



Neely Williams, M.Div., Ed.D.

*Director of Community Engagement, [TN CEAL](#)/Tennessee
Community Engaged Alliance Against COVID-19*

Administrator & CEO, Community Partners' Network

*Independent Consultant, Patient & Community Engagement
Strategist*

Rev. Neely Williams serves as the Community Engagement and Education Director for HealthWorks and the Tennessee Community Engaged Alliance Against COVID-19. She is a minister, a community advocate, and a community organizer who has served on the front lines for over 40 years. She obtained her bachelor's degree from American Baptist Theological College and a Master's in Divinity from Vanderbilt University. A lifelong learner, her journey includes pursuing a doctoral degree in Community Pastoral Counseling, which is framed by community education, advocate, and policy. She began her work as a

community partner in research as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Board for the Vanderbilt-Meharry Institute for Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) research in 2007. She recently became a member of the Dissemination Core of the CTSA. She has actively participated in the work of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), an independent, nonprofit research organization since its inception over ten years ago. Neely has participated actively on the national PCORnet Stakeholder Engagement Committee and served as the Patient Co-Principal Investigator on the PCORnet Bariatric Surgery Demonstration Project. As a CO-PI, she brings the patient perspective to the project at the highest decision-making level. Presently as CO-PI for the PCORnet Engagement Core and a patient representative on the Steering Committee and the Executive Management Team (EMT). She currently serves as a community engagement strategist consultant with Kaiser Permanente West and Dr. David Arterburn, principal investigator on a PCORI-funded decision-making project; Tennessee State University on the Engaging People in Caring Community (EPICC), NIH funded; Stanford University on the Pain/Progress Study, PCORI funded; and NYU the RECOVER Study, NIH funded. Neely is the co-chair of the Equity, Inclusion, and Patient Engagement Committee for RECOVER.

She serves as Pastor for the Community of New Unity Church in North Nashville. Neely is the founder and Administrator of Community Partners' Linked Network, a collaborative of individuals and community organizations that seek to meet the needs that emerge in the community for capacity building and program implementation.

Rev. Neely is a great-grandmother that loves to cook, sew, garden, read, and spend her time between her Nashville home and her historic family home in Jackson, Tennessee. Rev. Neely focuses on LIVING, LAUGHING, and LOVING to this journey's end.