

Dr Kerrin Begg

Public Health Specialist

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Kerrin attained her MBChB at the University of Cape Town in 1994, a Diploma in Child Health in 1996 and a Diploma in Obstetrics in 1997. She then completed her medical specialisation, obtaining a Fellowship in Public Health Medicine (CMSA) in 2002. Kerrin is a trained Depth Facilitator, an accredited Thomas PPA practitioner, as well as certified in The Leadership Circle Profile™ and Barrett Values Culture Transformation Tools.

After a brief stint in clinical practice, Kerrin moved into the field of management, gaining wide-ranging experience in hospital and health services management. In the public sector, she managed an 80-bed district hospital, improving efficiencies and performance whilst commissioning revenue generation projects and implementing the first district roll-out of Prevention-of-Mother-to-Child-Transmission of HIV programme, as well as collaborating in the Initiative for Sub-District Support (ISDS). In the private sector, Kerrin was General Manager of a 103-bed tertiary care hospital in the JSE-listed Netcare Group. Having first improved service levels at this troubled hospital, she developed and executed the strategy to relocate and amalgamate its clinical services to a JV Private Academic Hospital. Subsequently, Kerrin was interim Manager and Director of the JV. Kerrin then managed a 247 licensed-bed tertiary care hospital enabling a phenomenal 17,5% growth in activity over a 12-month period.

For over 10 years, Kerrin consulted in the fields of strategy, health policy, leadership, mentorship and coaching, performance processes, organisational design and organisational culture. Her clients have spanned the health care sector (in the public, private, parastatal and non-governmental sectors), construction, agriculture and entrepreneurial ventures. Kerrin spent 2-and-a-half years with the National Health Laboratory Service as Interim Executive Manager: Academic Relations, Research and QA, as well as assisting the organisation in the development of its 5-year strategy and strategically aligned Balanced Scorecards, as well as National Laboratory Policy amongst others. Kerrin project managed a CDC-funded systems analysis of the Clinic-Laboratory Interface in the public sector for SEAD consulting over an 18-month period. Kerrin spent 2-and-a-half years with PathCare as interim Chief Operations Officer, as well as driving Strategy, Health Policy and Leadership Development. Kerrin developed and implemented a successful Mentorship Pilot Programme for senior and middle managers for PathCare. Kerrin acted as Technical Advisor to SEAD Consulting as well as the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) in developing assessment tools, training programmes and materials for public sector primary health care clinics in the field of diagnostics and laboratory medicine. Kerrin worked as part of a consortium over a 12-month period driving the Delegations of Authority process for Central Hospitals in the turnaround strategy commissioned by Treasury for Gauteng Department of Health. Kerrin facilitated a Prosthetics and Orthotics Policy and Practice conference for SADC Region. Kerrin was a team member and facilitator for PAHLM (Partnership for Health Leadership and Management), a partnership with the Western Cape Department of Health (WC DOH) and three Higher Education Institutions (HEI), to develop management and leadership competencies for public sector health managers in the Western Cape, and co-developed the Leadership Development Strategy. Kerrin co-reviewed the operational funding for Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital in the context of the National Tertiary Services Plan for NDOH and National Treasury.

In the non-government sector, Kerrin was Trustee of Living Hope, an FBO for HIV/AIDS education & care, a Director and Chairperson of The Sunflower Fund, an NPO with the purpose of awareness and fundraising for the SA Bone Marrow Registry. Kerrin, whilst National Chairperson of the Junior Doctors Association of SA, served on the Task Group to examine the restructuring of the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), which ultimately resulted in the transition to a new organisation, SAMA (South African Medical Association) of which she was a Trustee. Kerrin has served as a member of the School Governing Bodies of a pre-primary school and South Africa's oldest High School for 18 years.

Kerrin was appointed as member of the Health Workforce Technical Task team of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Health under Minister Barbara Hogan in 2009. Kerrin was appointed as member of Technical Advisory Group on HIV Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Programme for Appropriate Technology for Health (PATH) in 2012. Kerrin is currently an appointed member of the Leadership, Management and Governance work-stream of the Human Resources for Health Ministerial Task Team in South Africa.

From 2016-2018, Kerrin was Activity Lead for the Quality Improvement and Data component of SUCCEED (Stellenbosch University Collaborative Capacity Enhancement through Engagement with Districts), providing technical assistance and targeted capacity strengthening aimed at improving the quality and sustainability of HIV/AIDS and related services in rural districts in South Africa. This PEPFAR-funded response through Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also entailed providing technical assistance and capacity support to the National Department of Health, DDG: Dr Gail Andrews and the QA Directorate, which resulted in the development of a National Quality Strategic Framework for South Africa in 2018.

Kerrin is currently Senior Lecturer and Programme Co-ordinator for the Post-graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University. She oversees the Health Leadership and Management, and Quality Improvement education and training for postgraduate students, and teaches undergraduate students, where she is also part of the curriculum design team for the Renewed Undergraduate Curriculum for MBCHB 2021.

Kerrin is also a part-time lecturer at the University of Cape Town, Graduate School of Business and School of Public Health, as well as University of Western Cape, School of Public Health in the field of Leadership and Health Management.