

FEATURED FL ACHCA MEMBER

Christopher P. Mulrooney, M.P.S., Ph.D., FACHCA, CNHA, CALA

Chris Mulrooney has been in the field of long-term care since the age of 16 when he chose to work as an orderly in an intermediate care facility in Massachusetts, from where he hails. When his great-aunt, to whom he was very close, died the year before, he felt a strong calling to pursue a career working with older adults. Nursing homes seemed like the logical place to go to work with elders in need.

Following college (B.S., Gerontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA) and grad school (M.P.S., Gerontological Services Administration, New School for Social Research, NY, NY), Chris spent seven more years working in a skilled nursing facility, this time as Administrator, in Rhode Island where he was first licensed. Fascinated by how so much of the quality issues in our field come down to the relationship between care partners,

Chris pursued deeper knowledge in that area and was awarded a National Institute on Aging traineeship to get his PhD in Psychology and Gerontological Studies. His dissertation research focused on the creation of a recruitment and development competency model for nursing assistants across long-term care settings. “The Person- and Relationship-Centered Caregiving Trait and Other Characteristics of Outstanding Nursing Assistants in Long-Term Care” earned Chris researcher-of-the-year awards from two agencies, including the Foundation of ACHCA.

Consulting was Chris’ next stop, spending 8 years with the HayGroup, an international management consulting firm, now part of Korn Ferry. He was an organizational psychologist and executive coach to senior leaders across health care settings, both in the U.S. and abroad. While some of that consulting was in long-term care and elder services, it wasn’t enough to satisfy Chris’ early calling. Leaving the global travel behind him, Chris accepted a CEO position in rural Northeast Michigan, where he helped resurrect and grow a 60 year-old Christian ministry that included a 100-acre CCRC. After six years there, ending with helping to guide the Board through a merger with Lutheran Homes of Michigan (now Wellspring), it was time for warmer climes.

Chris and his family relocated to Tallahassee, Florida in 2008 when Chris was recruited to be the CEO of Westcott Lakes, which was to be Florida State University’s university-based life-fulfilling community. While that project fell victim to the economic recession two years later, Chris has continued to enjoy a rewarding career with FSU. He moved into the College of Medicine as



COO of their medical practices and has helped develop a geriatric practice in Tallahassee, several medical residencies across the state, and now a primary care practice for the underserved and uninsured. Chris also manages a number of consulting partnerships with long-term care and retirement organizations across Florida. He is a Fellow of ACHCA and a Certified NHA and ALA through the American College.