

GREGORY G. OWENS

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Born and raised in Westchester County, Mr. Owens, completed college with a BA in sociology from Rider College, (now Rider University) in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Work, specializing in Criminal and Juvenile Justice from the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Social Work, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a licensed master social worker.

He began his professional career at The Children's' Village, in Dobbs Ferry, NY as a caseworker. He has worked for the Westchester Urban League as Vice President of Service Programs; was the Executive Director of Homes Away From Home, Inc., a program for runaway and homeless youths in East Harlem, NY; and the NYS Division for Youth, now the Office of Children and Family Services. In his 22 years with the State, he has held many management and leadership positions including Executive Assistant to Director of the Division for Youth, Director of The Bureau of Counseling Services and Family Advocacy, for the Office of Children and Family Service. He is currently the Director of Special Projects, a position that reports both to the Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development as well as the Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services, and is responsible for state wide initiative including mentoring, youth gangs and violence, disproportionate minority representation, cultural competence and responsible fatherhood.

Mr. Owens is a trainer and leadership development consultant, and a certified trainer for Crucial Conversations, a curriculum based on the NY Times best selling book. He has been a keynote speaker, and presented workshops and training seminars throughout the country and abroad. He has been a trainer with the National Juvenile Partnership Services (formerly the National Juvenile Detention Association) and presented in Ohio, Michigan and Hawaii, and presented workshops on Drugs and Sports in St. Vincent in the Eastern Caribbean. He has provided training on working with young Black males for mental health and private providers throughout New York State, and on racial and ethnic disparities in child welfare and juvenile justice at various conferences including the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in 2007, and the WorldForum in 2010.

He is a member several boards and committees, including the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (JCBI), 2006; Child Welfare of League of America, National Advisory Committee on Cultural Competence and Racial Disproportionality and Disparity of Outcomes, 2006 – present; the Child Welfare League of America National Committee on Leadership Development, 2010, and is currently the co-chair of the program executive committee for the State University of New York's Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. He is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the Capital Region chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He has been the Program Co-Chair for the National Conference Committee of the National Association of Black Social Workers for many years, and as such has been responsible for review of workshop proposals, and coordination of national conference plenary sessions and workshops.

Mr. Owens has been a treating clinician for the NFL, has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the NYS Martin Luther King celebration and the Legislative Dinner for the NYS Association of

Black and Puerto Rican Legislators for many years. As *Gregory McKnight*, he enjoyed a successful 9-year career as a night host on smooth jazz radio stations in the Capital Region. He has done numerous “voice over” ads and commercials for state agencies, businesses, colleges and universities both locally and throughout the United States.

Mr. Owens is the recipient of several awards including the Education Award from the New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice and the Defenders Award from the Men’s Fellowship of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, New York both received in 2009. He is also the Recipient of the 2003 Governor’s Tribute to African American Leaders of Excellence Award.

Mr. Owens was a USA Track and Field Coach for the Country Mills Eagles Track Team in 2006 and 2007. He specialized in coaching the long and triple jumps, sprints and relays. He had the pleasure of coaching his daughter to 2 appearances in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in 2006 and 2007.

He is a member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, New York where he has served as co-chair of the Youth Fellowship, is currently chair of the Men’s Fellowship, and where he enjoys singing with the Men’s chorus. He is the proud husband of Terry Lynn Owens, and proud father of 14 year old Kayla Deigh Owens. His credo is “Never Give Up. Never, Ever, Ever Give Up!”