

**THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.**  
**1044 Kokomo Key Lane**  
**Delray Beach, Florida 33483-6034**  
**(561) 330-8397**  
**e-mail: tdwatkins@aol.com**

## **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

A dynamic, results-driven professional who possesses the proven ability to coordinate activities of high ranking officials from various backgrounds to achieve collective goals. Recognized as a leader able to make quantum improvements in business, educational and, health and human services through expert planning, development, leadership and management of complex organizations.

## **CAREER SUMMARY**

### *Executive Director*

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.  | 1996 - Present |
| EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP of Palm Beach County, Inc., West Palm Beach, Florida   | 1996- 1999     |
| <i>Special Assistant to the President for Public School Initiatives and<br/>Director of the Detroit Center for Charter Schools</i> |                |
| WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY. Detroit, Michigan  | 1991 - 1996    |
| <i>Professor, College of Education and College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs</i>  |                |
| WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY. Detroit, Michigan  | 1991 - 1996    |
| <i>Director, Department of Mental Health</i>   |                |
| STATE OF MICHIGAN. Lansing, Michigan   | 1987 - 1990    |
| <i>Chief Deputy Director, Department of Mental Health</i>  |                |
| STATE OF MICHIGAN. Lansing, Michigan   | 1984 - 1986    |
| <i>Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Mental Health</i>  |                |
| STATE OF MICHIGAN. Lansing, Michigan   | 1983 - 1984    |
| <i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor</i>   |                |
| STATE OF MICHIGAN. Lansing. Michigan   | 1982 - 1983    |
| <i>Deputy Campaign Manager</i>   |                |
| BLANCHARD FOR GOVERNOR COMMITTEE. Ferndale, Michigan   | 1982           |
| <i>Management Consultant</i>   |                |
| PLANTE AND MORAN, INC. (CPA firm) Southfield, Michigan   | 1981 - 1982    |
| <i>Acting Executive Director</i>   |                |
| WAYNE CENTER (Mental Health Agency) Detroit, Michigan  | 1980- 1981     |
| <i>Elected Member, Wayne County Charter Commission</i>   |                |
| COUNTY OF WAYNE. Detroit, Michigan   | 1980- 1982     |
| <i>Administrative Assistant/Coordinator</i>  |                |
| YOUTH LIVING SERVICES, INC. Inkster, Michigan  | 1976- 1977     |

## **EDUCATION**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Doctorate in Education Administration</i> |             |
| WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY                       | In Progress |
| <i>Masters in Social Work Administration</i> |             |
| WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY                       | 1979        |
| <i>Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice</i> |             |
| MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY                    | 1977        |

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

1996 - Present ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.

Executive Director:

- Chief executive officer of private, invitation-only, business association composed of chairs/presidents/CEO's of top 130 firms in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.
- Coordinate senior business volunteers to have a positive impact on K-12 public education, higher education, transportation, crime, environment, economic development and local and state government programs.
- Enhanced workforce development training.

1996 - 1999 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Executive Director:

- Raised and distributed thousands of dollars to innovative and creative teachers through mini-grants.
- Created the Sun-Sentinel Success School Leadership Award to recognize competence and leadership skills of principals of public schools.
- Organized World *Class* School training sessions where citizens learned how to make a positive impact on their schools.
- Organized more than 60 former "teachers of the year" recipients to provide input to the Superintendent, School Board and community leaders on how to enhance the quality of public education.

1991 - 1996 WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Special Assistant to the President for Public School Initiatives

Director, Detroit Center for Charter Schools:

- Created first Public Charter School in the State of Michigan. Organized the efforts of various academic and administrative University departments to help produce a new public school for disadvantaged youth.
- Coordinated, educated and negotiated with city government/community organizations contracts to create a climate for public school reform.
- Recognized expert on public charter schools across the United States and Canada.
- Created partnerships with business, health, human services and other community organizations to benefit students.

1983 - 1990 STATE OF MICHIGAN

Director, Department of Mental Health (1987-1990):

- Governor's appointee responsible for the overall leadership and management of the Department of Mental Health which was composed of 10,000 employees and had more than a \$1 billion annual budget.
- Reaccredited all hospitals for patients with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.
- Improved community-based services by creating and executing a plan that studied incremental, effective changes and carried them out in a steady, cost-effective manner.
- Developed a positive working relationship with legislators from both political parties.

Chief Deputy Director, Department Of Mental Health (1984-1986):

- Directed the clinical, program and administrative operations at 24 state hospitals and 55 community mental health centers in 83 counties.
- Managed the planning and development of over a billion dollar budget for the Department of Mental Health.
- Motivated and educated hospital and health center supervisors in order to constantly establish new procedures and ensure quality.
- Coordinated teams of individuals with different skills to achieve a common goal.

Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Mental Health (1983-1984):

- Managed the administrative aspects of a \$1 billion state agency.
- Directed the beginning of the conversion from a mainframe information system to a microcomputer information system.
- Established a facility utilization study which resulted in the closing of the unnecessary State Hospitals and redirected resources into community-based programs.
- Learned various strategic planning processes.
- Served as Acting Director of Hospitals for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled.
- Coordinated labor relations with major labor unions including: UAW, AFI-CIO and AFSCME.

1982 - 1983 STATE OF MICHIGAN

Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

- Oversaw and helped direct various aspects of the first transition in 20 years of state government power to a new administration.
- Upgraded phone and technology capacity, thus enhancing overall communications for the Governor's office.
- Managed policy operations and issue coordination within the executive branch of state government.

1982 BLANCHARD FOR GOVERNOR COMMITTEE

Deputy Campaign Manager:

- Successfully worked with print and electronic media to produce positive public relations for the candidate.
- Oversaw daily operations of budget, scheduling, issue coordination and office management during the campaign.
- Created the big picture for staff to work toward everyday during the campaign, while at the same time monitoring and maintaining the organizational details necessary to achieve victory.

1981 - 1982 PLANTE AND MORAN (CPAs)

Management Consultant:

- Provided organizational planning and consulting to nonprofit government, health, human services and education agencies.
- Assisted a nursing home in developing more favorable billing rates with the State Social Services Department.
- Used new technology to increase personnel performance.

1980 - 1981 WAYNE CENTER (Mental Health Agency)

Acting Executive Director:

- Provided leadership and management to a comprehensive community mental health agency with a staff of more than 60 and a \$7 million budget.
- Negotiated the re-establishment of the agency's foster care license.
- Established a citizen quality task force to monitor the care in community group homes.
- Provided leadership which created a shared vision and common agenda within the organization.

1980 - 1982 COUNTY OF WAYNE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Elected Member of the Wayne County Charter Commission:

- Together with 26 other elected commissioners wrote the first home rule charter for Wayne County, the third largest county in the United States.
- Chaired the legislative committee and reduced the previous commission size from 27 members to 15 members.
- Coordinated and worked with members of both political parties to find bi-partisan solutions.

1976 - 1977 YOUTH LIVING CENTER/COUNTERPOINT RUNAWAY SHELTER

Administrative Assistant/Coordinator:

- Established this youth and family agency to provide quality alternative programs for troubled youth and their families in non-institutional settings.
- Developed invaluable skills in working with media and local elected officials to further the shelter's goals.
- Able to inspire local leaders to cooperate and assist in various programs sponsored by the shelter.

**SELECTED AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS**

- Consultant, Florida, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 1999-Present
- Graduate, Superintendent Prepared, Class 5, an National Urban Leadership Development Consortium sponsored by: Institute for Educational Leadership, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and the McKenzie Group, Inc., 1997-1998
- Graduate, Leadership Florida XVI, Florida Chamber of Commerce, 1997-1998
- Graduate, Leadership Palm Beach County, 1997-1998
- Advisory Board, Museum of Discovery and Science Academy of Excellence Charter School 1998-Present
- Graduate, World Class School Training, 1997
- Exemplar Award, National Network for Social Work Managers, 1996
- Leadership Appreciation Award, Board of Directors, Hope House of the Palm Beaches, 1996
- Board of Directors and Vice Chair, Center for Creative Education, 1996-1999
- K-12 School Superintendent Certification, State of Michigan, 1995
- Board of Directors and Chair, Earth Force, a national youth environmental and education program, 1997-Present
- Board of Directors, United Way of Palm Beach County, 1998-Present
- Board of Directors, Palm Beach County Annenberg Challenge, 1997-1999
- Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, Business Education Training Alliance, affiliated with the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1996.
- Member, Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer's Education Steering Committee 1994-1995
- Fellow, Michigan Political Leadership Program, a division of Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Inaugural Class, 1992
- Graduate, Leadership Detroit II, Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, 1980-1981

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Detroit News Magazine, *Status Offenders Need Alternatives*, 1979.
- Chinese-American Forum, China/Tiananmen Square, *A Non-Chinese Perspective*, 1990.
- Education Week, *So You Want to Start a Charter School*, 1995.
- The New Democrat, *Presumed Guilty*, 1996.
- Contributor, *So You Want to Start a Charter School*. Strategic Advice for Applicants, University of Washington/RAND Corporation, Institute for Public Policy and Management, 1996.
- The School Administrator Magazine, *Ready to Leap From Business to the Superintendency*, 1999.
- American School Board Journal, *The Charter Challenge*, 1999.
- Our Children, The National PTA Magazine, *You Say You Want a Revolution*, 1999/2000.
- Regular Columnist, Education Times, The Voice of Education Palm Beach County, Florida.
- Editorials in various state and local newspapers.