

Meet Your Healthy Start Project Officers

CAPT Madelyn Reyes, DNP, MA, MPA, RN



Region: VI & IX (AZ, CA, NM, and TX)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: 17 years

Professional Background: CAPT Reyes serves as a Senior Nurse Consultant in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's, Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services. She provides programmatic expertise to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start (HS) Program. CAPT Reyes is responsible for managing, monitoring, and providing technical assistance to 12 regionally and culturally diverse Healthy Start Projects that serve the most vulnerable women and infants, including projects along U.S./Mexico Border. She also serves as the lead PO for JSI research and training institute. CAPT Reyes is the Bureau's representative for HRSA's Border Health activities and is also the co-lead for MCHB's Health Equity Special Interest Group.

CAPT Reyes earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in nursing from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, a Master of Public Administration from Troy State University, a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Carlow University. CAPT Reyes joined the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in 1997, after serving six years in the U.S. Navy.

Research/Academic Interests: CAPT Reyes' interest is in Health Information Technology (HIT) and the impact on vulnerable and underserved populations. She has a special interest in Hispanic health issues especially along the U.S./Mexico border. CAPT Reyes completed her Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Her final project focused on the impact of prenatal stress, anxiety, social support, and acculturation on pregnancy outcomes in Hispanic/Latina women.

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Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: My favorite thing about being a HS PO is conducting site visits where I get to not only meet the management and front line staff, but also the HS clients during a home visit. The most rewarding part of my job is hearing how grateful the HS clients are about the services they are receiving from the HS program.

What motivates you to do this work? Knowing that the work that I do contributes to the continued success of Healthy Start and, more importantly, to the health of America's most vulnerable women, children, and families.

Sharon Adamo, MS, MBA, RD



Region: III (PA)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: 1 year. 17 years as a Federal PO in other programs.

Professional Background: Following graduate school, Sharon spent many years in public health management in North Carolina. She served as a Health Statistician, then as the WIC Nutrition Director for NC's largest WIC Program, managing a staff of 20. Sharon also worked as a consulting dietitian for a rural community health center, where she provided clinical nutrition care for high-risk prenatal patients and patients in the diabetes care clinic. Joining the Federal government in 1998, Sharon worked at the US Department of Agriculture/Food and Nutrition Service/WIC Headquarters as a Registered Dietitian coordinating the national WIC Loving Support Breastfeeding Campaign, which still exists today. She served on the Surgeon General's Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding in 2000, and received the Surgeon General's Award for Excellence. She is a well-respected Federal expert on breastfeeding promotion and support and currently co-chairs the Federal Work Group on Breastfeeding with leaders from CDC. Sharon joined MCHB in 2000 as a Program Analyst working in the Office of Program

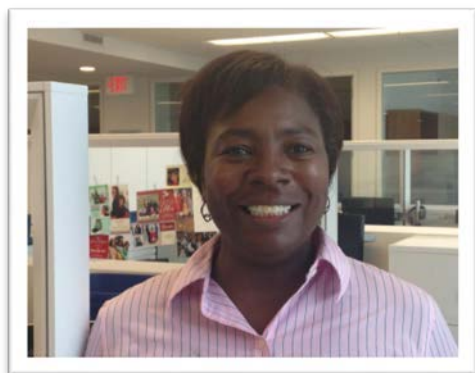
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Development, where she utilized her MBA/management skills, before returning to Project Officer work in the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health. There she directed the AIM and PIPPAH national grant programs for 10 years. Sharon joined the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services in 2013 and continues to lead breastfeeding and nutrition efforts for MCHB and HRSA, as well as serving as PO for Pennsylvania Healthy Start grantees.

Research/Academic Interests: Public health nutrition and breastfeeding promotion and support in the US.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Working with grantees.

Cardora Barnes, MS, Paralegal Certificate



Region: Assigned to states of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Cardora joined the Division of Healthy Start (HS) and Perinatal Services (DHSPS) in February 2016 however she has held positions as a Project Officer across other HRSA bureau and offices for more than 10 years.

Professional Background: In her PO role, Cardora provides programmatic expertise to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start Program within DHSPS. She is responsible for monitoring program progress and providing technical oversight in an effort to assist grantees in reducing the infant mortality rate in vulnerable and culturally diverse populations. Cardora utilizes her skills in public health, legal, strategic planning, and program development to guide HS projects in providing needed social services to women, children, and their families. In addition to her HS portfolio, Cardora serves also on the Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Policy Workgroup.

Prior to MCHB, Cardora served as a Project Officer in the Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, for four years where she monitored and performed oversight on grants awarded to Federally Qualified Health Centers that were located in Central California. She has also spent seven years working with Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas designations, and also performed research work in health care policy and legislative

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matters for the formerly known Office of Policy and Evaluation, of HRSA.

In addition to HRSA, Cardora has worked in two legal offices within Office of the Secretary, DHHS. She worked with attorneys and senior administrative law judges in the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Virginia, where she launched their statistical sampling project that helped reduced the backlog of pending Medicare claim appeals. She also worked in the Office of General Counsel where she assisted attorneys with the federal court stipulations on compensated awards for the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. She performed oversight on the distribution of compensated awards and fraudulent claims. Earlier in her career, Cardora has also worked for US Attorney's Office and the US Court of Appeals located in Washington, DC.

Academic/Research Interest: Legal, policy, and public health.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: As a project officer, Cardora enjoys working with the grantees to help develop a connection and positive working relationship. She believes in providing quality technical assistance, guidance, communication, and resources in effort to assist grantees in their performance, to resolve problems, and in their effort to bring needed services to the communities in which they serve. She is always interested in hearing the grantees' stories about their successes and challenges.

What motivates you to do this work? Cardora is motivated by the interaction and connection with her assigned grantees. Plus, she enjoys working with the DHSPS team and MCHB partners.

Name: CDR Maria D. Benke, EdD, MPH, CHES



Region: IV (AL & MS)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year.

Professional Background: CDR Benke has extensive experience in public health policy and program development, implementation, management, and evaluation, for federal and local public health agencies, as well as the military and academia. She has contributed to and coordinated

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numerous interagency collaborative efforts spanning the fields of maternal and child health, global health, domestic and international public health emergency preparedness and response, health education, environmental health, and personnel management. Maria holds a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership and a Master in Public Health with a concentration in Health Education and Behavioral Sciences from Rutgers University. She has been a Certified Health Education Specialist since 2000.

Research/Academic Interests: Systems and practices that support workforce, organizational, and leadership development; children and families with special behavioral health and/or educational needs; and early childhood interventions that support educational success and lifelong health.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Having a role creating systems changes that not only improve health, but supporting children and their families to realize the American dream – a full and healthy life, liberty through equality and opportunity, and happiness through the pursuit of their personal dreams and actualizing their full potential.

What motivates you to do this work? I was once an “at-risk” child - a first generation immigrant from a family of very modest means, growing up in a rough urban neighborhood, and in a predominantly single-parent household. I was blessed to have role models and support systems that enabled and empowered me with a good start in life, and I believe in paying it forward. It’s my passion to help ensure all children – regardless of their situation – have the chance to realize their full potential.

Juliann DeStefano RN, MPH



Region: V (IL)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: 17 years

Professional Background: Ms. Destefano has extensive experience in public health policy and program development and implementation in local public health agencies as well as the federal government. She has contributed to, and been the lead on, a number of interagency collaborative efforts in the fields of maternal and child health and mental health. Juliann holds a Master in Public Health with a concentration in Health Education and Behavioral Sciences from UCLA and is a Registered Nurse with a BSN from University of Maryland. Ms. DeStefano is also CPR certified and keeps herself active in the community teaching CPR and other perinatal classes at a local hospital.

Research/Academic Interests: Systems and practices that support improvement of public health systems of care, expansion of coverage and treatment networks for individuals with mental

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health issues, health insurance coverage, heart health prevention, epigenetics and its role in perinatal health, assisted reproductive technology.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Having a role creating systems changes that positively impact the health of women and their families, recognizing that healthy parents, physically, mentally and emotionally are better equipped to raise healthy infants and children.

What motivates you to do this work? I enjoy ground level work and am in a unique opportunity as a federal employee to influence policies while working with grantees who serve communities.

LCDR Mary L. Emanuele, USPHS, RN, BSN, CNOR, CCHP



Region: I am the PO for states located in Regions 5, 8, 9, and 10; MN, WI, IN, OR, CO, SD, and NV.

Length of Time as a Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year

Professional Background: Lcdr Mary Emanuele is currently a Program Management Officer in the Maternal and Child Health Bureaus. Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services where she provides programmatic guidance to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start (HA) Program. Her responsibilities include assisting grantees with technical oversight and monitoring programmatic progress to reduce infant mortality in vulnerable populations.

LCDR Mary Emanuele is a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service where she worked as nurse consultant for the Department of Justice: Federal Bureau of Prisons from 2008-2016. During her career at Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Butner, North Carolina, she worked as an operating room nurse with subject matter expertise in eleven surgical specialties; mental health and psychiatry, and then transitioned into oncology nursing. As an oncology nurse, Lcdr Emanuele treated some of the rarest cancer patients utilizing her specialized skill set to administer chemotherapy, biologic agents and blood product to this underserved population. From December 2014 to February 2015, Lcdr Emanuele deployed to Liberia, West Africa as a member of the Monrovia Medical Unit Team 2, the only aspect of the US Government's Ebola Crisis Response Mission that provided direct patient care.

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Prior to her USPHS Commissioning, from 2002-2008, LCDR Mary Emanuele served as an officer in the United States Navy where she proudly served as an operating room nurse at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA.; US Military Hospital Kuwait; and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, CA. During her tour of duty in the US Navy, LCDR Emanuele was a charge nurse for the Main Operating Room overseeing seven surgical specialties, including: Women's Health, Pediatrics, Labor and Delivery, and the On-Call Heart Team. Her tour of duty in the Navy included a deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait from July 2004 to February 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Research/Academic interests: My interests include: (a) developing family centered interventions to increase perinatal depression awareness, (b) increasing number of women who seek and receive treatment for depression and; (b) increase public awareness and treatment for the opioid crisis and its effects on our perinatal women and their families.

Favorite thing about being a Healthy Start Project Officer: My favorite thing about being a Healthy Start Project Officer is getting to collaborate with various organizations across The United States of America whose primary purpose is to provide health services, which, directly improves the health and well-being of the underserved women, men and children in their communities.

What motivates you to do this work? My motivation to be part of Healthy Start is driven by the journey of achieving positive outcomes through working with other people who share a passion and vision for strengthening the families and communities of our nation. I feel very privileged to be part of the Healthy Start family.

Sonsy Fermín, MSW, LCSW



Region: Project Officer for Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas.

Length of Time as a Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year

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Professional Background: CDR Sony Fermin is currently a Senior Public Health Analyst in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services where she provides programmatic guidance to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start Program. Her responsibilities include assisting grantees with technical oversight and monitoring programmatic progress to reduce infant mortality in vulnerable populations.

CDR Sony Fermín served as a Public Health Advisor in the Division of State and Community Systems Development, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In this capacity, she had the responsibility for monitoring and managing over \$29 million in grants annually for the Protection and Advocacy of individuals with serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbance.

Previously, CDR Fermín served as Chief of the Health Services Branch in the Office of Special Population Health, Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care. In this capacity, she had the responsibility of overseeing national programs that provide health care for populations served by Migrant Health, the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health. These programs provided health care to over one million individuals in need of primary health care.

In earlier positions within HRSA, CDR Fermín served as a project officer with oversight responsibility for more than \$40 million in grants annually. Program Manager responsible for the management of a 3-year multimillion-dollar contract that provided accreditation services to over 300 community health centers serving over 6.8 million patients annually. Prior to becoming a USPHS Commissioned Corps Officer she worked as a civilian for the Department of Defense, as a social worker for the State of Florida's Department of Juvenile Justice, and as a social worker assisting refugees seeking political asylum at the Centro de Acogida a Refugiados in Valencia, Spain.

Research/Academic interests: CDR Fermín is a long-time advocate for better health care and services for vulnerable populations, and has consistently pursued educational and career opportunities based on her vision of bringing quality health care services to underserved populations.

Favorite thing about being a Healthy Start Project Officer: CDR Fermín's favorite thing about being a Healthy Start Project Officer is the ability to directly assist community organizations to improve the health of women and children across our nation.

What motivates her to do this work?

CDR Fermín's primary motivations are working in a positive environment and with outstanding colleagues who share her passion to help vulnerable and underserved populations. Additionally, the ability to continue creating positive and significant improvements in health services that strengthen children and families in our communities.

LCDR Sandra M. Mathoslah, PharmD, MBA

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Region: Responsible for ten Healthy Start projects located in Florida and Georgia

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year

Professional Background: LCDR Sandra Mathoslah is currently a Program Management Officer in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services where she provides programmatic expertise to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start (HS) Program. In this capacity, she is responsible for monitoring program progress and providing technical oversight in an effort to assist grantees in reducing the burden of infant mortality in vulnerable and culturally diverse populations. Managing a portfolio totaling \$9.65M, LCDR Mathoslah utilizes her skills in public health to guide Healthy Start projects in providing needed social services to underserved women, children, and their families.

Prior to her new position with the MCHB, LCDR Mathoslah was stationed at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) of Fort Worth, Texas, as a Senior Staff Pharmacist. She implemented a 90-Day Wellness Program for the incarcerated to incorporate a more holistic approach to healthcare for her patient population. In addition to her duties as a pharmacist, Dr. Mathoslah was also an instructor for a six-week diabetes education course in which she taught inmates about their diabetes medications, how to prevent complications, and how changing their diets can positively impact their diabetes prognosis and served as a Diversity Management instructor for FMC Fort Worth staff. Additionally, from June 2012 to August 2016, she was deployed to Liberia for sixty days on Monrovia Medical Unit Team One in October 2014 to serve on the response team for the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

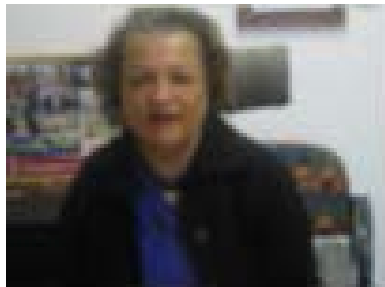
LCDR Mathoslah is now part of the leadership of the Division's discussions and activities surrounding fatherhood/male engagement in the lives of the families impacted by Healthy Start throughout the country.

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Professional Interests: Dr. Mathoslah has a deep desire to help people get off of their chronic care medications related to mostly preventable illnesses (i.e. diabetes, blood pressure, hypercholesteremia, etc.) She is a firm believer in the mantra “you are what you eat” – not only with your mouth – with your mind, ears, eyes and soul. She believes everything affects us as humans and wants to help be a part of the healing process for people who are striving to be the best version of themselves.

What motivates you to do this work? LCDR Mathoslah loves the Division’s mission of serving the undeserved women, children and families in this country, granting them access to health resources to which they would not normally have access. She loves the collaborative effort of many entities that strive to promote the holistic view of the family and to provide optimal health services for the men, women, and children they serve. Dr. Mathoslah is passionate about spreading the joys of total health and wellness and hopes to continue sharing this message as a newly minted Project Officer with the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services.

Angela Hayes-Toliver



Region: I and II (MA, CT, & NY)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: 23 years

Professional Background: MBA in Health Services Administration, Howard University; eight years as Program Manager for D.C. Social Services Facilities Regulation including licensure and inspections; and six years as a Health Facilities Planner for the federal Department of Veterans Administration.

Academic Interests: Health Care and Social Services

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Working with diverse communities and projects. No project period has been the same. There are always new challenges for the Project Officer and the Grantee.

What motivates you to do this work? I believe in the positive change that Healthy Start can bring to communities. Having been with the program for many years, I have been able to work with some communities for 10+ years and have actually witnessed the change. I have seen this change in all communities I have worked with--urban, rural, and Native communities. The changes have been especially identifiable with the increase in communication between program and community participants with the provider communities. More importantly, this has resulted in a decrease in the infant mortality rates in most project areas over the 25 year period of the federal Healthy Start Program.

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CDR Christopher Lim



Region: II & III (NJ, MD, & DC)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year.

Professional Background: With a background in public health and data management, CDR Lim currently serves as a Senior Program Management Officer for the Healthy Start Monitoring and Evaluation Data system. Recently, he served as a Senior Program Management Officer, with the HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Systems, and managed various BPHC Health Care Management Information System projects such as the BPHC Dashboard and the BPHC Uniform Data System (UDS). Previously, he served as a Senior Public Health Analyst/Project Officer for various BPHC-funded programs, including the community health center program, and primary care association program. In the former HRSA Office of Health Information Technology he monitored health information technology implementation and innovation projects in community health centers and health center controlled networks.

Research/Academic Interests: Early childhood education and health information technology.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Supporting Healthy Start programs to reduce disparities in infant mortality and adverse perinatal outcomes.

What motivates you to do this work? The positive impact of the Healthy Start Program on reducing disparities in infant mortality and adverse perinatal outcomes, especially amongst individual members of racial and ethnic minority groups, is hugely meaningful.

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Sandra Lloyd, RN, BSN, MEd



Region: I am the Project Officer for states located in Regions 6 and 7 (IA, KS, OK, NE, and MO).

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year.

Professional Background: I am currently a Public Health Analyst in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB), Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services where I provide programmatic expertise to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start Program. In this capacity, I am responsible for monitoring program progress and providing technical oversight in an effort to assist grantees to strengthen their service delivery and reduce infant mortality in their service area.

In addition to my Project Officer responsibilities, I am a member of the Division's Women's Health Team, provide assistance to the Division's Women and Maternal Health Advisor, assist the Perinatal Health Specialist with breastfeeding initiatives, and I am a member of the CDC's Supporting the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in the United States Stakeholders Group .

Prior to transferring to MCHB, I was a Project Officer with HRSA's HIV and AIDS Bureau's Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs where I provided oversight for Part C, Part D, and Part F funded grantees who were delivering direct services to adults, adolescents, pregnant women and exposed infants. I also chaired the Site Visit Workgroup and helped to create policies and procedures to transform the site visit process.

I have extensive background in maternal and child health with over 30 years as a perinatal nurse involved in direct nursing care and research and have worked within Labor and Delivery units, Postpartum, Antepartum, NICU, Newborn Nursery, outpatient OB/GYN offices, and Women's Health Centers, as well as outpatient internal medicine offices. I am a certified childbirth educator/evaluator with the International Childbirth Education Association and have been teaching childbirth, parenting, and newborn care classes for over 30 years. I also hold certification as a Perinatal Loss Counselor through Resolve through Sharing and have provided support to numerous parents who have faced the death of an infant.

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Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: My favorite thing about being a Healthy Start Project Officer is working directly with the grantees who are delivering the services that I am so passionate about.

What motivates you to do this work? I have devoted my entire career to impacting the health of women and infants. Perinatal medicine and services are where my heart is, so it is easy to be engaged in work that you truly care about. It also helps that I have a great team of colleagues to work with and a great group of grantees!

Christina Lottie



Region: I am the PO for states located Regions 6, (LA, AZ)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than 6 months

Professional Background: Christina Lottie is currently a Project Officer in the Maternal and Child Health Bureaus, Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services where she provides programmatic expertise to grantees under the Federal Healthy Start (HS) Program. Prior experience includes working 4 years as a nutritionist and certified breastfeeding lactation consultant for the WIC program and working within nutrition research and evaluation at the National Institutes of Health.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Having the opportunity to meet, interact and connect with grantees and collaborate between organizations, agencies and programs across the US in order to lead efforts to support evidence-based practices and innovation to improve the health and well-being of women, men, mothers, fathers, infants, children and families.

What motivates you to do this work? Passion is what fuels everything. My passion within this work is what shapes my purpose within Healthy Start. The shared purpose is what brings together the family of Healthy Start who believe in the cause, in what we are trying to lead, build and achieve. That shared passion, that shared belief, is what motivates me and gives me a sense of belonging and excites me about accomplishing the same mission and being a part of the movement.

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Angela Hayes-Toliver



Region: I and II (MA, CT, & NY)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: 23 years

Professional Background: MBA in Health Services Administration, Howard University; eight years as Program Manager for D.C. Social Services Facilities Regulation including licensure and inspections; and six years as a Health Facilities Planner for the federal Department of Veterans Administration.

Academic Interests: Health Care and Social Services

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What motivates you to do this work? I believe in the positive change that Healthy Start can bring to communities. Having been with the program for many years, I have been able to work with some communities for 10+ years and have actually witnessed the change. I have seen this change in all communities I have worked with--urban, rural, and Native communities. The changes have been especially identifiable with the increase in communication between program and community participants with the provider communities. More importantly, this has resulted in a decrease in the infant mortality rates in most project areas over the 25 year period of the federal Healthy Start Program.

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CDR Robert A. Windom



Region: V (MI & OH)

Length of Time as Healthy Start Project Officer: Less than a year

Professional Background: Served nine years as Medical Service Corps Officer in the US Navy. Assignments included Medical Planning, Deployment and Emergency management, Hospital Administration. Prior experience in law enforcement and adolescent behavioral health treatment.

Favorite Thing about Being a Healthy Start Project Officer: Getting out from behind the desk to meet with and interact with grantees. Conducting site visits and seeing first-hand the exciting and impactful work that is taking place.

What motivates you to do this work? It is extremely motivating that the end result of our daily work is providing services and reducing the barriers between quality healthcare and the people that are most in need of receiving services.