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## **MARLENE LALOTA, M.P.H.**

Marlene LaLota serves as the HIV Prevention Program Administrator for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS. Ms. LaLota has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Chemistry/Anthropology from the State University of New York at Albany, and a master's degree in public health from Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health. She became interested in HIV/AIDS in 1986 when she conducted a knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs survey in New Haven, Connecticut for a school project. Her training in epidemiology has led to research on influenza in New Haven, Lyme Disease in Cairo, Egypt, and HIV in Florida. She began her career at the Florida Department of Health in 1988 as an epidemiologist conducting HIV seroprevalence surveys in a variety of settings in Miami-Dade and Duval counties, and the statewide Survey among Childbearing Women. These studies provided some of the earliest data on the scope of the epidemic in Florida.

Ms. LaLota became the Program Administrator for the Early Intervention Section in 1997, managing the HIV testing program, the perinatal HIV prevention program, corrections initiatives, linkage activities, and a variety of research projects, including incidence and behavioral surveillance. In 2008, the Early Intervention and Prevention sections merged and Tom Liberti appointed Ms. LaLota as Florida's prevention director.

Ms. LaLota is a member of several organizations, such as the American Public Health Association and the Florida Public Health Association. She is active in several CDC and NASTAD workgroups at the national level, and has co-authored several national guidelines related to HIV counseling, testing, and linkage. She is widely published and is considered a national expert in several areas related to HIV/AIDS.