

Natoya Walker Minor

Natoya serves as the Chief of Public Affairs for the City of Cleveland. In this capacity she provides executive leadership, drives policy, and facilitates execution and implementation of Mayoral priorities for seven departments to meet the vision established by the Mayor (Aging, Civil Service, Community Relations, Human Resources, Public Health, the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Workforce Development). Vital to her role is leveraging intersections between each of the seven departmental disciplines to influence policy and programs.

Natoya's career as a public servant spans over 25 years in public administration and policy in municipal government, non-profit, and government consulting. These experiences have provided her with a unique capability of recognizing the value proposition of public and private partnerships and building public will. This is a valuable skill set that Natoya utilizes as the Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Greater Cleveland Partnership.

Natoya holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science, a master of Public Administration, and holds executive leadership certificates from Georgetown University in Nonprofit Management and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Natoya is married to Bishop Tony Minor and together they raise their family.

David Merriman

David Merriman is the Administrator of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services. Previously David had served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Health and Human Services in the Cuyahoga County Executive's Office from 2012 to 2014, and was Special Assistant to the County Executive from 2011 to 2012. David's prior experience includes a senior management position in the Cleveland Department of Public Health and experience as a social worker at the Department of Children and Family Services. David has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and a master's degree in social work, both from Cleveland State University.

Jill Rizika

Jill Rizika is currently Executive Director of Towards Employment, a non-profit agency whose mission is to "empower individuals to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through employment." She has over twenty-five years of experience planning, managing and evaluating programs serving economically disadvantaged populations in the US and in developing countries. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dartmouth College and master's degree in public and international affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Bethia Burke

Bethia Burke is Director of Strategy and Resource Allocation at the Fund for Our Economic Future, a collaboration of philanthropies working to strengthen Northeast Ohio's competitiveness in the global economy. Bethia works with Fund members to identify and shape new opportunities, conduct due diligence, and review performance outcomes of grantee partners. Previous positions include Volunteer Analyst with the Clinton Foundation and Manager of Cost and Risk Analysis at Northrop Grumman. Bethia has a bachelor's degree in economics from Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree in applied economics from The Johns Hopkins University.

Allison Gerber

Allison Gerber is a Senior Associate at The Annie E. Casey where she oversees the Foundation's investments in workforce development. Her work focuses on promoting collaborative approaches to improving employment opportunities for low-income families. Prior to joining the Foundation, Gerber was the Executive Director of the District of Columbia's Workforce Investment Council and a Senior Associate with the Aspen Institute's Workforce Strategies Initiative. Allison has a bachelor's degree in American studies and public administration from Sweet Briar College and a law degree from Tulane University.

Grace Kilbane

Grace A. Kilbane is the Executive Director of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board and of OhioMeansJobs|Cleveland-Cuyahoga County in July of 2014. Prior to this, Kilbane served as a senior career executive with the United States Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration in many key roles for the agency. She also served as Deputy Administrator and Acting Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services for nearly six years. Grace has a law degree and a Master of Science Degree in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University.

Shilpa Kedar

Shilpa Kedar is the Program Director for Economic Development at The Cleveland Foundation. Shilpa Kedar works closely with city leaders, civic groups, and foundation staff to support ongoing economic development efforts and develop new ones benefiting Greater Cleveland. Before joining the Cleveland Foundation, she was director of business attraction for Team NEO, and prior to that she coordinated grantmaking and projects for the Cleveland Social Venture Partners and was a researcher for the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, a top business school in India. Shilpa has a master's degree in nonprofit organizations from Case Western Reserve University, a postgraduate diploma in management from India's Som-Lalit Institute of Management Studies, and a bachelor's degree in business studies from Delhi University.

Eric Matheny

Eric Matheny is Vice President of Employment Services at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a nonprofit workforce development organization working to ensure that teens and young adults in Northeast Ohio are well prepared to enter the workforce. Prior to this, Eric held positions with the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board and was Program Director for Hartville homes. Eric has a Bachelor of Music from Youngstown State University, a Master of Arts in Transformative Leadership from California Institute of Integral Studies, and received both a Master of Arts in Human and Organization Systems and PhD in Human and Organization Development from Fielding Graduate University.

Robin Smalley

Robin Smalley is Director of Programs at Towards Employment a non-profit agency whose mission is to “empower individuals to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through employment.” Robin’s work includes program development, grants and proposals, as well as reentry programming, young adult services and “participant facing” activities including case management, work readiness training, and support services to remove barriers and prepare participants for work. Robin’s 30 years of workforce development include 22 years with Vocational Guidance Services. Robin attended Cleveland State University