

## **Gail Maddox Taylor, M.ED**

Gail Maddox Taylor is the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Wellness at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health where she provides leadership in the development and implementation of comprehensive prevention systems; Prevention Initiatives Lead for Virginia's Prescription Drug, Opioid and Heroin Overdose grants and oversees the Suicide Prevention and *Mental Health First Aide* statewide initiatives. She completed the National Council on Behavioral Health's 2015 "*Addressing Health Disparities in Behavioral Health*" Leadership Academy and now oversees DBHDS' addressing behavioral health disparities strategic initiatives. Ms. Taylor graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University and holds a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from James Madison University. Ms. Taylor is the 2020 recipient of the National Association of Substance Abuse Director's National Prevention Network's Ketty Award presented annually to a current NPN who has made outstanding contributions to the NPN and the field of prevention. She also serves on the Board of the Society of Prevention Research as the NPN liaison and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Advisory Council.