

MICHAEL DeCHIARA

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Deep and detailed knowledge of non-profit sector and management of organizations/programs
- Strong demonstrated ability to develop strategic approaches to policy issues
- Extensive experience participating in and leading collaborative and coalition-based activities
- Sophisticated understanding of community/constituent engagement and use of effective communication

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Tufts University – dual degree, *May 1987*

M.A. in Public Policy and Citizen Participation

M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy / Focus in Non-Profit Management

Cornell University

B.A. in Government, *May 1983*

MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

ENAGE CONSULTING, Shutesbury, MA

Owner/Consultant, July 2008 - present

Provide guidance and support to local, state and regional non-profit organizations. Provide expertise and guidance on policy and legislative strategy, online communications and constituent engagement; program development; and grant writing. Specific focus on community engagement and program effectiveness using technology. Clients include health care organizations, community groups, state-wide associations and local government in Northeast US.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC. Amherst, MA

Executive Director, July 2002 to June 2008

Responsible for all aspects of a statewide non-profit organization with staff of 6-10 employees. Oversaw all administration and finances; annual budget ranged from \$500,000-\$1,000,000. Rescued organization from financial crisis in 2002; achieved organizational stability by building diversified funding with array of new federal, state and private grant funds. Extensive work with state legislators to expand funding; provided leadership in developing and implementing successful policy and budget campaigns resulting in \$3.5 million in new program funds statewide. Worked extensively with local, regional and statewide organizations including advocates and non-profit organizations to inform statewide health care reform efforts. Developed and oversaw organization's programmatic initiatives with a focus on health care access for low and moderate income people. Provided leadership and support for innovative and effective use of technology, including creation of a widely-respected and heavily relied upon statewide online communications program. Provided leadership with grant writing for public and private grants; initiated organization's first individual donor program. Worked with state and local media; presented at national and regional conferences. Facilitated many meetings of community coalitions and organizational partners.

Director of Health Access Programs, January 1997 to July 2002

Developed and coordinated two statewide, community health access programs designed to support community-based outreach workers serving low and moderate income uninsured people. Oversaw annual program budgets of approximately \$550,000. Actively engaged in advocacy with policy makers and partner organizations regarding issues of health care access and the needs of dis-enfranchised rural communities and community-based organizations. Provided leadership in strategic planning to advance program effectiveness and sustainability. Created and implemented statewide forums, conferences and trainings; served as contact for media. Lead writer for book on health care access and other written materials.

SHELTER, INC., Boston, MA.

Program Administrator, July 1993 to December 1996

Provided administrative and programmatic coordination for community based organization offering services to the homeless in three communities of metro-Boston. Served as liaison between Executive Director and shelter-based program directors. Participated in organizational and program planning and implementation, and the development and coordination of special projects. Served as liaison for the organization to city and state government and various homeless or non-profit associations/coalitions. Provided leadership in development and funding (\$300K HUD grant) for an innovative program providing voice mail to homeless individuals in partnership with multiple organizations throughout metro-Boston.

Provided primary IT leadership for the organization - planned and implemented organization-wide computer modernization and training.

ROSIE'S PLACE Boston, MA

Organizational Consultant, January 1992 to July 1993

Provided organizational and administrative support to the Executive Director and senior management staff of a women's homeless shelter. Worked with senior staff to improve program effectiveness, efficiency and inter-departmental coordination. Developed and coordinated special projects for Executive Director including process for departmental re-organization. Created improved systems for donor tracking and fundraising analysis. Assisted Development Director with proposal writing. Designed and implemented organization-wide computer modernization.

GREENPEACE USA Boston, MA

East Coast Director for Action Department, June 1989 to Sept 1991

Oversaw department for eastern half of USA including day-to-day coordination of administrative operations, supervision of 8-14 staff, and logistical coordination of large-scale projects/protests. Developed and tracked \$1.5 million budget for nation-wide department. Lead and coordinated complex projects requiring political strategy, financial planning, logistical coordination, communications, and supervision of 20-50 project-based staff. Developed and coordinated national and international trainings focused on skill-sharing and leadership development for over one hundred participants annually.

Assistant Regional Director, May 1987 to June 1989

Assisted in all aspects of managing Northeast regional office with up to 100 staff. Assisted in development and tracking of \$2 million budget, administrative oversight, and personnel management. Supervised administrative staff and volunteers. Coordinated all aspects of office IT. Provided leadership for special projects/protests requiring logistical coordination, political planning, and large group supervision/ facilitation. Coordinated office relocation and new site renovation.

Assistant to Chair of Board, June 1986 to May 1987

Served as liaison for communication to the Board of Directors and with organizational leadership. Oversaw coordination of corporate reorganization including development of corporate bylaws and associated policies. Served as primary contact to law firm, regional boards/staff, voting members internationally for planning and implementation.

VOLUNTEER/OTHER EXPERIENCE:

TOWN OF SHUTESBURY, MA

- Shutesbury School Committee, *2005 to present; Chair of Committee July 2008 to present*. Served on multi-town supervisory committee, policy committee, search committee and various ad-hoc committees. Oversight of finances, town relations, personnel matters.
- Shutesbury Zoning Board of Appeals, *2004 to 2006*
- Shutesbury Broadband Access Committee, *2003 to 2005*. Founding member.

FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY GROUP

Citizen Representative, Fall 2007 to May 2009

Community representative to county-wide effort to consider strategic alternatives for implementation and organization of public education in Franklin County in advance of state reform efforts. Worked closely with local legislators, superintendents, state, regional and local education leaders.

CUSHMAN SCOTT CHILDREN'S CENTER, Amherst, MA

Board of Directors, 2000- 2003

Spearheaded initiative to purchase the Center's building from the Town of Amherst involving technical, political, legal and financial planning. Re-wrote organizational bylaws. Revitalized and improved development program. Served on the Executive Committee, Chaired the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Town Relations Committee.

ACTION AND COMMUNITY TRAINING, INC. Boston, MA.

Founder, Director, February 1993 to Aug. 1995, and Jan. 2010 to present

Founded and directed a non-profit organization with mission to provide community-based groups with training on issues of effective citizen participation and engagement. Coordinated all aspects of administration, organizational planning, board development, and fundraising. Planned and facilitated workshops for schools and grassroots groups. Technical support for national AIDS advocacy group ACT-UP!; highlighted on CBS' 60 Minutes .