

Employment

City of Madison, *Common Council Office - Chief of Staff*

2018-Present

- Review the policy analysis of Council Office Staff, identify areas for improvement, and facilitate the movement from policy analysis to Common Council action. Suggest resolutions or ordinance modifications where appropriate.
- Maintain a neutral position on policy decisions while providing expert advice and consultation to Alders on a wide range of highly complex, sensitive, and confidential topics.
- Work with the Mayor's Office, City departments, community organizations, and other entities where tact, persuasiveness and judgment must be exercised to reach an objective or maintain goodwill.
- Assist Alders in navigating City legislative and administrative policies and procedures.
- Work with City Department Heads and Managers to determine the impact of legislative decisions on City operations and report the impacts to Council.
- Provide independent analysis of budget items, suggest alternatives, provide analysis to the Executive Committee, and develop summaries and updates of the status of budget amendments.
- Review City programs and provide analysis at the direction of the Executive Committee.
- Oversee all aspects of the Common Council Office, including planning and organizing work and resources to ensure the highest level of service possible. Analyze and modify organizational structures and work flow to improve efficiency, creativity, and accountability.
- Supervise, plan, organize, coordinate, assign and evaluate the work of Council Office staff. Establish and implement operational policies, goals and objectives for the department within guidelines provided by the Executive Committee; and assure departmental operations are carried out.
- Facilitate and lead the hiring, coaching, training, engagement, and development of Council Office staff to allow staff to reach maximum potential and performance.
- Work with City Staff and the Executive Committee to ensure the deployment of effective tools and practices to allow Alders to fulfill duties and responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.
- Work with Alders and Council Office staff to identify work being done by multiple alders which could be done more efficiently and as effectively by Council Office staff.
- Work with Council Office Staff, City Staff, and Alders to resolve problems, identify areas for improvement, facilitate change, and take corrective action when necessary.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the City's racial equity and social justice initiatives (RESJI). Participate in and help lead city-wide and agency efforts toward implementing RESJI principles. Provide supervision of staff in a manner consistent with recommendations and best practices outlined by the City's employee engagement and equity initiative.
- Attend Common Council, Executive Committee, Department/Division Head, Finance Committee, and other meetings at the direction of the Executive Committee to ensure appropriate communication and the free flow of information between the Common Council, Mayor's Office, and City Staff.
- Ensure appropriate communication with various City Managers on a regular basis to discuss council priorities and communication of City and agency goals, initiatives, plans, and policy related issues.
- Work with the City Attorney's Office and IT to ensure timely and appropriate responses to community inquires and public information requests.
- Respond to requests from the media and develop press releases at the direction of the Council President and/or the Executive Committee.
- Review and prepare a variety of correspondence and reports for Alders at the direction of the Council President and/or the Executive Committee.
- Ensure appropriate communication and build working relationships with the Mayor's Office and City Staff.
- Make presentations to the Common Council and various committees and perform or manage special projects.

KWASI K. OBENG, PhD

City of Chicago, *Office of Inspector General - Chief Performance Analyst*

2014-2018

- Planned, assigned, monitored and managed the projects of management analysts who conducted performance audits of all city departments, including the Office of the Mayor
- Identified and recommended resolutions of significant areas of waste in city resources and lost revenue
- Provided reports and recommendations on the efficient and economical acquisition, protection and utilization of city resources to the Inspector General, department heads and the general public
- Facilitated trainings for staff aimed at ensuring that performance audits were conducted in compliance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards
- Collaborated with department commissioners and their deputies in developing annual performance audit and strategic plans for the office

City of Atlanta, *City Auditor's Office - Senior Performance Auditor*

2012-2014

- Conducted performance audits and management analyses of city government programs, functions, activities, contracts, and capital projects.
- Assessed whether programs and processes achieved intended results, were conducted efficiently and complied with laws and regulations
- Conducted planning research and interviews, developed audit objectives and work plans, collected and analyzed data
- Developed audit findings and recommendations based on research and analysis
- Drafted and reviewed audit reports for accuracy and quality assurance and conducted follow-up reviews of previous audits
- Accomplished the following : revamp of the administration of the city's Workers compensation program; established the role and the hiring of a city wide Safety Director; mandated the use of city issued garbage cans only; identified the losses in the water department and implemented inventory controls to prevent lost revenues; streamlined activities in the 311 call center and improved oversight of tax allocation districts

Georgia Department of Family and Children Services – Richmond County Social Services Administrator 2003-2008

- Managed a \$5 million budget to ensure the safety of children in Richmond County
- Analyzed and assessed the effectiveness of social service programs to ensure that goals and objectives are achieved
- Ensured that social service programs were compliant with local, state and federal regulations and laws
- Directed the county department in a manner which resulted in the passing of the annual state evaluation which resulted in the lifting of a federally mandated consent decree
- Built and facilitated a cooperative team-oriented environment between the state agency and other agencies and private providers
- Streamlined contracts with vendors and eliminated redundancy
- Engaged community services and churches to save the state money while meeting the social service needs of children and families
- Created and maintained a positive working relationship with the community to bring awareness to county and statewide resources and served as an advocate for foster children during a time of budget cut backs and furloughs
- Collaborated with partners to ensure the adoption of almost 30 foster children during my tenure which provided the children with permanency and security
- Facilitated and arbitrated communication between teams and implemented a robust system of public assistance, employability, and social security
- Drafted and implemented county wide policies based on best practices.

KWASI K. OBENG, PhD

- Managed over 100 Social Services Supervisors and Case managers in investigations, family preservation, adoptions, foster care and independent living programs
- Improved morale and reversed turnover rates by applying principles of person centered management

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, Member of Board of Directors 2013-2016

- Responsible for the general direction, control and management of the affairs, work and property of the International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation and developing an organizational strategic plan.

Clark Atlanta University, Adjunct Professor 2009-2012

- Instructed courses in Political Inquiry, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Politics of Modern Africa, Freshman Seminar and Politics and Global issues and American Governance.
- Editor for Endarch Journal, the academic online journal for the university's political science department. Send out calls for papers and reviewed and edited submitted articles and book reviews. Working on third issue of the online journal.
- Assisted in the coordination of political science graduate seminars and giving lectures covering urban development, international relations and American governance and public administration.

Education

- PhD in Political Science, Clark Atlanta University, 2012
- M.A. in Psychology, Argosy/Georgia School of Professional Psychology 2003
- B.S. in Human and Organizational Development/ B.S. in Psychology, Vanderbilt University 1999

Papers, Presentations and Panel Discussions

- The Occupy Atlanta Movement and Implications for the Atlanta University Center. (Clark Atlanta University).
- Engaging America in the Millennium Development Goals. (Alabama State University).
- The Homelessness Population in Atlanta: Policy and Execution Failures in Addressing the Revolving Door. (Clark Atlanta University).
- Assessing Political Solutions to the Nile River Conflict: Maneuvering Around Colonial Resource Agreements. (Dissertation, Clark Atlanta University).

Honors, Awards, Organizations and Trainings

- 2014 New Leaders Council Fellow-Training in fundraising, campaign financing, leadership development etc
- International City/County Managers Association, Emerging Leaders Development Program Fellow/Affiliate
- Association of Local Government Auditors
- The Institute of Internal Auditors
- Truman National Security Program, 2019 Political Partner
- Association of Inspectors General
- Leadership Greater Madison
- National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement
- International Law Enforcement Auditors Association