

DAWN WALDRON NELSON, LCSW-S, ACSW, SAP, CART

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Dawn Nelson, LCSW-S, ACSW, SAP, CART
1024 Ridge Road
Rockwall, TX 75087
(972) 989-2799

Owner/ Psychotherapist
August 2005- Present

Thirty years of counseling with individuals, couples, groups, and families regarding anxiety, anger, depression, grief, child abuse, sexual trauma, and crisis management. Other issues worked with include parent-child, marital, coping with illness, alternative lifestyles, and school consultations.

Houston Psychological Associates
24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 806
Houston, Texas 77046
(713) 629-0220

Private Practice Clinician
March 1997-July 2005

Clinician working with individuals and couples in private practice sessions regarding depression, anxiety, grief, marital discord, women's issues, and alternative lifestyle issues.

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77030
(713) 794-1154

Social Worker III

November, 1992- March, 1997

Social worker for Breast Medical Oncology and Dermatology Clinics. Clinical responsibilities included counseling and crisis intervention for patients and families, completing psychosocial assessments, and facilitating support groups. Faculty for advanced oncology courses.

River Oaks Hospital
Masters & Johnson Adolescent Trauma Program
1525 River Oaks Road West
Harahan, Louisiana 70123
(504) 734-1740

Clinical Social Worker

September 1991- September 1992

Clinician for Masters & Johnson's Adolescent Trauma Program treating patients with sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual compulsions, and dissociative disorders. Clinical responsibilities included specialized group therapy, family therapy, and admission evaluations. Member of community education speakers' bureau and CARE Crisis Team.

Laurel Ridge Hospital's Day Treatment Center

11720 Corporate Woods Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78259-3500
(210) 491-9400

Clinical Coordinator

May 1990-February 1991

Therapist for children and adolescents in individual, group, family, and multifamily therapy sessions. Responsible for coordination and development of the child and adolescent day treatment programs, Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder program, and the Residential Treatment Center Aftercare program including supervision of case managers and teachers. Member of the community education speakers' bureau and admissions consultation team.

HCA Shoal Creek Hospital

3501 Mills Avenue
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 452-0361

Social Work Intern

January 1990-May 1990

Therapist for adolescents and children in individual, group, and family therapy sessions. Case management including psychosocial assessments, clinical assessments, conducting staffings, and discharge planning.

The Junior Helping Hand Home for Children

3804 Avenue B
Austin, Texas 78751
(512) 459-3353

Social Work Intern

September, 1988-May, 1989

Therapist for children in individual play therapy sessions. Co-facilitator of a latency-aged children's group. Case management including admissions documentation, diagnostic assessments, development and review of treatment plans.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK. The University of Texas at Austin, May, 1990.

Specialization: Services to Children and Families.

BACHELOR OF ARTS. The University of Texas at Austin, December, 1987.
Double Major: Psychology and English.

GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

SWK 501: Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This practice course provides students with an understanding of and experience with social work practice skills, values, and knowledge within the context of a strengths perspective. Students will learn problem-solving skills, empowerment-based practice skills, relationship building, and data gathering skills as they relate to all client systems, but particularly individuals, families, and small groups.

SWK 505: Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2016

This advanced practice course provides students with theories and skills for working with individuals from an advanced generalist perspective. By the end of the course, students will be expected to demonstrate critical thinking, integration of theory with practice, and knowledge, values and skills appropriate for autonomous practice.

SWK 506: Advanced Generalist Practice with Families, Spring 2019, Spring 2017

This advanced practice course provides students with theories and skill for working with families which includes an advanced generalist approach. Students will be expected to demonstrate critical thinking and the use of evidence-based practices in working effectively with family systems.

SWK 507: Organizations, Communities, and Social Policy, Summer 2015

This course builds on the generalist practice with individuals, families and group class, extending the concepts of empowerment-based practice and the strengths perspective to macro client systems such as organizations and communities. The relationships between organizations and communities and at-risk populations are infused throughout the course.

SWK 508: Social Work Supervision and Administration, Fall 2020, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

This practice course provides students with theories and skills needed for direct supervision of line workers, and middle and upper management skills in human service organizations. The course addresses relevant theories and models of supervision and administration as well as key skills needed to perform the functions of supervision and administration in complex organizations. Special attention is given to empowerment theories and the importance of resource development in underserved rural areas.

SWK 509: Advanced Generalist Practice with Small Groups, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This direct practice theory course provides students with advanced group work theory and skills necessary to carry out social work interventions with small groups.

SWK 510: Clinical Practice in Mental Health, Summer 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2020, Summer 2016, Fall 2015

The purpose of this course is (1) to present the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (“DSM”) as a knowledge base for enhancing social workers’ understanding of the individual biopsychosocial function and (2) to expand social workers’ ability to use the DSM-5 to work with at-risk populations across diverse settings and with diverse mental health professionals. The course is critical for social workers to learn how to perform comprehensive assessments and to devise effective interventions for clinically impaired populations. Additionally, the nomenclature is applicable across diverse contexts and multi-theoretical orientations. Ethical dilemmas inherent in categorizing and labeling will be highlighted along with cultural concerns in using a homogenous system of diagnostic classes.

SWK 512: Business of Social Work, Fall 2021

The purpose of this course is to provide the knowledge and skills that will position a social worker for business success, whether starting a non-profit, assuming a leadership role in a non-profit, or establishing a private practice upon earning the license as a clinical social worker.

SWK 514: Social Work and the Law, Summer 2023

This elective introduces students to the intricacies of the United States legal system. Course content will delve into the connection between social work and the legal system, including constitutional rights, rights granted by law and other protections within administrative proceedings, civil proceedings, and the criminal justice system at the local, state and federal levels of government. Special attention will be paid to rights of community members under the U.S. Constitution, U.S. code and other laws that grant protections against violation of a person’s rights. We will also look at the legal aspects of running a non-profit as well as starting and solo practice in the field of social work.

SWK 521: Foundations of Social Welfare Policy, Spring 2016

This foundation course in social welfare policy introduces students to social policy development, social welfare institutions, and the historical and existing policies underpinning the development of social policy. Course content is designed to emphasize the effect of social policies on client systems at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Specific attention will be given to the interaction between social welfare policies and at-risk populations.

SWK 553: Field Foundations Practicum, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

This first field practicum builds on the experiences acquired in the prerequisite classes, while it provides the students with the opportunity to learn theories, knowledge and skills required to engage individuals, families (or household), small groups, organizations and communities.

SWK 554: Advanced Generalist Field Practicum, Fall 2021, Summer 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Summer 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Summer 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Summer 2015

This advanced generalist field practicum provides students with experiential opportunities designed to integrate knowledge and theories with advanced generalist practice skills with special emphasis on working with organizations, rural and urban communities. Students participate in an educationally-directed field experience under supervision in a social services agency.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

SWK 322: Human Behavior in the Social Environment II, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

This course examines the theoretical basis for understanding groups, organizations, and communities. Emphasis is placed on providing students with theoretical knowledge which can then be applied to assessing and intervening with mezzo and macro client systems. Systems theory is utilized as a framework for understanding interactions between and among social units.

SWK 325: Mezzo Practice, Spring 2016

This practice course teaches the application of social work skills to work with groups. Students will learn the dynamics of task and process groups and will learn how to apply a systematic approach to the development, implementation, termination, and evaluation of groups.

SWK 331: Social Work Practice with Macro Systems, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

This practice course teaches the application of social work skills with organizations and communities. Students will apply a systematic approach to data gathering, assessments, planning, intervention and evaluation with organizations and communities. Special attention will be given to issues of diversity and ethics in practice. Skills are developed through class exercises, role plays, and written assignments.

SWK 370: Writing and Technology Skills in Social Work, Fall 2015

This course will provide the students with a generalist approach to theories, concepts and skills required to develop a methodology for writing and using technology in case management and social work practice in ever changing systems. A continuum of support systems and agency resources will be explored to allow the student to gain insight into the needs of agencies as practice-based settings. The students will explore statistical basics, interdisciplinary collaborations and ethical dilemmas, as well as think critically about an array of political, social, institutional and personal issues affecting practice.

SWK 422: Integration & Application of Practice Theories, Summer 2022, Summer 2021, Summer 2020, Summer 2019, Summer 2018, Summer 2017, Summer 2016

This course is designed to teach students the Integration and Application of various practice theories and methodologies in social work practice. Students will learn to examine various theories' basic concepts, and how they may apply to different problematic case histories. Each theory will be examined in reference to potential use in treating individuals, families and groups as they may exist in a problematic social environmental setting.

SWK 424: Generalist Practice in the Field, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

This course is designed to assist students to integrate the knowledge, skills and values learned in all social work courses previously taken and assist them to apply these in their field practicum settings.

PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH:

“Motivation: It’s Just Child’s Play,” Rockwall Women’s League; January 13, 2023.

“It Begins Here with Mental Health: Smaller Steps to Greater Progress,” ReflectUS National Coalition via Zoom; March 4, 2022.

“Posttraumatic Stress Disorder,” Northeast Lakeview College, San Antonio, Texas; October 30, 2018.

“Open Relationships,” Contemporary Relationships Conference, Houston, Texas; May 5, 2017.

“Free to Soar: Social Workers in Successful Fee for Service Private Practice,” NASW State Conference, Arlington, Texas; October 6, 2016.

“ADHD: How to Access Resources for Your Child.” Rockwall ADHD Support Group, Rockwall, Texas; June 9, 2016.

“Adolescent Process Group for Suicide.” New Hope Lutheran Church, Missouri City, Texas; October 29, 1999.

“Breast Cancer Awareness.” Village of Oak Lake Women’s Club; October 15, 1999.

“The Psychosocial Impact of Breast Cancer Related to Spinal Cord Injury,” Association for Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers, Las Vegas, Nevada; September 1-5, 1995.

Collaborator, *“Imagery/Support and Immune Function in Breast Cancer Research Project,”* University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Collaborator, *“An Outcomes Assessment Model Research Project,”* University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

“Support Group Interventions,” University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Social Work Oncology Course, Houston, Texas; February 20, 1995.

“Enhancing Group Facilitation Through Role Play,” University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Social Work Oncology Course, Houston, Texas; October 19, 1993.

“Case Presentation,” University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas; May 19, 1993.

“Field Placements,” University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas; April 2, 1993.

“Sexual Development,” Archdiocese of New Orleans Youth Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana; March 8, 1992.

"Holiday Pressures," Chappelle High School, New Orleans, Louisiana; December 18, 1991.

"Peer Pressure," Riverdale High School, New Orleans, Louisiana; December 3, 1991.

"Peer Pressure," Landry Middle School, New Orleans, Louisiana; October 22, 1991.

"Communicating with Elementary Age Children," St. Rose Elementary School, New Orleans, Louisiana; October 9, 1991.

"How to Get Your Kids to Talk to You," Tri-School Project Pride Night, San Antonio, Texas; February 19, 1991.

"The Dysfunctional Family: It's Effect on the Learning of the Child," Kirby Elementary School, San Antonio, Texas; August 20, 1991.

LICENSURES, CERTIFICATIONS, AND DESIGNATIONS:

Licensed Clinical Social Worker & Supervisor, State of Texas #17785.

U.S. Department of Transportation Substance Abuse Professional.

State of Texas Parenting Facilitator.

State of Texas Professional Mediator.

Clinical Instructor, Texas A&M University-Commerce

Certified Anger Resolution Therapist.

Appointed Member, State Board of Education Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Health Review Group (2020).

Dallas Branch Chair, National Association of Social Workers (2019-2021), and Member, Texas Clinical Supervision Committee, National Association of Social Workers (2021-Current).

Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Member, Texas Association of Family Forensics.

Member and Former Exam Question Writer, Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Founding President, Lake Ray Hubbard (2005-07) and Fort Bend Chapters (2003-04), The Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas at Austin, which awards scholarships to local students that attend the university.

Past President (2011-12), President's Advisory Council (2018-20); By-laws Committee (2019-20), Rockwall Women's League, a 180-member charity organization that has raised over \$4 million for the community.

Founding Member, Lakeside Leaders, a group of business leaders in Rockwall County who fundraise for charities.