LCDR Traci M. Murray, PhD, MPH, RN, NHDP-BC, CPH

United States Public Health Service

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Traci M. Murray has been a registered nurse for over 10 years with experience in clinical research, epidemiology, and nursing education. LCDR Murray joined the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as a Scientific Advisor for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) and HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) studies.

In recognition of her significant impact, she received the 2023 NIDA Director's Award for Diversity for her outstanding leadership in guiding the DEI initiatives for two of the nation's largest long-term studies of brain development and child health in the United States. To advance the missions of the studies and the agency, she voluntarily accepted and excelled in numerous additional roles. She became a Co-Chair for one study's DEI Committee which includes representatives from 27 research sites across the country. LCDR Murray quickly brought vision and organization to the committee's activities using lessons learned from other large national studies and the NIH's DEI initiatives.

She is also strongly committed to achieving the NIH and NIDA's goals toward a more diverse workforce through mentoring and advocating for underrepresented groups in biomedical research. LCDR Murray serves as a mentor and coach for early-career researchers through ABCD's Scientific Training in Addiction Research Techniques (START) program, Professional Development Workgroup, and 1:1 engagement with study trainees and research assistants.

Prior to joining NIDA, LCDR Murray spent nearly three years with the Indian Health Service serving the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the Navajo Nation in various clinical and administrative roles. She previously served as Assistant Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in Dallas, where she created and led several initiatives, including the national Partnerships for Equity initiative to address behavioral health inequities through innovative cross-agency partnerships, and The Yard, an internal diversity initiative for HBCU alumni and other interested staff.

LCDR Murray earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing with honors from Texas Christian University, her PhD at University of Texas at Tyler, and her Master's in Public Health at University of North Texas Health Science Center. She enjoys reading, traveling, and trying new restaurants with her wife, Kerin.