

JAMES T. NUNNELLY, MPA
Biographical Sketch

Jim Nunnelly has over 30 years of commitment to building healthy communities through the creation of cutting edge public health programs. He also seeks to enhance youth services through building the necessary infrastructure to support pro-youth public health strategies, programming and initiatives. In addition, Mr. Nunnelly has positively changed the face of mental health, prevention, and substance abuse services in Jackson County. Through his leadership, policy and programming in substance abuse treatment and prevention have become more in-line with best practices and national models. Innovative strategies that combine treatment, prevention, and/or law enforcement have received national recognition and commendable results.

As the Anti-Drug program Administrator for Jackson County, Missouri, James Nunnelly oversees the implementation of eighty (80) law enforcement, treatment and prevention strategies created by the Jackson County **COMM**unity **B**acked **A**nti-Drug **T**ax (COMBAT) program. This multidisciplinary network collaborates to provide a single thrust effort to address drug use and related harms throughout a diverse county. In addition, the COMBAT Anti-Drug Program provides voluntary substance abuse treatment to more than 300 adults and children each month who are not court supervised, and it provides drug prevention services to more than 25,000 school-age children annually.

A nationally recognized drug court was created in Jackson County through Mr. Nunnelly's efforts to address the substance abuse treatment needs of individuals involved in non-violent crimes. So far, more than 2,000 first-time offenders have received treatment, and almost 800 have successfully completed the program with a recidivism rate of less than four percent.

The Jackson County Fathering Court, under Mr. Nunnelly's leadership, was created and designed to establish financial responsibility of parents for their children. The Fathering Court increases the number of fathers participating in the financial and emotional lives of their children. The Fathering Program is nationally recognized for its innovative approach and was a semifinalist for "Innovations in American Government Award" given by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The Jackson County Fathering Court Program has been replicated in Texas and other states.

Mr. Nunnelly is active with many church, community, and civic organizations and programs throughout Kansas City, including co-host of the Generation Rap on the Hot 103 Jamz, Prime Health Foundation, YouthNet, the Professional Cabinet for the Local Investment Corporation (LINC), and the Task Force for Charter and Alternative School Development. On a national scale, he has consulted with agencies in 30 states and Puerto Rico and impacted over 100 healthcare and substance abuse operations. Jim was the major planner and implementer for the Robert Wood Johnson Fighting Back initiative in Kansas City.

He is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Michigan. Both universities have done feature stories on his work with youth development. He has been featured in Ebony magazine and the New York Times for his work in substance abuse public health. Just recently, the Kansas City Star selected him as one of the 150 most influential Kansas Citizens and the Kansas City Globe selected him as one of the 100 most influential African Americans. The Board of Directors of the National Center of Fathering, located in Kansas City, Missouri, also recognized Mr. Nunnelly's many contributions with the City Father Award.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.), 1975

University of Missouri, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), 1968

Over 25 major seminars in health and healthcare management

Several certificates in Managed Care from the University of Missouri-Kansas City

FOUNDATION EXPERIENCE

Contractor with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 1988-1992

Contractor with Kauffman Foundation, 1996-1998

Board Member with Prime Health Foundation, 1999 to present

KEY HONORS

- Featured in Ebony Magazine (1975) and New York Times (1997)
- Featured Speaker at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2001)
- Chosen one of Kansas City Star's 150 most influential Kansas Citizens (1998)
- Chosen one of Kansas City Globes 100 most influential African Americans (1991-92-92)
- Chosen Distinguished Citizen, Missouri Association of Welfare (1999)
- Chosen Distinguished Service by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (2002)
- Keynote Speaker at over 125 events