

Sarah Polight-Bates, LPN, SRN, AAPCI Board of Trustees, brings to AAPCI a broad range of knowledge in health care, child care and nursing services. Sarah began her career as a Practical Nurse in 1996. Devoted to community Health Nursing, (with an emphasis on pediatrics and Women's Health) she joined the staff of the Harlem Hospital Center. One year later, Sarah became the Charge Nurse of OB-GYN at Harlem Hospital's famed Sydenham Clinic on 125th Street. In 1999, continuing in the community health tradition, Sarah was afforded the opportunity (through the American Cancer Society) to work directly in the neighborhoods of the lower East-side of Manhattan and her community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Trained as a Breast Health Coordinator by the American Cancer Society (ACS), Sarah conducted seminars in these communities that led to more than one hundred women receiving free or low-cost mammograms. She also served as a Coordinator and Committee member of the Sister to Sister Breast Health Campaign of Bedford Stuyvesant which resulted in more than thirty women receiving free mammograms. Beginning in May 2000 until August 2006, Sarah worked as a Pediatric Nurse, gaining additional knowledge and experience at Montefiore Medical Center, Maimonides Hospital/Pediatric Center and the Center for Health and Healing (Beth Israel).

In October 2006, Sarah founded the Bedford Village Garden Day School to help fulfill the need for quality pre-schools in the Bedford Stuyvesant community. Her mission for the school in part, is to assist each child through his/her unique learning process with activities designed to facilitate intellectual growth, foster independence and develop critical thinking skills. The school is equally dedicated to making sure that the children know that there are no boundaries to excellence. To assist them with these first endeavors toward developing into intelligent and productive individuals, with a good sense of autonomy, citizenship and community completes the mission.

Sarah is a member of a number of community-based organizations, including the Child Development Support Corporation (CDSC) and the Child Care Inc., just to name a few. She is a professional member of the NFLPN (Nursing Organization). Sarah has received several awards, including the award for Clinical Excellence in Pediatric Nursing and the award for Outstanding Service, awarded by Jacqueline Charles, Principal M.S. 35.