

Class of 2024

DSW Program Student Profiles

Alana Campbell



Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
State: Texas
Time Zone: Central
Degree: MSSW, Southern Illinois University
Licensure/Certification: Provisional Master of Social Work license; Provisional Mental Health Practitioner license; Associate Clinical Social Worker license.

Practice Experience:

Alana's experience includes being a Mental Health Living Community Coordinator at Prairie View A&M University as well as holding a fellowship in trauma-based behavioral health at Southern Illinois University.

Motivation for DSW:

Alana is excited to continue her growth in the field by pursuing a DSW degree and hopes to continue to bring help to those that need it most, with a particular interest in helping those that have experienced trauma.

Interesting Facts:

A native of the Bahamas, Alana grew up on the small island of Abaco where she was surrounded by a community where people lacked basic needs. Alana currently lives in Texas, and even though she spent most of her formative years on an island in the Caribbean, she does not know how to swim, but hopes to take some lessons soon.

Beth Pacheco



Pronouns: She/Her
State: New York
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSW, Roberts Wesleyan College
Licensure/Certification: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, New York

Practice Experience:

Much of my work experience has been within a hospital setting including the Emergency Psychiatric Department and an inpatient psychiatric hospital unit. I went on to serve as Program Manager for a similar program at a neighboring hospital followed by serving as Team Leader for a community based psychiatric program providing psychiatric and case management services to individuals who had not been successful in traditional community clinics. I returned to the hospital setting within an inpatient psychiatric program providing acute, short term stabilization services to children and adolescents as a social worker and intern supervisor. I am also a full-time private practice clinician and clinical supervisor, providing services via telehealth, for an agency located in Brooklyn, NY. I also serve as an adjunct professor at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY within their MSW program.

Motivation for DSW:

It is my hope, after completion of my DSW, to pursue a more influential position within a higher education setting to help social work students reach their full potential as clinicians.

Aspirations:

After several years of serving in a variety of leadership roles, I have decided to pursue a DSW degree to continue to build on my supervisory and teaching skills. I believe a solid foundation of education, exploration into the application of theory within the current social climate, and practical skill development is imperative for individuals to grow in to informed, skilled clinicians, regardless of where they practice social work.

Interesting Facts:

I am a huge sports fan, specifically football and baseball, and in my spare time if, I am not attending an event for one of my 3 kids (ages 4, 12, and 16), I LOVE to cheer on my Buffalo Bills!

Blake Skidmore



Pronouns: He/Him
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSW, Ohio State University
License/Credentials: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Practice Experience:

Most of my career has been in clinical counseling settings: as an Early Childhood Trauma therapist, a psychiatric counselor in inpatient, PHP, and IOP programs. I have worked as case manager for two programs: a housing-first drug and alcohol treatment program, and for the Columbus AIDS Task Force as an intern. Most currently, I have worked for UofL for the last 5 years. I am a Program Manager; I work Dr Andy Frey on various research projects and contracts. Our work primarily focused on social emotional health in schools, as well as the use of Motivational Interviewing in school settings.

Motivation for DSW:

A DSW aligns well with my professional goals and aspirations. The coursework design will 1) provide me practical skills in leadership (teaching, budgeting, et cetera) 2) opportunities for personal development (understanding myself in the context of the social work profession) and 3) opportunities to grow my clinical, political, and social analysis. When done I am excited to help develop future social workers, either through a teaching role at a university or through a leadership role in a clinical setting and the DSW prepares me for this work.

Aspirations:

My career aspirations are open. I have had good experiences trusting my instincts and taking good opportunities when I encounter them. I can picture myself doing a lot of things. Teaching would be wonderful, especially in a context where I would be able to invest in the students I was working with. I would also be happy in a position of leadership for a non-profit or institute. I would also be open to starting my own project or practice.

Interesting fact:

The most interesting thing in my life right now is daughter, she just turned one and is becoming her own little person year. Her name is Mari, she's wild and adorable. She'll be walking 100% any day now, she loves to wiggle to music, she is a monster eater, and my favorite thing to do with her is wrestle.

Otherwise, I love being outdoors. I love to eat and cook. I live on a property that my wife's family leases for their organic farm, they grow organic produce and raise sheep and chickens too and we help out often.

Chris
Hurley



Pronouns: He/Him/HIs
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification: Certified Social Worker, Kentucky

Practice Experience:

At Seven Counties, a local CMHC called Seven Counties Inc., I held several roles throughout my time at Seven Counties that ranged from working with after school programs to becoming a service coordinator in Child and Family services. I have conducted work in the field of pediatric hospice care and grief counseling before becoming a social worker for the Norton Neuroscience Institute. My primary demographic is cognitive disorders and epilepsy, where I focus strongly on providing access to services and caregiver support.

Motivation for DSW:

I have a strong interest in guiding a team and hope to achieve this goal by obtaining a leadership position within the healthcare setting (social services or multi-disciplinary) and or instructing within higher education. The DSW program will provide me the tools, education, and support I will need to be successful on the highest level.

Aspirations:

I have a strong interest in guiding a team and hope to achieve this goal by obtaining a leadership position within the healthcare setting (social services or multi-disciplinary) and or instructing within higher education.

Interesting Facts:

I thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and will escape outside anyway that I can manage. I have a passion for fishing/hunting but also enjoy biking and kayaking. During my younger years (a very long time ago), I was a triathlete and competed in half-ironman triathlons. I enjoyed training and competing as it was one of my main coping skills for quite some time. I am very excited to begin my journey once again at Kent School and look forward to getting to know each of my instructors and fellow classmates!

Debra
Dotson



Pronouns: She, Her
State: South Carolina
Time Zone: Eastern
Degrees: MSW, Salisbury University
Licensure/Certification Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C), Maryland;
Licensed Independent Social Worker - Clinical Practice (LISW-CP), South Carolina.

Practice Experience:

I have practiced in multiple child welfare and non-profit agencies in the roles of a Child Protective Services Investigator, Out of Home Care Worker, Program Supervisor, Program Director and Clinical Therapist. I am currently the owner of a private counseling practice called Beyond Therapy in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and work part-time as a remote therapist for Seaside Counseling in Berlin, Maryland. In addition, I have worked as an Adjunct II faculty member at Salisbury University in Maryland since 2012.

Motivation for DSW:

I am looking forward to obtaining a Doctorate in Social Work degrees so that I can improve upon my classroom environment, work with colleagues to continue to promote evidence-based practices for students, and to effectively mentor social work students through advising and direct classroom instruction.

Aspirations:

While I thoroughly enjoy my direct clinical practice, I have discovered that my passion lies in teaching, and I am hopeful to obtain a full-time remote faculty position with an online social work program upon graduation.

Interesting Facts:

One interesting fact about me is that my husband Mike and I have 2 amazing grown children, ages 23 and 26, and we are looking forward to traveling the country full-time and experimenting with tiny house living.

Erica Reevey



State: Texas
Time Zone: Central
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification Licensed Clinical Social Worker in six states including Texas & Kentucky; Advanced Psychotherapy Certification, Wayne Institute Advanced Psychotherapy Certification Program

Practice Experience:

Erica is owner of Therapists Need Therapy 2 serving frontline workers; managing & mentoring staff at Forward Solutions Counseling; Adjunct Professor at University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work; Co-Founder of the Black Counseling & Consulting Collective nonprofit organization; experience working within the child welfare system, private practice, public school system, psychiatric hospitalization and in home crisis management.

Motivation for DSW:

Erica is motivated to obtain her DSW degree as she has aspirations to work towards a tenured position at a university in the future. She would like to spend her time focusing on creating curriculum and possibly policy that focuses on the importance of addressing mental health issues that providers experience. She would like to specifically focus on the double bind that Black Female Providers experience. She also wants to focus on addressing burnout and selfcare for social workers students in a more direct and precise way.

Aspirations:

Erica is also motivated to obtain her DSW degree because she wants to continue working on leading by example and setting the standard for her children that despite the barriers that have historically been placed in our ancestors paths the world is changing, and success is possible. Erica wants to continue breaking generational curses while actively working to decreasing institutionalized racism and systematic injustices.

Interesting Facts:

One interesting fact about Erica is that she loves to travel and currently is working towards seeing 35 states by 35. Currently she has been to 30 states (31 if you count Puerto Rico). Once she meets this goal, she wants to see 40 countries by 40 and currently has visited 10.

Lizzie Minton



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville

Practice Experience:

I worked as a youth counselor in a residential treatment facility for adolescents. I accepted that position so that I could figure out what I wanted to do with my degree in social work and developed a passion for working with youth who had experienced trauma. In this agency, I worked as a youth counselor/senior youth counselor and then accepted a job in the Admissions Office while I pursued my master's degree. After graduating with my master's degree in 2008, I accepted a position as a Program Manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Kentucky Chapter. While I loved this job, I quickly realized that my true passion was working with youth and families. About a year later, I accepted my first clinical role. I accepted a job as a therapist in a psychiatric residential treatment facility and later moved back to a different residential treatment facility as a therapist. I learned a lot about working with children and families, as well as developed a much deeper understanding of child welfare. In 2016, I accepted a grant-funded position that was aimed at implementing standardized screening and assessment for children in out-of-home care. While our grant ended in 2018, I have been able to continue this work with the University of Louisville and Kentucky's Department for Community Based Services.

Motivation for DSW:

I am interested in pursuing my DSW degree because I know that we can serve our families and children in much better ways than we do now. Throughout my career, I have seen quality work, as well as many gaps in services and the barriers that clinicians and child welfare staff face in their ability to provide the needed services to children and families.

Aspirations:

In the future, I would love to pursue teaching in some fashion, as well as continuing to assist agencies in providing high-quality care to the youth in their programs.

Interesting Facts:

One interesting fact about me is that I have been in a Book Club for the past ten years. We continue to meet monthly and enjoy our annual weekend at the lake every August.

Gilberto Maldonado



Pronouns: He, Him
State: Washington
Time Zone: Pacific
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification: State Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) & Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP), Washington

Practice Experience:

As an MSW student I completed my practicum work in residential settings. First working with adults with co-occurring disorders. It was here that I realized I have a passion for working with clients who suffer with addiction. I applied for and completed the Substance Abuse Specialization at the Kent School. I completed my advanced practicum working with adolescents in a psychiatric hospital. I completed my MSSW and retired from the Army in 2015 and relocated to Washington State. In December 2015 I started working as a mental health therapist for a community health organization in a 40-bed residential treatment facility. After a year in that position, I was promoted and took over the behavioral health program in a neighboring county. There I managed an outpatient mental health, outpatient substance abuse, psychiatric and school-based services program. In July 2019 I left that position and organization and returned to serve military service members and their families as a Director of Psychological Health for the Washington State National Guard.

Motivation for DSW:

I want to be the best social worker I can possibly be. This is my second career after serving more than 20 years on active duty with the United States Army. I want to be as prepared as possible to be able to make a significant impact in the battle against systemic racism. I am a first generation American, born in the country to undocumented immigrants who were fleeing violence and in search of a better life. Their hard work and sacrifice is the motivating force behind my desire to make my community a more just and considerate one.

Aspirations:

When I completed my MSSW I believed I would work in residential treatment settings. I continue to feel a passion for this population. After 6 years of post-graduate work earning a DSW degree is a priority for me as I continue to pursue opportunities of greater responsibility. I would like to continue to influence and shape policy that impacts the services for military members and their families. I would like to, to the best of my ability remain close to direct services in some form with community mental health organizations. I want to be a resource; I want to be accountable for my actions and myself. I believe the DSW program from the Kent School of Social Work is the foundation I will be able to build on.

Interesting Facts:

I mentioned above, this is my second career. I served proudly for more than 20 years in the United States Army. My wife and I have been married for almost 26 years and we have three wonderful boys. Life is complicated at times, but always beautiful and worth the effort!

Jonathan Vales



Pronouns: He, Him, His
State: California
Time Zone: Pacific
Degree: MSW, University of Southern California
Licensure/Certification: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, California

Practice Experience:

Almost all of my practice experience has been with children and families, in providing mental health services for children and families in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Additionally, I have some experience working with the homeless and LGBTQ populations before pursuing my master's degree. Currently, I supervise a wraparound team providing community based mental health services.

Motivation for DSW:

Pursuing a DSW at this point in my career will help me to become a more effective leader in my current role and gain the necessary skills to become a dynamic social work educator. Additionally, as I have gained experience supervising mental health staff, I've sensed a greater need for mezzo and macro interventions related to wellness and addressing of vicarious trauma. I'd like to explore more around current research related to this topic, and possibly create/identify mezzo and macro level interventions to combat burnout.

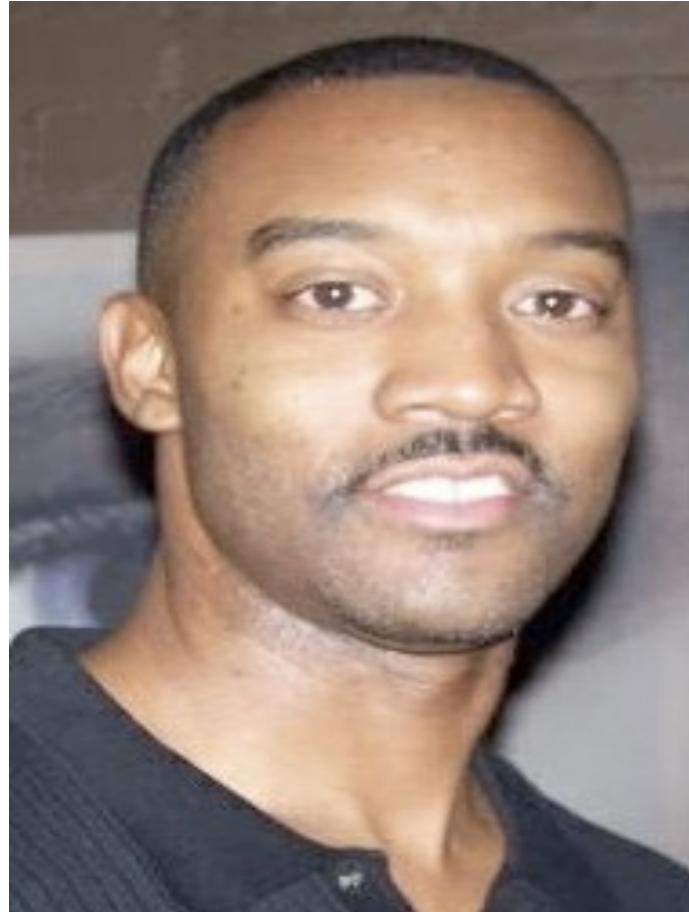
Aspirations:

Two of my career aspirations are to become a creative, dynamic social work educator in a college/university setting, and to continually be committed to life-long learning within the field.

Interesting Facts:

Some of my interests are traveling internationally and playing on an LGBTQ softball team during my spare time.

Keith Hall



Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
State: Georgia
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree MSW, Southern University at New Orleans
Licensure/Certification Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Georgia and Louisiana)

Practice Experience:

I have eighteen years of experience in micro and macro level practice in the community. I've served various populations that include but are not limited to children, youth, and families; adjudicated adolescents; adults living with mental health and addiction; chronic homelessness; and low-income communities. Additionally, I have experience as a direct service provider, clinician, clinical supervisor, advocate, administrator, educator, and consultant. My current role is Assistant Director for a non-profit organization that provides community-based homeless outreach services. All the same time providing clinical supervision to master leveled social workers seeking licensure.

Motivation for DSW:

My motivation for pursuing a Doctor of Social Work degree will advance my social service leadership, teaching, and learning skills. Primarily, I would like to enhance my research skills for future publishing, grant writing, and to gain a better perspective about factors and practices for improving the quality of life for vulnerable children and families. Some areas of interest are homelessness services impact and effectiveness; human sex trafficking; LGBTQIA+ and childhood trauma; and restorative communities post natural disaster.

Aspirations:

I would like to continue advancing my leadership and teachings skills while helping those in need. My goal is to continue a leadership role in the non-profit sector providing community-based services. Developing leadership and teaching skills will help me achieve my goal of publishing research utilizing various methodologies to improve support and quality of life for people that are vulnerable and underrepresented. My long-term career goal is to return to an academic setting as an educator for the school of social work to give back to the community by shaping and molding our future leaders.

Interesting Facts:

I am a spiritual being sent to earth for a temporary assignment.

Linsey
Schafer



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
State: Texas
Time Zone: Central
Degree: MSSW, The University of Texas at Arlington

Practice Experience:

Over 15 years of experience, Linsey worked with children and families through educational non-profit agencies and as a school social worker. Linsey currently serves at the Student Assistance/IMPACT Counselor at Denton High School in Denton, TX, supporting students and families through individual, group, and crisis interventions. Over the course of her career, Linsey has supervised over twenty social work interns, served as a guest lecturer and panelist for several colleges and universities, and regularly leads professional development opportunities for campus staff and interns.

Motivation for DSW:

Linsey is pursuing her DSW to hone her leadership skills, cultivate creativity, and to broaden her knowledge base. She hopes to work with school systems to empower and equip social work practitioners with the tools they need to thrive.

Aspirations:

Linsey desires to continue her journey through expanding her skills in leadership and practice in order to affect change on a macro level in the community in which she lives and serves. Her passions for education and social work intersect in her practice as a school social worker and crisis counselor. She believes that social workers have the ability to affect the culture and climate of the schools that they serve, as well as the broader community.

Interesting Facts:

While Linsey currently resides in Texas, she spent three years living in Louisville, Kentucky, and also had the privilege of living in Aberdeen, Scotland for four years with her spouse and dogs. Her time living abroad provided opportunities for travel and adventure!

Marjorie Schular



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree MSSW, University of Louisville

Practice Experience:

Since 2001 I have worked for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the Department for Community Based Services in the realm of public child welfare. I have been a front-line social service worker, a foster care and adoption worker, and a child protective services supervisor. I have also spent time working in the areas of quality assurance and complaint review. For the last six years my work has been in the personnel arena within the Department working on tasks and projects that focus on employee recruitment, engagement, and retention.

Motivation for DSW:

My motivation for wanting to pursue the DSW degree surrounds a desire to pursue a leadership role in the Department for Community Based Services where I hope to help us make a difference in the lives of our staff who in turn can then make a difference in the communities and the children and families we serve. We currently face a lot of challenges in terms of retention and recruitment, and I hope to be able to assist with helping us to overcome these challenges.

Aspirations:

I am also interested in working with the Public Child Welfare Certification Program. I have a strong interest in helping students interested in public child welfare understand the work in its' true form and help guide and mentor them as they work towards their social work career goals. I would like to work with students in locating practicum placements to assist with making appropriate matches for their skills sets.

Interesting Facts:

One interesting thing about myself is that I have an Egyptian pen pal who I was matched with in the 9th grade. We have been friends for the last 27 years.

Sade Richardson



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
State: Michigan
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSW, University of Michigan
Licensure/Certification: Institute on Pedagogy and Technology for Online Social Work Instructors, Columbia University; Certificate in Women's Entrepreneurship, Cornell University; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida; Masters Ltd Social Worker (LLMSW Macro), Michigan

Practice Experience:

Currently I work as Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Experiential Learning at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. In this role, I support the Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST), coordinate public health practice opportunities for students and develop and maintain relationships with community stakeholders both domestically and internationally. Prior too, I worked as an Analyst in the Center for Behavioral Health at Altarum Institute, a nonprofit that creates and implements solutions to advance health among vulnerable and publicly insured populations. In this role, I primarily worked on projects related to the opioid crisis. I managed a peer recovery support services mentoring program; completed evaluation and data analysis; assisted with federal grant writing; and designed online curriculum modules for healthcare providers. While at Altarum, I worked part-time as a Parent-Student Empowerment Coordinator with Girls Group, a local nonprofit that empowers young women to achieve self-sufficiency and begin their college or career journeys.

Motivation for DSW:

I consider myself to be a lifelong learner. The DSW program will not only elevate my skills in leadership, management and innovation, but also provide the tools I need to further enhance my abilities to work within global contexts and take on roles to further influence the health of populations.

Aspirations:

In the future, I would like to serve as the Executive Director of an international nonprofit organization and teach courses at the collegiate level (perhaps as a Professor of Practice or Clinical Professor) focused on leadership, program management, and community engagement. I also want to work as a consultant with organizations to strengthen the public health infrastructure within Latin America and the Caribbean.

Interesting Facts:

In my free time, I'm a travel agent and I've visited 16 countries and 30 states thus far.

Samantha Graves



Pronouns: She, Her
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Kentucky

Practice Experience:

I am the owner of a private practice agency called Total Restoration Group that was founded in Louisville, KY in 2017. In this practice, other contractors and myself provide therapeutic/ mental health services to children, adolescents, adults, and families. The services offered include in-home, school, office, and community-based services. Through my private practice I am connected to many community partners such as Jefferson County Public Schools JCPS, Kristy Love Foundation, University of Louisville, Neighborhood Place and more. Before private practice, I was a therapist and assessment clinician in the Louisville, KY area.

Motivation for DSW:

I know it may sound cliché, but I love to learn. I did not know this until I got older, but this has become so true. Being out of school, created an itch for me to want to get back in and learn even more. My motivation for pursuing this degree is simple, to become an expert in my field and be able to put this information into constant practice.

Aspirations:

With the skills learned from the DSW program, I hope to use it in advocacy work and consulting. Additionally, I hope to use this degree to continue the work I am already doing in the community, which would make private practice even more effective

Interesting Facts:

I am a complete and utter foody! I have traveled all over the world just to taste what that country or state has to offer. In Louisville, I stalk Yelp almost every other day to seek the newest restaurants in town. Needless to say, if you are ever in the Louisville area, let me know so I can guide you to where only the foodies go!

Sherie
Brock



Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
State: Mississippi
Time Zone: Central
Degree: MSW, University of Southern Mississippi
Licensure/Certification: Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Mississippi

Practice Experience:

I have been working at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS for the last 15 years. Currently, I work with kidney transplant patients where I perform comprehensive psychosocial evaluations for all patients referred for transplant. The goal is to determine if they meet the psychosocial selection criteria. Furthermore, I create preliminary conclusions regarding psychosocial selection criteria for the interdisciplinary selection committee upon completion of the psychosocial evaluation to improve program performance and build inter-agency consensus on good and promising practices. In past roles at the hospital, I have facilitated appropriate and efficient delivery of health care services by coordinating various services, including discharging planning such as home health, placement in skilled nursing facilities, and long-term acute to help in recovery, reducing chances of readmission. Also, I have evaluated children and adults diagnosed with psychiatric issues to create a treatment plan, to assess the need for immediate intervention, and to identify any longer-term problems that required follow-up care.

Motivation for DSW:

My motivation for pursuing the DSW degree is my desire to expand my teaching skillset and leadership knowledge, so that I can become a better practitioner and educator.

Aspirations:

My future career aspiration is to become a full-time social work professor at a college or university. In my opinion, I need to become more knowledgeable in leadership and teaching theories, so that I can be equipped to prepare the next generation of social work leaders to make this world more equitable.

Interesting Facts:

One interesting fact about myself, is that I have an identical twin sister. When my mother was pregnant with us, she was told that she was having one baby. However, two weeks before she had us, she was informed that she was pregnant with twins. My sister and I do not have twin names because my mom only had one name picked out and that was my sister's name.

Spencer Moorman



Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Practice Experience:

As a frontline pediatric hematology/oncology social worker for the last six years at Norton Children's Cancer Institute, serving children and families impacted by hemophilia, sickle cell disease and cancer, I've fought to enhance care access through the standardization of evidence based psychosocial services across patient populations. Over time, my role organically evolved from full time clinician to primary investigator, project coordinator, and "bridger" responsible for the dissemination of evidence-based treatments into routine clinical services.

Motivation for DSW:

The DSW program offers formalized training needed to not only execute current work initiatives but to also ignite the confidence and artillery necessary for future project ideas and endeavors. I am hopeful that the DSW foundation will provide a springboard for applying impactful concepts to other patient groups, and also help in the creation of innovative programs to enhance overall flourishing for clients and organizations across the board.

Aspirations:

Along with psychosocial oncology, I have a passion for positive psychology, organizational psychology, human flourishing, attention deficit disorder in women/girls, and sports, most especially football, soccer, tennis and pickleball.

Interesting Facts:

I am an Aries, the mother of three young adult children, and often travel to play national tennis tournaments. I can't wait to learn from each of you and evolve through this journey together.

Tina Bowen Jenkins



Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
State: Ohio
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSW, University of Cincinnati
Licensure/Certification: Licensed Social Worker, Ohio

Practice Experience:

I have an active unrestricted Social Work License in the State of Ohio and over 27 years of experience working in child welfare, substance abuse, higher education, hospital, and healthcare administration. I have held case management, counseling, clinical, and administration position in government, community, and corporate settings. I have also taught at the college level to social work and community health students. My varied experiences have afforded me the opportunity to manage social workers and paraprofessionals, serve on Ethical and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) committees, and assist clients with resource linkage, crisis intervention, social injustice, and community supportive services. Currently, I am a full time remote social worker providing psychosocial assessments to seniors through planning, implementing, and coordinating services. I am also a PRN medical social worker at a Level 1 Trauma Center where I complete discharge planning and community resource linkage.

Motivation for DSW:

I decided to pursue the DSW degree to elevate my social work skills while gaining expertise in effective management, leadership, and supervision. My intent is to become a highly effective administrator of a community based social service organization.

Aspirations:

My aspiration to obtain the DSW degree is also based on my desire to teach social work students in a way where I can leverage and link healthcare practices while preparing students to be practical, effective, diverse, and ethical social workers

Interesting Facts:

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling and spending time with my family and friends. I also do regular community service through my sorority, church, and employer.

Tina Marie Johnson



Pronouns: She, Her, hers
State: Kentucky
Time Zone: Eastern
Degree: MSSW, University of Louisville
Licensure/Certification: School Social Work Certification, Kentucky

Practice Experience:

Jefferson County Public Schools School Social Worker– 25 years (Retired 2018)
Jefferson County Public Schools -Social Services Coordinator for the Head Start Program – 5 years
UofL Kent School Part Time Faculty – since 2008

Motivation for DSW:

I have always thought about a doctorate degree. When I worked for Jefferson County Public Schools and wanted to pursue the School Social Work position, I was told I needed to have a master’s degree in social work. Since I already had two master’s degrees, I asked if I would still qualify for the position if I obtained a Ph.D. instead. I was told, it had to be an MSSW.

I went back to school and obtained a 3rd master’s degree. I did obtain the position and stayed in that position until I retired 25 years later. I have always felt that since I was not able to pursue the Ph.D. at that time, it was a dream deferred. (“What happens to a dream deferred? It can dry up like a ‘Raisin in the Sun’ Sidney Poitier movie) I was proud I had the resilience to achieve another master’s degree and to obtain the SSW Position. There were only 15 certified social workers in the entire district. But I already had the feeling of accomplishment from having multiple master’s degrees. It was something I had already accomplished more than once, so I still had that *burning desire* to accomplish more.

Aspirations:

I do not know how many years I have left to teach, but I feel it is never too late to educate myself and pursue new endeavors and higher levels of teaching. Obtaining the DSW is a personal goal and has always been a part of my vision board. This will be an intrinsic reward for me as I try to live my Best Life!!

Interesting Facts:

Won the *Best Vocal Performance* twice at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Won as a Freshman and also as a sophomore at a sorority campus Talent Show.