

SUSAN HEFFNER RHEMA, PhD, LCSW, MSW
Curriculum Vitae
2021

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

PhD, University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work, May 2014.

Dissertation title, “Completing the Journey: Predicting Emotional Distress in Newly Arrived Refugee Adults,” a logistical regression of factors impacting refugee mental health in resettlement.

MSW, University of Maryland at Baltimore, School of Social Work and Community Planning, 1983. Specialization in Community Organizing. Thesis title, “The Family, Social, and Community Impact of Inter-Race Adoption”.

BA, Albright, College, Reading, Pennsylvania, May 1980, concentration in social work.

LICENSURE

Kentucky Board of Social Work, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, (LCSW), 2004 to present.

Arizona Board of Social Work, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, (LCSW), 1993-2017.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work, (2010-present)

Adjunct Associate Instructor

Threshold Services, PLLC, (2006 to present)

Owner, Clinical and Consulting Services

Trauma informed and culturally competent clinical intervention for individuals and families with developmental trauma and trauma spectrum disorders.

Program development and evaluation, staff training in the areas of trauma informed care, cultural competency, and best practices for working with immigrants and refugees.

Contracted work includes:

Bakhita Empowerment Initiative, (2008-present)

War Survivors Institute (2017- present)

Tip It Forward, (2017-present)

Survivor of Torture Recovery Center (2011-2018)

Clinical Director

Created a trauma informed and client centered model of clinical treatment and interdisciplinary oversight to the multidisciplinary team.

Kentucky Office for Refugees (2017-2018)

Clinician/Consultant

Completed a statewide assessment of refugee mental health service needs, Created a searchable online Refugee Mental Health Toolkit for Kentucky.

Kentucky Office for Refugees (2007-2012)

Clinician/Consultant

Provided refugee mental health treatment services and consultation to statewide programs.

Louisville Urban Corps (2004-2008)

Director

Created young adult service program, board development, program management.

Presbyterian Church USA, (1995-2004)

Director of International Service Programs

Administered program development and evaluation for international placement, training and personnel review of 500 employees, administered personnel policies and \$14,000,000 budget.

Community Hospice, (1992-1995)

Director

Administered program development and evaluation, clinical oversight, state licensure, employee screening, and training. Facilitated the multidisciplinary team case review.

PUBLICATIONS

Rhema, S., Verbillis-Kolp, S., Gray, A., Farmer, B., Hollifield, M., (2020), Mental Health Screening. In Annamalai, A., Editor (Ed.), Refugee Health Care, 2nd Edition (p 215-227) New York, Springer.

Rhema, S., (2015). A mental health therapist's guide to working with Refugees. In Walking Together, Lutheran Community Services Northwest.

Rhema, S., Gray, A., Verbillis-Kolp, S., Farmer, B., Hollifield, M., (2014). Mental Health Screening. In Annamalai, A., (Ed.), Refugee Health Care-An Essential Medical Guide (pp. 163-171). New York, NY, Springer Publications.

Miller, J., **Rhema, S.,** Faul, A., D'Ambrosio, J., Yankeelov, P., Amer R., Clark, R., (2012) Strength in Process: Using Concept Mapping to Inform Community Coalition Development, Journal of Community Practice, 20:4, 432-456, DOI: 10.1080/10705422.2012.736074

HONORS AND AWARDS

Liberation Award, awarded November 2018, for "making a significant impact in the effort against human trafficking in Kentucky; for providing assistance to and advocating on behalf of those affected by human trafficking in Kentucky."

Graduate Dean's Citation, University Louisville, Kent School of Social Work, May 2014.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Trauma Informed Practices and the Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trager Institute, Louisville KY, March 2021

Training for Enhancement of Therapeutic and Treatment Protocols for Youth Survivors of Trafficking, Kentucky Department of Community Based Services, Kentucky Statewide Response to Child Trafficking Project, January 2021

Non-Pharmaceutical Pain Management, Palliative Care Staff Rounds, University of Louisville Physicians, Louisville, KY, October 2018

Pain Management in Survivors of Torture, Survivors of Torture Recovery Center, Louisville KY, September 2017.

Responding to the Needs of Refugee Students in the School System, Warren County Schools, Bowling Green Kentucky, September 2017

Understanding and Responding to Refugee Mental Health, (Plenary and Workshop presentations), World Refugee Day Summit, Lexington KY, June 2015

Survivors of Torture: Fundamental to Mental Health Services for Survivors of Torture. Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville. Sar, B., Archuleta, A., Rhema, S. (2014).

Survivors of torture: Identifying survivors of torture for referral. Survivors of Torture Recovery Center, Seven Counties Services, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville. Archuleta, A., Rhema, S. (2013).

Challenges in Refugee Mental Health, Cuban Haitian Entrant Program Conference, Miami, FL, August 2012.

Improving Response to Reported Domestic Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities- A Cross Cultural Perspective, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association Conference, Lexington Kentucky, November 2011.

New Eyes for a New Land, Plenary presentation for the Coalition on Intimate Violence in International Communities conference entitled, The Intersection of Culture and Trauma: A Summit to improve access for Immigrant and Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence, Louisville, KY, May 27, 2011.

Finding the Human Connection in the Journey of Acculturation, Society for Intercultural Education Training and Research, Raleigh, NC, April 2009.

Supporting Refugee Students, National Refugee Conference, Chicago IL, September 2008.

Facing the Challenges of Acculturation, National Somali Bantu Conference, Louisville KY, August 2008.

Treating Refugee Trauma, Church World Service, Albuquerque NM, August, 2008.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rhema, S., (2020) Non-Pharmacological Treatment of Pain in Survivors of Torture, War and Polytrauma, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Rhema, S., Livingstone, K., (2019). Interdisciplinary and Holistic Approach to Healthcare with Underserved Populations, Optimal Ageing Conference, Trager Institute, Louisville, KY.

Rhema., S., (2019). Trauma Informed Practice and the Aging Adult, Mental Health and Aging Symposium, Kentucky Indiana Planning and Development Agency, Louisville, KY.

Rhema, S., (2018). Hidden Pain, Mental Health Issues Faced by Survivors of Labor Trafficking, Labor Trafficking Conference, Louisville, KY.

Rhema, S., (2016). Trauma Informed Suicide Assessment for Refugees: An Evidence Based Model for maintaining relationship while creating a Risk Assessment and Plan, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Rhema, S., (2015). Mind Body Skills Group with Nepali Refugees, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Rhema, S., (2015). Integrating Mindfulness and Mind Body Skills into practice with refugee communities: Experience a theoretically grounded and replicable model, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Rhema, S., (2015). Trauma Informed Practices with Refugees in Resettlement, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Rhema, S., (2014). Factors Predicting Emotional Distress in Adult Refugees, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Bush, M., **Rhema, S., (2014).** Sisters of Survival: Familial Body Mapping with Iraqi Child Trauma Survivors, North American Refugee Health Conference, (NARHC).

Faul, A.C., Gordon, B., D'Ambrosio, J.G., Ferrell, G., Tucker, M., Schapmire, T.J., Morgan, F., Thompson, J., **Rhema, S.,** Miller, J.D., Boamah, D.A., Brown, L., Boes, R.C., Zheng, Y., Lawson, T.R. (2013, July). Academia and the aging network. 38th Annual N4A Conference and Tradeshow, Louisville, KY.

Rhema, S., (2012). Universal assessment: Reframing critical thinking to enhance culturally competent practice skills, Council on Social Work Education, (CSWE).

Miller, J., **Rhema, S.,** Faul, A., D'Ambrosio, J., (2012). The Promise of Social Work in Community Organizing: A Pragmatic Approach, Council on Social Work Education, (CSWE).

Miller, J., **Rhema, S.,** Faul, A., D'Ambrosio, J., Yankeelov, P., (2012). The Use of Concept Mapping to Create a Coalition Logic Model and Evaluation Tool, Society for Social Work and Research, (SSWR).

Rhema, S., Segretto, R., (2011). Effective Techniques for Working with Immigrant, Refugee and Limited English Proficient Clients, Council on Social Work Education, (CSWE).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Practicum I

Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

Practicum II

Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018

General Practice III

Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Generalist Practice IV

Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015

Advanced Seminar Topic--Trauma Informed Practice

Summer 2012, Summer 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017

Practice Seminar and Lab I

Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Practice Seminar and Lab II

Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021

Advanced Practice II

Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Summer 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020

Social Justice Policy

Summer 2019, Summer 2020

Advanced Social Work Practice II

Fall 2020

Introduction to Social Work Research

Fall 2020

Human Behavior in the Social Environment II

Spring 2021

Mezzo and Integrated Social Work

Spring 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services. Survivors of Torture Recovery Center (STRC), University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work.

Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency, (KIPDA), for the Diabetes Prevention and Control Research Project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC). (2012).

Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Grant, Seattle, Washington for the development and validation of the Refugee Health Screen Version 1, (2010).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Appointment to the *Multidisciplinary Team Commission on Child Sexual Abuse*, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, (November 2017 to present).

Kentucky Representative of the *War Survivor's Institute*, (2016 to present)

Founding member of *Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers*, (2014 to present).

LANGUAGES

Spanish- Conversational

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lived in Kenya, East Africa; Peru, South America; Mexico and Central America over a ten year period working in community organizing and community development for non-governmental organizations. Provided oversight to funds management, and technical support for community-based development projects, including community organizing for women's economic and family enhancement development projects. Worked an additional 9 years with international non-governmental organizations and agencies, evaluating programs and personnel requiring travel to over 25 countries throughout Europe, Central America, South America, the Middle East, Central Asia, and East Asia.

REFERENCES

Pamela Ratcliffe, LCSW, Survivor of Torture Program, Family Health Centers,
4803 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY, 40214, 502-772-8891, pratcliffe@fhclouisville.org.

Michael Hollifield, M.D., Founder and Director, War Survivors Institute.
Medical Director of the Program for Traumatic Stress, Long Beach VA, Long Beach, CA
5901 East 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90822, 562.597.9509, info@warsurvivors.org

Lynetta Mathis, Director of Field, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville, KY
2217 South Third St, Louisville, KY, 40292, 502.8526137, lynetta.mathis@louisville.edu