



Sylvia N Fuerstenberg, MSW

During Her Career, Sylvia Has Earned A Reputation For:

Serving as a visionary leader with 32 years of Executive leadership experience excelling in a broad range of human services endeavors; from juvenile rehabilitation, wilderness adventure programs for delinquents, inner city programs for teens in NYC and has built her career on promoting youth development and supports for people with developmental disabilities in community settings. She was most recently the Exec. Director of Nexus Youth and Families, a multi-services leader in community based youth programming, championing the cause of at risk, disenfranchised and homeless youth in South King County.

She is an outspoken advocate with a commitment to an organizational vision, strategic development, and excellence. Strong leader with an ability to market an organization and build collaborative relationships with stakeholders.

Demonstrated superior management, supervisory and leadership skills in both non-profit and proprietary companies:

- **Guiding Organizations through challenging times.** Led organizations through rebranding and renewal of community reputation. Developed new and strengthened program leadership to focus on service improvement, accountability and collaboration. Improved systems and updated standards and expectations of program leadership.
- **Achieving Goals.** Capably assessed challenges and opportunities to successfully lead organizations through development and implementation of strategic goals. As chair of state coalitions and legislative committees led the development of advocacy goals and their achievement.
- **Effective Fiscal Management.** Worked with boards and program leadership to develop realistic financial goals and achieve them. Developed and delivered balanced annual nonprofit budgets and increased fund and foundation contributions to achieve them. Grew government, private and foundation resources to expand services in every setting. Set aside reserves and grew investments for the future while delivering cost effective programs that delivered quality services.
- **Outstanding Public Speaking and Communication with Constituencies.** Gave hundreds of presentations about nonprofits mission to the legislature, and community groups and established strong communication with government and private philanthropy that built reputation, achieve advocacy goals and long-term funding streams. Published Op Ed and letters to the editor.

- **Successful Personnel Management.** Grew and stabilized staff in both nonprofit and proprietary business environments. Developed staff, rewrote policies and procedure manuals and board policies. Implemented equity and social justice training for staff and board that led to thoughtful diversity in personnel and programs. With visionary leadership, people skills and ability to delegate, she sets well-defined goals, puts in place people who can achieve them, and supports them to achieve success.

Professional Nonprofit Work Experience:

- Interim CEO, Crisis Connections, Seattle WA
- Interim CEO, Peace for the Streets By Kid for the Streets, Seattle, WA
- Executive Director, Nexus Youth and Families, Auburn WA
- Executive Director, The Arc of King County, Seattle WA
- V.P. New Business Development and Legislative Liaison, S.L. Start and Assoc., Seattle WA
- King County Director, S.L. Start and Assoc., Seattle WA
- Executive Director, Residence East, Bellevue, WA

Other Professional & Work Experiences:

- Chair, Community Residential Services Association
- Chair of Legislative Committee, Community Residential Services Association
- Board Member (president), Four Corners School of Outdoor Education

Educational Background:

- Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work, NYC, NY – Achieved MSW
- Evergreen State College – Achieved BA

Affiliations:

- Past Board Member, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Credentials and experience also includes:

- Program Director at the 92nd Street Y in NYC
- Mental Health counselor in NYC
- Youth Shelter and residential care in Boston
- Wilderness Experience Instructor for juvenile rehabilitation programs

Additional Information:

Sylvia is an outspoken advocate with a commitment to an organizational vision, strategic development, and excellence. Strong leader with an ability to assess and market an organization, build collaborative relationships with stakeholders. She has raised her family in the Northwest and is committed to improving life for all who live and work here.