

Biography
Rachel Wilson, MPH
Director of Policy and Advocacy, PATH

Education

Institution	Major	Degree	Year
Wisconsin	Psychology	Bachelor of Arts	1991-01-01 00:00:00
Boston	Social Science	Master of Public Health	1997-01-01 00:00:00

Areas of expertise

Disease prevention and control (general); Other emerging and epidemic diseases;
Behavior change communication (BCC); Communications; Public policy and advocacy

Biography

Rachel Wilson is the director of policy and advocacy at PATH, where she is responsible for the development, management, and evaluation of PATH's public policy and advocacy initiatives. With nearly 20 years of experience in public health policy, research, and communications, Ms. Wilson most recently served as director of policy communications at the Global Health Council. She has held numerous public policy leadership roles in women's health, health disparities, and infectious diseases. Among them, she developed the women's health policy and advocacy program at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, after several years as one of Massachusetts' leading public health policy advocates in her role as director of policy and advocacy at the Massachusetts Public Health Association. Prior to her work in public policy, Ms. Wilson coordinated epidemiologic research on women and children's health at the Boston University School of Public Health and provided direct women's health services at the Crittenton Hastings House in Boston, Massachusetts. She earned her master in public health degree from the Boston University School of Public Health.

Professional experience

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PATH, Washington, DC, 2006 to present

Director of Policy and Advocacy

Oversees advocacy and public policy division at PATH. Develops, implements, manages, and evaluates organizational policy advocacy initiatives. Oversees representation of PATH's organizational and program advocacy priorities in Washington, DC. Supports and enhances PATH staff's capacity and skills in informing global health policy. Ensures that program activities are strategic, effective, and well coordinated internally and with allied groups and coalitions.

Global Health Council, Washington, DC, 2005 to 2006

Director of Policy Communications

Coordinated media outreach and policy messaging for the largest global health membership organization. Provided strategic oversight and guidance and coordinated all policy-related events, including congressional briefings, NGO forums, and other policy forums. Facilitated the development and promotion of global health policy messages and platforms with partner organizations. Oversaw policy content development for web, electronic, and print communications. Oversaw development and implementation of policy-related sessions at annual International Conference on Global Health.

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, 2003 to 2005

Director of Women's Health Policy and Advocacy

Implemented first women's health policy program at a Harvard-affiliated teaching hospital. Educated and trained medical providers to promote policies to advance women's health. Established and enhanced relationships between policymakers and clinical leaders. Educated policymakers about targeted women's health issues. Advocated for policies to improve the health and health care of women at institutional, state, and national levels.

Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA), Boston, MA, 2000 to 2003

Director of Policy and Advocacy

Developed and implemented policy strategies. Served as MPHA's liaison to legislators and other public health policymakers. Mobilized the public health community to advocate on behalf of public health issues. Initiated, supported, and promoted public health-related legislation. Oversaw educational events for members, communities, and policymakers. Garnered media attention to targeted public health topics. Chaired MPHA's Correctional Health Advisory Committee and the Massachusetts Hepatitis C Coalition.

Boston University School of Public Health, Slone Epidemiology Unit, Boston, MA, 1993 to 2000

Project Coordinator, Boston University Birth Defects Study, 1997 to 2000

Oversaw all aspects of multiple-site case-control study of birth defects. Designed and implemented study protocol, interview tool, and data collection tools. Negotiated terms of agreements with 85 hospitals. Managed research staff of ten nurses and research assistants in the United States and Canada. Ensured compliance with goals and objectives of multiple funding sources.

Network Coordinator, Boston University Birth Defects Study, 1995 to 1997

Supervised subject identification research staff in the United States and Canada.

Maintained approval of research protocol at 85 hospital institutional review boards.

Oversaw and maintained subject reporting systems at participating hospitals.

Research Assistant, Health Effects of Diethylstilbestrol (DES), 1993 to 1995

Interviewed subjects and coded survey responses. Created and maintained subject tracking systems.

Crittenton Hastings House, Women's Health Services, Boston, MA, 1991 to 2003

Assistant to the Director of Health Services

Designed training materials and conducted HIV/AIDS education sessions for counselors. Implemented and oversaw medical intake staff. Negotiated health insurance contracts. Coordinated outreach efforts and supervised outreach staff. Produced quarterly departmental status reports and recommendations. Coordinated translation of health education materials. Provided reproductive health counseling to patients.

EDUCATION

MPH, concentration in social and behavioral sciences/health services, Boston University, School of Public Health, Boston, MA, 1997; graduation with honors: Delta Omega Society

BA, Psychology and Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 1991; Dean's List, Honor's Program, graduation with distinction

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2010-present Global Network Advisory Council Member, Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases

2008-present Advocacy Advisory Committee Co-Chair, Stop TB Partnership

2007-present Steering Committee Member, US Coalition for Child Survival

2007-2009 Advocacy Working Group Member, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

2004-2008 Board Member, Our Bodies Ourselves

2005 Executive Committee Member, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Women's Health Network Evaluation Initiative (breast and cervical cancer screenings)

2004-2005 Reviewer, American Public Health Association Annual Meeting Submissions

2004-2005 Steering Committee Member, Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network

2004-2005 Member, Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, Health Care Subcommittee

2003 Reviewer, Journal of Correctional Health Care

2001-2004 Member, Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Hepatitis C Advisory Committee

2001-2004 Steering Committee Member, Rep. Kay Khan's Women in Prison Workgroup

2001-2003 Board Member, Massachusetts Public Health Museum

HONORS and AWARDS

2008 PATH Vision Awards: Finding Synergies Award

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Wilson R, Cokelet E. Advocacy to Improve Global Health: Strategies and Stories from the Field: PATH; 2008.

Johnson, P, Wilson R, Fulp R, Schuetz B, Orton P. The Healthy Heart Initiative: Barriers to Eating a Heart Healthy Diet In a Low Income African American Community. Boston, MA: Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, Brigham and Women's

Hospital; 2004.

Wilson R. Correctional Health: The Missing Key to Improving the Public's Health and Safety. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Public Health Association; 2003.

Conklin TJ, Lincoln T, Wilson R, Gramarossa G. A Public Health Model for Correctional Health Care. Ludlow, MA: Hampden County Correctional Center; 2002.

Presentations

Advocating for Research. 36th International Conference on Global Health, 2009; Washington DC.

US Roles in Global Health: Which Direction? Association of Health Care Journalists Conference, March 2008; Washington, DC.

Branding Human Crisis: From Darfur to Malaria--How to Get People to Care. International Committee of the Public Relations Society of America (National Capital Chapter), 2006; Washington, DC.

Communicating the Global Health Message. 33rd International Conference on Global Health, 2006; Washington, DC.

Guest Lectures

Harvard School of Public Health, Public Health Practice Course, 2005

Boston Medical Center, Preventive Medicine Training, 2005

Brigham and Women's Hospital, OB/GYN Resident Training, 2004

Harvard School of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Doctoral Seminar, 2004

Tufts University, An Insider's Look at State and Local Government, 2003 and 2004

Massachusetts Medical Society, Suffolk County Chapter, 2003

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Seminar, 2003

Boston University's Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation, 2003

University of Massachusetts Medical Center Preventive Medicine Program, 2001

University of Massachusetts Amherst, School of Public Health, 2001