

About the Author

I enrolled at Mississippi State University in 1966 majoring in Business and Marketing. In 1969, I realized that to graduate, that I should have studied a course of work that would have been more rewarding. For summer employment in 1969 I worked at Mississippi State Hospital as an attendant (now classified as Mental Health Technician). My assignment on Cottage "S" was to guard the maximum-security unit for the criminally insane. I later met the hospital's director of nursing and told her of my desire to continue working as a full-time employee on the male receiving building after my summer job was over. I considered this time a time of reckoning or an escape from other responsibilities in life. During the next year, I befriended the director of social services who took an interest in me and offered me a position as a social worker if I would return to college and get my degree. Graduating in 1972 with a degree in educational psychology, I returned to Mississippi State Hospital and was employed as a licensed institutional social worker until I resigned in 1978. My experiences working with patients, psychiatrist, nurses, attendants, administration, and social workers has provided me with the expertise to understand the culture and the history of institutionalization and deinstitutionalization at Mississippi State Hospital and describe it from both a patient's historical account and my own personal involvement and experiences.

In 1978 I was employed by the Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid and after twenty-five years retired as the Deputy Administrator. During my employment I conducted independent assessments of nursing homes and later developed and implemented Home and Community-Based Services Waivers which provided services for individuals at home rather than receiving care in a nursing home. I was instrumental in the development of the Long-Term Care Alternatives program, primary care case management program, and development and

implementation of a fully capitated voluntary HMO program. I was then employed at Information & Quality Healthcare where I was the vice president of corporate services and quality improvement for Medicare hospitals, physician offices, and nursing facilities, retiring in 2012.