

Jennifer Smith Turner

Jennifer Smith Turner is CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut, the largest organization in the state serving girls. Girl Scouts of Connecticut is the premier organization for girls in the state – providing over 65,000 girls and adults with opportunities and experiences that develop their potential and empower them with self-confidence and leadership skills to improve their lives and the world around them.

Prior to this, she was President/CEO of Smith & Associates LLC, a company that specializes in assisting organizations in achieving their strategic and operational potential by providing management consulting, strategic planning, and executive coaching. She is the former Deputy Commissioner for the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development, an appointment made by Governor M. Jodi Rell. During her time as Deputy Commissioner, she is credited with re-energizing the state's industry cluster initiative to enhance the state's economic competitiveness and for bringing affordable housing to the forefront of the state's economic agenda.

Ms. Turner served as President/CEO of BerkleyCare Network and Vice President of W. R. Berkley Corporation (WRBC) of Greenwich, CT. In this dual capacity she was responsible for growing the occupational managed care business of BerkleyCare and providing managed care leadership to the WRBC property casualty operating businesses.

Previous to this role, Ms. Turner was a leading change agent at Aetna Life & Casualty, one of the nation's Fortune 500 companies, where for ten years she worked in a variety of executive level positions. She was a senior executive in the company's asset accumulation businesses and focused on developing enhanced services to customers who owned multiple wealth management and retirement products. She served as Vice President, Occupational Managed Care, a joint venture between Aetna's managed health care and workers' compensation businesses. Starting up a business was not new to Ms. Turner. In 1993, she was selected to lead the development of Aetna's initial venture into the direct delivery of health care services. As Chief Operating Officer of HealthWays/Aetna Professional Management Corporation, and Vice President of Aetna Health Plans, she was responsible for all start-up and operational activities of this new, fifty million dollar, primary care and health care subsidiary. Prior to this assignment, she served as Chief of Staff to the CEO of Aetna Health Plans.

Ms. Turner worked for Travelers Insurance for ten years and held numerous management positions in their property casualty and financial services operations in the corporate headquarters and field offices. She served as the head of marketing for the company's MoneyTrac business – a business designed to bring bundled financial and insurance services to major clients and their employees. Ms. Turner interrupted her insurance career in the mid-1980s to serve the City of Hartford as Director of Personnel and then as Assistant City Manager.

A native of Boston Massachusetts, she is a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and received her Masters degree from Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT.

Ms. Turner is very involved in community and civic organizations. She is the Immediate Past President of the Board of The Hartford Stage Company and sits on the Executive Committee. She is a Regent at the University of Hartford where she is on the Strategic Plan, Governance and Executive Committees. She also serves on the board of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Appointed by former Governor Lowell P. Weicker, she served for six years as a Trustee of the University of Connecticut and chaired the Health Affairs Committee during most of that tenure. Ms. Turner played a role in crafting the UConn 2000 capital improvement strategy and established two endowments in her name at the University, one for scholarships for African-American students at the medical and dental school, and the other for women's athletics. She continues to be involved with Uconn as a member of an international board for the University's African National Congress Partnership with South Africa.

She is a former board member of the University of Connecticut Foundation, St Joseph's College, Hartford College for Women, Union College, Connecticut Public Television and Radio where she chaired the finance and audit committee, Connecticut Golf Foundation, Porrath Cancer Foundation, the Foundation for Mental Health, the American Heart Association, Boys and Girls Club of Hartford, and United Way of the Capital Region.

Ms. Turner is a published poet. Her first book, ***Perennial Secrets, Poetry&Prose*** was published in 2003 and her most recent book, ***Lost and Found, Rhyming Verse Honoring African American Heroes***, Connecticut River Press, was published in 2006. She resides in Hartford, CT with her husband, Eric Turner.