortality rates.

Ms. Taylor has also served as the Alameda County Public Health Department's Black Infant Health Coordinator and has assisted Alameda County's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) director with maternal and child health planning activities, preparing MCH program budgets and the monitoring of overall MCH expenses. She is currently Treasurer of the National Healthy Start Association. Ms. Taylor received her Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley.



## **Susan E. Wilson**

Susan is the Program Director for Healthy Babies, the Sedgwick County Health Department's Maternal & Child Home Visitation program, a position she has held since August 2003. Susan received her Bachelor of General Studies degree from Wichita State University, concentrating her studies in business and social sciences.

As the Program Director, Susan is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating all aspects of the Healthy Babies Program. In addition to managing eight budgets in excess of \$1.5 million annually, Susan oversees all personnel and office management, purchasing, accounting, grant writing, client outreach and advocacy, staff development and community collaboration.

Susan has served and continues to serve on a number of committees, including the Kansas Medicaid Task Force, Kansas Perinatal Council, Kansas MCH Task Force, National Healthy Start Association Board of Directors and their Sustainability and Development Committees, Healthy Start Consortium, CityMatCH ETAG, Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council (SCECCC), Visioneering Wichita Birth-K Alliance, United Way Child & Family Impact Council, Parents as Teachers Community Advisory Committee and the USD 259 Year-Round School Research Committee. In addition, Susan is a March of Dimes grant reviewer and she is a Certified Breastfeeding Educator.

## Penny Womeldorff



Penny Womeldorff has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Counseling. She has over 18 years of experience in mental health and substance abuse services, program development and community/statewide collaboration, focusing primarily on teens and women. Prior to joining Healthy Start, Penny worked for a Community Mental Health Center developing an Outreach Program for Pregnant Substance Abusers in a four county region. She has been the Project Director for the WV Healthy Start/HAPI Project since their initial funding in 2001. Penny is a member of the NHSA's board of directors and the Sustainability Committee.

**These individuals served on the Board from 2005-2007,  
with their terms expiring in the summer of 2007:**

**LaShay Avendaño**  
**Healthy Babies, Inc. (KS)**

**Kenn Harris, Past President, 2006-2007**  
**Abba Restoration Center, Inc. (CT)**

**Karen Owes**  
**Central Harlem Healthy Start (NY)**

## Staff & Consultants



### **Kemia Duncan, Executive Assistant**

Kemia has been employed with the National Healthy Start Association since April 2007. She presently serves in the role as Executive Assistant. Kemia worked closely with NHSA's first CEO, Peggy Sanchez Mills. Prior to working for the NHSA, Kemia was employed with the TriService Nursing Research Program where she organized workshops, seminars and training sessions for military nurse researchers.

Kemia has two daughters, Kaliyah, age 12, and Laniyah, age four. She resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where she just purchased her first home. Kemia received her Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Bowie State University. She is a member of the Phi Sigma Beta Biology Honor Society and a Ronald E. McNair Scholar.



### **Bea Haskins, NHSA Consultant; Spring Conference Logistics Coordinator**

Bea Haskins has been a consultant to the National Healthy Start Association since before it became incorporated. In 1997, while consulting for Baltimore City Healthy Start, she was asked by Thomas P. Coyle, one of the NHSA's founders, to staff the fledgling Association. From 1998 to 2007, the NHSA was headquartered in Bea's home. Bea served as the Operations Manager until 2007, when the Association hired its first permanent staff and opened its first independent office.

Bea is the production coordinator/editor of the NHSA's quarterly newsletter, logistics coordinator of the annual Spring Conference and carries out a multitude of other tasks and responsibilities for the Association. She has an undergraduate degree from Antioch University in Planning and Administration, and a Master's of Science degree in Applied Psychology from the University of Baltimore. In addition to consulting for the NHSA, Bea consults for other non-profits in the Baltimore area, and maintains a private biofeedback and counseling practice. She is the mother of two, grandmother of five and has two great-granddaughters.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the National Healthy Start Association is to promote the development of community-based maternal and child health programs, particularly those addressing the issues of infant mortality, low birthweight and racial disparities in perinatal outcomes. As part of its mission, the NHSA supports the expansion of a wide range of activities and efforts that are rooted in the community and actively involve community residents in their design and implementation.

## Vision Statement

The NHSA is a recognized leader in and advocate for reducing infant mortality and perinatal disparities and the hub for maternal and child health programs and services.



## National Healthy Start Association, Inc.

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