

Sherry Collette Mergner

Profile

Licensed Clinical Social Worker with experience coordinating substance abuse and mental health continuing education programs and as a university and community college instructor. Have lectured to groups of college students, lawyers, nurses, and professionals in the fields of addiction, mental health and social work. Twenty-two years of teaching, clinical, supervisory and administrative experience with an emphasis on mental health, substance abuse & autism spectrum disorders.

Education

Florida State University, School of Social Work, Tallahassee, Florida.
Master of Social Work, May 1987.
Specialization: Clinical and Medical Social Work.
GPA 3.78/4.00.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Psychology, Indiana, Pennsylvania.
Bachelor of Arts, May 1983. Major - Psychology, Minor - Sociology.
Major GPA 3.54/4.00. Overall GPA 3.13/4.00.

Professional Experience

Licensed Clinical Social Work – NC License #C000454
(1991 to the Present)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The School of Social Work's Jordan Institute for Families offers ongoing opportunities for practitioners to advance their knowledge and learn new skills. The School's CE Program brings together faculty and practitioners in a variety of instructional formats such as seminars, workshops, and conferences and offers programs across the state of North Carolina. The School of Social Work also collaborates with and assists regional AHECs in providing continuing education activities for social work, mental health, health and other human service personnel; technical assistance and consultation.

Autism Training Grant – Project Coordinator

(July, 2010 to Present)

Serve as the Project Coordinator for a Master-level Autism Training Grant with the Department of Allied Health Science, UNC-CH, School of Medicine. Coordinate the training components of this grant for Master Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy students including panel presentations, in-home and agency-based training experiences and monthly educational forums.

AHEC Liaison/Clinical Assistant Professor

(August, 2003 to Present) and (September, 1996 to June, 2001)

Serve as the School's liaison with the Area Health Education Centers. Identify School of

Social Work faculty to provide training for the nine AHEC, Mental Health Departments and manage the School's contract with Central AHEC.

Director of Continuing Education/Coordinator of Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies/Clinical Instructor

(September, 1996 to March 1, 1999)

Coordinated the School's Continuing Education Program. Target audience included School of Social Work alumni as well as other interested human service professionals. Planned, implemented and coordinated School of Social Work related conferences and other special events. Coordinated the School's Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies and taught one substance abuse elective to MSW students each year.

**North Carolina Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc.,
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina**

The Governor's Institute promotes substance abuse education, research and communication among health care professionals. The Governor's Institute is a nonprofit, non-government corporation supported by public and private funding sources, including the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, The Duke Endowment, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, federal grants and other public and private agencies.

Training Coordinator (January, 1996 - July, 1996)

Served as the Assistant Director for the NC Addictions Training Center (50% time) which is a grant funded position through the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Coordinate substance abuse continuing education programs for nurses and counselors. Provided consultation to four university nursing programs regarding the integration of substance abuse education into the nursing school curriculum. Provided consultation to the four master-prepared programs in addictions counseling regarding student internship sites and enhancing their substance abuse curriculum to meet the standards set forth by the North Carolina Professional Substance Abuse Certification Board. Grant Funding Period: September, 1995 - September, 1996 (originally proposed for 3 years).

Served as the Substance Abuse Specialist for the Substance Abuse Free Families and Environments Coalition (50%) which is a grant funded position through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Coordinated substance abuse prevention continuing education programs for physicians, nurses, public health professionals, school personnel and social workers. Provided consultation on the development and utilization of a substance abuse screening tool for adolescents and adults. Grant Funding Period: September, 1995 - September, 1996 (originally proposed for 3 years).

Mountain Area Health Education Center, Division of Regional Education, Department of Mental Health Education, Asheville, North Carolina

One of nine Area Health Education Centers across the state of North Carolina. MAHEC serves health care professionals, students and institutions within a 15-county region of Western North Carolina. The goal of MAHEC is to improve the retention, geographic distribution and quality of health care professionals in the region it serves.

Assistant Director (October, 1992 - January, 1996)

Substance Abuse Coordinator (March, 1992 - October, 1992)

Conducted annual continuing education need assessments with community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Centers in the western region of the state. Developed a two-year substance abuse certification-training curriculum. Provided substance abuse training to individuals pursuing substance abuse certification and professionals currently in the field.

Coordinated continuing education programs for MAHEC's Perinatal Substance Abuse Program. Served as co-chair for two years and was actively involved in the planning, development and coordination of the Annual Addiction: Focus on Women Conference.

Smoky Mountain MH/DD/SA Center, Dillsboro, North Carolina

Outpatient community mental health and substance abuse center serving Western North Carolina.

Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor - Temp./Part-Time (June, 1992-August, 1992).

Provided a variety of assessment, counseling and case management services to substance abusing adults and their families in Macon County. Facilitated DWI and family groups. Responsible for clinical supervision of substance abuse staff.

Private Practice, Asheville, North Carolina

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Private Practitioner (July, 1991- May, 1993)

Specializing in women's issues, family of origin issues, addiction recovery.

Appalachian Hall Psychiatric Hospital, Woodhill Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, Asheville, North Carolina

Inpatient chemical dependency treatment program. Length of stay: 21-28 days.

Clinical Coordinator (October, 1990 - July, 1991)

Responsible for program and staff development; patient and family education, unit management and quality assurance; supervised nine clinical staff and all student interns.

Director, Family Program (August, 1989 - October, 1990)

Developed intensive three-day family seminar, three-phased intervention program, family aftercare program; co-facilitated family support group; provided family counseling and patient/family education groups; obtained social histories; carried a caseload of 10-15 patients and their families; provided clinical supervision to three family counselors and all student interns.

Family Counselor (January, 1989 - August, 1989)

Obtained social histories, provided family counseling and patient/family education, co-facilitated family support group; carried a clinical caseload of 15-18 patients and their families.

Mental Health Technician - Part -Time (May, 1988 - January, 1989)

Saint Joseph's Hospital, Addictions Recovery Program, Asheville, North Carolina

Short-term inpatient and long-term outpatient chemical dependency treatment program.

Length of program: one year.

Program Coordinator (September, 1988 - January, 1989)

Responsible for program and staff development; unit management and quality assurance; intake coordinator; administered patient testing.

Substance Abuse Technician - Part -Time (June, 1988 - September, 1988)

Blue Ridge Center, Community Support Program, Asheville, North Carolina

Outpatient community mental health program providing continuing care to severely and

Social Worker II (May, 1987 - May, 1988)

Carried a caseload of 110 clients; provided individual counseling and case management services.

Gainesville VA Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida

Graduate Fellowship (January, 1987 - May, 1987)

Provided medical social work services to three medical units (cardiology, urology, thoracic); obtained social histories; provided individual and family counseling; assisted patients in securing services within the hospital system and from other community agencies.

Student Counseling Services, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Graduate Assistantship (May, 1986 - August, 1986)

Graduate Intern (January, 1986 - May, 1986)

Provided individual counseling to university students; co-facilitated assertiveness group.

Appalachee Community Mental Health Services, Tallahassee, Florida

Inpatient crisis stabilization unit.

Social Service Worker - Shift Supervisor (September, 1984 - November, 1986)

Responsible for unit management; supervision of three staff members; provided individual and group counseling; case management; coordinated client education and activities.

The University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, Florida

Intensive residential treatment program serving the severely and persistently mentally ill population. Length of stay: 30-45 days.

Unit Treatment/Rehabilitation Specialist (July, 1983 - August, 1984)

Provided individual counseling and case management; facilitated education groups on feelings and stress, communication and problems solving skills; facilitated relaxation and activity groups.

Student Counseling Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA

Undergraduate Intern (January, 1983 - May, 1983)

Provided individual counseling to university students; co-facilitated Bulimic Support Group, Test Anxiety Group and Career Exploration Group. Research Assistant for a pilot study on the prevalence and occurrence of bulimia campus wide.

Teaching Experience

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Clinical Assistant Professor/AHEC Trainer (2005 to present)

Guest Lecturer/AHEC Trainer – Topics: Challenges and Gifts of Raising a Child with ASD and Accepting Differences: Telling Classmates and Teachers about a Child's ASD

Clinical Instructor (September, 1996 to March, 1999)

Courses taught: SoWo 252 - Substance Abuse & Dependency

Field Instructor (September, 1990 - March, 1991)

Supervised one graduate social work student who was doing his internship at Appalachian Hall Psychiatric Hospital, Woodhill Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center.

Western Carolina University, Department of Social Work, Cullowhee, North Carolina

Visiting Assistant Professor (July, 1995 to August, 1996)

Courses taught: Clinical Aspects of Addiction

Co-Instructor (June 3, 1993 to June, 1994)

Courses taught: Clinical Aspects of Addiction; Substance Abuse: Counseling and Treatment Strategies

Field Instructor (January, 1993 - April, 1993)

Supervised one undergraduate social work student who was doing her internship in the Haywood County School System.

Guest Lecturer (July 23 and August 6, 1992)

Topic: Two four hours presentations entitled "The Effects of Addiction on the Family; How To Do An Intervention" for undergraduate social work students enrolled in a special topics course on substance abuse.

Mountain Area Health Education Center, Division of Regional Education, Department of Mental Health Education, Asheville, North Carolina

Faculty (March, 1992 to January, 1996)

Courses: Addiction and the Family: Healing the Wounded Self (30 hours); Spirituality and Recovery: A Look at the 12 Steps and Beyond (30 hours); Disease of Addiction and Basic Substance Abuse Assessment (30 hours); Multi-Cultural Issues in Substance Abuse Treatment (12 hours); Codependency: The Other Side of Addiction (30 hours); Intervention: The Moment of Reality (6 hours).

Trainer, Perinatal Substance Abuse Program (February, 1993 to January, 1996)

Workshop Topics: Professional Issues and Ethics; Creating an Open Therapeutic Environment; The Disease of Addiction; The Effects of Addiction on the Family System.

Coordinator/Trainer Expanded Child Care Options Grant Project

(January, 1993 - December, 1994)

A two-year grant project through the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Care Section and Division of MH/DD/SA. Coordinated grant project and with the assistance of three other trainers, educated approximately 300 child care employees in eight western counties of North Carolina on substance abuse and its effects on the family system. Developed a training manual for child care employees which was used as a model across the state.

Southwestern Community College, Drug and Alcohol Technology (DAT) Program and Psychology Program, Sylva, North Carolina

Adjunct Instructor (December, 1991 - May, 1992)

Courses: Minority Populations and Chemical Dependency; Recovery and Relapse; Adult Children of Alcoholics and Codependency; Human Growth and Development; Behavior Modification.

Field Instructor (June, 1991 - July, 1991)

Supervised one DAT student who was doing his internship at Appalachian Hall

Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina

Guest Lecturer (November 7, 1991)

Topic: Panel of Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals discussing Addiction and Codependency Issues with Resident Hall Directors and Counselors.

Guest Lecturer (August 16, 1991)

Topic: Three hour presentation to Resident Hall Directors and Counselors entitled "Codependency: Learning To Take Care of Yourself."

American Red Cross, Asheville, North Carolina

Certified HIV/AIDS Instructor (September, 1991 - December, 1994)

Western Piedmont Community College, Drug and Alcohol Technology (DAT) Program, Morganton, North Carolina

Field Instructor (March, 1991 - May, 1991)

Supervised one DAT student who was doing her internship at Appalachian Hall Psychiatric Hospital, Woodhill Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center.

The University of South Carolina, School of Social Work, Columbia, South Carolina

Field Instructor (May, 1990 - August, 1990)

Supervised one graduate social work student who was doing her internship at Appalachian Hall Psychiatric Hospital, Woodhill Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center.

Western North Carolina AIDS Project, Education Committee, Asheville, North Carolina

Volunteer (June, 1987 - September, 1988 and March, 1991 - March, 1992)

Training Topics

From 1989 - 1999 served as a trainer on a variety of mental health and substance abuse topics including: addiction and the family; substance abuse interventions; women and addiction, addiction and spirituality. Target audiences included mental health, substance abuse and other human service professionals as well as lawyers and nurses.

From 2008 to the present served as a trainer on the topic of Autism and Parenting and have trained groups of mental health professionals, school personnel and families who have children with autism.

Specialized Training/Interests

Safe Zone Training, UNC-CH (April 13, 2010)

Internal Family Systems Training

Level I Psychotherapy Training Group (October, 2009 – present)

Hakomi Professional Skills Training

Level II Psychotherapy Training Group (November, 1997 to June, 1998)

Level I Psychotherapy Training Group (September, 1995 - February, 1996)

Primary Emotional Energy Recovery Training (PEER)

On-going Training Group (October, 1994 - January, 1996)

Level II, Intensive Weekend with John Lee, MA (June 24-25, 1994)

Professional Interests: Women's Issues, LGBTIQ, Addiction and Recovery, Spirituality; Autism Spectrum Disorders, Special Education, Parenting Issues; Grief and Loss; Expressive Arts and Experiential Therapies; Self-Psychology

Personal Interests: Biking; Hiking; Gardening; Water Aerobics; Cooking, Music, Mosaic Tiling

Memberships

Autism Society of North Carolina, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Member
(2007 to Present)

Orange/Chatham County Chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina, Board Member
(August, 2004 to 2007)

TEACCH, Mother's Mentor Program, Mother's Mentor
(August, 2004 to 2007)

North Carolina NASW Continuing Education Committee
(September, 1996 to March, 1999)

Co-Chair, Planning Committee, Addiction: Focus on Women Conference
(May, 1994 - May, 1997)

Chair, Planning Committee, 1993 and 1995 Conference entitled "Influence of Southern Appalachian Culture on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment"

Member, Mary Benson House Advisory Committee
(July, 1994 - January, 1996)

Member, MAHEC, Perinatal Substance Abuse Program Advisory Committee
(November, 1993 - January, 1996)

Member, MAHEC, Committee on Minorities in Health Careers
(July, 1993 - January, 1996)

Member, Planning Committee, Addiction: Focus on Women Conference
(March, 1992 - May, 1994) and (May, 1997 to Present)

Member, Southeastern Psychomotor Society

Member, National Association of Social Workers

Personal

Birth Date: September 3, 1961
Birthplace: DuBois, Pennsylvania
Children: Noah Eugene Hrynewych and Nathan Andrei Hrynewych
Health: Good

