

Vitae for David E. Whittaker

**Executive Director
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David E. Whittaker is the Executive Director of the Chicago Area Project (CAP) and a recognized leader in the State of Illinois' social service and advocacy communities. Mr. Whittaker assumed the leadership of CAP, the oldest community-based juvenile delinquency prevention program in the country, on July 1, 1986. Under his guidance, CAP has spearheaded new initiatives, expanded programming and increased funding to benefit youth and families living in disadvantaged communities. The agency has evolved into a Federation of over 50 community-based groups that promote positive youth development by building community capacity through multi-faceted strategy involving advocacy, community organizing and direct services.

Mr. Whittaker's philosophy of positive youth development combined with grassroots community-building has enabled the Chicago Area Project to evolve and sustain the CAP model despite dramatic changes in social policy and neighborhood development. Under his administration, CAP expanded its services to community groups serving youth and families in the State of Illinois. In addition, a number of special projects were established to respond to critical community needs. Their current service population is over 30,000 youth and adults. Through the Illinois Council of Area Projects (ICAP), a state-wide network, CAP provides services to an additional 50,000 clients throughout the State of Illinois each year. This statewide network, founded by CAP in 1984, replicates the Chicago model of community empowerment in other parts of the state that was founded by CAP in 1984.

Under his leadership, Mr. Whittaker has expanded the mission, vision, programs, and funding base of the agency. Currently with a corporate budget of 16 million dollars and an agency-wide budget of 33 million dollars, CAP has been able to leverage other resources that go directly to the affiliates.

On the policy front, Mr. Whittaker has successfully established a broad network of congressional and legislative relationships at the federal and state level. This relationship includes direct contact with the governor, general assembly, state and house legislators on Capitol Hill and the entire Illinois Congressional delegation. His ability to effectively work across the party lines and maintain long-term extensive relationships have had a positive impact on his ability to positively influence human service issues.

Based on his strategic selection of able staff, Mr. Whittaker has been able to increase CAP's funding based from 1.4 million in 1986, to over 16 million dollars today. This translates to a significantly expanded role for CAP in the local community. CAP's programs have grown from

12 sites in 1986, to 50 sites throughout metropolitan Chicago today. In addition, CAP has established a number of important community-based special projects, including:

- **YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** – A multi-cultural project within our inner-city communities, it is designed to development the leadership potential of youth from impoverished backgrounds by exposing them to opportunities on the local, state, and federal levels.
- **YOUTH AS RESOURCES (YAR)** – Located in the Grand Boulevard Community, YAR is governed by a youth dominated Board of Directors. Their mission is to solicit the ideas of youth, train them in grantsmanship that resulted in the funding of youth led projects in and around the Robert Taylor Public Homes, designed to improve the living conditions of all of its citizens.
- **rites of passage (ROP)** – A program designed for young African-American males who are wards of the State. The program teaches the Afro-centric values of self-respect, self-esteem, and responsibility.
- **DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES** – focuses on capacity-building associated with program quality, organizational effectiveness and community impact related to professionalizing youth workers, reallocating resources to the community, and developing sustainable grassroots organizations engaged in community building.
- **ADVANCING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (AYD) & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (YDPCP)** – AYD introduces participants to the key language and concepts of positive youth development and challenges workers to find ways to provide support and opportunities for young people. YDPCP is a college based program that builds on AYD. A new concentration under the social work program at Harold Washington College has grown out of the YDPCP program.
- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** – One of the largest and most successful employment placement programs of low-income people in the State of Illinois.
- **STATEWIDE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (SYAB)** – Consisting of DCFS wards of the State, the Youth Advisory Board, is the only recognized advisory body for the Department of Children and Family Services that consist exclusively of youth. It advises the Department on issues of program and policy that impact child and the welfare system.

Finally in the Summer of 2008, Mr. Whittaker was extremely proud that CAP was selected by the Governor's office to lead the **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** initiative. As one of the lead Fiscal Agents, CAP was directly responsible for managing the program which employed over 4,700 youth throughout the State of Illinois. The SYEP gave youth ages 13-22 the opportunity to earn income, learn about the work world, and gain important life skills while adjusting to a professional environment.

Prior to coming to CAP, Mr. Whittaker was appointed **Dean of Educational Administration & Assistant Professor at Daniel Hale Williams University**. In this capacity, Mr. Whittaker provided leadership at the Bachelors and Masters Degree levels in a number of major academic and managerial areas. Specifically, he was responsible for the management of all sixteen (16) branch campuses within the University system. This entailed identifying new business start-up opportunities and ensuring that each campus – with an average enrollment of 500 students – was equipped with a quality academic program, staffed with a quality faculty and equipped and essential educational resources, such as electronic labs and data processing centers.

In way of educational background, Mr. Whittaker received a Masters degree in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and a Bachelors degree at Livingston College in North Carolina.

Finally, Mr. Whittaker serves on a number of important boards and commissions, all designed to improve the lives of citizens in our State – Included among these are the following:

- **ILLINOIS SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (ISSAC)** – Reappointed Chairman of the council that oversees one of the State’s largest agencies, the Department of Human Services and its five billion dollar (\$5,000,000,000) budget.
- **CHICAGO COUNIL ON URBAN OPPORTUNITIES (CCUO)** – Serve as a Commissioner that oversees two major City of Chicago Departments including the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children and Youth Services.
- **BLACK EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COALITION (BEDC)** – Chairman of a collaboration of 80 community based agencies serving primarily the African-American communities of Metropolitan Chicago. The BEDC works on improving policies affecting African-American communities and to look for better ways to serving their human service needs.
- **GRAND BOULEVARD FEDERATION** – as a charter member, Mr. Whittaker helped to chart the vision and mission of an organization that was designed to coordinate and develop a more effective system for the Grand Boulevard area – enhance the effectiveness of the delivery system for over \$100 million in government human services in a community of over 55,000 residents.
- **ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF AREA PROJECTS (ICAP)** – co-founder and former President. ICAP is a statewide organization providing community organization, youth advocacy and juvenile delinquency prevention services to some of the most impoverished communities in Illinois. Currently, over 100 communities participate in community services programs in the State.
- **ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE (IJJI)** – A statewide organization, funded by the MacArthur Foundation – Research and provide policy advocacy on behalf

of minority juveniles in the criminal justice system. Advocate for change and the consequences of disparate treatment. Published research findings.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Mr. Whittaker received his Master of Arts, Social Services Administration, University of Chicago in 1977.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work at Livingstone College in 1975.