



Grantee & Community Roundtable

Thursday April 25, 2013

Biographies

Mary Guevara Capello is an experienced President and Chief Executive Officer with over 33 years of excellent organizational, leadership, networking, communication and strategic planning skills. Ms. Capello currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Teaching & Mentoring Communities (TMC), a private non-profit company, formerly known as the Texas Migrant Council, Inc., and also doing business as New America Corporation. TMC operates multiple programs including Migrant Seasonal Head Start, Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Services, Workforce Centers, Employer Child Care Initiatives, Healthy Marriages, Together in Texas, and more. Ms. Capello has also served as the principal investigator for TMC's Texas Early Education Model, which is funded through a grant from the Texas State Center for Early Childhood Development. Prior to her current position, Ms. Capello held numerous positions with TMC including Interim Head Start Director/CEO, General Counsel/Public Relations Director/Contracts Manager, and Human Resources Director.

Ms. Capello is also a licensed attorney and has served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Webb County District Attorneys' Office. In addition, she has received numerous awards and has served as an appointee to the Office of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Education Project Special Subcommittee on Child Abuse Prevention and the Texas Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education. Ms. Capello received her J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, a Master's of Business Administration degree from Laredo State University, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and Spanish from Texas A&I University.

Henry Cisneros is Chairman of the CityView companies, which work with urban homebuilders in over 60 communities in 13 states to create homes priced within the range of average families. Mr. Cisneros' community-building career began at the local level. After serving three terms as a City Councilmember, in 1981, Mr. Cisneros became the first Hispanic-American mayor of a major U.S. city, San Antonio, Texas. After completing four terms as Mayor, Mr. Cisneros formed Cisneros Asset Management Company, a national fixed income management firm. In 1992, President Clinton appointed Mr. Cisneros to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, Mr. Cisneros personally worked in more than 200 U.S. cities in every one of the 50 states. After leaving HUD in 1997, Mr. Cisneros was president and chief operating officer of Univision Communications, the Spanish-language broadcaster which has become the fifth-most-watched television network in the nation. Mr. Cisneros currently serves on Univision's Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Cisneros has served as President of the National League of Cities, as Deputy Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and is currently an officer of Habitat for Humanity International. Mr. Cisneros remains active in San Antonio's leadership where he is Chairman of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation. He is currently a member of the advisory boards of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Broad Foundation.

Mr. Cisneros has also authored or edited several books including: *Interwoven Destinies: Cities and the Nation*; *Opportunity and Progress: A Bipartisan Platform for National Housing Policy*; and, *Casa y Comunidad: Latino Home and Neighborhood Design*. He has received numerous awards and has also been awarded more than 20 honorary doctorates from leading universities. Mr. Cisneros holds a Doctorate in Public Administration from George Washington University, a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, and Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas A&M University. He served as an infantry officer in the United States Army. Mr. Cisneros is married to Mary Alice P. Cisneros and they have three children – Teresa, Mercedes, and John Paul – and four grandchildren.

Rosemary Z. Hernandez is a United States Air Force Veteran and a proud military spouse. While on active duty, she was part of the 37th Training Wing Honor Guard and was recognized for Outstanding Support and Dedication. Mrs. Hernandez is a decorated veteran with multiple awards including the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Good Conduct medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Prior to her employment at the Northwest San Antonio Vet Center in September 2011, Mrs. Hernandez was in private practice where she specialized in working with veterans and military families.

Mrs. Hernandez has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Spanish obtained in 2002 from Texas State University (formally known as Southwest Texas State University). She went on to graduate school at St. Mary's University, where she obtained a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling in 2004 and was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate. While working on her master's degree, she completed a two year internship at the Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic in the Mental Health Clinic where she provided individual and group counseling. Currently, Mrs. Hernandez is pursuing her doctorate at St. Mary's University in Counseling Education and Supervision with specializations in Marriage and Family Therapy and Neurofeedback. Mrs. Hernandez is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and a Nationally Certified Counselor. She has been in the field of psychology and counseling for over ten years and enjoys serving fellow comrades.

Leon R. McCowan is the Regional Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region VI and serves as the ACF Assistant Secretary's representative for ACF, HHS, Region VI. He provides executive leadership, direction, and coordination for achieving ACF's national goals, priorities, and special initiatives; advocates for and advances the priorities of the HHS Secretary and ACF Assistant Secretary; and, facilitates Administration initiatives to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, special populations, and distressed communities. He also manages and coordinates cross-cutting initiatives such as Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and Faith-based Programs. He is married to Curtistene McCowan; they have two married sons and three granddaughters.

Patrick J. Patterson, MSW, MPH is Senior Manager at ICF International, a global firm (based in Fairfax, Virginia) that partners with government and commercial clients to deliver professional services and technology solutions in the energy, environment, and infrastructure; health, social programs, and consumer/financial; and public safety and defense markets. As Senior Manager at ICF, Patrick manages the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC), the federally funded clearinghouse for the Responsible Fatherhood field nationally. Mr. Patterson also has management responsibilities for the provision of training and technical assistance to Federal Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grantees, States, and programs nationally. In his role as ICF Senior Manager, Mr. Patterson also plays a key role as liaison and collaborator with Federal and State government partners, on Capitol Hill, private foundations, and internationally to help shape and advance the research, policy and practice agendas for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood fields. For over a decade,

he has been a requested Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage expert to provide keynotes, lectures, workshops, and trainings throughout the U.S., and internationally in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Mexico, and Mongolia. Mr. Patterson earned his Bachelor of Social Work degree from Benedict College (Columbia, South Carolina) and Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of South Carolina.

Marjorie McColl Petty, J.D., M.S., serves as the Regional Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Region VI. As Regional Director, Ms. Petty serves as HHS Secretary Sebelius' representative responsible for guiding and coordinating HHS policies. Ms. Petty facilitates communication regarding HHS initiatives as they relate to State, local, and tribal governments. Her region includes the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as 68 Federally-recognized tribes.

Ms. Petty's health care experience and public service include both the public and private sectors. Ms. Petty has most recently served as Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection for the Kansas Corporation Commission, beginning in 2003. She was chair of the Board of Directors of the Delta Dental of Kansas, a position she held since August 2008, and served on the company's board of directors since 2001. From 2006-2008, she was president of the Board of Directors of the Delta Dental Foundation, where she reviewed and granted \$2.9 million for oral health projects for Kansans. Previously, she served as a subcontractor for two regional offices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a public policy manager and was on staff of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Ms. Petty has also served as a State Senator in Kansas, and a member of the Topeka City Council. She received a J.D. from Washburn University School of Law and a Master's in Education/ Counseling from the University of Kansas. She is a graduate of Texas Christian University.

Helen Jo Ramirez is a readjustment Counseling Specialist who has been with the Vet Center since 1997. She provides counseling services to all veterans who served in a hostile environment. Ms. Ramirez also worked with the Mobile Vet Center as a driver, chase vehicle driver, and counselor traveling to rural areas/counties and to Houston, Odessa, Dallas, and Spring Texas. Ms. Ramirez is a Retired Captain. She entered military service as an enlisted and served with the 111th Medical Support Hospital in Administration. Following graduation from the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Leadership course, she went to Officer Candidate School (OCS) and earned her 'Butter Bars.' She served with the 117th Combat Support Hospital and with the 217th Evacuation Hospital. She also served as a Patient Administration Officer. Ms. Ramirez accomplished some 'firsts': she was the first female and first Hispanic female to serve as a Unit Commander with the 217th Evacuation Hospital which was activated, mobilized and deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Ms. Ramirez earned her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology and Community Mental Health from Antioch College. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Church Ministry and an Associate's degree in Christian Studies from the Sure Foundation Theological School in 2005. Ms. Ramirez is a licensed minister.

George Sheldon is the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). At ACF, Mr. Sheldon has championed the cause of early childhood development among low-income families, worked to expand the use of trauma informed care and practices in the foster care system, pushed for better prescribing and monitoring practices within the foster care system for the use of psychotropic medications, and led HHS's efforts in the fight against human trafficking, focusing on the enhancement of survivor services. Mr. Sheldon currently co-chairs the Federal Victim Services Strategic Planning Committee.

Prior to joining ACF, Mr. Sheldon served as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and co-chaired Florida's Task Force on Human Trafficking along with the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Mr. Sheldon also oversaw the State's child welfare programs, fostering a 36 percent reduction in children in out-of-home care, and integrating mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence services throughout the Department. While at DCF, the agency achieved the highest rate of adoptions among foster children each of the three years of his tenure. Moreover, as DCF Secretary he led the effort to reduce the state's food stamp error rate from among the highest in the nation to the lowest for three consecutive years. Before his service at DCF, Mr. Sheldon was Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Services at St. Thomas University School of Law. In addition to more than 12 years as a practicing attorney, he also served as Deputy Attorney General for Central Florida. In 1975, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where he built an eight-year record focusing on the environment and children. Born in Wildwood, New Jersey, Mr. Sheldon received both his B.A. and J.D. from Florida State University.

Woody Widrow is the executive director of RAISE Texas, the first incorporated nonprofit Statewide asset building coalition in the country. The network includes nonprofit organizations, for-profit corporations, and public institutions interested in moving individuals, families, and communities along a path toward financial success and economic stability by increasing their access to assets and economic development opportunities. RAISE Texas provides training and technical assistance, connects individuals and communities to information and resources, and convenes meetings and conferences at the local, regional and State level in support of increased financial stability of our residents. Mr. Widrow has over 40 years of experience in housing, community development, and asset building. Before moving to Texas in 1999, he served as the Vice President of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the Deputy Director of the National Association for Affordable Housing Lenders, and the Executive Director of the National Housing Institute and Editor of SHELTERFORCE. Mr. Widrow received a Master's in Community and Regional Planning degree from Rutgers University.