

Marian Schooling Vessels

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

October 1996-Present

Responsible for the management of one of the ten regional information centers for the education of the public about the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Center provides technical assistance through an 800-telephone service as well as training specifically developed for the needs of all covered entities under the ADA. The Center also coordinates resource development and grasswork networking in each of the six areas in the Mid- Atlantic Region; Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. These grants from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Research and Rehabilitation awarded to TransCen Inc. are designed to provide information to the region using a variety of methodologies to assist in the full implementation of the ADA.

Special Assistant to the Governor for Disability Issues

State of Maryland, January 1990 - December 1994

Responsible for the implementation and coordination of the Americans with Disabilities Act for the State of Maryland. Developed the implementation strategy for the State ADA Coordinators and provided guidance, training and technical assistance to assist in the full implementation of the ADA at the state level. Worked with business, civic, and governmental leaders and consumers to insure fair and comprehensive implementation and compliance with the spirit and intent of the ADA.

Executive Director, Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

State of Maryland, June 1987 - October 1996

Provided advocacy for and coordination of state, local, and community professionals, organizations, and resources for the advancement and development of employment and related opportunities for Maryland citizens with disabilities. Required excellent organizational and communication skills, liaison experience, negotiation, coordination, mediation, and awareness of the political, regional, and social arenas. Also required knowledge of fiscal management, budgetary requirements and regulations, and managerial expertise. Successes include the development, implementation, and operation of the Maryland CEO Council, a committee consisting of the CEO's of Maryland Corporations, brought together with the intent of promoting the hiring and employment of citizens with disabilities from the highest levels of corporations. Success of this organization required the cooperation, interest, and commitment of the Governor and top business leaders across the State.

Director, Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals

State of Maryland, April 1989 - January 1990

Responsible for the executive management, disability policy development, and implementation, fiscal and budgetary issues, personnel and staffing, organization, and community relations of the Office. Reported directly to the Governor and Executive Department for all matters of the Office. Successfully managed a multi-million dollar budget, staff, and all Office functions while providing a high level of service to division level offices, including the Developmental Disability Council and the Technology Assistance Project.

Senior Health Educator, Baltimore City Health Department

Baltimore City, November 1979 - June 1987

Responsible for development, coordination, and implementation of a program of High Blood Pressure management for the City of Baltimore. Required ability to work with voluntary participants, influencing, recommending, community relations, and persuasive discussion. Superior work quality, commitment, and overall skills earned the attention of the Commissioner of Health and resulted in appointment to the Governor's staff.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Bachelor of Science Degree, California State University at Long Beach, Long Beach, CA.

Major: Community Health Education, Minor: Sociology. Degree Conferred May 1979

Certified Health Education Specialist, (National Certification) 1991 - Present

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Los Angeles City College, February 1974 - June 1974

DREDF Trained ADA Trainer and Facilitator

Windmills Trainer (An attitudinal development program for employers of persons with disabilities).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Parents Place of Maryland Board of Directors 2006-present

Maryland State Rehabilitation Council (gubernatorial appointment) 2000-2005 Chairperson 2003,

Chair of the Policy Committee

LINC (Learning Independence through Computers) Board of Directors Member 1996-2005

President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Executive Board of Directors,

1990 - 1996, Chair, Committee on States Relations, 1992 - 1994. Member Strategic Planning

Task Force, Publications Task Force, 1992 - 1994

National Association of Governor's Committees of People with Disabilities. Vice President,

1992 - 1994. Secretary, 1991 - 1992.

Society for Public Health Education, National Capital Area. President, 1987. Secretary/Treasurer,

1985 - 1987. Member 1979 - 1990

Maryland Public Health Association. Chair, Health Education Section, 1984-1986. Member

1980 - 1990

Maryland Rehabilitation Center, Baltimore Md., Advisory Board Member, 1981 - 2000

Washington Business Group on Health, Employers Resource Center on the ADA and Workers with Psychiatric Disabilities Advisory Group, 1993 - 1996
Governor's Junior Cabinet. State of Maryland, Governor's Office, 1987 - 1991
Mayor's Junior Cabinet, City of Baltimore, 1982 - 1987

AWARDS, HONORS & CITATIONS

Doctor of Humane Letters, Towson State University, January 1995
EC Thompson Hall of Fame for Rehabilitation in Maryland 2005
Reverend Douglas Sands Community Service Award: Maryland Association of Equal Opportunity Personnel 2004
Maryland Rehabilitation Association Leadership Award 2003
Governor's Citation, Long Term Care Task Force 1998
Who's Who, U.S. Women in Government, 1991
Governor's Golden Eagle Award, Excellence in Organization 1990
Mayor's Citation, Americans with Disabilities Act 1995
Citation of Excellence, National ADA Task Force 1996
Outstanding Health Educator, Maryland Public Health Association, 1986
Miss Wheelchair America, 1981

PRESENTATIONS

Countless presentations and appearances served as chair, trainer, leader, and host of innumerable events for local, state, national, and international groups on subjects including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Disability awareness, employment of people with disabilities, disability and the arts, the hospitality industry, accessible customer service and public health issues. Consistently interviewed and quoted by local and national press, television, radio, and trade publications as an expert on disability issues.

DISABILITY STATUS

Spinal Cord Injury (T-6), July, 1974. Rehabilitation at Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, Downey, Ca. July 1974 - December 1974.

