

# Laura Christine Gale, MSW, LCSW

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## EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

- In Progress *Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership*  
University of Southern California
- December 2000 *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*  
California Board of Behavioral Sciences
- May 1997 *Master of Social Work*  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Concentration: Children Youth and Families
- June 1994 *Bachelor of Social Work*  
San Diego State University

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Managing Organizational Change in Non-Profit Organizations

Diversity and Inclusion in the Workforce

Leadership and Management Skill Development in Mid-Level Managers in Non-Profit Organizations

Social Policy

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- July 2016-Present University of Southern California  
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
*Senior Lecturer*
- May 2015-June 2016 University of Southern California  
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*
- February 2011-May 2015 University of Southern California  
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
*Adjunct Lecturer*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2016 *Social Work Practice with Families, Groups and Complex Cases (SOWK 545)*  
Theories and principals of social work practice with primary emphasis on families and groups with application to problems requiring multi-level interventions
- Spring 2016 *Clinical Interventions: Evidenced-Based Practice in Health and Mental Health Settings (SOWK 645)*  
Social work processes from intake to termination with an emphasis on clinical skills required for social work practice in a broad spectrum of health and mental health settings
- Spring 2015- Fall 2016 *Policy and Advocacy in Professional Social Work (SOWK 536)*  
Study and assessment of anti-poverty programs and public policies and their impact on clients, and the social workers' role in policy development at the programmatic, community and state-wide level
- Fall 2012- Fall 2016 *Social Policy (SOWK 535)*  
The study of the American welfare system, how it is developed and implemented, and the professional social workers' role in promoting social justice and advocating for social change
- Spring 2011- Spring 2016 *Community Immersion (SOWK 534 Lab)*  
Two-day interactive workshop for social work graduate students designed to give students an in-depth understanding of how communities function and provide or inhibit access to resources
- Spring 2011- Fall 2015 *Policy and Practice in Social Welfare Organizations (SOWK 534)*  
The study of social work organizations with emphasis on their policy contexts, organizational theory, and the development of delivery systems

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- January 20, 2017-Present *Selection Committee Member*  
California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)  
Health Professions Education Foundation

Score applications for the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program (MHLAP). Funded by the Mental Health Services Act, MHLAP provides loan forgiveness for professionals working in county mental/behavioral health departments or county contracted providers in hard to fill or retain positions

November 21, 2016

*Co-Facilitator*  
Post-Election Reflections  
Talking, Taking Care, Taking Action  
University of Southern California  
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Co-lead discussion forum for faculty and students on the role of the social work profession in professional advocacy for vulnerable populations following the 2016 presidential election

## **CLINICAL AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

January 2013- Present

*Clinical Consultant/Independent Contractor*  
CINAHL Information Systems, Social Work Reference Center

- Provide clinical expertise and guidance to Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) approved provider of continuing education courses
- Conduct ongoing assessment of professional learning needs and board licensing requirements, plan new course content accordingly
- Monitor course content for adherence to professional legal and ethical standards
- Write clinical reference materials, curriculum, and associated continuing education modules for social workers and other mental health professionals utilizing current research and evidenced based practices

September 2012-  
September 2013

*LCSW Exam Tutor/Coach*  
Self Employed

- Provide individual and group coaching sessions for MSWs seeking licensure through the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) or ASWB
- Assist students with the development of study skills, test taking skills, and clinical knowledge

March 2006-  
December 2011

*Director of Program Administration*  
Community Family Guidance Center

- Implement Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) agency wide including selection of evidenced based practices, reorganization of work teams, assessment and coordination of staff training needs, program evaluation and data collection, and assessment and management of agency culture during the change process
- Oversee all daily operations of agency programs including child abuse prevention and intervention programs, MediCal, evidenced based practices (FFT, Strengthening Families, TF-CBT) and school based services
- Hire, train and supervise clinical and management staff
- Assure compliance with Federal, State, County and local regulations pertaining to the operation of all agency programs
- Participate in contract negotiations, fundraising, audits, and grant writing
- Develop collaborative relationships with agency board members, and Federal State, County, and local agency representatives
- Participate in the development of agency strategic plan
- Promote agency programs, goals and mission through public speaking engagements
- Act as agency HIPAA Privacy Officer and Quality Assurance Manager
- Oversee implementation of agency electronic medical records system per HIPAA guidelines

January 2005-  
March 2006

*Clinical Supervisor*  
Starview Community Services, Compton Office

- Provide clinical supervision to social workers and marriage and family therapist interns in children's outpatient mental health program
- Implement new mental health assessment program (MAT) for foster youth

November 2001-  
December 2004

*Clinical Supervisor and Program Coordinator*  
Community Family Guidance Center, System of Care

- Provide clinical supervision to case managers, social workers, and marriage and family therapist interns

providing intensive in-home and crisis intervention services to families involved in multiple social service systems

- Establish collaborative working relationships with Department of Mental Health and Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department representatives to ensure appropriate referral and service delivery to clients

June 1999-  
November 2001

*Clinical Social Worker*

Community Family Guidance Center, Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Programs

- Provide crisis intervention and individual and family therapy for clients ages 3 to adult
- Determine DSM-IV diagnosis, develop treatment plans, and evaluate client progress

February 1998-  
June 1999

*Residential Social Worker*

McKinley Children's Center

- Provide therapy, and crisis intervention to children in residential placement
- Provide clinical leadership and training to treatment team members

July 1997-  
February 1998

*Foster Care Social Worker*

Hannah's Children's Homes

- Provide crisis intervention and brief therapy to children in foster care
- Monitor foster home placements and provide support to foster families

June 1993-  
May 1996

*Education Team Leader*

YMCA Youth and Family Resources- Independent Living Skills Program

- Designed and implemented independent living skills curriculum for adolescents in the foster care and probation systems
- Launched and coordinated 16 school-based sites, hired and supervised program staff

## **PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Gale, L. (2017) *Policy Advocacy for the Clinical Social Worker*. Guest Lecture. National Association of Social Workers Sacramento Unit, Sacramento CA.

Gale, L. (2015). Lessons from Hull House. In Van Wormer, K. S., Link, J. R. *Social Welfare Policy for a Sustainable Future*. (p. 46). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Gale, L. (2015). *Evidenced-Based Practice: Linking Research, Policy and Practice*. Guest Lecture. USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University Park Campus

Gale, L (2013). *Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Social Workers*. Guest Lecture. USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, Orange County Academic Center

Gale, L (2010). *Self Care for Social Workers: Preventing Burnout and Addressing Secondary Trauma*. Presented at Community Family Guidance Center Cerritos, CA.

Gale, L. (2009). *Dependency Court: Navigating the System*. Presented at Community Family Guidance Center, Cerritos, CA.

Gale, L. (2006). *HIPAA: Your Legal and Ethical Responsibilities*. Presented at Community Family Guidance Center, Cerritos, CA.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Network for Social Work Management

National Association of Social Workers

Council on Social Work Education