



Willard Tanner is a native of Winston-Salem, NC. He attended and graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School here in Winston-Salem. Willard obtained the B.A. degree in Sociology from Winston-Salem State University and the M.A. degree in Community Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

Willard is married to the former Lizzie Brunson. They have one daughter and two granddaughters.

Willard has spent the past 30+ years working in the public sector. Organizations that he's been affiliated with include: Experiment- In-Self-Reliance, Inc., City of Winston-Salem's Workforce Development Department, Vocational Rehabilitation, Winston-Salem Urban League, Winston-Salem State University, and Family Services Child Development Division. Willard currently is employed by the Forsyth County Department of Public Health as a Health Education Specialist. As a Public Health Education Specialist, he works with numerous teams of community volunteers and helps engage residents in the long-term challenge of improving our community's health.

As a Public Health Education Specialist, he coordinates the Healthy Community Coalition and has participated in the state-wide Healthy Carolinians process. Willard also assisted in coordinating the BeHealthy Coalition, provided support to the Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition and provided support to the Health Policy Unit/Preventive Health Division of the Health Department.

While employed by the Health Department, Willard was able to receive extensive training in working with issues involving health disparities.

Willard was also a member of the Health Department's Anti-Racism Team. This team's mission is to improve the health and well being of all persons in Forsyth County through community health promotion, disease prevention and protection of the environment.

Other teams that Willard has worked closely with as Coordinator of the Healthy Community Coalition include: Health Equity Action Team, Domestic Violence Team, and the Mental Health/Homelessness Team.

In the community, Willard served for 12 years on the Board of CenterPoint Human Services. While serving this community as a board member of CenterPoint, he played a vital role in assisting the board make important decisions concerning the rights of those citizens with mental challenges.

Willard has also served on the United Way's Impact Council for two years as one of two co-chairs for the Health Team. This council evaluates many health related organizations throughout the community to determine funding needs.

As of May 1, 2010, Willard decided to take early retirement with the Forsyth County Department of Public Health in order to begin a new chapter in his life.

