DEIDRA M. SOMERVILLE, PhD, MSW

Public Sector Executive | Housing & Human Services | Community Development | Behavioral Health | Government Programs

Oakland, California

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Strategic public sector and nonprofit executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience directing complex human service, behavioral health, housing-related, and community development initiatives. Extensive expertise managing government-funded programs, leading multidisciplinary teams, developing public-private partnerships, administering grants and contracts, and designing programs that improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Recognized for building collaborative relationships with government agencies, housing organizations, educational institutions, healthcare providers, philanthropy, and community stakeholders while leading large-scale organizational change, strategic planning, and program implementation.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Housing & Human Services	Public Administration	Regulatory Compliance
Program Evaluation	Community Development	Strategic Planning
Program Administration	Budget & Fiscal Oversight	Grant & Contract Management
Policy Development	Public & Community Partnerships	Board Relations

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

YMCA OF GREATER SAN FRANCISCO

Executive Director, Mental Health Services Branch | 2023–Present

Provide executive leadership as founding executive director for a comprehensive community behavioral health division serving children, youth, adults, and families throughout San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

Key accomplishments include:

- Direct multiple county, state, and philanthropic funded programs supporting vulnerable populations.
- Lead strategic planning, budget oversight, operational management, and program development across multiple service divisions.
- Supervise multidisciplinary leadership teams responsible for outpatient behavioral health, prevention services, community outreach, family support, and school-based programs.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with county agencies, school districts, healthcare providers, law enforcement, probation, housing partners, and community organizations.
- Lead implementation of new programs designed to improve access to services in historically underserved communities.
- Prepare executive reports, strategic plans, grant applications, and presentations for senior leadership and governing bodies.
- Ensure compliance with government regulations, contracts, accreditation standards, and performance expectations.

ALCHEMY COMMUNITY THERAPY CENTER

Executive Director | 2022–2023

Directed organizational operations for a nonprofit behavioral health agency serving diverse communities.

Responsibilities included:

- Organizational leadership and strategic planning.
- Budget administration and financial oversight.
- Policy development and implementation.
- Community partnership development.
- Staff leadership and organizational growth.
- Grant management and fundraising.

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

[Worked in the role of Director of Development as a major gift fundraiser: 2010-2013]

Director, Research & Sponsored Programs | 2013–2022

Directed university-wide sponsored programs supporting federally, state, and privately funded initiatives.

Highlights include:

- Managed complex grant portfolios supporting research, education, and community initiatives.
- Developed institutional policies and administrative procedures.
- Negotiated agreements with funding agencies and external partners.
- Supervised professional staff and coordinated cross-functional teams.
- Prepared executive reports and strategic recommendations.
- Advised institutional leadership regarding compliance, budgeting, and regulatory requirements.

Institutional Review Board Administrator (Concurrent)

- Directed regulatory compliance for human subjects research.
- Developed institutional policies and operational procedures.
- Facilitated training and organizational compliance initiatives.

CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Senior Grant Developer | 2004–2010

Supported one of the nation's largest public housing authorities through strategic program development and external funding initiatives.

Major responsibilities included:

- Developed successful federal, state, and foundation grant proposals supporting housing, workforce, education, youth, and resident services.
- Collaborated with executive leadership on strategic planning initiatives.
- Worked closely with resident services, program administrators, and community organizations to identify funding priorities.
- Conducted research and policy analysis supporting housing and community development initiatives.
- Prepared technical reports, funding proposals, board materials, and program documentation.
- Coordinated partnerships among public agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private funders.

- Supported implementation of HUD-funded initiatives designed to strengthen resident services and improve quality of life for public housing residents.

SELECTED LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- More than two decades leading publicly funded human service programs.
- Extensive experience collaborating with county, municipal, educational, healthcare, and nonprofit partners.
- Successfully secured and administered millions of dollars in government and philanthropic funding.
- Led multidisciplinary teams through organizational growth and systems change.
- Expertise in strategic planning, program evaluation, policy implementation, and continuous quality improvement.
- Strong background presenting to executive leadership, governing boards, government officials, and community stakeholders.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - National Louis University

Master of Social Work (MSW) - Boston University

Bachelor's Degree, University of California, Santa Cruz

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Behavioral Health Leadership
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Community Capacity Building
- Housing Stability & Human Services
- Equity-Centered Program Development