

CURRICULUM VITAE

I Identifying Details

Name: Bhekisenzo Boyce Bouylix
Surname: Mgcina
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Tel:
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Occupation: Traditional Health Practitioner

Previous Positions:

- a. Gauteng Mental Health Review Board member (2017 – 2019)
- b. Adjudication Member, National Lottery Commission (2013 – 2016)
- c. Commissioner: Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Community Rights (2004 – 2008)
- d. Council Member for Freedom Park: Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee (2009 – 2013)
- e. Member of the Panel of Experts for the Development of Policy on Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage – National Department of Arts and Culture (2009 – 2012)

Other Memberships:

- a. Founding member and Chairperson of Zifozonke Traditional Healers Association based at Zola Community Clinic, SOWETO.
- a. Member of the Mayoral HIV & Aids Committee
- b. Member of the Moral Regeneration Movement in Johannesburg
- c. Member of University of Johannesburg Interfaith Ministers

II Special Courses and Qualifications

2010 – Completed course in Project Management and Marketing with the Professional Development Foundation.

Other courses completed include:

- ◆ Certificates in "Save a Life" from St John Ambulance
- ◆ Course in Basic Tuberculosis
- ◆ Introduction to Psychology
- ◆ Healthy Love Facilitators Training - to educate women on HIV/Aids transmission, prevention and safer sex
- ◆ Completed Course "Hands Off - Say No to Child Abuse"
- ◆ Basic Counselling Skills
- ◆ Advanced Counselling Skills
- ◆ Community Care Workers Training - Morbidity, Hygiene, Nutrition and Anatomy
- ◆ Certificate on Child Abuse Dynamics and Handling Disclosures of Sexually Abused Children

III Skills, Knowledge and Competencies and Services Rendered:

Rituals and Social Practices

This is an area of high competency and experience for me. I have done the following:

- ◆ As a Traditional Health Practitioner, I use the wisdom of the ages through sacred rituals as a vehicle to promote healing and development for individuals, families and communities. Rituals are at the core of my practice.
- ◆ I also have knowledge of traditional medicines and strive to preserve this resource as there is very little documentation of the value thereof from indigenous practitioners.
- ◆ Promotion and protection of cultural rights through raising community awareness, advocacy, facilitation community and using traditional dispute resolution methodologies
- ◆ Promoting positive (non-abusive) Traditional African rituals and customs
- ◆ Protection of sacred sites – through community education to appreciate sacred sites and the spiritual value thereof
- ◆ Nature preservation and conservation – teaching communities and raising awareness to other Traditional Health Practices on responsible harvesting
- ◆ Worked with researchers from different academic institutions, documenting Indigenous Knowledge - including the use of herbs and protective rituals

Community development and social cohesion

- ◆ Conducted community education and networking for social cohesion at community level
- ◆ Mediation and conflict resolution in areas where there are disputes related to culture and custom
- ◆ Transferred indigenous knowledge to schools and institutions of higher learning – teaching cultural values and African Heritage. I get invited by the University of Johannesburg annually to conduct a healing session for students, including debriefing after trauma, using cultural rituals
- ◆ Community mobilization around issues of human rights and access to social and health services

Research

I have participated in a number of research initiative, as a member of research teams including:

- ◆ Research on the development of HIV prevention vaccine as part of the Community Advisory Board. I recruited volunteers and was part of the review panel
- ◆ Part of the research team looking into traditional herbs that could be harmful to pregnant mothers
- ◆ Part of documenting IKS as a member of the Panel of Experts
- ◆ Part of the research team looking into the impact of water fetching activities on the rights of children which was commissioned by the International Labour Organisation
- ◆ I have contributed to research on cultural practices and children rights which was conducted by Advocacy Aid in rural areas of KZN, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape
- ◆ I have experience in facilitating focus group discussions, one –on –one interviews as well as in facilitating community dialogues as a way of gathering research information.

Primary Health Care

- ◆ Trained in Primary Health Care - forged partnerships and collaboration between the formal primary health care sector and the traditional healers. Zifozonke is part of the primary health care team, receiving referrals from the health sector on a regular basis.

I also conduct the following:

- ◆ Basic counselling on management of illnesses, using traditional rituals, customs and traditional medicines
- ◆ Marriage and family counselling using peace circles and other restorative justice processes
- ◆ First Aid - both western and traditional forms
- ◆ TB – DOT and TB awareness raising
- ◆ Promotion of breastfeeding as part of the Department of Health's Guidelines
- ◆ Conduct campaigns on cancer awareness in partnership with the Dept of Health and the Cancer Association

HIV/Aids

Competency and practical experience include:

- ◆ Basic counseling on HIV/Aids and STIs
- ◆ Home-based Care for terminally ill patients
- ◆ Conducts door-to-door and household-based educational campaigns, condom distribution
- ◆ Prevention campaigns
- ◆ Grief counseling

Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Prevention

Conduct training on child abuse and its management to Traditional Healers. The aim of this is to get healers involved constructively in child protection matters. The programme is also aimed at addressing negative stigma attached to traditional healers and child abuse (including HIV/Aids).

- ◆ Conducts community awareness and education campaign on child abuse
- ◆ Provides family counseling and referrals
- ◆ Trained in Restorative Justice and Family Group Conferencing

- ◆ Conducts awareness campaigns in schools and churches
- ◆ Provides trauma counseling to victims of abuse
- ◆ Human Rights, children's rights and legal advice on issues relating to children.
- ◆ Social mobilisation
- ◆ Community-based surveillance and monitoring of child protection and advising municipality
- ◆ Use traditional approaches of conducting peace circles with couples and doing referrals to Department of Social Development on suspected cases of GBV
- ◆ Mobilisation of the Traditional Healing Community to identify and report child abuse and GBV cases
- ◆ Community-based surveillance and monitoring of violence against children and women and advising municipality on strategic actions'
- ◆ Worked with UNICEF and the Department of Social Development to in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal to train Traditional Health Practitioners on child protection, GBV and elimination of harmful cultural practices
- ◆ Was part of the SABS team that developed a Code of Ethics be used by Traditional Health Practitioners to protect the rights of vulnerable groups.

IV Papers Presented

- ◆ Paper on Death and Dying at the South African Hospice Association Conference
- ◆ Trained Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Social Workers at Weskoppies Hospital on Mental Illness and Traditional Responses
- ◆ Delivered Paper to the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural Religious and Linguistic Rights
- ◆ Paper on Cultural Knowledge and Medicine delivered at the South African National Conference of Community Nurses
- ◆ Trained Social Workers on Traditional Healers and Child Sexual Abuse

References:

Mrs Valerie Pillay - Director, Morval Company,
 Ms Lulama Seti. National Lotteries Commission, Pretoria.
 Zibuyile Cele – Member Zifozoneke Traditional Healers Association