



AUDRENA SPENCE, MSW, LSW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALUMET CENTER



Audrena Spence is the executive director of Metropolitan Family Services Calumet Center, a comprehensive human services agency providing numerous services to individuals and families on Chicago's far South Side. Spence, a licensed social worker, has more than 20 years' experience in human services and is an active community leader who works on many collaborations within Chicago's greater Roseland community and beyond.

Under Spence's leadership Metropolitan Calumet, called the "Miracle on 103rd Street," has grown from having a \$5 million budget in 2007 to one that currently totals \$8.2 million. Last year the Calumet Center served 14,367 clients and their families, the majority living under the federal poverty line. Metropolitan Calumet empowers clients with programs ranging from youth leadership and economic development to senior care and violence intervention. Metropolitan Calumet is part of Metropolitan Family

Services, which has been empowering Chicago-area families to reach their greatest potential and positively impact their communities since 1857.

Professionally Audrena is a living personification of Ken Blanchard's quote "Leadership is not something you do to people; it's something you do with people." It is her everyday goal to motivate her staff to think critically and strategically about solutions to improve clients' lives. She believes in the teamwork approach - that everyone brings value and enrichment to the process. In addition she promotes self-care among her employees, emboldens them to move from good to great, and believes in team power coupled with overwhelming family support.

A visionary who leads by example, Audrena's civic and community involvement spans two decades. Honors include being selected by Leadership Greater Chicago for its 2013 Leadership Fellows Class. She also completed the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL) program in 2011. In addition, she actively works in the community with organizations including the Community of African American Mental Health Professionals (Treasurer), the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Black Social Workers (Immediate Past President), Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc. (Life Member), and The Links, Inc. (Lake Shore Chapter).

Some of Audrena's most recent awards include the Chicago Defender's Women of Excellence (2012), State Farm's "Go To Bat" Community Service Award (2012), the National PanHellenic Council Chicago - Community Service Leadership Award (2014), the Society of Mannequin (2014), and she was a runner up for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Giselle M. Casanova Leadership Award (2013 and 2014).

Audrena earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her loving family includes her husband, William A. Spence, and their two sons, William and Stephen.