

Sherry Collette Mergner, MSW, LCSW
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EDUCATION

- 08/1984 – 05/1987 M.S.W., Florida State University
Areas of Specialization: Clinical and Medical Social Work
- 06/1979 – 05/1983 B.A., Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Psychology
Minor: Sociology

LICENSURE

- 11/2021 – Present Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), License #CW022270
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
30 hours of continuing professional development required every two years.
- 07/1991 – Present Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), License #C000454
North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board
40 hours of continuing professional development required every two years, includes four hours of ethics training.

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 07/2021 – Present Clinical Associate Professor/AHEC Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND PROJECTS

- 08/2005 – 08/2021 Clinical Assistant Professor/AHEC Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 05/2017 – 06/2021 Adjunct Instructor, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 07/2013 – 06/2021 Social Work Faculty Mentor, Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders Training Program (LEND), UNC-Chapel Hill, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Mentor graduate Social Work students who are trainees in the LEND program. Provide training on ASD and Social Thinking in DD lecture series and Problem-Based Life-Span Development course.
- 07/2015 – 06/2016 Investigator/Consultant – NCAHEC Innovation Project - UNC-PrimeCare Interprofessional Education in Co-occurring Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health. Grant funded by NCAHEC Program. Grant Sponsored by The Family Support Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

- 07/2013 – 07/2016 Regional Coordinator/Investigator, Autism State Implementation Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Medicine’s Department of Allied Health Sciences and the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Grant funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 07/2010 – 06/2013 Project Coordinator – Autism Training Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Allied Health Sciences, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Coordinate and provide educational training on Autism Spectrum Disorders for graduate Speech and Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy students who were apart of this grant project.
- 08/2003 – 08/2005 Clinical Instructor/AHEC Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 10/2000 – 12/2000 Clinical Instructor/AHEC Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (temporary/part-time).
- 09/1996 – 10/2000 Clinical Instructor/Director of Continuing Education/AHEC Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

TEACHING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

- 08/2020 – Present LCSW-A Clinical Supervisor – Neurodiversity Empowerment Services, Greensburg, PA and Cary, NC – supervise three LCSW-A clinicians (former UNC-SSW graduates) and one Peer Support Specialist in our private practice.
- 01/2021 – 04/2021 Field Instructor, UNC-CH, School of Social Work – Supervised one MSW concentration year/PrimeCare student at Neurodiversity Empowerment Services, Greensburg, PA.
- 08/2019 - 04/2020 Task Supervisor, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work – Supervised one Advanced Standing MSW student at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities one day per week. Their full-time placement was at the UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Family Support Program.
- 05/2018 – Present Instructor - UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work – Teach SOWO 709 - Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Cognitive Interventions – Summer Course - 1.5 credit hours.
- 08/2017 - 5/2018 Task Supervisor, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work – Supervised one Distance Education MSW student at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities one day per week. His full-time placement was at the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities.
- 08/2016 – 04/2017 Field Instructor, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work – Supervised one student at TEACCH® Supported Employment program.
- 01/2014 – 04/2015 Field Instructor , UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work – Supervised one student at TEACCH® Autism Program, Carolina Living and Learning Center, Pittsboro, North Carolina.

- 08/2013 – 12/2020 Field Instructor/Task Supervisor, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work - Supervised one to two MSW concentration year students at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Carrboro, North Carolina.
- 08/2013 – 02/2014 LCSW-A Supervisor for a Ph.D. student at UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 07/2008 – Present Trainer, Continuing Professional Education Programs - Design training content and present (5-10 trainings/year) at conferences, workshops, classroom lectures and community in-services for the NCAHEC Program; Autism Society of NC; CIDD; Family Support Program; School of Social Work, Allied Health Sciences, and School of Education, UNC-CH; Residential Services, Inc. state and local school districts, camps, faith-based organizations and agencies across North Carolina on various topics, including:
- *Modified DBT: Interventions to Enhance Emotional Regulation Skills and to Decrease Challenging Behaviors in Adults with I/DD*
 - *Understanding Autism: The Impact of Emotional Regulation Issues and Social Cognitive Challenges on Behavior and Academics*
 - *Radical Welcoming: Accepting Those with Neurodiversity into Your Faith-based Community.*
 - *From Emotions to Advocacy: How My Son's Autism Made Me a Better Social Worker*
 - *Let's Talk About It! The Power of Promoting Disability Awareness, Understanding, Acceptance and Advocacy*
 - *Evidence-Based Caregiver-Provider Partnerships: Working Collaboratively with Families of Children Who Have Special Needs*
 - *Two Mother's Perspective: The Challenges and Gifts of Raising a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*
 - *The Parenting Spectrum: The Challenges and Gifts of Raising a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*
 - *Accepting Differences: Telling Teachers and Classmates about a Child's Disability*
 - *Accepting Differences: Making the World a Better Place for Everyone – A Workshop for High School Students*
 - *Autism Spectrum Disorder: What Teachers Need to Know*
 - *Autism Spectrum Disorder: What Nurses Need to Know*
- 08/1997 – 03/1999 Co-Developer and Coordinator of Substance Abuse Certification Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Instrumental in the development, design, and implementation of the Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies (modeled after the program developed at the Mountain Area Health Education Center). Taught the course Substance Abuse and Dependency (formerly SOWO 252) and continuing education workshops on *How to Become a Substance Abuse Counselor*.
- 01/1996 – 07/1996 Training Coordinator/Substance Abuse Specialist, North Carolina Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Coordinated Substance Abuse Continuing Education Training. Provided Substance Abuse Training and worked on a Substance Abuse grant project for the state.

- 03/1992 – 01/1996 Assistant Director/Substance Abuse Coordinator, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina. Coordinated Substance Abuse Continuing Education Training. Other projects included:
- Designing content and presenting the following in-service training programs to the Mountain Area Perinatal Substance Abuse Program, Mountain Area Health Education Center (07/1993 – 06/1995)
 - Professional Issues and Ethics: Creating an Open Therapeutic Environment*
 - The Disease of Addiction*
 - The Effects of Addiction on the Family System*
 - Designing content and presenting the following courses for the Substance Abuse Studies Program, Mountain Area Health Education Center (03/1992 – 01/1996)
 - Addiction and the Family: Healing the Wounded Self (30 hours)*
 - Spirituality and Recovery: A Look at the 12 Steps and Beyond (30 hours)*
 - The Disease of Addiction and Basic Substance Abuse Assessment (30 hours)*
 - Multicultural Issues in Substance Abuse (30 hours)*
 - Codependency: The Other Side of Addiction (30 hours)*
 - Intervention: The Moment of Reality (6 hours)*
 - Trainer and Coordinator of a two-year grant project funded through the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Care Section, and the Division of MH/DD/SA (07/1993 – 06/1994). The Mountain AHEC was the lead on this project. Assisted in the education of approximately 300 childcare employees in eight western counties of North Carolina on substance abuse and its effects on the family system and developed a training manual for childcare employees, which was used as a model across the state.
- 08/1992 – 05/1995 Visiting Assistant Professor (1995 - 1996); Co-Instructor (1993 - 1994), Western Carolina University, Department of Social Work, Cullowhee, North Carolina
Courses designed and taught:
- *Clinical Aspects of Addiction*
 - *Substance Abuse: Counseling and Treatment Strategies*
- 08/1991 – 12/1992 Adjunct Instructor, Southwestern Community College, Drug and Alcohol Program and Psychology Program, Sylva, North Carolina
Courses designed and taught:
- *Adult Children of Alcoholics and Codependency Issues*
 - *Minority Populations and Chemical Dependency*
 - *Relapse and Recovery*
 - *Behavior Modification*
 - *Human Growth and Development*
- 08/1990 – 05/1993 Field Instructor
- University of North Carolina, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
 - University of South Carolina, College of Social Work, Columbia, South Carolina
 - Western Carolina University, Department of Social Work, Cullowhee, North Carolina

- Western Piedmont Community College, Drug and Alcohol Technology Program, Morganton, North Carolina
- Southwestern Community College, Drug and Alcohol Technology Program, Sylva, North Carolina.

05/1988 – 03/1999 Trainer, Continuing Education Programs/Seminars - Designed content and presented at conferences, workshops, classroom lectures and community in-services for the NC AHEC Program, BSW students at Warren Wilson College and Western Carolina University, Nursing Associations, Positive Alternatives for Lawyers Assistance Program, Resident Hall Directors and Counselors at Warren Wilson College and state-wide Community Mental Health Programs on various topics, including:

- *How to Become a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor*
- *Codependency: The Other Side of Addiction*
- *Codependency and the Helping Profession: Learning to Take Care of Yourself*
- *Addiction and the Family*
- *Women and Addiction*
- *Adult Children of Addicted and Dysfunctional Families*
- *How to do a Substance Abuse Intervention*
- *Intervention: The Moment of Reality*

SOCIAL WORK DIRECT PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

11/2019 – Present Founder/Director/Psychotherapist, Neurodiversity Empowerment Services, based in Cary, NC – part-time virtual psychotherapy practice serving individuals with IDD/ASD and their families.

07/2013 – 12/2020 Clinical Social Worker, UNC-Chapel Hill, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Provided clinical psychotherapy, group therapy, family assessments/evaluations and served on clinics (Behavioral Medicine, Prader Willi and Angelman). Clinical groups include:

- Co-Facilitated a weekly clinical/educational modified DBT Group called *Chill Skills* for adults with I/DD through the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities. Supervise Social Work interns who serve as co-facilitators. (01/2016 – Present).
- Facilitated a six-to-eight-hour educational group for parents/caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder through the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities entitled “*Strengthening Your Child’s Social Smarts: Strategies to Help Children with Social Cognitive Challenges.*” (06/2014 – 09/2017).
- Co-Facilitated a one-week clinical/educational *Social Smarts Camp* for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder using Michelle Garcia Winner’s Incredible Flexible You Social Thinking® Curriculum through the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities. (06/2014 – 07/2016).

08/2013 – 09/2016 Clinical Consultant/Educator - Facilitated a six-week educational group for parents/caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation entitled “*Strengthening Your Child’s Social Smarts: Strategies to Help Children with Social Cognitive Challenges*” (for parents/caregivers of children grades K–8).

- 06/1992 – 08/1992 Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor, Smoky Mountain MH/DD/SA Center, Dillsboro, North Carolina (temporary/part-time).
- 07/1991 – 05/1993 Private Practitioner (part-time – shared a practice with three colleagues), Asheville, North Carolina.
- 05/1988 – 07/1991 Social Work Clinician, Appalachian Hall Psychiatric Hospital, Woodhill Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
Clinical Coordinator (10/1990 - 07/1991)
Director, Family Program (08/1989 - 10/1990)
Family Counselor (01/1989 – 08/1989)
Mental Health Technician (05/1988 - 01/1989)
- 09/1988 – 01/1989 Social Work Clinician, Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Addictions Recovery Program, Asheville, North Carolina.
Program Coordinator (09/1988 - 01/1989)
Substance Abuse Technician (06/1988 - 09/1988)
- 05/1987 – 05/1988 Social Worker II, Blue Ridge Center, Community Support Program, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 01/1987 – 05/1987 Medical Social Work Graduate Fellowship, Gainesville VA Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida.
- 01/1986 – 08/1986 Clinical Social Work Graduate Assistantship/Graduate Intern, Florida State University, Student Counseling Center, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 05/1985- 01/1986 Student Assistant to the Associate Dean, Dr. Barbara White, Florida State University, School of Social Work, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 09/1984 – 11/1986 Social Service Worker/Shift Supervisor, Appalachee Community Mental Health Services, Positive Alternatives to Hospitalization Short Term Stabilization Unit, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 01/1983 – 08/1984 Unit Treatment/Rehabilitation Specialist, University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute, Intensive Rehabilitation Unit I, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 01/1983 – 05/1983 Undergraduate Intern, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Student Counseling Center, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

SPECIALIZED CLINICAL TRAINING

- 06/2018 11th Annual Social Thinking Global Providers’ Conference, San Francisco, California.
- 03/2016 Social Thinking® Advanced Clinical Training, Social Thinking Santa Clara Clinic, Santa Clara, California.
- 08/2013 – 4/2014 Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders (LEND) Training

Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

- 07/2013 TEACCH® Autism Program's Five-Day Hands-On Classroom Training
- 2010 – 2015 Over 50 hours of specialized training with Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP, Social Thinking® methodology and treatment approaches for working with neurodivergent and autistic individuals, Chapel Hill, NC, Durham, NC and Boston, MA.
- 10/2010 Safe Zone Training, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 09/2009 – 05/2010 Internal Family Systems Training, Level I Psychotherapy Training Group, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina .
- 09/1997 – 05/1998 Hakomi Professional Skills Training, Level II Psychotherapy Training Group Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 09/1995 – 05/1996 Hakomi Professional Skills Training, Level I Psychotherapy Training Group Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina
- 09/1994 – 08/1996 Primary Emotional Energy Recovery Training (PEER), On-going Training Group, Level II, Intensive Weekend with John Lee, MA, Level I, Intensive Weekend with John Lee, MA, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 01/1991 – 12/1994 Certified HIV/ AIDS Instructor, American Red Cross, Asheville, North Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- 08/2022 – Present Member, UNC Dissertation Community Advisory Group – Melissa Jenkins, Ph.D. candidate at UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 04/2022 – Present Member, Planning Committee, Neurodivergent Practitioner Conference
- 03/2022 – Present Co-Facilitator, Voices at the Table: A Discussion on Disability Justice, UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina – Organized and co-facilitated this meeting with former/current SSW students and SSW Dean/Administrative Faculty regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility as it relates to disability and neurodiversity justice issues within the SSW's curriculum.
- 01/2021 – Present Continuing Education Collaboration Committee – UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 07/2019 – 04/2020 Faculty Advisor, Neurodiversity Student Caucus, UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 10/2017 – 05/2018 Member, Doctoral Dissertation Committee, Tara Regan, Ph.D. candidate at UNC-CH, School of Education, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dissertation proposal: Influence of Personal and Environmental Factors on Self-Determination in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

08/2016 – 03/2018 Member, Admission Committee, UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

09/2015 – 09/2017 Member Management Team, First in Families of Durham, Durham, North Carolina.

2014 – 2015 Research Assistant with Sarah Dababnah, Ph.D. and Susan Parrish, Ph.D. on study addressing the “*Feasibility of an Empirically based program for parents of preschools with autism spectrum disorder*” (see article in *Autism* (2016). Vol. 20(1), 85-95). Assisted with recruiting research subjects.

08/2013 – 12/2020 Member, North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Alliance for Students with I/DD, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

08/2013 – 03/2014 Co-Developer of Sex Education Training Program for Middle School Student, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Carrboro, North Carolina.

07/2012 – 06/2013 Member, Strategic Planning Community Engagement Subcommittee, UNC-CH, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

08/2010 - 2016 Member, Autism Alliance, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

06/2008 -11/2008 Member, Planning Committee, NASW-NC, Student Conference: Making a Difference One Moment at Time, Raleigh, North Carolina.

09/2007 – 12/2008 Planning Committee Member, Autism 2008 Conference, Northwest AHEC Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

07/2007 – 06/2009 Planning Committee Member, Autism Society of North Carolina, Annual Conference.

08/2005 Member, E-Learning Committee, University of North Carolina, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

07/2005 – 12/2005 Member, Workforce Development Task Force, , University of North Carolina, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

03/2005 Review Committee, Mental Health Collection, AHEC Digital Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

02/2005 Review Committee, NC AHEC Health Careers Manual, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

07/2004 Member, Distance Education Task Force, University of North Carolina, School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

03/2003 – 06/2013 Member, Planning Committee, Addiction: Focus on Women Conference, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

- 07/1996 – 06/1997 Member, Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies Planning and Development Committee.
- 01/1996 – 02/1999 Continuing Education Committee, NASW-NC, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 06/1994 – 06/1997 Co-Chair, Planning Committee, Addiction: Focus on Women Conference, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 01/1994 – 12/1996 Member, Mary Benson House Advisory Committee, Mary Benson House, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 07/1993 – 06/1996 Member, Perinatal Substance Abuse Program Advisory Committee, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 07/1993 – 06/1996 Member, Committee on Minorities in Health Careers, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 08/1993 – 12/1995 Chair, Planning Committee, Annual Conference on Influence of Southern Appalachian Culture on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 05/2022 School of Social Work Excellence in Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 05/2006 School of Social Work ADTO Pioneer – Co-Founder of UNC- CH, School of Social Work’s Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies
- 08/2002 Parent Advocate Award – Kneedler Child Development Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina.
- 01/1996 Leadership Award, Mountain AHEC, Development of Professional Substance Abuse Training and Education Program in Western North Carolina.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 01/2017 – 12/2020 Co-Facilitator, Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexual Education Program for K-1 and 5th grade, Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 01/2016 – 12/2016 Welcoming Associate, Welcoming Committee, Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 09/2015 – 12/2020 Animal Care Volunteer, Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge, Pittsboro, North Carolina.
- 02/2015 – 12/2016 Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 04/2015 – 08/2015 Co-Chair, PACE Academy ACES – Advocates for Change in our Educational System, Carrboro, North Carolina.

- 07/2013 – 07/2016 Volunteer, Shelter Neck Unitarian Universalist Week-Long Youth Camp, Burgaw, North Carolina.
- 09/2013 – 09/2014 Volunteer, Chatham Rescue and Education, Inc. (CARE), Apex, North Carolina.
- 05/2009 – 09/2012 Member, Special Needs Ministry, Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 09/2010 – 03/2011 Member, Worship and Arts Committee, Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 08/2009 – 06/2010 Chair, wECare! (Exceptional Children’s arm of the PTSA), Perry Harrison School, Pittsboro, North Carolina.
- 08/2007 – 05/2010 Parent Representative, EXCITED (Exceptional Children’s Improvement Team for Educational Development), Chatham County Schools, Pittsboro, North Carolina.
- 01/2004 – 12/2007 Board Member, Orange/Chatham County Chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina.
- 01/2004 – 12/2007 Mother’s Mentor, TEACCH, Mother’s Mentor Program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

REFERENCES

Available upon request