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## **EDUCATION**

- 2004-2005                    **Master of Social Work**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Specialization: Direct practice with children and families at risk  
Field Placement: UPMC Partial Program and OCD Clinic (South Side)
- 2000-2004                    **Bachelor of Arts in Social Work**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Field Placement: The Office of Children Youth and Families

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2013                         **Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST) Certification**  
Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2011                         **Family Development Leadership Credential**  
Temple University, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- 2009                         **Home and School Visitor/School Social Work Certification**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2005                         **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Certification**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2004                         **The Certificate of Child Welfare**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2016-                         **University of Central Florida-School of Social Work Visiting Instructor**  
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- Responsibilities: Teaching four classes per semester in the spring and fall. Additional responsibilities include committee assignments.
- 2014-2016                    **University of Pittsburgh-School of Social Work Lecturer**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- Responsibilities: Teaching four classes per semester in the spring and fall, and one course during the summer. Additional responsibilities include academic advising, liaison work in the field for student field placement's, and committee assignments (Direct Practice, BASW, and Affirmative Action).

2008- 2014

**Family Group Decision Making Program-Program Director**

Small Seeds Development, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Responsibilities: Plan, directs, organizes, develops, supervises, trains, and coordinates. Provide direction in the efficient management and oversight of program including staff supervision, contract services, program compliance and personnel evaluation services. Assist in the development, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of family services. Participate in interdisciplinary case conferences and team meetings. Assist the Executive Director with program budget preparation. Work closely with representatives from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, office of Children, Youth, and Families and provide required documents. Oversee and ensure the effective coordination of logistics for program.

2009-2014

**Field Education Instructor**

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Pittsburgh, PA

Responsibilities: To provide a broad range of learning experiences and direct service roles that are in keeping with the objectives and curriculum of the School of Social Work and the educational needs of the individual student. This includes assignment of professional responsibilities consistent with the student's level of professional development.

2008

**Medical Management Social Worker**

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Responsibilities: Managing members identified with barriers to care. Managing an entire case with the goal of supporting the highest level of functioning of the individual as well as identifying resources, maintaining a resource database, coordinating plans of care, assist with complaint/grievance appeals, identifying gaps in service, identify trends, outreach and provide education and training.

2006-2008

**Residential Treatment Facility Therapist**

Holy Family Social Services, Pittsburgh, PA

Responsibilities: To conduct comprehensive mental health assessments, treatment plans, and provide therapeutic services to individuals, families, and groups that relates to treatment goals and interventions while on the milieu.

2006

**Family Based Mental Health Therapist**

FamilyLinks, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Responsibilities: To provide highly responsible and complex counseling and treatment resources in home and community settings. To provide individual and family therapy with children, adolescents and families as well as to provide crisis intervention and case management services. The work involves utilization of various therapeutic methods and techniques as applicable to youth and/or families experiencing problems related to mental health.

2003-2005

**Caseworker II/Family Services**

The Office of Children, Youth, and Families,  
Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, PA.

Responsibilities: To perform casework duties and responsibilities of a specialized nature, to assure the health, safety and well-being of children, Conduct home visits, Needs Assessments, Risk Matrix, Case Planning, Case Management, Referrals, Crisis Intervention, Conduct Interviews, to secure relevant information accurately and completely

through the social study process in order to form a psycho-social diagnosis and case plan so that the client is helped to become engaged in an examination and solution of his problems, or to determine the appropriate plan for care and treatment for the child and the family, and to exercise a wide degree of independent judgment, decision and action.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2006

### **Research Assistant**

Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Responsibilities: Review 2005 HIV prevention needs & barriers via needs assessment interviews for the following populations: older adult African American & Hispanic (heterosexual) women, 50 years of age and older; post-incarcerated males & females; youth & adult African American men who have sex with men (MSM); young heterosexual African American males & females; and, Asian & Pacific Islander MSMs and heterosexual females. These target populations are identified by the PA Department of Health and the PA Planning Committee.

2005

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh  
Faculty Supervisor: John Wallace, PhD

Responsibilities: Undertaking a comprehensive search for existing historical, statistical and qualitative data (e.g., Census, social service, crime, mental health, education) that exists in the Homewood-Brushton Community as well as to analyze the data collected in step one, and then to write a report that summarizes the results of the data collection and analysis.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Social Policy:

- ❖ The critical state of education and the systematic educational disadvantages in relation to policies that has caused the disconnect with communities of lower social economic status
- ❖ How the lack of education influences social and psychological conditions that perpetuate cycles of dependence among generations of poor families in the child welfare system
- ❖ How the lack of economic resources being provided to school districts in oppressed communities affect society at large
- ❖ Evaluation and Assessment of schools, resulting in a qualitative and quantitative research tool to measure the effectiveness of standardized exams

African Americans:

- ❖ The responsibility and role of African-American's Educator's in education
- ❖ How can African-American Educators help sustain what is left of the historically black colleges and universities and build upon the legacy for which it was intended

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy:

- ❖ Children in communities of color that are being educated in institutions that exclude and marginalize
- ❖ How to effectively educate minority populations for successful outcomes
- ❖ Development of strategies that will reduce the unresolved impact of institutional racism on African American's which causes a double bind
- ❖ The thirst, or the lack thereof for education statistically effecting people of color and reducing the factors that influence disparities, stigma and race

Collaborative Community Relationships:

- ❖ Strengthening University-School-Community Collaboration and Partnerships as a subsidy

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### ***Graduate Courses:***

- 2015-2016      **Human Behavior in the Social Environment-Mental Health**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2014-2016      **Human Behavior in the Social Environment**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2014-2016      **Social Welfare**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015-Current    **Social Welfare Policy Analysis**  
Simmons College, Boston, MA

### ***Undergraduate Courses:***

- 2015-            **Field Education Seminar**  
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- 2015-2016      **Social Work with Individuals and Families**  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015             **Social Work Practice with Groups**  
California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA
- 2013-2014      **Diversity in a Changing World**  
California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA
- 2012-2014      **Social Work with Families**  
California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA

### ***Instructor:***

- 2012-2015      **Adjunct Professor**  
California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA  
Responsibilities: To provide knowledge, skills and values needed for students to engage in family work as a generalist social worker. This includes preparation of lessons and lectures, the facilitation of class instruction, assist with curriculum planning, development of syllabi and rubrics for course, create and implement assessment tools, as well as evaluate student performance. This course is designed to prepare students for work with families of various types and purposes appropriate to generalist social work practice. This course emphasizes methods for family work that are consonant with social work values and ethics and the purposes of the profession.



## **PROFFESIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated**

**Member**

To cultivate high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain progressive interest in college life, and to be of service to all mankind.

### **National & Pennsylvania School Board Association**

**Member**

Promote greater activity and higher efficiency on the part of all school boards in order to secure the best results in the progressive advancement, control and conduct of public schools.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Heaven's Rainbow, Incorporated**

**Program Advisor**

The mission of Heaven's Rainbow, Inc. is to empower young teen and single mothers ages 13-25 to build strong, stable lives for both them and their children.

### **The Kingsley Association**

**Board of Director Secretary and Program Chair**

The Kingsley Association works diligently to provide comprehensive, culturally relevant, educational, recreational, and social programming that positively impacts the lives of youth and their families.

### **Wilkinsburg Planning Commission**

**Commissioner/Secretary**

Develop plans (for borough's socioeconomics, neighborhoods and housing, transportation, current land use, and community facilities) after careful analysis and synthesis of the results and public input, specific strategies were developed and recommended for consideration.

### **Wilkinsburg School District**

**School Board Director**

School board members are charged, by law, with providing quality education for the youth of the Wilkinsburg community. As a school board director we work the best interests of all pupils and all citizens, a task requiring constant effort and a strong commitment to serving other people.

### **Forbes Road Technology and Career Center**

**Joint Operating Committee Member**

Joint operating committee ensures quality career and technical education to high school students and adults in the Pittsburgh region. The mission is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in their chosen career remains the same.

### **National College Credit Recommendation Service**

**Team Member**

NCCRS provides an advisory service to noncollegiate organizations and academic institutions throughout the United States and abroad by translating noncollegiate course work into terms usable by the academic community.

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

2012 New Pittsburgh Courier 40 Under 40 Award Recipient