

Kisha Petties, M.A.T

LEADER, EDUCATOR, ADVOCATE

Kisha Petties, a Bellwood, IL native and first-generation educator, began her journey in Early Childhood Education as an undergraduate student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Petties, who experienced parenthood at age 17 found that her studies not only positively impacted her career, but also her parenting skills. Not only did she desire to change the trajectory of children and families across the globe, but also those nearest her. Petties gave back to her community through substitute teaching at both her grammar school and high school, prior to advancing her studies at National Louis University Chicago where she went on to gain her Master of Teaching degree (PEL), Certificate of Advanced Study degree (Curriculum and Instruction), and a LBS1 Endorsement (K-3).

Recognized as the most qualified candidate, Petties embarked upon a new journey in October of 2022 to build out the newly formed Bureau of Collaboration and Partnerships for the Division of Early Childhood. In this role, Petties developed a vision, mission, and goals as a foundation to establishing a strategic plan for the Bureau in alignment with the overall program charter for the Division. Kisha routinely provides quality and assurance oversight for multiple program contracts and budgets – identifying opportunities for efficient issue resolution and paths to successful implementation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Child & Family Services
- Collaboration & Partnership
- Strategic Planning
- Early Childhood Legislation
- Day Care Licensing
- Sensitive Negotiations
- Conflict Resolution
- Staff Development
- Data-Driven Management
- Policy & Procedure
- Family & Community Engagement
- Curriculum and Program Development
- Early Childhood & Elementary Education
- Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health
- Special Education Teaching & Coaching

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

2022-Present

Bureau Chief, Division of Early Childhood/Bureau of Collaboration and Partnerships

- Serve as the Administrator of the Bureau of Collaboration and Partnership within the Division of Early Childhood to develop and implement a short/long-term Strategic Plan that promotes statewide coordination, collaboration, and partnerships across state and federal Early Childhood systems, jurisdictional levels, and other external state agencies
- Manage All Our Kids EC Networks, Illinois Head Start State Collaboration Office, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant, Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, and Birth to 5 IL (\$25M+ in funding)
- Assist Division heads in strategic planning of DEC (infrastructure, quality, access, sustainability, funding (\$2B+))
- Plan, organize, and provide statistical and/or written reports, briefs, and PowerPoint presentations to keep DHS leadership, Division Director, and Bureau Chief abreast of the status of goals, objectives, and/or benchmarks
- Collaborate with internal and external entities to assess, identify, and recommend modifications to the program-related Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) grantmaking mandates to promote efficiencies, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Review and approve vendor/grantee budgets and deliverables

- Collaborate with internal and external entities in developing and implementing comprehensive and innovative Early Childhood infrastructures
- Monitor and evaluate the development and maintenance of a comprehensive, statewide clearinghouse of materials, references, and resources to assist in building community infrastructures and enhancing service delivery systems that benefit children, families, legal guardians, grantees, and other stakeholders
- Analyze the successes and deficiencies of services identified during the CQI monitoring processes
- Plan, monitor, and direct the development, dissemination, and tracking of comprehensive Intergovernmental Agreements, Data Sharing Agreements, and/or Memorandums of Understanding with external entities
- Manage the coordination, development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative approaches to Early Childhood services in alignment with federal and state regulations
- Plan, analyze, and conduct comprehensive assessments of existing Early Childhood community systems and related infrastructures at the local and regional levels to identify needed expansions
- Plan, organize, direct, and monitor (via subordinate managers) the completion of extensive quantitative and/or qualitative research
- Oversee and coordinate the development and implementation of a Community Collaboration and Partnership Strategic Plan
- Serve as Coach to incoming Bureau Chiefs
- Improve employee engagement, skill sets, and retention
- Encourage continued innovation
- Ensure equitable access to services

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

2018 - 2022

Bureau Chief, Office of Early Childhood/Bureau of Subsidy Management

- Managed a collaborative network of over 50 contracted human service providers to ensure access to high quality early childhood care for Illinois children
- Managed \$1B in state and federal resources to provide high quality childcare services to over 150,000 low-income and/or at-risk children and families across the state of Illinois
- Developed policies and procedures to ensure equitable access for most needy families; recently updated Homelessness Policy to provide ongoing access to childcare for children and families experiencing homelessness and those participating in the IDCFS Intact Family program
- Created new systems including updating technology infrastructure to advance the intent of new state laws and/or federal requirements; recently oversaw the augmentation of data management system to ensure the continued use of Adobe Flex
- Reported Bureau initiatives to the Governor's Office monthly
- Coordinated with the Bureau of Communication to ensure that any information going out is in the best interest of the Department/Division
- Traveled to other states to collaborate with ECE Administrators
- Managed Child Care Assistance Program, Client Data, Policy and Customer Service, Program Support, and Program Integrity & Quality Assurance units

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

2016 – 2018

Daycare Licensing Representative II

- Conducted initial licensing review of assigned day care centers and homes
- Conducted renewal licensing reviews of assigned day care facilities
- Conducted investigations of complaints of violations of statutes and rules in day care facilities, including all necessary follow-up and monitoring of corrective action plans
- Interpreted standards and licensing requirements to key stakeholders
- Provided information regarding physical plant, equipment, educational supplies, health and safety issues, child/staff ratios, and other pertinent information as required by day care rule

- Provided consultation to day care center owner/operators and boards on program planning for young children
- Assisted in in-service training planning for other staff
- Participated in supervisory and other training conferences

SUDER MONTESSORI MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2014 – 2016

Early Childhood Teacher

- Created and implemented lessons in accordance with the CCSS
- Developed innovative and DAP lesson plans for children ages 3-6
- Emphasized teamwork through weekly team meetings
- Incorporated technologies of the 21st century daily
- Collaborated with staff and administrators daily
- Cultivated parent involvement through consistent verbal and written communication
- Participated in IEP meetings

DVORAK TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

2011 – 2014

Early Childhood Teacher

- Created and implemented lessons in accordance with the CCSS
- Developed innovative and DAP lesson plans for children ages 3-6
- Emphasized teamwork through weekly team meetings
- Incorporated technologies of the 21st century daily
- Collaborated with staff and administrators daily
- Cultivated parent involvement through consistent verbal and written communication
- Participated in IEP meetings

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

2016 - 2020

Adjunct Professor

- Course: Early Childhood Education

SELECTED BOARD & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BUILD Team, IDHS Primary DEC Representative
 Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Committee, DEC Representative
 IAT, DEC Representative
 ILDS Project, DEC Primary Liaison
 CCAC/Family Engagement, DEC Primary Representative
 Heartland Alliance Ambassador

EDUCATION

Elgin Community College Montessori Certificate
 2014
 National Louis University Chicago, CAS, Curriculum and Instruction
 2011-2013
 National Louis University Chicago, M.A.T, Early Childhood Education
 2009 - 2011
 Southern Illinois University Carbondale, B.S., Early Childhood Specializing in Children and Family Services
 2001-2005

Triton College, Nursing
1999-2001