

FORMAL EDUCATION

University Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Bachelor of Arts, August 1971

President, Sociology Club

Master's of Social Work, May 1974

Chairman, Ethnic Minorities Curriculum Committee

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

§ Have held numerous positions as a counselor, clinician, planner, evaluator, trainer, mentor, college instructor, special projects coordinator, supervisor and administrator.

§ Specialties are in the area of services to persons with mental and cognitive disabilities, aging hospice, Hansen's Disease (more commonly known as leprosy), supervision and Hispanic issues.

§ Currently hold the position of Department Director for Network and Transportation at MHMRA of Harris County.

PUBLICATIONS

§ Have had over thirty articles on various topics published in newspapers, newsletters, journals and organization reports.

§ Have made over 100 presentations to groups ranging in size from 5 to 2,000 throughout the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Switzerland, Hawaii, Japan, Spain, England, China, Turkey, Greece, India, Egypt, and Italy. Topics have been in the area of culture, advocacy, mental illness, mental retardation, Hansen's disease funding, rights, aging issues, linkage services, residential alternatives.

§ Featured on all Houston TV stations, twelve newspapers throughout the world, Newsweek, CBS' "Public Eye," CNN Turkey, CNN Italy, Vatican City Radio, Vatican City Daily News, Texas Magazine and Al Jazeera. Also appeared in a PBS documentary titled "Triumph at Carville."

SPECIAL TRAINING

§ Have received training in supervision, public speaking, program development and analysis, (clinical) treatment, disaster management, and management (includes 36 hour Management Certification Program awarded by the University of Houston).

- § Trained over 900 law enforcement officers and over 700 MHMRA employees on mental disabilities.
- § Trained over 500 persons in the principles of choice.
- § Trained over 400 persons on cultural diversity.

MEMBERSHIP

- § Advisory Committee, National HD Museum
- § USA Coordinator, IDEA
- § Board, Spaulding for Children
- § Board, American Leprosy Mission
- § Cochrane Skin Group Review (Nottingham, England)
- § National Association of Social Workers
- § Mental Disabilities Task Force on Hispanic Issues
- § Star/Star+ Cultural Competency Committee

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- § Presented the Gold Medal "Fighting Spirit Award" by Yohei Sasakawa of Japan's Nippon Foundation on October 30, 1997, at the United Nations in New York City. Award signifies advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities, in particular Hansen's Disease.
- § Awarded the "Etem Utku Medal" by the University of Istanbul Medical School in Istanbul, Turkey. The award was in honor of Dr. Utku's excellent work as a leprologist and presented for "outstanding work in the field of leprosy." The award was presented on January 31, 2000 in conjunction with World Leprosy Day.
- § Co-recipient of the "Raoul Follereau Award" presented to IDEA by AIFO (International Association for Friends of Raoul Follereau) for "Courageous work in impacting change in the field of leprosy....". The award was presented at the Villa Pulavicini in Bologna, Italy on May 28, 2000.
- § Invited by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Special Ambassador on the Elimination of Leprosy to address the United Nations' International Commission on Human Rights on August 4, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. This first of its kind presentation was jointly made with four other persons from the USA, Ethiopia, India and Philippines.
- § Presented the Mayor of Houston's Disability Advocate of the Year Award on October 19, 2004. The award was for advocacy done on behalf of persons affected by Hansen's disease, as well as those with mental/cognitive disabilities.
- § Invited by the Friends of Fontilles, an international anti-leprosy organization, to address the national press corps of Spain in Madrid on January 25, 2005 in conjunction with World Leprosy Day. This marked the first time that a person affected by leprosy had been invited to present at this annual event.

§ Completed 30 of 200 interviews on persons affected by leprosy in Spain, U.S., and Ukraine under an Oral Histories Grant awarded to IDEA by Oxford University.

▪ Appointed Managing Editor of The STAR in 2007. This publication is distributed world-wide with a focus on the latest research on leprosy and human interest stories.

§ Invited by the WHO Special Ambassador on Leprosy to make the primary presentation at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, England on January 28, 2008 in conjunction with the launching of the Global Appeal to end Discrimination and Stigma.

§ Invited by WHO to make a presentation on stigma to experts in the field of leprosy in Cairo, Egypt on March 7, 2008.

§ Recognized as Social Worker of the Year for the greater Houston area on March 7, 2008.

§ Appointed to the Houston Mayor's Commission on Disabilities on August 14, 2008.

§ Awarded the "Americanism Award" on September 5, 2008 in Orlando, Florida at the national convention of the 40&8. The award is for exhibiting an ability to overcome challenges.

SPECIAL DECLARATION

As USA Coordinator for IDEA, declared March 11, 1999 as the "1st Annual International Day of Dignity and Respect." Purpose of such a declaration was to initiate ideas to attack injustices. The first event was designed to address the loss of natural support systems for residents at the only Hansen's Disease Center in the continental U.S.