

Biographical Sketch for Barbara Pullen-Smith

Barbara Pullen-Smith received an MPH, in Health Administration in 1984 from Emory University, Atlanta, GA and a BSPH in Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC in 1981.

Immediately after completing her undergraduate degree in 1981, Ms. Pullen-Smith worked as a Health and Human Services Specialist for the General Baptist State Convention. In this position she developed and implemented health promotion and disease prevention programs in Black Churches in NC using the lay health advisor model. Other community-based work included serving as a District Representative for the American Cancer Society in 1984.

In 1985, Ms. Pullen-Smith started her career with the state as the first consultant for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program in the Division of Maternal Child Health. In this capacity she assisted 33 projects throughout NC in the areas of community organization, coalition building, program development and evaluation. In 1990, Ms. Pullen-Smith was hired as the Program Coordinator for Local Services in the Division of Adult Health (now Division of Public Health).

The NC Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Minority Health Advisory Council (MHAC) were established by the legislature in July 1992. On February 1, 1993, Ms. Pullen-Smith became its first Executive Director and she currently holds that position. She provides leadership and develops initiatives to improve the public health system's ability to respond to the specific needs of racial and ethnic minorities. She works closely with the programs in the Department of Health and Human Services, local health departments and other public and private agencies and organizations, including minority community-based organizations, in a collaborative and advocacy role to insure the minority health issues are addressed.