

Peter John A. Messiah

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Multifaceted and highly motivated professional with a strong background public relations and outreach in key leadership roles, complimented by proven skills to significantly enhance organizational objectives by utilizing the listed core competencies to act in a conscientious manner to promote the overall organizational goals and objectives.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Profit and Loss Management; Strategic Planning/Partnerships; Leadership/Team Building; Educational Leadership; Student Engagement; Parent/Community Engagement; Federal Program Management; Research and Development; Data Oversight; Process Optimization; Public Relations/ Public Speaking; Speech/Technical Writing; Accurate Editing Skills; Leadership Development; Budget Planning/Management; Mediation/Negotiation/Mitigation; Best Practices Implementation; Regulatory Compliance; Strategic Forecasting; Grant Acquisition and Management; Media Campaign Creation; Political Outreach/Liaison; Federal and State Compliance; Strategic Partnerships; Homeless Services; Public Finance; Risk-Management; HR/Benefits; Facilities Management; Professional Standards/Development; Policy Interpretation; legislative Interaction/Liaison; Media Relations; Federal State Compliance; SAP; Chancery; PeopleSoft; MS Word; Apple Software

CERTIFICATIONS

ELA/Grammar and Composition; Secondary Educational Administration; Certified Prevention Specialist (Texas); Certified Anger Resolution Specialist; Student Assistance Program Specialist; QPR Suicide Prevention (Trainer) Certified Second Step TOT; Certified Too Cool for Drugs (trainer); Crisis Prevention Intervention (Trainer); Certified Developmental Assets (Trainer); Certified Gang Specialist (NGRC); RAD Certification; Conflict Resolution Facilitator; Certified Behavioral Health Case Manager II; Certified National Organization for Victims Assistance Crisis Response Team First-Responder; Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (Coursework)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The Prevention Center, LLC

11/2014-09/2019

Launched and served as Chief Executive Officer of The Prevention Center, LLC. Interpreted policy, rules and amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Behavioral Health services of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) to promote policies and understanding that lead to more efficient delivery of quality behavioral health services to beneficiaries, behavioral health providers, community and staff. Developed program goals and community initiatives through reading and interpreting laws and statutes, writing them into clear and comprehensible policies that were approved by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services staff. Initiated community outreach to help advocate, serve, and empower vulnerable groups within the local and state populations. Garnered the agency the highest certification level during the initial monitoring process (two year certification) and subsequently a three-year certification. Expanded operations to provide direct services to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug users; achieved the highest level of certification (two-year initial) in 2016. Recruited more than 179 active clients and maintained a staff of 13 employees and contractors. Proved adept at reading, interpreting, and implementing new policies and standards to maintain standing in the State. Ensured compliance with local, state, federal guidelines, and best practices. Maintained community relationships, developed new opportunities, and forecasted future trends through analyses of data and supportive information.

External Funding Collaborations

Secured \$200,000 in funding from the United Methodist conference to provide consultation to the local church and the communities they serve; procured private funding for Agency-wide initiatives.

Community Achievement

State Director of Addiction Ministries for the State Conference of the United Methodist Church; Obtained and dispersed \$2,000 in financial contributions to two non-profit community agencies.

Selected Professional Achievements

Created and maintained social marketing presence for the Prevention Center, LLC. State, National, International Keynote Speaker on Positive Youth Development; presents ongoing seminars and community workshops on addiction and its impact on community health, educational success, and goal attainment; redefined and led the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church's Addiction Ministry; Partnered with The United Methodist Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV), a church-wide initiative that works to raise awareness and equip church leaders to effectively respond to substance abuse and related violence. Presented on International webinars concerning effective youth-based program development in the local church, and the communities they serve; led the redevelopment and branding of the Addictions Ministry Coalition; created and maintained ongoing statewide community consultation of drug prevention initiatives within the community through the Oklahoma Conference of United Methodist Church.

Oklahoma City University

07/2007-06/2015

Founding Director of the Prevention Addiction Studies Program. Developed and nurtured an advisory committee representative of internal and external resources. Developed and implemented the program's curriculum, and led students to success in the program goals. Leveraged additional funding for the program and represented the program, and the University, at state local, national, and International events. Partnered on a major study of the church and its role in building pro-social behaviors in communities children and young people.

Designed, developed and executed academic policies and programs for the Petree College of Arts and Sciences; developed a major/minor in addiction prevention studies. Through the development and utilization of measurable goals and objectives, and internal and external collaborations, developed strategies to achieve programmatic educational goals and objectives. Determined scheduling of courses and recommended implementation of additional courses. Volunteered to serve on faculty committees, as well as internal and external teams, that operated with the intent to directly impact student achievement and well being on the campus, and in the community as a whole; acted on behalf of the University with special interest groups. Maintained the departmental budget. Established academic goals for the Addiction Prevention Studies to assist students achieve and maintain high standards in academic processes. Ensured that program development was congruent with accreditation guidelines. Initiated academic integrity and quality education in the college by articulating University policy and procedure to departmental program funders, and advisory board members. Setting the program's academic rules and policies while maintaining responsibility for fundraising, budgeting.

External Funding Collaborations

Secured \$200,000 funding from the United Methodist conference to provide consultation to the local church and the communities they serve; procured \$22,000 in private funding to equip a research lab for professors and students.

Selected Professional Achievements

Presented at the state, national, international as a keynote speaker on positive youth development. Presented research "The Intended Demise and Subsequent Demise of the African American Matriarch" at Oxford University (Published, *Forum on Public Policy*). Presented research on the "Church and its Role in Positive Youth Development" at the Religious Educator's Conference in Atlanta Georgia (2012) and at the Religious Educator's Conference in Boston, Massachusetts (2013). Developed and implemented a study abroad partnership for Addiction Prevention Studies students at the Vrije Universiteit (VU University) in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Redefined and led the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church's Addiction Ministry. Created and maintained social marketing presence for the university's Addiction Prevention Studies program. Created and led the University's coalition and governing board, consisting of local leaders from all factions of community leadership. Promoted from associate to Assistant professor within two years.

Houston Independent School District

09/2002-06/2011

Managed the district's Safe Schools Department, overseeing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities department, the McKinney-Vento (Homeless) department, school-based social workers, and the Intervention Assistance Team/Response to Intervention (IAT/RtI) initiative. Guided and ensured compliance with local, state, federal guidelines, and best practices. National keynote speaker on positive youth development and prevention and recognized for expertise in anti-bullying best practices. District's Intervention Assistance Team/Response to Intervention Lead, ensuring that schools implemented scientific and research-based activities that help students achieve academically and behaviorally. This initiative aligned the District's curriculum to strategies for teaching and improving instruction, and created an opportunity for students to receive positive supports that reduced the achievement gap. Collaborated with the Curriculum and Instruction, Multilingual, Special Education, and School Support Services Departments to create an integrated system for ensuring student success through feasible, relevant, and consistent interventions and supports that directly promotes academic success while minimizing behavioral issues.

Supervised the at-risk student identification (academic, behavioral, homeless) process revamp, moving it to an online process that focused on the ease of the end-user. Worked in tandem with selected district-level licensed psychologists to pilot a universal screener that would help assess strengths/weakness so that appropriate programming, interventions, and monitoring could occur. Using an initial school-wide forced Likert Scale construct (four items as opposed to five so that respondents were required to give an opinion) gave an idea of where some students might show proficiencies or deficiencies. This had expansion potential as the effective utilization of technology could help increase student retention and completion via data-base management that employed universal indicators for risk behaviors, as well as interest inventories, and special needs identification and acknowledgement (language proficiency, disability, age, etc.) to dispatch services based on information gathered. Although some data was derived through the traditional recruitment, application, and enrollment processes, technology applications were created so that data did not sit dormant until accessed. It mobilized services if unfavorable grades or behavior data were entered for a learner. Database applications synchronized with existing tools, such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Outlook to facilitate cross-departmental collaboration and direct communication with students to encourage successful communication, encouragement, and involvement in student life activities. The database was supported in either the *SQL Server* or *Oracle format*.

Worked with cross-functional teams to remove barriers to education and provide positive supports that helped McKinney-Vento eligible students become academically and socially successful. Used data and test scores to develop programming for students at high-risk schools, as well as to write for additional funding to support behavior and academic programming. Served as a district reader for the Grants Department yielding a high success rate on those applications.

Utilized public relations background to create promotional material including brochures, training videos, and PSA's. Developed, wrote, and directed two prevention-based cablecasts for the district as well as several public service announcements (two award-winning), training videos, and an award winning print campaign. Spoke through all media outlets on safe school issues and was a regular educational expert on *Local KPRC Channel 2*. Developed branding for initiatives divisionally, departmentally, district-wide, as well as for external stakeholders. Developed divisional materials and created a website for the School Support Services Division. Worked on the development of an application that allowed for smart phone "push marketing."

External Funding Collaborations

Created and maintained relationships at the local, state, and national levels including ongoing contact with the United States Department of Education, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), National Institute of Health (NIH), and the United States Department of Education's Homeless Education Office. Received funding in the following areas:

Middle School Safety Coordinators Grant (1), United States Department of Education Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Department
Drug-Free Communities Grant (2), Office of National Drug Control Policy

Conference Grant (1) *National Institute of Health*
Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth Coalition Grant (1) *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Title IV Reauthorization Grant (2) *United States Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Department*
Homeless Education Disaster Assistance (HEDA) (1) *United States Department of Education Homeless Education Office*
Texas Support for Homeless Education Grant (TXSHEP) (1) *State Block Grant*
Texas Homeless Education American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (TXHEARRA) (1) *State Block Grant*

Developed and managed over \$27 million in budgets from multiple funding source streams and ensured that budget objectives were in compliance with local, state, federal, and organizational guidelines. Ensured that funding was utilized as outlined in the approved budget template to execute program goals and objectives. Guaranteed ethical, prudent spending with that was aboveboard so that fiduciary decisions would withstand the toughest public scrutiny. Wrote evaluation reports for internal administration review and funding source compliance. Displayed extensive experience in the recruitment, evaluation, and retention of quality staff and provided professional development as an on-going process in order to develop quality educators that used cutting-edge teaching strategies to engage learners.

Collaborated with the *University of Texas School of Public Health* with the *Texas School Survey* research. Provided a random sampling of the District's schools, provided guidance on survey information through senior administration, collected data, and submitted information to the research team. Responsible for negotiating the information that would be collected on the instrument and synthesized data into reports for identification of trends over time.

Served on the Board of Directors for the *Coalition on Behavioral Health*, developed relationships with local clergy, law enforcement, universities, and community partners including *Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)*, *Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)*, and other vested parties. Participated in minor alcohol stings with law enforcement, targeting establishments that sold alcohol in a variety of neighborhoods. Instrumental in the establishment of the first on-campus underage drinking coalition, *Keeping It Safe and Sober (KISS)* at Texas Southern University; seven colleges and universities were trained in *Basics in Choices* curriculum during the first ever community collaboration for the prevention of underage drinking on college campuses. Served as the District designee for the *Houston Black Minister's Against Crime*, a coalition of local clergy mobilized around the eradication of gangs and drugs in and around their faith-based communities as well as promoting pro social behavior among student mentees and lobbying for stronger academic offerings. Maintained relationships with other special interest groups, as the District's point-of-contact for Jewish Women International (JWI), PFLAG, and other community based initiatives.

Partnered with the City of Houston Mayor's Office, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Texas Southern University, to develop *right Choices, Right Now*, an initiative that introduced tenth and eleventh-grade students with marginal behavior (they could go either way) to the college setting through financial-aid workshops, college tours, and creative activities. This effort was to minimize at-risk student behavior and encourage college enrollment and completion.

Served as conference chair for the 2008 drug summit, *The Urgency of Now* in partnership with Rice University's Baker Institute of Public Policy. The summit brought together, local, state, and national prevention leaders; a five-year strategic plan for increasing collaborative communication among law enforcement, heightening public education, increasing consistent access to treatment, and increasing research in these domains was developed and implemented county-wide. Nominated Houston-Harris County Office of Drug Policy, Chair, a collaborative appointment by the City of Houston Mayor's Office and the Harris County Commissioners Court.

Developed mentoring strategies and student life activities to eliminate alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) in and around schools. Implemented student assistance programs on select campuses that developed and sustained positive student peer groups that served as role models and intervened in student culture in order to create positive peer associations for at-risk students. Targeted Wraparound

services by mobilizing the community to partner with participating schools, ensuring that grassroots services would continue after the grant-period ended. Implemented a mini-grant award system for school personnel to implement innovative best practices that were germane to individual campus/field of study. Applications were reviewed and recipients monitored to ensure program fidelity.

Wrote the Houston ISD's strategic direction for School Support Services issues and provided dynamic professional learning opportunities for educational staff and administration delineating the incorporation of social/emotional development strategies into the regular curriculum. Provided a clearinghouse of information for all 300 district schools, participating private schools, and community partners. Stayed abreast of legislative updates in prevention and related fields and made programmatic and policy recommendations and revisions.

Selected Professional Achievements

Houston-Harris County Office of Drug Policy, Chair (Local Coalition). Received the Community Stars Recipient (City of Houston/Drug Enforcement Agency). Received the Mayor's Community Stars Award. National speaker, positive youth development. Winner of Educational Awards for Media and Print Campaigns. Educational Expert, KPRC Channel 2. Wrote six successful children's stories for The McKay Foundation. National keynote speaker on 40 Developmental Assets at the United States Department of Education's National Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Conference in Washington D.C. (August, 2008). Developed branding for multiple Houston Independent School District initiatives and launched citywide approaches for them through marketing and public relations strategies. Created, produced, wrote copy, and served as on camera talent, and behind camera support for two cablecasts. Two PSAs are award winning; one print campaign is award winning. Reduced Chapter 37 compliance issues by 100% interfacing with site based leadership and cross-departmental teaming. Ensured compliance for multiple federally funded programs interacting with Region IV, TEA, and national monitors. Lobbied on Capitol Hill for prevention efforts related to school-aged children, communities, and families. Spoke before Texas congress officials and other legislatures to develop stronger anti-bullying initiatives for Houston/Harris County.

EDUCATION

Ed.D., *Oklahoma State University, 2004, Aviation/Aerospace Education*, Stillwater, Oklahoma; **M.Ed.**, *Central State University, 1996, Educational Administration*, Edmond, Oklahoma; **M.A.**, *Central State University, 1987, Political Science/Urban Affairs*, Edmond, Oklahoma; **B.A.**, *Central State University, 1985, Journalism/Public Relations*, Edmond, Oklahoma