



Marisa S. Gillum, MSW

Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Compliance Officer

Education:

- Masters of Social Work in Nonprofit Management, Howard University, 2003
- Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Sociology, Drexel University, 1999

Current Role:

As the Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer at Cornerstone Montgomery, I am responsible for the overall management of an organization's administrative operations, including compliance, facilities, information technology, training, and legal matters. My work primarily monitoring the organization's adherence with regulations, policies, and procedures, identifying potential risk areas, and developing and overseeing policies and procedures that minimize risk and protect the organization from potential legal or financial repercussions.

Passion for Cornerstone Montgomery:

What I love most about working at Cornerstone Montgomery is the dedication and passion that each staff member has for the organization's mission and the people we serve. Whether in a direct service or administrative position, we all understand that we play a critical role in ensuring that each person we serve will have a meaningful life of their choosing. This role allows me to ensure that things are done the right way, the first time, every time. And, when they are not or issues present themselves, I am able to work with both clients and staff to identify them, remediate them, and keep the organization on track for excellence.

Professional Affiliations:

- Professional Human Resources (PHR) Certification
- Assisted Housing Manager (AHM) Certification

Narrative Bio:

Marisa S. Gillum is a highly accomplished leader in nonprofit management, currently serving as the Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer at Cornerstone Montgomery. With a Master's degree in Social Work from Howard University and over two decades of experience in human services, Marisa has built a career defined by her commitment to balancing operational excellence and regulatory compliance. She is responsible for managing Cornerstone Montgomery's administrative operations, which include compliance, facilities, information technology, training, and legal matters. Her work is focused on ensuring that the organization adheres to regulations and policies while minimizing risk and protecting the organization from potential legal or financial repercussions.

Marisa joined Cornerstone Montgomery in June 2015, during a pivotal time when the state of Maryland required mental health organizations to achieve national accreditation. Having successfully navigated this process for two similar organizations, Marisa found Cornerstone Montgomery to be a natural fit. She was drawn to the mission-driven professionals at the organization, whose dedication to serving individuals with persistent mental illness resonated with her passion for nonprofit work. Under her leadership, Cornerstone earned its first three-year CARF accreditation in August 2017, a significant milestone that underscored the quality of care provided by the organization.

Throughout her tenure, Marisa has led several key initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the organization's growth and development. She played a pivotal role in expanding Cornerstone Montgomery's facilities, overseeing updates to group homes, leading the renovation of the Southport Hub, and supporting the acquisition of a third office space to bridge the gap between behavioral health and primary care services. Her focus on enhancing the organization's data infrastructure and quality assurance programs has further solidified her influence on Cornerstone's operational success. Marisa's extensive experience in nonprofit management spans program and administrative operations, fund development, government grants and contract management, and risk management. Her leadership approach is shaped by her belief that every role within an organization is vital to the success of its mission. Whether working directly with clients or supporting the teams behind the scenes, Marisa understands that collaboration is essential to driving positive outcomes. Her ability to incorporate feedback from staff at all levels ensures that Cornerstone Montgomery continues to grow and thrive. What motivates Marisa in her work is the transformative outcomes achieved by Cornerstone Montgomery's clients. Whether it's helping someone move from homelessness to stable housing, securing employment, or overcoming the stigma of mental illness, Marisa is driven by the tangible impact that Cornerstone's services have on the community. Under her guidance, the organization has consistently seen reduced rates of incarceration, increased housing stability, and overall improvements in clients' wellness and quality of life.



Bio Continued:

Outside of work, Marisa enjoys spending time with her daughters and her two-year-old poodle, Luna Bella. She finds joy in laughter, sailing with close friends and family, and exploring new destinations—having visited 17 of the 50 states she hopes to see. These personal passions help her recharge and bring fresh creativity to her professional role.