

Dr. Knitasha V. Washington, DHA, MHA, FACHE

Dr. Knitasha Washington is a master change agent professionally trained in health care and business administration. Shaped by her passion and belief in social justice, Dr. Washington has earned recognition nationally as a health care leader, policy contributor and patient activist.

With more than 15 years professional experience as a consultant, Knitasha brings a multi-dimensional talent focused primarily in the areas of health systems performance, patient safety and quality. Motivated by the many opportunities to improve quality and patient safety while reducing costs, Dr. Washington's career path has been guided by her vision to be at the helm of change and to ensure a more equitable and values-driven health care system.

Her tenure in health care summarizes nine years in managed care and ten years consultative experience improving hospital profit margins through operations efficiency, patient throughput, labor and non-labor expense manage projects. Over the years, she has gained extensive knowledge of hospitals and health system's operations to include safety net, public, community, private and academic medical centers. To that end she is a high functioning relationship manager that has worked to build effective collaborations among multiple stakeholders to include patients, public officials, governmental agencies, private corporations, allied health associations, hospital administrators, physicians, clinicians, and front-line workers.

After many of years of commitment to advocating for the elimination of health disparities, her perspective on the U.S. Health System changed dramatically after losing her father to a medical error in 2009. "What I found out first hand was the bias that is embedded in the fabric of our health systems", shares Dr. Washington. Today, Knitasha serves in multiple roles driving change and innovation nationally. As an advisor to the National Partnership for Patients Campaign, Dr. Washington has been commended for her work to improve equality of health outcomes within the quality domain. Knitasha is credited for being the thought-leader that forged a pathway to consider health disparities among vulnerable populations a strategic imperative in the nations fight to achieve improvement in quality and patient safety. Accordingly, she continues to advocate for greater diversity and minority inclusion in health care leadership through her work as Immediate Past President of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) Chicago Midwest Chapter.

Dr. Washington commonly speaks on the topics of health equity, diversity, quality and patient safety. She also actively participates in research and is published. Dr. Washington is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE) and received her Doctorate of Health Administration Degree from Central Michigan University, Masters of Health Administration from Governors State University and Bachelor of Arts with a focus in Business Administration from Chicago State University. To her credit have been extended many nominations and awards including, 2014 Governors State University Luminary Pioneer, 2014 Illinois Department of Public Health Champions Award, 2013 ACHE Regents Health Care Leadership Award, 2009 NAHSE National Young Healthcare Executive Award and the featured cover story Spring 2010 of Girlfriends HealthGuide Magazine.

- Member of the National Quality Forum Patient Engagement Action Team (2014 – present)
- Member of the Medstar Health System Corporate Patient and Family Quality and Safety Advisory Committee (2013 – present)
- UIC Seven Pillar Project Consumer Advisory Committee (2012 – present)