

Brief Biographical Sketch

Altha J. Stewart, M.D.

Dr. Altha J. Stewart is Senior Associate Dean for Community Health Engagement and Associate Professor in Psychiatry at University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. She also serves as Chief of the Division of Social and Community Psychiatry and Director, Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth (Center) in the Department of Psychiatry where she manages community-based programs serving children impacted by trauma and mental illness and their families. Prior to joining the UTHSC College of Medicine faculty, she served as Executive Director of Memphis' federally funded System of Care program for children with serious emotional disorders and their families. Dr. Stewart is the former Executive Director of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, one of the largest public mental health systems in the US. She served as Deputy Commissioner and later Interim Commissioner of the New York City Department of Mental Health, and CEO/Executive Director in other large public health and mental health systems in New York and Pennsylvania. Dr. Stewart received her medical degree from Temple University Medical School, completing her psychiatric residency at what is now Drexel University, both in Philadelphia.

In 2017, Dr. Stewart was elected the 145th President of the American Psychiatric Association, the first African American ever elected to this position in the 175-year history of the organization. She is also past president of the Black Psychiatrists of America, the Association of Women Psychiatrists and the American Psychiatric Foundation. She has received numerous awards and honors including honorary degrees, visiting professorships and honorary membership in the South African Society of Psychiatrists.

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