

Cheryl Kegg oral History

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EM: My name is Emma McMantis I am a UNCW student nurse we are in Wilmington NC conducting interviews at the Public Health Association Conference on October 28,2010

EM: Could you please state your name

CK: Cheryl Kegg

EM: Okay and where did you grow up

CK: I grew up in Akron OH

EM: Okay would you mind stating your date of birth

CK:12/17/1950

EM: Alright and why did you decide to become a nurse

CK: Um I wanted to uh I liked medicine and I liked the idea of working with people

EM: alright and where did you go to school

CK: The University of Akron which I was the third graduating class of the BSN program

EM: And what year 1972

CK: Please tell me a little bit about your nursing education especially as it relates to community health

EM: I had a really good education a lot of the initial two years was the hospital work but by my senior year I was able to do out patient mental health rotation I did a visiting nurse rotation and the county public health rotation

EM: Why did you decide to become a community health nurse

CK: I always loved public health even when I was in school

EM: Tell me about your first job in community health

CK: I was a visitor worker and I actually did work out in Georgetown County and did public health work there with the Bristol Project and that was back in 72 -73 then I left and came into public health here in NC in 1978

EM: And what was your position

CK: At that time back then you were a generalist we did a little bit of everything we did school health maternity clinics some home health nursing just a little bit of everything

EM: And what is your current position

CK: I am currently a supervisor on the child service program in Durham

EM: Do you have a most memorable story about your community health career

CK: Well one of the things I have noticed over the 30 years that I have been in Durham in public health is just the changes and focus of health in that time period and initially I went out and did the generalist program um and working with a very rural population and then how urban the county became over that time period and the issues with public health such as the crack cocaine and aids and so your practice changed

EM: If you had to do it again would you become a community health nurse

CK: Hahaha Yes

EM: Alright is there anything else you want to share about future nurses that are interested in community health

CK: It is a wonderful way to get to know your community its just a wonderful job

EM: Rewarding

CK: Rewarding very

EM: Is there anything else you would like to share

CK: That's all

EM: Okay thank you