

Akilah R. Heggs

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Summary of Qualifications

- Training and professional development
- Research and data analysis
- Project management, program development, and consulting experience with statewide government agencies and national non-profit organizations
- Effective skills in planning, strategic development, and operational business processes
- Effective oral and written communicator

Education

2012-present Georgia State University Atlanta, GA
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health

1998- 2000 University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Master of Arts in Communication Disorders (Audiology)

1994-1998 University of Georgia Athens, GA
Bachelor of Science in Education, *Cum Laude*

Professional Affiliations

American Speech, Language and Hearing Association- Audiology Certification and Member
Georgia License, Audiology
Georgia Speech, Language and Hearing Association- President-Elect (2012-2013)
Georgia Supervisory Network- President (2010-2012)

Work Experience

Clinical Director, Department of Professional and Clinical Services

Communication Sciences and Disorders

The University of West Georgia

Carrollton, GA: August 2008- present

- Provides training, technical assistance and professional development to clinical educators
- Establishes and maintains partnerships with community health agencies for on-going clinical education for graduate clinicians
- Program planning, development and evaluation
- Curriculum development and review
- Student recruitment and admission
- Oversees daily operations of the UWG Speech and Hearing Clinic
- Creates promotional and educational materials for health promotion of communication disorders
- Develops clinical protocols for graduate students in the speech-language pathology program

Senior Director, Division of Health Promotion and Community Outreach- The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

Atlanta, GA: August 2007- April 2008

- Developed, planned, promoted, and implemented strategic health promotion initiatives for cardiovascular disease prevention and health promotion.
- Managed grant funding from the following federal, state, local public health agencies and assures compliance with all reporting requirements and contract deliverables
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health
 - STEPS to a Healthier DeKalb
 - Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH): Fulton Co. Department of Health and Wellness
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health
- Established and maintained partnerships with federal and state agencies and local community organizations to support health promotion strategies.
- Created policies and procedures associated with program implementation.
- Developed program and/or facility budgets and tracked revenue and expenditures.
- Developed program work plans, timelines, goals, outcomes and appropriate measures for health promotion initiatives. Serves as program information resource to internal staff and external stakeholders.

**State Public Health Educator, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) Program
Georgia Division of Public Health**

Atlanta, GA: August 2004 – August 2007

- Provided leadership and oversight of the comprehensive newborn hearing screening system in Georgia.
- Served as subject matter expert in the project development of a statewide integrated child health data system.
- Offered technical assistance and training to health districts, hospitals and other providers to develop, implement and improve programs related to UNHS.
- Managed a three million dollar state budget, local grants-in-aid and the following federal grants:
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - CDC Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)
- Prepared grant proposals and contracts for services from outside vendors.
- Managed and monitored contracts with state institutions and community programs.
- Monitored district programs for compliance with state and federal guidelines through data collection and on-site visits. Planned, coordinated and implemented educational and training programs for health districts, hospitals and other provider personnel within the UNHS system statewide.
- Developed policies, procedures and guidelines for monitoring the quality assurance of the newborn screening program statewide.
- Maintained a professional knowledge of current trends, developments, and guidelines via professional publications and/or industry conferences/trainings.

**State Public Health Educator (Interim), Newborn Screening and Genetics Program
Georgia Division of Public Health**

Atlanta, GA: December 2006 – August 2007

- Provided oversight and management for the statewide five part preventive health care system designed to identify and provide early treatment for genetic disorders.
- Collaborated on the planning and implementation of regional HRSA grant for newborn screening and genetics services. Identified best practices and approaches in developing and implementing expanded newborn screening.
- Managed contracts for newborn screening and genetics, and identified changes needed in resource allocation and deliverables.
- Monitored programmatic, fiscal and personnel activities in newborn screening and genetics program.
- Provided technical assistance and advised hospitals, the NBS Advisory Committee and private providers to develop, implement, and improve the newborn screening and genetics program.
- Monitored program for compliance with state and federal guidelines through data collection and on-site visits.

Georgia Division of Public Health, Family Health Branch- Management Team

Atlanta, GA: 2006-2007

- Provided vision, principles and support for a positive organizational environment which inspired and energized staff to maximize the health status of Georgians.
- Implemented and monitored Branch-wide initiatives through strategic development and allocation of resources.
- Promoted use of Family Health Branch tools, guidelines and best practices to ensure effective program development, implementation and evaluation.

Manager, Pediatric Rehab Department -Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital

Atlanta, GA: May 2003- June 2004

- Supervised daily operations of all rehab disciplines (incl. PT, OT, SP, AUD and TR).
- Expanded program development and implemented revenue generating initiatives to increase patient volume.
- Developed and updated policies and procedures for service delivery in pediatric rehab therapy department.
- Monitored monthly budget and assisted with development of the annual budget.
- Ensured department and staff compliance with hospital and healthcare regulatory policies.
- Coordinated clinical education program for rehab therapy students and interns.
- Counseled employees on performance improvement issues.
- Oriented and monitored staff to assure quality performance and competency in patient care delivery.

Audiologist- Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital

Atlanta, GA: June 2001-May 2003

- Served as relieving manager and performed administrative duties as needed.
- Facilitated interdisciplinary team meetings for patient management.
- Developed and marketed new hearing aid dispensing program.
- Executed need analysis surveys to increase patient care.
- Provided educational needs assessments for neighborhood clinics.

- Completed outcome measures and follow-up studies to improve parental compliance with scheduled appointments.
- Delivered clinical support for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening.
- Conducted physician and staff in-services.
- Functioned as liaison between rehab clinic and educational setting for hearing impaired children in the school systems. Performed complete audiological diagnostic battery on pediatric population

Piedmont Hearing Associates

Atlanta, GA: June 2000- June 2001

- Completed diagnostic battery with adult and pediatric population.
- Performed hearing aid evaluation, fitting and orientation with adults and pediatrics using conventional, programmable, and digital circuitry.

Service

American Speech Language Hearing Association: Council on Clinical Certification: 2010-present

Chair: Certification Maintenance Subcommittee

UWG Undergraduate Academic Programs Committee: 2010-present

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association: Faculty Advisor: 2008-present

UWG Liaison for Douglas County Hearing Screenings: October 2009-present

UWG Disability Awareness Day: 2009-present

SED/SLP Chair search committee: Fall 2009

SLP faculty search, chair: Fall 2010

UWG College of Education Social Committee: 2009-present

Grant Funding

Community Foundation of West Georgia

2011-2012

Serving Individuals in the West Georgia with

Communication Disorders

Grant award: \$10,000

UWG Student Technology Fee Grants

2010-2011

iPads in Clinical Education

Grant Award: \$13,995

UWG Student Technology Fee Grants

Technology Enhancements in Clinical Education

2009-2010

Grant award: \$9,995

Continuing Education/Professional Development

Annual ASHA Convention

Georgia Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Convention

Grant Writing Fundamentals
The Atlanta Foundation Center (2007)

The Art and Science of Grant Writing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2007)

ACET Training for Trainers Certification: Principles in Adult Learning
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (2006)

Issues in Early Childhood Social-Emotional Development
SCEIs Higher Education Research Institute (2006)

Learning to Communicate: From Body Signals to First Words
American Association for Home-Based Early Interventionists (2006)

Southeastern Institute for Training and Evaluation Certificate Program
Core Functions of Public Health
Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health (2005)

Maternal and Child Health Leadership Training Institute
University of Alabama at Birmingham (2005)

Annual Neuro Audiology Seminar: Objective Assessment of Hearing Loss in Infants and Children
Saint Joseph's Candler Hospital (2005)

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention- The Role of the Primary Care Physician
American Academy of Pediatrics CME teleconference (2004)

Can You Hear Me? Early Intervention Support for Young Children with Hearing Loss and their Families with Paula Pittman,PH.D (2004)

Invited Lectures/ Presentations

Project using iPads in clinical education. American Speech Language Hearing Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2012

Improving Client Outcomes: A university clinic and public school collaborative. American Speech Language Hearing Association. San Diego, CA. November 2011.

Teaching Audiology in Speech-Language Pathology Programs: A Professional Challenge. American Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Convention. San Diego, CA. November 2011.

Improving Client Outcomes: A university clinic and public school collaborative. Poster Presentation. American

Speech Language Hearing Association: Schools Conference. National Harbor, MD. July 2011.

Technology Enhancements for Clinical Supervision. Poster Presentation. National Black Association of Speech Language and Hearing Annual Convention. Tampa, FL. April 2010.

Technology Enhancements for Clinical Supervision. Southeastern Clinical Educators Annual Conference. Athens, GA. October 2009.

The Continuum of Supervision. Workshop for clinical supervisors in speech-language pathology, occupational therapy and physical therapy at the Shepherd Center. May 2009.

The Supervisory Process in Speech-Language Pathology. Georgia Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Conference. Duluth, GA. April 2009.

Stimulating Language Development in Children with Hearing Loss: Strategies for Childcare Workers. Platform presentation at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Bright Beginnings Conference, April 2007.

Update on Georgia's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program: What New Mother's Need to Know. Health Mothers, Healthy Babies, February 2007.

Georgia's Newborn Surveillance and Tracking System. Platform presentation at the National CDC-EHDI Conference, February 2006.

Train the Trainer Workshop: Hearing Screening for School-Age Children. Regional trainings for public health and school nurses, June 2005-April 2006.

Understanding Communication Options for Children with Hearing Loss: Choices in Deafness Revisited. Regional seminars for the UNHSI program, August 2005.

The Comprehensive System of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention: Current Practices in Georgia. Platform presentation at the CDC-NCBDDD: May is Better Speech and Hearing Month symposium, May 2005.