

Brief Bio for Michael Jenkins, M. A.

Michael Jenkins is a U. S. trained and educated (Marshallese) human service professional and community planner with a strong background in the development of health, educational, human service and social service related programs. He completed his undergraduate work at Goshen College, Goshen Indiana, and received his graduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, in Notre Dame, Indiana.

As a Human Service professional, he has over 10 years of U. S. stateside experience working in community mental health centers and in private practice. He also has over 10 years of experience providing professional services in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Jurisdictions.

As a community planner, Mr. Jenkins has played a key role in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in program development in areas such as public health, mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, malnutrition, disabilities, suicide prevention, and child abuse and neglect.

Michael Jenkins has served as a consultant to the RMI Ministry of Health, the Kwajalein Atoll Health Care Bureau, the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Belau, the Community Guidance Center for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Health Organization.

He has been active in the development of the non-government organization (NGO) sector. He established an NGO entitled AKTS.inc, which provides technical assistance in the RMI. He also assists with the on-going development of counseling capability for NGOs targeting youth, women, and at risk male populations in the RMI. He developed a Counselor Certification program which is currently implemented within the College of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Jenkins is a founding member of the recently chartered Marshall Islands Council of NGOs. He served a term as a board member on the (U.S.) National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA) which was convened by then-President Clinton. He has been involved in a regional effort in the U. S. Affiliated Pacific Jurisdiction operated under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Substance Abuse and Mental Health Collaborating Council (PISAMHCC). He serves as advisor to the RMI Association of Counselors.

In June 2003 Mr. Jenkins was asked by the Office of the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Honorable Kessai Note, to assist in the implementation of the RMI Adoptions Act 2002. In October 2003 he was offered a formal contract to serve as Director of the RMI Central Adoption Authority by the RMI Minister of Internal Affairs, the Honorable Rien Morris.

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On a personal note, Michael is an adoptive parent of a Marshallese (now fully grown) child. His son, Key Paul Kabua-Jenkins resides in DeGraff, Ohio.