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Brenda Rowe, Ph.D., MPA, MSW

Dr. Brenda Rowe serves as the Director of Prevention Services and Programs for the Division of Public Health (DPH) of the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) with responsibility for identifying evidence-based, practices and strategies, as well as promising prevention programs, that promote mental health, prevent substance use and abuse, and address preventable disabilities. Her work focuses on conditions that maximize healthy alcohol and drug free lifestyles for children, youth, their parents and their communities and involves a strong and concerted effort to respond to epidemiologically substantiated trends that show correlations, over time, between substance use and abuse and other risky behaviors and debilitating diseases. As a **public policy specialist**, Dr. Rowe has focused much of her work on child and family policy including welfare reform, child welfare, maltreatment and endangerment, education policy, and health policies impacting the public. As a **strategic planner**, she is especially astute at developing and working with organizations, community collaborations and partnerships to facilitate planned “strategic” change. She is especially strong in assisting public and private organizations in **organizational design and structuring** for optimal efficiency and effectiveness and has provided consulting expertise to such notable companies as Hallmark Marketing Corporation, The Beaumont Foundation, US Department of Health and Human Services, State of Iowa, City of Atlanta, and The Carson Scholars Program. Her assistance to public and non profit organizations in securing funds for program development and sustainability of both effort and outcomes is nationally recognized. Her work “in the trenches of reducing child abuse and neglect in households impacted by substance use and abuse during the early 90’s was noted as one the most effective strategies in the nation.

Having worked on every level of government, her work within DPH is bolstered by 34 years of experience where she focuses on building both state-level and regional capacity for the delivery of science/evidence-based prevention programming and in capturing both process and outcome data for effective planning and implementation while maximizing scarce financial and human resources. She has established strong and congenial professional work relationships with federal and state agencies as well as community based organizations in the interest of fostering attainment of positive prevention outcomes for substance abuse and associated problems.

As a **researcher**, she has focused on tough evaluative design questions that get to the immediate, intermediate and long term impacts of services and programs beyond immediate outcomes of service delivery and contract performance. Her skill in research and evaluation design have been instrumental in securing Exemplary Program Status for three Georgia-based programs, authoring and facilitating research designs to capture outcomes and measures of goals and objectives. Within two years of assuming this position, she augmented all statewide prevention contracts to include a requirement for evaluation designs with specific evaluation deliverables.

Dr. Rowe has served as **Assistant Professor of Public Policy** or Public Administration at a number of universities, including the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Kansas, Central Michigan University, Atlanta University, and Troy University. She currently serves as a mentor for graduate students at her alma mater, the University of Maryland.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, as well as Master of Public Administration and Ph.D. degrees in Government and Politics with dual concentrations in Public Administration (Organization Behavior and Theory) and Public Policy (Social Welfare Policy) from The University of Maryland; and a Master of Social Work with concentrations in Policy, Planning and Administration from Atlanta University.

Dr. Rowe's strong belief in community is demonstrated by her many civic activities. She is an accomplished **speaker** who delivers messages with passion and cultural relevance and sensitivity. Her extensive travels begun as an Army Brat, affords her a global, multicultural perspective to socio-political, public policy and organizational issues.