



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

JACK BARBER, MD
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

Office of Integrated Health

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BioSketch

Heather Martin is the Program Specialist for the Office of Integrated Health for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The focus of Heather's role is program support, data management and operations.



Heather was born and raised just north of Boston, Massachusetts and moved to Virginia in 2003 to help care for her grandmother with dementia. Having worked in accounting and administration for most of her adult life, Heather decided to attend VCU and finally finish her degree. While starting out as a business major, Heather fell in love with sociology and the study of group behavior so switched to a human services track. Heather received her bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology in addition to a certification in gender violence intervention. Heather has worked in the Richmond area in homeless services, substance abuse services, domestic and sexual violence intervention, and most recently as a resource manager for VCU Massey Cancer Center.

While at VCU, Heather managed the patient resource libraries, wig salons and the volunteer program. She developed and managed many programs including a patient peer-to-peer network, a patient advocacy volunteer program, a patient and family advisory council, a resource review council, and a farmers market on campus for patients living in food deserts. Non-cancer specific programs were not funded by VCU so Heather wrote grants to fund new initiatives and all patient assistance programs. Heather developed any new educational materials with a passion for health literacy/plain language and formats for the visually impaired. She served on the health literacy committee for the Cancer Patient Education Network (CPEN) to help develop best practice tools for the cancer education community.

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