

VICKI S. WRIGHT

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current

- Serve as a reviewer and/or panel chairperson for discretionary grants for Administration for Children and Families (ACF) agencies including Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Native Americans, Children's Bureau
- Adjunct faculty—University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work teaching Child Welfare Policy, Fall 2014

Consultant (October 2007-2010):

- Collaborated, consulted, reviewed and/or wrote successful grant applications for the American Humane Association (AHA) (until 2010). This included work with the Navajo Tribe, Nambe Pueblo, and AHA's own grant applications.
- Wrote for and edited the Quality Information Center (QIC) Fatherhood newsletter for AHA

Program Specialist, Program Implementation Division, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau (CB), Washington D.C. (May 2002 – September 2007)

- Specialized: Family Preservation/ Family Support (Title IV-B). Wrote the program instructions (PIs) for the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for States and Tribes each year which included instructions to include State programs and funding related to major Child Welfare legislation including Promoting Safe and Stable Families, CAPTA, Chafee Independent Living programs, Education and Training Vouchers for Youth, caseload data reporting and other related concerns as needed. Evaluated the quality of these plans and devised methods to help States and Tribes improve their plans including nationwide conference calls, working with the Regional offices and other staff, overseeing contractors writing and reviewing technical assistance handbooks, implementing an online toolkit, among other activities. Wrote the Children's Bureau's Performance Rating Tool (PART) for OMB which justified the efficiency and effectiveness of the CWS and PSSF programs. These programs received a "moderately effective" score. These were published on the internet during the Bush administration's efforts to evaluate governmental programs.
- Specialized: Tribal Child Welfare. Responsible for Child Welfare program and policy implementation on a national basis. Wrote Program Instructions specific to Tribes regarding Child Welfare laws and programs. Actively pursued partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Human Services Office. Co-sponsored the BIA conference and collaborated with the BIA director on a presentation regarding Tribal child welfare programs from each agency's perspective. Planned and coordinated CB's Tribal Conferences with the Regional Offices in three regional cities and developed a power point presentation which was used at

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each of the meetings. Created and conducted quarterly calls with the Tribes, encouraged Regional Office communication and advocated for their interests within the Federal government. Oversaw the formulation, approval and dissemination of informational material about States/Tribes for the CB website and the Child Welfare Information Gateway as well as for other associated agencies.

- Oversight: Federal Project Officer for funded discretionary grants and cooperative agreements especially the Healthy Marriage Initiative (until the Children's Bureau was able to hire additional staff) and the QIC on Privatization of Child Welfare Services. Co-authored an article on Federal issues and efforts regarding privatization that was published in the *International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*.
- Informed: Presented new or misunderstood legislation, policy and/or programs to various audiences, facilitated groups providing input to CB, conducted and oversaw many program analyses and technical assistance projects regarding a variety of programs that incorporated child welfare principles and practice.
- Monitored: Led teams of Federal reviewers engaged in determining adherence to Federal title IV-E eligibility law and regulations. Served as a team member in Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) and systems reviews (SACWIS).
- Coordinated: CB activities with numerous agencies outside of CB. Created two-day meetings with the Title IV-B and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CAPTA) State staff in order to move the prevention and funding stream collaboration agendas forward. These meetings became more successful each year; the 2007 meetings concentrated on implementing evidence-based practice.
- Evaluated: Participated throughout the discretionary grant process including input into CB's research agenda, oversight of the application review, award recommendations and grant oversight. Worked with CB's discretionary grant unit to provide Federal oversight to the grant applications review process. Trained grant reviewers in the specifics of evaluating the applications and oversaw panel discussion groups to assure a fair process. In 2007, I worked as part of the "Meth" grant awards team- the team received the Assistant Secretary's Award for team work.

Children and Families Program Specialist, Policy Division of the Children's Bureau, Washington, DC. (2000-2002)

- Presented: new legislative programs, such as the Chaffee Independent Living legislation, ASFA, Indian Child Welfare, and others to multiple agencies including Federal agencies, Regional Offices, non-profit and advocacy groups and others.
- Discussed: program implications of policy with regional, state, Federal technical and senior

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level staff, including General Council, the Assistant Secretary for ACF and other concerned individuals and organizations and wrote regulations regarding legislation.

- Analyzed: legislation and researched various child welfare concerns
- Wrote: policy, questions/answers, Program Instructions and other clarifications through the policy manual.
- Attended : relevant Congressional committee hearings and other meetings regarding CB programs and policies;
- Responded to proposals by legislators and their staff, advocacy groups and others.

Program Specialist within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and its predecessor organizations, Region VIII Denver, CO (1984-2000)

Duties in the Child Welfare, Youth & DD Unit of the Regional Office. (1994-1999)

- State liaison concerning Child Welfare programs for the State and Tribes of North Dakota, helping implement multiple initiatives. Worked with the State/Tribes on policy issues, implementation of ASFA, title IV-B plans, Y2K and other systems concerns, analyzed fiscal reports and entered them into the Federal data base.
- Developed Child Welfare/Youth Services collaborative concentrating in Colorado. Facilitated meetings which culminated in a collaborative effort between the community shelters and the State of Colorado and in a successful application for a Demonstration Grant for State collaboratives through the Family and Youth Services Bureau.
- Served on local community collaboratives such as the Violence Prevention Education Committee and Denver Partnership for Adolescent Concerns.
- Sole responsibility for the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) and related programs in the six states in the Region (for 6 month period). Reviewed and monitored RHY programs, giving technical advice for agency adherence to the program and grant requirements.
- State liaison for two States in the Region where I oversaw their Child Welfare offices. I reviewed State policy and training plans for conformance to Federal guidelines and assisted in improvements when needed.
- Childcare specialist with emphasis in the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) (1992 to 1994). This position included working with every state and tribe in the Region to plan and implement child care programs in their communities. Presented child care grant information to large and small audiences about the new child care legislation, worked with States and Tribes on their funding and plan submittals, and served on several local child care committees.
- Lead for Supportive Services/Child Care during the implementation of various Federal childcare programs (1989-1992). Worked with the Regional team implementing JOBS, spoke to audiences ranging from 12 to 400 concerning the new Federal emphasis on quality child care, answered policy questions and approved the Supportive Services piece of the

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- State plan for all the states in our Region.
- Refugee Resettlement coordinator for the Region and helped in the resettlement of several refugee groups into the Region VIII states.
- Data Management Specialist (1987-1989) collected the State reports for ACF programs and developed the format for and programmed the regional statistics for AFDC, JOBS, and Child Support in a software package that was a precursor to Excel. Developed quarterly reports distributed to the Federal Program Specialist and appropriate State agency heads and produced State Performance Measures publications for distribution throughout the Region.
- Reviewed and analyzed State AFDC and Emergency Assistance policy and procedures against Federal regulations, monitored programs on site and wrote reports and recommendations (1984-1987).

Presidential Management Intern (PMI) (1983-1985) Budget Office of the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington DC. The PMI program is a prestigious Federal program specifically designed to hire and promote Master's level degree individuals with leadership potential.

- Input budget estimates gathered from HHS operating divisions and wrote justifications for budget line items for the President's budget for HHS.
- Analyzed several impact issues for HHS.
- Rotational assignment that included special administrative projects regarding staff satisfaction surveys, reporting to and training managers regarding staff satisfaction, and writing job descriptions for a word processing unit in the Region VIII Office of the Social Security Administration.

Full-time Mother, part-time student, volunteer at YWCA child care resource and referral agency, fund-raiser for Cystic Fibrosis. (1979-1983)

Social Worker for the local public housing authority in Knoxville, Tennessee. (1975-1979)

- Duties over the 5 years included Social Worker for over 600 family units of public housing, Health Services Social Worker for the entire housing authority (both elderly and family), Housing Counselor for the Section 8 Rental Housing program, and Elderly Day Care Services Director where I directly supervised a staff of five.

EDUCATION

Graduated: Degree:

December 1982 Master of Public Administration, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver.

December Bachelor of Arts in Human Services, The University

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1974 of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Graduated Cum laude.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- *Council for Excellence in Government*--a nine month program for agency nominated staff to study leadership and thereby enhance leadership knowledge and skills among Federal managers and those with management potential (2005).
- *Denver Community Leadership Forum*--a nine month program for invited individuals that focused on community leadership theories, techniques, skills and self-discovery in leadership style (1997).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Currently serve on the program committee for Tennyson Center for Children, a local child welfare agency.
- Committee member-Denver Indian Family Resource Center-an urban Native American child welfare agency (2010-2011).
- ACF's representative on the Federal Women's Committee (1993-1995).
- Reconciliation Chairperson for the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) (1994-2000).
- 5 years on the Denver Inner City Parish Board, a local non-profit agency;
- 2 terms as board member and treasurer for an elderly housing agency;
- 15 years as "Church in Society" committee chairperson in my local church.
- Board Chair for Mother to Mother of Northwest Denver, a non-profit organization partnering poor and middle income women for friendships and mutual support.
- Girl Scout leader for my daughter's troop and with a troop in public housing. Special leader for scholarship based national Scouting trip.