

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Linda Rae Murray

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Murray, Linda Rae, 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray,
Dates:	August 30, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:19:40).
Abstract:	Medical instructor, internal medicine physician, and medical administrator Dr. Linda Rae Murray (1948 -) held a variety of high-ranking positions in health administration in Chicago, Illinois, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Most recently, Murray served as the chief medical officer of the Ambulatory & Community Health Network of the American Public Health Association. Throughout her career of health administration and medical practice, Murray also worked as a teacher, teaching internal medicine and midwifery, among other courses. Murray was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 30, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_151
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. Linda Rae Murray was born in Cleveland, Ohio on August 25, 1948. After graduating from Collinwood High School in 1966, Murray attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she earned her B.S. degree in mathematics in 1973.

Murray continued her education at UIC, earning her M.D. in 1977. Following the completion of her M.D., Murray attended the University of Illinois School of Public Health in Chicago, where she earned her master's of public health in 1980; she later returned to school to continue her education in the doctoral program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

After completing her medical degree, Murray became a resident physician in internal medicine and occupational therapy at Cook County Hospital, where she remained until 1980. In 1981, Murray left Cook County Hospital for Bethany Hospital, also in Chicago, and in 1983, became the medical director for the Manitoba Federation of Labour in Winnipeg, Canada. Murray returned to the United States in 1985, and began teaching at Meharry Medical College; in 1987, she returned to Chicago to work with the Chicago Department of Health. By 1992, Murray had become the medical director of the Near North Health Services Corporation. After a series of other high-level positions, Murray became the chief medical officer of Primary Care & Community Health: Ambulatory & Community Health Network of Cook County. Later, Murray became the attending physician at the Woodlawn Health Center. Throughout her career of health administration and medical practice, Murray also worked as a teacher, teaching internal medicine and midwifery, among other courses. In 2005, Murray was elected Chief Medical Officer of the Ambulatory & Community Health Network of the American Public Health Association, a position she would hold until 2009.

Murray was also an active member of her community, having been involved with dozens of groups and organizations over the years. From 1981 until 1983, Murray was a part of the First Congressional District of Illinois Health Task Force under Harold Washington; she returned to that role from 1985 to 1992 under Congressman Charles Hayes. Murray has received many awards, including the Daniel Hale Williams Award from the Cook County Physician's Association, and the Distinguished Service in the Health Field Award from the National Association of Minority Medical Educators.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 30, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Medical instructor, internal medicine physician, and medical administrator Dr. Linda Rae Murray (1948 -) held a variety of high-ranking positions in health administration in Chicago, Illinois, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Most recently, Murray served as the chief medical officer of

the Ambulatory & Community Health Network of the American Public Health Association. Throughout her career of health administration and medical practice, Murray also worked as a teacher, teaching internal medicine and midwifery, among other courses.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Murray, Linda Rae, 1948-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Murray, Linda Rae, 1948---Interviews

African American women educators--Interviews

African American women physicians--Interviews

Health services administrators--Interviews

Health reformers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Medical Instructor

Internal Medicine Physician

Medical Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|MedicalMakers

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. Linda Rae Murray, August 30, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section A2004_151_001_001, TRT: 0:29:20 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray was born on August 25, 1948 in Cleveland, Ohio. Her maternal great-grandfather was the president of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas and was born of an illegal marriage between a white man and an African American woman. Murray's maternal great-grandmother was born one year after

Emancipation. She worked as a domestic and made a deep impact on Murray. Murray's maternal grandmother attended Central State College in Wilberforce and became a nurse, and her maternal grandfather worked as a janitor in a department store. Murray's mother, Ruth Childress Murray, was born on October 10, 1927. She suffered from tuberculosis as a child. After attending Glenville High School, a majority white school in Cleveland, she dropped out to marry Murray's father who then enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. Although Murray's parents were not politically active, their political views influenced her. In the 1960s, she and her brother joined the Student Congress of Racial Equality.

African American women educators--Interviews.

African American women physicians--Interviews.

Health services administrators--Interviews.

Health reformers--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section A2004_151_001_002, TRT: 0:29:10 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray's father, Raymond Murray, was born in 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended East Technical High School and was well-read, but a high school counselor discouraged him from applying to college. After marrying Murray's mother, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during World War II. Murray and her two younger siblings were raised in public housing in the Scovill neighborhood of Cleveland, which was within walking distance of many cultural institutions. Murray attended nursery school at the Karamu House, then entered Marion-Sterling Elementary. While active in the Student Congress of Racial Equality, Murray participated in organizing a rent strike in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood and a citywide school boycott when majority-white schools refused to integrate, despite having the capacity to accommodate incoming for black students. During her period of civil rights activism, Murray also joined a Marxist study group, which led her to enter college after reconsidering her political work.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section A2004_151_001_003, TRT: 0:28:30 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray initially did not enjoy reading as a child because the librarian at Sterling Branch Library in Cleveland, Ohio recommended books below her reading level. When Murray selected her own books one day, she found that she loved reading. At Marion-Sterling Elementary School in Cleveland, she had a racist white teacher from the South. In the fourth grade, she transferred to Boulevard Elementary School in Cleveland Heights to take advanced classes. She coached a little league baseball team since gender restrictions prohibited her from playing officially. She attended the majority-white Collinwood High School when her family moved from the housing projects to Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood. At Collinwood, Murray had a black teacher who was a Radcliffe graduate. The teacher was impressed by Murray's term paper and encouraged her to attend college. Murray was active in school but also took days off regularly to visit the library and museum. Murray talks about her parents' and her atheism.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section A2004_151_001_004, TRT: 0:31:10 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray attended Collinwood High School in Cleveland, Ohio during a time when the city was battling over school integration. She was acquainted with Reverend Bruce W. Klunder, who was killed while protesting segregation. . When anti-integrationists from the neighborhood surrounded Collinwood and trapped students inside, Murray and other student leaders contacted the police and helped evacuate to the school. After graduating in 1966, Murray chose to attend University of Chicago to be in proximity to a black community. She was stopped by Chicago police who did not believe she was a student her first night at the University. Murray majored in mathematics, took a disappointingly Eurocentric sociology course and encountered leftist sociologist Richard Flacks. A friend's mother convinced her to consider a career in medicine, and Murray began to see its advantage instead of focusing strictly on community organizing. Murray also describes her involvement with the AIDS Pastoral Care Network.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section

A2004_151_001_005, TRT: 0:29:50 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray transferred from the University of Chicago to the more affordable University of Illinois at Chicago where she completed her bachelor's degree in mathematics and took pre-med courses. After deciding to pursue medical school, she became pregnant. Despite the challenges, Murray decided to keep the pregnancy and pursue her plan to become a doctor. Although her family was supportive, Murray encountered sexist and racist professors and administrators who refused to write recommendations or help her obtain financial aid. She was finally aided by her supervisor at Cook County Hospital who kept her on the research assistant payroll, which allowed her to attend the University of Illinois College of Medicine for free her first year. In medical school, she bonded with minority students and was active in the Student National Medical Association despite her dislike of the school's teaching methods. Murray also met HistoryMakers Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Dr. Billie Wright Adams and Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section
A2004_151_001_006, TRT: 0:29:40 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray completed her M.D. at University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois in 1977. She also completed a master's in public health at Cook County Hospital where she worked with labor organizers as a member of the House-staff Association of Cook County. Unable to find a job in Chicago after her residency, Murray moved to Canada to work on instating a health clinic for the Manitoba Federation of Labour in Winnipeg. She then directed the occupational health program at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee before working for the Chicago Department of Health. She rejoined Cook County Hospital, working in internal medicine and focusing on minority health issues. Murray served on the board of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in the early 1990s during the time of the proposed Clinton health plan. Through APHA, she met Dr. Paul B. Cornely, who influenced her commitment to public health. Murray shares her thoughts on the factors needed for healthy communities.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Section
A2004_151_001_007, TRT: 0:22:00 2004/08/30

Dr. Linda Rae Murray strongly admired Dr. Paul B. Cornely's accomplishments in integrating the American Medical Association and his pioneering work in the field of public health. In 1998, Murray attended the annual dinner hosted by American Public Health Association where HistoryMaker The Honorable Dr. David Satcher was the recipient of the Paul Cornely Award for Social Activism. Murray describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community and how she would like to be remembered. She also reflects upon her life and legacy. She concludes by narrating her photographs.