Reshma Desai

[redacted]

EXPERIENCE

Director of Grant Programs September 2004-present
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority Chicago, IL
Responsible for the overall management of all IVPA Grant Programs

- Oversees overall administration of all IVPA grant programs and budget allocations
- Participates on the IVPA Management Team and supervises Grants Program staff.
- Collaborates with a variety of state and local partners on initiatives such as childhood exposure to violence, suicide prevention and community violence prevention.
- Implements agency events as needed
- Handles administrative/management duties as requested by Director
- Co-Chaired the Child Trauma Taskforce of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council which led to the adoption of recommendations for trauma-informed capacity building plan for IDHS funded domestic violence programs.

Director of Residential Services July 2000-September 2004
Rainbow House Chicago, IL
Responsible for the overall management of the Residential Services

- Oversaw the client services and facility management for the largest domestic violence shelter in Chicago.
- Participated in the development and implementation of administrative and program policies and procedures.
- Established and monitored program performance standards and program goals in conjunction with other program directors.
- Provided orientation, training and supervision to twenty shelter employees.
- Interacted with community groups and organizations and provided training upon request.
- Collaborated in grant writing, performing site visits and budgetary reviews.
- Ensured the completion and submission of all program reports to regulatory agencies as needed.
- Assisted in the writing of the upcoming Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence Best Practice Manual as part of the Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Task Force, Domestic Violence Advisory Council.

Community Resource Program Coordinator June 1999-July 2000
Rainbow House Chicago, IL
Responsible for the overall management of the Community Resource Program (CRP)

- Provided leadership to eleven staff members through consistent supervision, educational in-services and implementation of high quality standards
- Created and maintained CRP policies and procedures in adherence to agency's strategic plan
- Developed and maintained relationships with other community and funding organizations
- Dealt with emerging issues within and outside the agency and reported to the Director of Program Development

Intern-Community Outreach Advocate August 1998-May 1999
Domestic Violence Intervention Program Iowa City, IA
Assisted victims of domestic violence in obtaining legal and social services at individual, family, organizational, inter-organizational and policy levels

- Applied culturally competent model to working with women of color
- Facilitated relationships between agencies who work with victims of domestic violence
- Coordinated shelter visit for Iowa Representatives
- Expanded law student volunteer program for civil cases
- Participated in evolving coordinated community response model
- Represented agency on state coalition legislative committee to collaborate on legislative action

Intern-Case Worker January –May 1998
Youth Homes, Inc. Iowa City, IA
Provided individual and family counseling for residential, emergency and in-home clients

- Analyzed quality of services and identified underserved needs of adolescent girls in residential care
- Created multi-agency empowering book drive for residential care library

Youth Education Coordinator May 1997-August 1998
Rape Victim Advocacy Program Iowa City, IA
Responsible for creating, marketing and conducting educational programs for youth, ages 12-18, on issues of sexual violence

- Developed public relations agenda that increased agency's youth educational programs by 56%
- Coordinated all tasks necessary for dynamic and popular youth programs

- Represented agency on state coalition legislative committee to improve communication about pending legislation to state-wide coalition member agencies
- Assisted survivors of sexual violence in dealing with emotional, legal, physical and psychological needs

EDUCATION

Graduate	University of Iowa, School of Social Work Masters of Social Work *Graduate Social Work Students Association* *Affirmative Action Committee Member*	Iowa City, IA May 1999
Undergraduate	University of Iowa Bachelor of Arts in English Literature Minor in Women's Studies *Women's Studies Association Co-founder*	Iowa City, IA May 1995

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Washington Irving Elementary Schoolyard Project **2009-present**
Co-Chair, Curriculum Committee
Coordinates the integration of curriculum subject matter into the new schoolyard plan

Young Women's Mentoring Program **2009-present**
Chicago Women in Philanthropy
Provides support and information to a young professional in the Chicago non-profit sector

Allocations Committee Fall Cycles 2007, 2008
Spring Cycle 2010
Chicago Foundation For Women (CFW)
Collaborates with fellow committee members to review grant applicants, conduct site visits and recommend funding to the CFW's Board of Directors

Board of Directors Fall 1999-Fall 2004
Co-Chair Fall 2001-Fall 2004
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network (Network) Chicago, IL
Collaborated with fellow board members on the Network's fundraising and strategic agenda

- Represented Rainbow House on a Chicagoland domestic violence policy and systems advocacy organization to monitor and create policy
- Built professional relationships with domestic violence agencies and other social services providers

- Participated in fundraising for the Network through special event planning

Board of Directors Summer 2001-Spring 2003
LGBT Shelter Chicago Chicago, IL
Collaborate with fellow board members to form the organization and develop a fundraising and outreach strategy

- Participated in special events to raise awareness and funds of the lack of shelter for LGBT victims of domestic violence
- Developed the volunteer training manual with fellow board members

References Available Upon Request