Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Rumford, Elsie, 1945-

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford,

Dates: April 2, 2005

Bulk Dates: 2005

Physical Description: 6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:50:07).

Abstract: Suicidologist and school social work coordinator Elsie Rumford (1945 - ) presented to the California State Senate Subcommittee on Medical Education and Health Needs in support of SB1814, the Suicide Prevention Act of 1974. Rumford worked with several public health and suicide prevention organizations to help raise awareness about the rising prevalence of suicide within the African American community. Rumford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 2, 2005, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2005_095

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Suicidologist Elsie R. Rumford was born in Berkeley, California, on January 15, 1945; her mother, Elsie R. Carrington Rumford, was a teacher in Berkeley, and her father, pharmacist William Byron Rumford, was the first African American elected official in northern California. Attending Longfellow Elementary School, Burbank Junior High School and Berkeley High School, Rumsford earned her
B.A. degree in Spanish and sociology from San Francisco State University in 1967, and her M.S.W. degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1973.

Rumford’s graduate thesis on the rising black suicide rate challenged popular thinking on the subject. After speaking before the Charles R. Drew Post Graduate Medical School, Martin Luther King Hospital, and the Suicide Prevention Center of Los Angeles in 1974, Rumford presented to the California State Senate Subcommittee on Medical Education and Health Needs in support of SB1814, the Suicide Prevention Act of 1974. Rumford appeared on many television and radio talk shows to discuss black suicides and worked as a script consultant to a suicide-related episode of The Jeffersons in 1976. Rumford worked as a clinical social worker for the Dignity Center, a Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center program, from 1974 to 1975, and El Nido Services from 1976 to 1981. From 1985 to 1988, Rumford was a school-based counselor for the Carson Child Guidance Partnership Program for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and from 1988 to 1996 she was their outreach coordinator. After 1997 Rumford began working as a team leader/DIS Counselor at the Los Angeles Unified School District’s School Mental Health.

A member of the American Association of Suicidology; the National Association of Black Social Workers; and the National Association of Social Workers, Rumsford received the Carson Coordinating Council’s Outstanding Service Award in 1996. Rumford, who had three sons, remained a resident of Los Angeles.

Elsie Rumford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 2, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Elsie Rumford was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 2, 2005, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Suicidologist and school social work coordinator Elsie Rumford (1945 - ) presented to the California State Senate Subcommittee on Medical Education and Health Needs in support of SB1814, the Suicide Prevention Act of 1974. Rumford worked with several public health and suicide prevention organizations to help raise awareness about the rising prevalence of suicide within the African American community.

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:

Rumford, Elsie, 1945-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rumford, Elsie, 1945--Interviews
Public health personnel--Interviews

African American social workers--Interviews

Community mental health personnel--Interviews

Health reformers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Los Angeles Unified School District

Occupations:

Suicidologist

School Social Work Coordinator

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|MedicalMakers|EducationMakers

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


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 Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_001, TRT: 0:29:59 2005/04/02
To be reviewed.
Public health personnel--Interviews.
African American social workers--Interviews.
Community mental health personnel--Interviews.
Health reformers--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_002, TRT: 0:29:32 2005/04/02
To be reviewed.

Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_003, TRT: 0:29:22 2005/04/02
To be reviewed.
Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_004, TRT: 0:28:36 2005/04/02
   To be reviewed.
Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_005, TRT: 0:29:11 2005/04/02
   To be reviewed.
Video Oral History Interview with Elsie Rumford, Section A2005_095_001_006, TRT: 0:23:27 2005/04/02
   To be reviewed.