



Charlene Hunter James has served as the Director of the Harris County Area Agency on Aging since 1991. During her thirty-one year tenure with the Department of Health and Human Services, she has served in different positions ranging from health planning and evaluation, health center management to program administration. Her efforts to strengthen the aging network locally are reflected in Area Agency on Aging collaborative partnerships with public and private organizations serving the elderly and caregivers.

Through her leadership, she has enhanced the diversity of Area Agency on Aging Network Providers to meet the service needs of elders of color. At the state and national levels, Mrs. James recently completed a three-year tenure as a delegate on the National Institute on Senior Centers, National Council on Aging. She is currently a member of Aging Network Council of the American

Society on Aging and active with the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Mrs. James has completed the Advanced Elder Mediation Training conducted by the Center of Social Gerontology in conjunction with the University of Texas School of Nursing-Houston Center on Aging. She has been an active member of the Valley Advisory Board, housed in the Center on Aging, since September 1999.

For the past two years, Mrs. James has served on the National Advisory Committee for the Hurricane Fund for the Elderly, Grantmakers in Aging and coordinated special needs housing for Katrina evacuees in the Houston area. She continues to work with the Houston Health and Human Services Department's Office of Emergency Preparedness in addressing emergency preparedness issues of older adults with regards to the special needs registry and other related areas.

Mrs. James has a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Sociology, and Minor: Health Care Administration from Fisk University, Nashville, TN and a Master of Public Health in Health Administration and Planning from the University of Texas, School of Public Health. She is married to Dr. Andrew B. James, with whom she shares the public health profession; they have one daughter, Charlene-Mary.



*Charlene James, MPH*  
Community Advocate of the Year  
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