



**DEPARTMENT OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**Biosketch**

**Dr. Dawn M. Adams** is the Director of Health Services within Developmental Services for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The focus of her role is to work with individuals, families, and community and state government stakeholders to develop local health/medical-based resources and establish a statewide infrastructure of health supports. She is also responsible for overseeing the PASRR process for individuals with IDD, to ensure the de-institutionalization of individuals currently living unnecessarily in SNFs and large ICFs. In addition, along with DBHDS' Medical Director, she is accountable for the medical/administrative oversight of Hiram Davis Medical Center.



Dr. Adams is a certified adult nurse practitioner, integrative health counselor, and author. She has been a direct care provider for nearly 30 years to patients in a variety of settings including acute care medicine, bariatric surgery, primary care, and home care. She is also an adjunct professor at Old Dominion University teaching Health Policy to doctoral nursing students, and author of *Weight, That's Not The Issue: Little steps toward big changes*, (2010). Dr. Adams earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Old Dominion University (2013) where she was given the "Scholar Award" amongst her peers in recognition of outstanding scholarship and research. Her research focused on access to care for vulnerable populations through nurse-led clinics. She earned her BSN (1986) from James Madison University, a MSN (1989) from the University of Virginia with a concentration in Community Health and Organizational Development, and a post-graduate certification as an ANP (1999) from Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2008 she received her Health Counselor Certification from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition via Columbia University (2008), has level II certification in both human and animal Reiki and is a student of meditation.

**Contact:**

Dawn M. Adams, DNP, ANP-BC, CHC  
Director Health Services  
E-mail: [dawn.adams@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:dawn.adams@dbhds.virginia.gov)  
(804) 786.1203 **OFFICE**  
(804) 692.0077 **FAX**  
1220 Bank Street  
PO Box 1797  
Richmond, VA 23218-1797  
URL: [www.dbhds.virginia.gov](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov)