## Eric L. Byrd, M. Ed.

Eric is a dedicated professional who has worked in various fields related to mental health, rehabilitation, and social advocacy. He spent 15 years serving and mentoring institutionalized youth, foster youth, and traumatized children facing social and cognitive challenges. Eric pursued his interest in understanding human behavior and earned a Master's degree in Education, specializing in behavioral analysis and modification.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest following the tragic murder of George Floyd, Eric served as the Chief of Staff for Austin's District 1. He managed the city council office, overseeing planning, project management, visioning, policy research, and analysis.

Eric manages VI&M Consulting, an agency that helps organizations transform their systems and practices, focusing on fairness, efficiency, and equality. He is passionate about creating a more just society and empowering marginalized communities.

In addition to his consultancy work, Eric serves as the acting President of The Man in Me, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting healthy fatherhood and strong families. He also holds the esteemed position of President of the Black Professional Alliance, an organization working to expand opportunities for Black professionals in the Austin Area.

Eric's journey is defined by his commitment to empowering others, advocating for social justice, and building inclusive communities. His extensive experience, empathy, and passion for a better future make him a powerful force for positive change.