

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
March 18, 2019 7:59 am

Name

Virginia Turner

Address

Phone

Email

Citizenship Affirmation

I am a U.S. Citizen

Residency Affirmation

I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Statement of Intent

I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

Statement of Interest

Dear Citizens Commission selection committee,

Since I was extremely pleased the citizens commission vote was resoundly passed, I am submitting my name to take the next step and be part of the commission.

I have had a wonderful life/career having grown up in Newton, earned "pocket money" as a teenager, from summer work at the plastics factory down the street, as a nurses aid at Waltham Hospital. Pocket money then used to help me graduate from Boston College School of Nursing in 1968 ("pocket money" wouldn't help much now!) then joining the first group of nurses to go to Kenya for the Peace Corps. Back to Massachusetts to attend the Harvard School of Public Health (1980) then back again to Newton in 1994 to work remotely for Helen Keller International (all this outlined in the attached CV). I have been part of many strategic planning sessions but more important - set practices and interventions in motion. I am retired now but -- like many Americans -- I certainly would like to support bringing us together as a nation and buffering undue corporate influence while building influence by, for and of the people.
VMR Turner, DrPH

Résumé or Summary of Qualifications
Upload

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/486628527/71887710_commission_application-_turner_vm.pdf

Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the
previous five years

Unenrolled

City or Town where you reside

CARLISLE

Employment Status

Unemployed

**International
Public Health**
(Consultant – recent)

AFRICARE. Interim Country Director. Tanzania. January – March 2016.

Women’s Dignity (Utu Mwanamke). Interim Executive Director. Tanzania. January - June 2012 (*restructured organizational design*).

Better Way Foundation. Proposal Review. September 2010 - February 2011.

Women’s Dignity (Utu Mwanamke). Strategic planning support. Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. April 2010.

Health Partners International, Lewes UK. Public Health Advisor and Consultant. **SuNMaP** (Support for National Malaria Control Programme). February 2010 (program review meeting), June 2010 (planning workshop). Nigeria.

Save the Children/UK – Nigeria Programme.

- Health Programme Manager (*Interim*), January to May 2009. SCUK Advisor to PRRINN-MNCH Household Survey (Katsina, Yobe, Zamfara. 6,000+ households.
- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Team, September 2009.
- Concept Note for European Commission, November 2009 (with Director, from USA).

Pan African Capital Group (LLC). Private philanthropy grants advisor – health. July 2007. Liberia: July-August 2007, December 2007 and July 2008.

Britain Nepal Medical Trust. Evaluation of a program to explore ways to translate human rights to health realities. Nepal. Nov - Dec 2007. Organizational Advisor October-November 2009.

**International
Health Policy**

International Trachoma Initiative¹ (ITI). *Program Advisor.* Jan. 2000 to Aug 2001.

Helen Keller International (HKI), Public Health Advisor and Trachoma Task Force Coordinator, March 1992 – Dec. 1999 (‘97–‘99 living in Arusha, Tanzania). For both organizations, worked to advance the trachoma control initiative called “The **SAFE** strategy”. Established national trachoma control programs and a global initiative involving government ministries, national and international non-governmental organizations, The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF), The McKnight Foundation, Pfizer, Inc., WHO/PBD and others. National programs established and funded (Tanzania 1997, Ghana 2000, Mali 2000, etc.). **Trachoma Expert Committee (ITI),** 1998 - 1999.

**Outreach Education
and Advocacy (US)**

Program Coordinator. Women’s Eye Health Task Force (WEHTF). September 2004 to April 2006. The Schepens Eye Research Institute, Boston, USA.

**Public Health
Consultant (US)**

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), New York. Consultant to **ResPAC** – Research Policy Advisory Committee. HIV-related research priorities for New York State. October 2001 to May 2002

**International
Health Research**

Operational Research. *Height as a proxy for weight to determine azithromycin treatment for trachoma.* Multi-country survey to determine level of precision using “height sticks” by comparing the dose estimated by weight and height in rural community distribution programs. Published 2002. (HKI and ITI)

Director of Field Research. *Identification and referral of trichiasis cases.* Operational research to validate success of women’s credit groups (*microfinance support from*

¹ Trachoma (chlamydia trachomatis) is a preventable, infectious eye disease that may eventually cause blindness in adults, especially women.

The McKnight Foundation and EMCF) in correctly identifying and referring for surgery women with trichiasis, Kongwa, Tanzania. 1997-1998. (HKI)

Director of Field Research. *Singida Trachoma Study – Evaluation of a Trachoma Rapid Assessment Method.* Operational research to test a rapid method (TRIM) of identifying communities at high risk for trachoma, Singida, Tanzania. Preliminary work completed July 1995, followed by a 12-village validation study in 1998. Published. (HKI)

Director of Field Research. *Tanzania Trichiasis Study.* The Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology/Johns Hopkins University (DCPO/JHU). October 1988 to Sept. 1989. Designed and conducted case-control study. Team of ten screened 6,000 women in eleven villages. Published.

Director of Field Research: *Tanzania Trachoma Study.* DCPO/JHU, Helen Keller International and the Ministry of Health conducted a population-based trachoma prevalence and risk factor study in Kongwa, Tanzania. May to September 1986. Published.

**International Public
Health Consultant**

Helen Keller International. South Pacific (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon and Cook Islands). Evaluated South Pacific Primary Eye Care Programs. September 1985 and December 1986

Westinghouse Health Systems. Tanzania. School Health Team. School Health Project Proposal Paper developed by Westinghouse Health Systems, USAID/Tanzania, and the Tanzanian Government. Winter 1979

**International Public
Health Program
Management**

Helen Keller International, New York. Public Health Specialist. Designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated blindness prevention and primary eye care programs. October 1983 to July 1985 (including planning meeting to Zambia 1984).

Phelps-Stokes Fund, WDC. Public Health Specialist. African Para-Medical Training Program. USAID grant. Health related education and training for refugees. August 1980 to August 1981.

Peace Corps

Kenya - Training Director, Extension Program for Rural Women and Water Development Training, June to September 1982. *Togo* - Health Program Training Design, January 1982. *Tanzania (Zanzibar)* - Training Director (Health Programs), August to December 1981. *Micronesia and Sierra Leone* - Medical Officer, 1978 and 1974, respectively. *Yemen Arab Republic* - Health Program Design, Winter 1976. *Kenya* - Health Program Training Director, Acting Director Medical Programs and Health Program Consultant, 1973. *Jamaica and Vermont* - Africa Region Health Education Training Program, The Experiment in International Living, Brattleboro, VT. 1972, 1971 and 1970. Peace Corps HQ Medical: Staging & Orientation on occasion in the 70s. *Kenya - Peace Corps Volunteer.* Sister Tutor for Enrolled Nurses, Coast General Hospital, Mombasa, Kenya, 1968-1970.

**Publications,
Articles and Reports**

Are Women More Likely to be Blind or Visually Impaired Than Men? Gibson I & Turner V, Arch Soc Esp Oftalmol 2005; 80: 323-326 (editorial).

Women's Eye Health Task Force (WEHTF). Posters, brochures and FACT Sheets. <http://www.womenseyehealth.org>. 2004-2006

Gwizdala, Robert and Virginia Turner. *HIV/AIDS Research Priorities for New York State*. AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), Report. 2002.

Basilion EV, Kilima PM, Turner VM, Mecaskey JW. *Height as a proxy for weight in determining azithromycin treatment for paediatric trachoma*. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, (2002) **96**, 691-694.

Zithromax® in Control of Blinding Trachoma – A Program Manager’s Guide. International Trachoma Initiative. (summary document, only, published by ITI 2003).

Anne Paxton² and The Singida Trachoma Study Team³. *Rapid Assessment of Trachoma Prevalence - Singida, Tanzania: A study to compare assessment methods*. Ophthalmic Epidemiology 2001 July; 8 (2-3): 87-96.

V. Francis and V.Turner, *Achieving Community Support for Trachoma Control, a manual for district health work*, WHO/PBL/93.36. (Describes in detail the **SAFE** strategy). http://www.who.int/blindness/achieving_en.pdf

Freedom From Trachoma (Brochure and Video), EMCF and HKI. With Joanne Edgar (EMCF), script development and editing. Council on Foundations, Wilmer Shields Rich Award (Gold Medal) 1995 and First Prize 1996 International Film Festival Award from NCIH, 1996, respectively

Turner VM; West SK; Muñoz B; Katala SJ; Taylor HR; Halsey N; Mmbaga BB; “Risk factors for trichiasis in women, Kongwa, Tanzania: a case-control study.” *Int J Epidemiology* 1993 Apr; 22 (2): 341-7.

Turner VM; “Risk factors for trichiasis in women, Kongwa, Tanzania: A case-control study”. *Doctoral Dissertation*. The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Department of International Health, 1991

Reports

Rights-based Programme Evaluation - 2007: *Translating Human Rights into Health Realities in Nepal: Exploring Rights-Based Approach to Health in the Eastern Development Region*. Submitted to Inter-Church Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO). Dr. Ram Rana (BNMT). External Evaluator: VMR Turner, DrPH. <http://www.britainnepalmedicaltrust.org.uk/reports.html>

Turner, VM; Shayo, A; Mmbaga, BB; Katala, SJ; Mecaskey, JW et al, *Identifying Communities at Risk for Trachoma: Trachoma Rapid Identification Method (TRIM)*, A preliminary study. WHO Technical Meeting. Geneva, June 1996

Turner, VM; Trachoma Research Strategy Statement and Health Research Capacity Building for the Program in Tropical Disease Research. *The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation*, July 1987 to September 1992

² The Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, USA

³ ARJ Shayo and HTZ Yongolo, the Ministry of Health, Tanzania; Sidney J. Katala, Helen Keller International; Susan Izett (preliminary data analysis) Helen Keller International (consultant); Virginia Turner, Helen Keller International; Beatriz Muñoz, Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

Education

- 1991 DrPH, Division of Disease Control, Department of International Health,
The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- 1980 MPH, **Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1968 BS, **Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Language: Kiswahili

Rights-Based Approach (RBA) Training. Save the Children, UK. April 2007