

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Annelle B. Primm

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Primm, Annelle
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 26, 2004 and September 22, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	13 Betacame SP videocassettes (5:56:01).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Psychiatrist Dr. Annelle B. Primm (1956 - ) served as Director of the City Division of Springfield State Hospital, a Maryland psychiatric hospital. Primm also held a variety of positions at Johns Hopkins, including staff psychiatrist, associate professor and the Director of Community Psychiatry. Primm was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 26, 2004 and September 22, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_109
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Annelle Beneé Primm was born on January 26, 1956 in Geneva, Switzerland. Her mother was a music teacher and her father a physician. She lived in Switzerland until she was four years old while her father was attending medical school. After earning his medical degree, her father moved the family to his native New York. She grew up in the bedroom community of New Rochelle and graduated from New Rochelle High School in 1972.

Although she received an academic scholarship to the University of Virginia, Primm decided to attend Harvard-Radcliffe in Boston. She earned her bachelor's of arts degree in biology in 1976. Despite taking off the second semester of her junior year to help care for her mother who was dying of cancer, she graduated with her class. In 1980, Primm earned her medical degree from Howard University. After completing her residency in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, she earned her MPH degree from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 1985.

While at Hopkins in 1985, she co-founded a program called COSTAR (Community Support Treatment and Rehabilitation), which provided in-home mental health treatment to patients. From 1985 until 1986, she worked as a psychiatrist at Provident Hospital in Baltimore. During this time she also worked as the director of the City Division of Springfield State Hospital, a Maryland psychiatric hospital. She also worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 1980 until 2004. She held a variety of positions at Hopkins including, staff psychiatrist, associate professor and the Director of Community Psychiatry.

In 1999, Primm produced a videotape called *Black and Blue* that highlighted depression in the African American community and encouraged minorities to seek treatment for mental illness. In 2001, she produced *Gray and Blue*, which helps senior citizens recognize and treat depression.

Currently, Primm works as the Director of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association. She also maintains a small private practice and is a psychiatric consultant to On Our Own, a drop-in center for adults with mental illness. She is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and the recipient of numerous awards for her work in community psychiatry.

She lives in Baltimore, Maryland her husband, Herbert, and daughter, India.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on July 26, 2004 and September 22, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 13 Betacame SP videocassettes. Psychiatrist Dr. Annelle B. Primm (1956 - ) served as Director of the City Division of Springfield State Hospital, a Maryland psychiatric hospital. Primm also held a variety of positions at Johns Hopkins, including staff psychiatrist, associate professor and the Director of Community Psychiatry.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Primm, Annelle

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Psychiatrist

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MedicalMakers

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, July 26, 2004 and September 22, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The

HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section A2004\_109\_002\_001, TRT: 0:29:26 2004/09/22

Dr. Annelle B. Primm was born on January 26, 1956 in Geneva, Switzerland. Her mother, Annie Delphine Evans Primm, was born in 1930, grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and attended Fisk University. Primm's father, HistoryMaker Dr. Beny J. Primm, was born in Williamson, West Virginia and raised in the Bronx, New York City. He graduated from West Virginia State College. Both of Primm's grandmothers had master's degrees and were teachers. Primm's parents met while her father was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and moved to Switzerland where her father completed medical school at Geneva University. At age three, Primm won a televised hula-hoop contest in Switzerland. Primm remembers her two younger sisters; her family's Christmas celebrations where they would sing and her mother played the piano; and attending school in Huntington, New York where she was the top student and the only African American student in her classes. When she was ten years old, her family moved to New Rochelle, New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section A2004\_109\_002\_002, TRT: 0:29:35 2004/09/22

Dr. Annelle B. Primm attended elementary school in Huntington, New York on Long Island. She was interested

in medicine because of her father's, HistoryMaker Beny J. Primm's, career and identified her interest in psychiatry from a young age. In 1966, her family moved to a middle class African American neighborhood in New Rochelle, New York where she was active in a Presbyterian youth group and attended Isaac E. Young Middle and New Rochelle High School. She was a cheerleader at both schools and played flute in the school band. Primm graduated high school in 1972, at the age of sixteen, and matriculated at Harvard-Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although, her freshman year was the first year women were allowed to live in Harvard Yard, she lived on the Radcliffe College campus. She credits Assistant Dean David L. Evans with fostering a supportive black Harvard-Radcliffe community. Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer during her freshman year and passed away during her senior year.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section A2004\_109\_002\_003, TRT: 0:30:05 2004/09/22

Dr. Annelle B. Primm remembers the cohesive African American community at Harvard-Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After her mother died in 1976, during her senior year of college, Primm helped to care for her two younger sisters while she attended Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. In medical school, Primm considered specializing in obstetrics and gynecology but eventually choose to enroll in a psychiatry residency program at Johns Hopkins University. She also completed her M.A. degree in public health at Hopkins and in 1985 co-founded COSTAR (Community Support Treatment and Rehabilitation), the first support program in an urban setting for individuals with severe mental illnesses, as part of her fellowship. Primm talks about health disparities and the stigma around mental illness in black communities, as well as the religious community's resistance to mental health services. In 1999, she produced 'Black and Blue,' a video series on depression in the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section A2004\_109\_002\_004, TRT: 0:29:59 2004/09/22

Dr. Annelle B. Primm talks about misdiagnoses of mental

illness and other barriers to mental healthcare in the African American community, such as the high costs. She believes that anxiety disorders are underdiagnosed in the African American community and schizophrenia is often misdiagnosed; that African American celebrities' discussion of their struggles with mental illnesses is useful in combating stigmas and encouraging people to seek treatment; and, that there need to be more African American psychiatrists. Primm shares advice for young people interested in mental health careers and reflects upon her life, her legacy, and how she would like to be remembered. Primm concludes by narrating her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section A2004\_109\_002\_005, TRT: 0:07:46 2004/09/22

Dr. Annelle B. Primm narrates her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:49 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_001E, TRT: 0:29:49 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:13 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_002E, TRT: 0:30:13 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:43 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_003E, TRT: 0:30:43 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_004, TRT: 0:23:50 2004/07/26

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Annelle B. Primm, Section B2004\_109\_001\_004E, TRT: 0:23:50 2004/07/26