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Task Force Appoints New Deputy Executive Director

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Darlene Nipper is poised to become deputy executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on October 1. The 20-year veteran of nonprofit management and advocacy groups will replace Rea Carey, who was recently promoted to executive director.

“Our leadership team will be even stronger with the addition of [Nipper’s] expertise, energy, and passion for this work,” Carey said in an NGLTF statement.

Nipper has a long history working in the corporate and nonprofit sectors dealing with HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and mental illness. Nipper has previously served as executive director for the Black Entertainment Television Foundation and as senior director of public education for the National Mental Health Association. She also was a founder of the Multicultural and International Outreach Center of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In all of these arenas Nipper has promoted racial and ethnic diversity and cultural competency.

Nipper also worked on the Washington, D.C., mayor’s LGBT executive committee, spearheading many campaigns to improve understanding and prevention of HIV and substance abuse. In the 1990s she created HIV/AIDS and substance-abuse support groups for the Inner City AIDS Network of D.C.

“I believe strongly in the Task Force’s mission and vision,” Nipper said. “Its emphasis on addressing LGBT issues at the intersections of multiple social injustices resonates with my own belief that human beings in general, and LGBT community members in particular, live at these intersections.”

Nipper is a graduate of Howard University and Trinity College. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her partner of 12 years, Katrina Higgins.