

Vanessa Coburn

Vanessa Coburn was born and raised in Memphis, TN. Following graduation from Douglass High School, Vanessa began her college education at Rust College of Holly Springs, MS in 1974 where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Xavier University of New Orleans, Louisiana. In an effort to help finance her college education Vanessa was employed during those years as St. Elizabeth Girls Home-for abused abandoned and neglected girls as well as with Catholic Charities where she worked with unwed mothers.

Following college Vanessa returned to Memphis to begin her career with the State of Tennessee. Vanessa began her employment with the Department of Human Services where she determined eligibility for TennCare, Food Stamps and Families First Benefits.

Vanessa began her career with TN Department of Children's Services in February 2001 as Shelby's Family to Family Coordinator. To date Vanessa has led Shelby County in the successful establishment and contracting of 2 Neighborhood Collaboratives that each serve several zip code areas. Vanessa continues to serve as mentors for Collaborative Leaders who embrace the Family to Family concept of improving outcomes for children and families by providing community services in an effort to improve outcomes and strengthen communities.