

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 13

RESOLUTION NO. 137 - 2019

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kelly Kesler to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families.

Introduced and read first time on November 4, 2019.

By order Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on November 18, 2019.

By order Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on December 2, 2019.

Certified by Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

Kelly L. Kesler, M.S., C.H.E.S.®

EDUCATION

Towson University, Towson, Maryland
Master of Science
 Community Health Science
 Graduated - December 2002

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
Bachelor of Science
 Health Education
 Graduated - May 1997

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

2002 Graduate Professional Development Award
 Certified Health Education Specialist #9915

EXPERIENCE

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, Columbia, Maryland *August 2016-Present*

Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

- Engage coalition members, community stakeholders, staff and key leaders in the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based community health programs and priorities derived from the Howard County Community Health Improvement Plan and the Health Department strategic plan, in accordance with the LHIC Bylaws and the Maryland State Health Improvement Process (SHIP);
- Supervise and direct LHIC staff and Work Group Delegates; and recruit, train and utilize volunteers and auxiliary personnel in support of community health promotion activities; serve as a liaison between HCHD, LHIC membership and other stakeholder agencies.
- Coordinate Child Fatality Review process for Local Health Department.

SUSAN G. KOMEN® MARYLAND, Towson, Maryland

August 2016-October 2017

Grant Consultant

- Executed the grant cycle including the RFA process, the grant application process, grant review, site visits, technical support and advocacy for potential, new and returning grantees for a portfolio totaling over \$1.1 million in grant funding.

SUSAN G. KOMEN® MARYLAND, Towson, Maryland

October 2013- August 2016

Community Health Director

- Led, managed, prioritized and supervised Community Health initiatives, programs and staff overseeing grant management, volunteer activities and community outreach/education and advocacy; acted as an ambassador with local, state and national partners, media and community.
- Executed the grant cycle including the RFA process, the grant application process, grant review, site visits, technical support and advocacy for potential, new and returning grantees for a portfolio totaling over \$1.1 million in grant funding.
- Shared leadership of the affiliate in the absence of the CEO as appropriate; Supported the CEO in governance activities including the annual board cycle, engaging board members, and leveraging talent across the organization.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION, CENTER FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL, Baltimore, Maryland *April 2013-October 2013*
Health Educator, Cigarette Restitution Fund Program

- Coordinated health education planning, activities, and website content management for the Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening, and Treatment (CPEST) program.
- Identified and evaluated opportunities and resources for educating target populations to influence health-related behaviors; provided technical assistance for state and local CPEST program staff, provided in-service training for outreach and professional staff, and served as an educational liaison with federal, state, and local public and private health promotion entities.

- Served as the technical liaison/contract monitor on all programmatic aspects to several assigned Local Health Departments regarding cancer prevention, education, screening and treatment in their jurisdictions and the implementation of their grant award programs.
- Recruited by Susan G. Komen Maryland to serve as Community Health Director in October 2013.

CHARLOTTE SAVOY GROUP, Columbia, Maryland
Part-Time Agent-Executive Administrator

August 2012-January 2015

- Served as a part-time real estate agent to the Charlotte Savoy Group of Keller Williams Realty
- Provided direct support to broker in listing and contract processing for a sales volume totaling over \$14 Million.
- Provided strategic guidance to the implementation of customer-centered care and service plans and implement targeted marketing strategies.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, Maryland

August 2007-March 2012

Assistant Director for Grants and Scholarships, Office of Development and External Relations

- Managed federal, state, local, corporate and private foundation grants inquiries, applications and proposals and monitored the status of all Division of Student Affairs grants initiatives totaling over \$1.1 million in grant funding.
- Provided oversight and management of all Division of Student Affairs Scholarships totaling over \$2.5 million in scholarship, operating, quasi-endowed and endowed funds.
- Led and/or supported the direct solicitation and stewardship of prospects and donors by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Division of Student Affairs Director of Development and External Relations, Board Members and other staff where appropriate.
- Served on several organizational and divisional committees such as: University of Maryland Veteran's Services Steering Committee, University of Maryland Wellness Coalition Steering Committee, University of Maryland Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Steering Committee, Work-Life Committee and the Maryland Student Affairs Conference Planning Committee.

Assistant Director for Health Promotion, University Health Center

- Appointed to Assistant Director for Grants and Scholarships for the Division of Student Affairs in June 2010.
- Provided direct programmatic and fiscal management and direction for the Health Promotion Unit of the University Health Center, part of the Division of Student Affairs, and a programmatic budget allocation totaling over \$600,000.
- Supervised up to eight professional staff, three to five student interns each semester, 60 student peer educators annually and served as staff advisor to the Student Health Advisory Committee.
- Directed and supported the implementation and evaluation of government and private foundation grants totaling \$400,000.
- Provided oversight and direction to staff serving as co-chairs for University Wellness and Alcohol Coalitions and served on organizational and divisional committees such as: quality improvement, learning outcomes, and emergency preparedness.
- Provided oversight and direction to health-related marketing and education efforts such as mandatory health insurance policies and emergency preparedness.

TOWSON UNIVERSITY, Towson, Maryland
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Health Sciences

August 2008-December 2010
Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010

- Provided undergraduate and graduate level instruction in Wellness, Program Planning and Introduction to Public Health.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.
Vice President of Program Services

December 2002 – August 2007

- Provided programmatic and fiscal oversight for research, asthma, tobacco, and advocacy programs throughout the state and provided direct supervision for seven professional staff.
- Directed and supported the monitoring, conducting, and reporting of activities and tasks related to the application, expenditures, research, and evaluation of multiple local, state, and federal grants related to asthma, tobacco, and research totaling over \$900,000.

- Identified statewide asthma, tobacco, research, and advocacy program needs and monitored related organizational strategic planning, outcomes-based program of work and budget.
- Provided oversight to Annual Scientific Session Continuing Medical Education Conference and monitoring compliance with accreditation regulations.
- Advocated at local and state governmental levels as agency representative and served on several mission-related coalitions and committees.

Tobacco Programs Specialist

- Served as interim Vice President of Program Services from August 2005 through March 2006.
- Directed and supported the monitoring, conducting, and reporting of activities and tasks related to the application, expenditures, research, and evaluation of multiple tobacco-related grants totaling over \$500,000.
- Identified statewide tobacco program needs, provided oversight and technical support for multiple staff working on statewide tobacco prevention, education, and cessation programs.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, Maryland

September 2001 - January 2003

Coordinator of Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs, University Health Center

- Assessed campus-wide tobacco program needs, planned, implemented, and evaluated prevention and cessation programs.
- Facilitated events, activities and programs to engage all members of the campus community in campaigns to promote the tobacco-free norm.
- Coordinated a cessation assistance fund for pharmacological and non-traditional cessation methods; and monitored, conducted, and reported on all administrative duties related to grant application, expenditures, research, and evaluation for \$55,000 Cigarette Restitution Fund grant.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

August 1997- August 2001

- **Health Educator/Special Educator**

Provided secondary level education to students in both general and special educational settings.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARYLAND COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS, Annapolis, Maryland Parent Representative *May 2019-Present*

LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY, Hunt Valley, Maryland Volunteer *July 2000-Present*

TOWSON UNIVERSITY, Towson, Maryland Department of Health Sciences Advisory Committee Member *February 2005 – Present*

311th THEATRE SIGNAL COMMAND, Ft. Meade, Maryland Family Readiness Group Volunteer *February 2004 - September 2009*

TRAINING

THE GW CANCER INSTITUTE, Washington, DC *May 2013*
The George Washington University Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy
Executive Training on Patient Navigation and Survivorship

THE GW CANCER INSTITUTE, Washington, DC *May 2012*
The George Washington University Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy
Patient Navigation Training: From Outreach to Survivorship

COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION *July 2010*
Summer Institute for Educational Fundraising

Written Testimony on Appointment to the Howard County Veterans Commission
Submitted by Kelly Kesler
November 18, 2019

Thank you, Councilman Ball, and members of the County Council for allowing me to speak this evening. My name is Kelly Kesler and I am a resident of District 2. It is an honor to be considered for an appointment to the Commission for Veterans and Military Families.

Professionally, I am fortunate to serve my community as the Director of the Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition under the leadership of the Health Department. Protecting, promoting and preserving the health of our community is the mission I work toward each day in that role. In past positions I have also had the privilege of working toward Veteran Scholarship Development and the University of Maryland's designation as a recognized Center of Veteran Student Success.

I have been a resident of Howard County for over thirty years. My husband and I are both very proud graduates of Oakland Mills High School and the parents of three children. Our oldest is a graduate of both Long Reach High School and Howard Community College and is currently a junior at Towson University. Our younger children are products of an amazing Title I elementary school and are currently in the sixth and seventh grades at a local middle school.

My family tree spans decades of service across all five military branches. I was raised by a Marine, who enlisted for his service in Vietnam. Having received two Purple Hearts, he returned home where he met my Mother to whom he has been married for the past 52 years. At the age of 17, I had only seen my father cry once. The second time I saw him cry, I was a junior in high school. After coming home from choir rehearsal one night, I found my Dad sitting silently on the sofa with tears in his eyes as he watched news coverage of the first soldiers arriving home from the Persian Gulf. He explained how thankful he was that people had learned from the past. It was the first time he spoke to me about his service and what his return home had been like. It was a door opening to my own understanding of how much his experiences had impacted the values with which my siblings and I were raised. 50 years later he is again facing the loss of his Marine brothers, this time from service-related cancers.

Coincidentally, two months after that night, the man that I would marry many years later left for Basic Training. My husband, Parks, served 23 years as a US Army Reservist. He now lives with a service-connected disease so bizarre most people can't pronounce it and many doctors haven't even heard of it. After supporting the 1st Cavalry for a year in a place affectionately referred to as "*Mortar-itaville*," he began the long and challenging process of returning to civilian life, completing his degree, raising a family, obtaining a diagnosis and navigating the VA system. My husband's medical discharge from service, meant not only the loss of his military career, but also his civilian position which was service-contingent. Today, he continues to fight a life-threatening disease, yet he goes to work each day as a civilian on Ft. Meade. He is an amazing Dad; a loving husband; and, he still always smiles kindly at the people who, probably without realizing his experiences, joke how easy he must have had it as a "*weekend warrior*."

Our family's experience is not unique from that of many others. Military families help others because that service aides in all our collective resilience. If appointed to the Commission, I would be both honored and humbled to serve in this way. Again, I thank you all for your consideration and I appreciate your commitment to the residents of our County.