

# SAMANTHA WILLIAMS



Samantha Williams participated in the Agenda 21 Internship Program in 2011 at Saint Francis Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Under the mentorship of Marilyn Robinson, then senior vice president, she was introduced to hospital operations, particularly in marketing and community partnerships. "Observing the hospital's diverse programs broadened my understanding of healthcare and planted the seed for my interest in managing programs that address health disparities," she recalled, crediting the internship for shaping her professional focus.

Williams now serves as the Immunization Program Manager for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, overseeing a statewide educational program to increase vaccination rates in pediatric clinics. While the COVID-19 pandemic played a role in directing her current career, she attributes her internship with helping her recognize that meaningful contributions in healthcare extend beyond traditional corporate pathways. "I realized that I could make an impact by managing programs that improve public health rather than following a conventional administrative route," she explained.



*This program has helped me to build those working relationships I need, to pursue the career I want."*

The internship also instilled key professional lessons, including adaptability, confidence, and preparation. A particularly impactful experience involved overcoming a technical failure during a presentation, an unexpected challenge that reinforced the importance of resilience. "That moment taught me to stay calm under pressure and pivot quickly—skills I still rely on today," Williams said.

For future interns, Williams emphasizes the importance of networking and maximizing learning opportunities. She encourages participants to explore different areas of healthcare, build professional relationships, and seek skills beyond their immediate roles.



For more information about the program, contact Program Manager Karizma Whitfield at [kwhitfield@tha.com](mailto:kwhitfield@tha.com).