



Community Access National Network Board of Directors

Kathie M. Hiers

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Kathie M. Hiers is the Chief Executive Officer of AIDS Alabama, a nonprofit organization that works statewide to provide housing and supportive services to low-income persons with HIV/AIDS as well as education, outreach, and testing. AIDS Alabama has subcontracts with the other nine AIDS Service Organizations and clinics in the state of Alabama to provide services to all 67 counties. Kathie has been with AIDS Alabama since January 2001. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director of Mobile AIDS Support Services and the founder of the Lee Simmons Fund for People Living with AIDS in Mobile, Alabama.

Kathie is one of 25 people appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the body that provides advice and expertise to President Obama and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius. Kathie has been awarded the University of Alabama's 2010 Outstanding Woman in the Community Award. Most recently, Kathie was picked as one of *POZ* magazine's top 100.

Kathie has served locally as Co-Chair of the Central Alabama Ryan White Consortium and two-year term as President of the Metropolitan Birmingham Services for the Homeless. Kathie is a member of the *Governor of Alabama's HIV Commission for Children, Youth, and Adults* and facilitates the Alabama Legislative Workgroup. Kathie leads the advocacy efforts for the State of Alabama, educating legislators on the state's HIV/AIDS issues and promoting financial support for HIV/AIDS efforts from the Alabama State Legislature. Kathie has been called upon for guidance on the development of state advocacy networks in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Nationally, Kathie served for four years as Co-Chair of the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC) and currently heads the Public Policy Committee. Kathie also serves as Vice President of the National AIDS Housing Coalition, as an elected member of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Convening Group, and as a board member of the Community Access National Network. Kathie recently ended a four-year term on the board of the National Association of People with AIDS, where she served as Treasurer. She also represented Alabama's nine Title III clinics in the Communities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition from 2000 through 2003.

Several national magazines, including *HIV Plus*, *Poz*, *The Washington Blade*, *The Houston Blade*, *Positive Populations*, *Mother Jones*, the *Progressive*, *Marie Claire*, the *Congressional Quarterly*, and *Southern Voice*, have published interviews with Kathie. Her work in Alabama has also been featured in Jacob Levenson's book, *The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS and Black America*. Kathie co-authored the housing portions of the *Southern States Manifesto*, as well as major portions of the *Southern States Manifesto: Update 2008*, released on July 21, 2008. The *Manifesto: Update* provided the lead story for MSNBC on July 25, 2008, the *Kaiser Daily*, and periodicals and stations across the country. Kathie is frequently called upon to speak on AIDS housing, advocacy, and service issues. She has been a featured speaker for many press conferences and Congressional Briefings on the Ryan White Act and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as well as for the Southern AIDS Coalition. Kathie served as Co-Chair of the 2005 National ADAP Conference. In 2006 and 2007, Kathie was featured on a national webcast for the Southern AIDS Coalition, and she conducted workshops for the U.S. Conference on AIDS, the National AIDS Housing Coalition, the National Minority Quality Forum, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Sparkman Program for visiting physicians from across the globe.

Kathie is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a BA in English.