

Melissa Edmondson, MS, LMSW

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EDUCATION**University of Southern California School of Social Work**, Los Angeles, CA*Ph.D. Student*, Expected Completion May 2010

Research Interests: Schizophrenia, Cross Ethnic Treatment Outcomes, African Americans

Diagnosed with Schizophrenia, Recovery Oriented Mental Health Treatment

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY*Master of Science in Social Work*, May 2002**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Cum Laude*, May 1999**PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**Council on Social Work Education funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, *Minority Fellowship Program Award*, 2007-2008University of Southern California, *Provost Diversity Fellowship Award*, 2006 -2008Federation Employment Guidance Services, *Recognition Award*, September 2005Weston United Community Renewal, Inc, *Leadership Award*, December 2004Weston United Community Renewal, Inc, *CEO Commendation*, September 20041199 Union, *Joseph Tauber Scholarship Award*, 1995-1999**PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**The University of the State of New York, Education Department, *Licensed Master Social Worker*, Issued September 2004The University of the State of New York, Education Department, *Certified Social Worker*, May 2003 – August 2004**EDUCATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

African American Mental Health Conference: Resiliency, Recovery and Reconciliation, Attended February 2007

Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Attended January 2007

FECS Health and Human Services System, *Anger Management Training for Group Leaders*, Training Completed July 2005Columbia University School of Social Work, *Seminar in Field Instruction*, Completed May 2005Cicatelli Associates Inc., *Bereavement: Necessary Losses*, Training Completed July 2004NASW NYC Chapter 36th Annual Addictions Institute, *The Significance of Historical Trauma in Understanding Chemical Dependency and Creating Authentic Cultural Competency in People of Color Oppressed Communities*, Seminar Completed May 2004NASW NYC Chapter 36th Annual Addictions Institute, *Treatment of Addiction: Understanding the Culture of Drug Users*, Seminar Completed May 2004NASW NYC Chapter 36th Annual Addictions Institute, *Breaking the Silence: Addiction and Older Adults*. Seminar Completed May 2004Hunter College of the City of New York School of Social Work, *Seminar in Supervision*, Completed December 2003

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, New York, NY

Fall 2004 – May 2006

Adjunct Lecturer/Field Instructor

*Provide clinical supervision in the field to Master Level student interns and evaluate student performance

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Weston United Community Renewal, Inc, New York, NY

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Program Director

October 2005 – July 2006

- *Managed, directed, and monitored overall administrative operations and program services in a permanent, supported housing program for the formerly homeless, chronically mentally ill population
- *Supervised a staff of 25, including a program psychiatrist, program nurse, program coordinator (MSW), residence manager and Master Level social work interns
- *Facilitated all clinical and staff meetings
- *Conducted and arranged trainings to improve staff development and productivity
- *Conducted all interviews for potential staff
- *Maintained policy and procedure manual in accordance with program mandates
- *Reviewed and conducted chart audits
- *Ensured that all consumers/residents received the appropriate level of care and quality treatment within all agency and governmental regulations
- *Ensured the maintenance of the facility in accordance with health and safety standards
- *Controlled expenditures and ensured the ordering of all program supplies and equipment
- *Developed and maintained referral sources for consumer/resident treatment
- *Conducted intakes and assessments of all potential consumers/residents
- *Provided clinical and crisis intervention in acute episodes of emotional distress as needed for consumers/residents

Program Coordinator

October 2003 – March 2005

- *Served as clinical supervisor in a permanent, supported housing program for the formerly homeless, chronically mentally ill population
- *Provided weekly individual supervision to the case manager, the daily life skills specialist, peer counselor, Master Level social work intern and safety and support aids
- *Reviewed and monitored staff performance and provide verbal and written feedback, including staff evaluations and disciplinary actions when indicated
- *Developed Clinical Emergency Procedures and Protocols
- *Facilitated clinical trainings and weekly clinical meetings for staff
- *Reviewed and audited all charts
- *Conducted intakes for prospective consumers/residents
- *Facilitated "New Consumer/Resident Orientation"
- *Provided substance abuse counseling to a small caseload of mentally ill, chemically abusing consumers/residents
- *Facilitated onsite MICA group for consumers with a substance abuse history
- *Facilitated onsite Anger Management Group using the SAMHSA Anger Management Workbook
- *Provided crisis interventions for decompensating or relapsing consumers
- *Provided 24 hour on call coverage to assist staff with crisis interventions
- *Assumed responsibilities of program director in her 10-week absence

FEGS, Health and Human Services System, Bronx, NY

March 2005 – September 2005

Bronx Continuing Day Treatment Program

Clinical Supervisor

- *Assumed overall daily clinical responsibility in a program for severely and persistently mentally ill population
- *Provided clinical supervision for rehabilitative technicians, clinicians and other program staff
- *Supervised intake process for all new clients and conducted intake assessments
- *Conducted outreach presentations to other agencies and hospitals to establish referral sources
- *Completed oral and written evaluations of program staff
- *Scheduled, conducted and participated in clinical rounds
- *Attended and participated in quality insurance meetings
- *Conducted monthly utilization reviews to ensure that clients received optimal service and professional care
- *Conducted anger management groups using the SAMHSA Anger Management Workbook
- *Attended and participated in monthly anger management group supervision
- *Provided crisis intervention, case management and counseling services to program clients

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SOCIAL WORK RELATED EXPERIENCE

Visiting Nurse Service of New York, New York, NY

May 2002 – June 2003

Community Care for Children

Social Worker

- *Provided social work services through an ACS funded specialized preventive program for families with medically fragile children at risk for foster care placement
- *Conducted home visits to assist families in establishing a plan of care to minimize safety risks to children.
- *Assessed families and children's mental health needs and made appropriate referrals
- *Provided individual and family counseling on topics such as child abuse and neglect, parenting, and domestic violence
- *Identified community resources to provide families with comprehensive services
- *Created and facilitated a support group for siblings of medically fragile children
- *Completed intakes, progress notes and uniform case record risk assessments

Association to Benefit Children, New York, NY

September 2001 - May 2002

Homelessness Intervention Program/ The Jamie Rose/ A Child's Space

Social Work Intern

- *Provided long-term intensive case management services to formerly homeless families residing in East Harlem, Harlem and the Bronx at risk of returning to the shelter
- *Served as long-term intensive case manager to families infected with/affected by HIV/AIDS residing in permanent supportive housing
- *Conducted weekly home visits to help clients identify and obtain goals, offered crisis intervention as needed, and provided psycho education on HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness and parenting
- *Assisted clients in maintaining public assistance and entitlements
- *Collaborated with other social service agencies to provide clients with comprehensive services
- *Co-facilitated after school therapy group for children aged 5 to 7 years to increase socialization and conflict resolution skills
- *Supervised and offered crisis counseling to children of families affected by the World Trade Center Disaster
- *Presented client cases and updates to interdisciplinary staff
- *Participated in weekly graduate seminars at the workplace

Housing Works, New York, NY

Summer 2001

Advocacy Intern

- *Implemented and maintained the Housing Works Candidate Questionnaire on HIV/AIDS for New York City Council Candidates
- *Organized the Housing Works Mayoral and Public Advocate Candidate's Forum on HIV/AIDS issues
- *Coordinated demonstrations and direct action activities
- *Advocated at the federal and state level for increases in HIV/AIDS funding
- *Collaborated with AIDS Service Organizations of Color to monitor the distribution of HIV/AIDS funds targeting communities of color throughout New York City

Bronx Psychiatric Center, Bronx, NY

September 2000 - May 2001

Social Work Intern

- *Conducted on-going individual sessions to assist in-patient population diagnosed with Schizophrenia with medication compliance, symptom management, and drug relapse prevention
- *Involved family members in treatment and discharge plans, offered psycho education on mental illness, and provided support
- *Completed progress notes, treatment plans, and psychosocial assessments
- *Collaborated with interdisciplinary team to determine treatment and discharge plans

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Health Behavior and Communication Research, Philadelphia, PA October 1999- July 2000
Research Coordinator

- *Corresponded with community based organizations and adolescents participating in AIDS prevention studies for minority youth to ensure attendance of participants at data collection sessions
- *Tracked and scheduled sessions with hard to reach participants
- *Administered questionnaires and guided participants through behavioral skills assessment
- *Conducted outreach to potential participants at health clinics throughout Philadelphia
- *Created procedures and protocols for conducting outreach and tracking participants
- *Compiled and maintained participant database for research purposes

Center for Psychotherapy Research, Philadelphia, PA June 1999-October 1999
Assessment Unit Intake Coordinator

- *Recruited participants for NIMH research studies on population suffering from Mood Disorders, Anxiety Disorders or Borderline Personality Disorder
- *Conducted initial telephone intakes to assess for Major Depressive Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder
- *Scheduled diagnostic intakes
- *Administered questionnaires and assessment instruments to participants

Treatment Research Center, Philadelphia, PA June 1998-May 1999
Research Assistant

- *Assisted with medical research studies on population seeking treatment for crack/cocaine addiction
- *Scheduled and conducted patient visits
- *Interviewed participants using the Addiction Severity Index
- *Collected laboratory specimens
- *Maintained database, reviewed patient charts, and synopsized psychotherapy sessions

Penn Resiliency Project, Philadelphia, PA September 1997 – November 1998
Research Assistant

- *Diagnosed adolescents using the Children's Depression Rating Scale
- *Distributed questionnaires to youth participating in an adolescent depression prevention study
- *Prepared studies, tape coded interviews and entered research data

Children's Television Workshop, New York, NY Summer 1997
Sesame Street Research Intern

- *Developed questionnaires, interviewed children four to six years old, entered data, analyzed qualitative data and synopsized children's books.

AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research, *Member since 2007*

Council on Social Work Education, *Member since 2006*

University of Southern California School of Social Work, Doctoral Student Association
Co-Chair, 2007-present
First Year Representative, 2006- 2007

Columbia University School of Social Work, Student Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers,
Secretary, 2001-2002

Columbia University School of Social Work Male Action Coalition Student Caucus,
Special Events Coordinator, 2001

National Association of Social Workers, *Member since 2000*