

# Cassie DeSena-Jacobs, DSW, LCSW, MS

Date of Preparation - August 2024

## EDUCATION

DSW in Doctorate in Social Work, May 2021 – **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA

Master of Nonprofit Management, Leadership concentration, May 2019 – **Northeastern University**, Boston, MA

Master of Social Work, May 2009 – **SUNY Albany**, Albany, NY

Bachelor of Arts, May 2007 – **Pace University**, New York, NY

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor in Teaching, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, April 2022 – Present

Clinical Content Coordinator, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, August 2023 - Present

Director of Mental Health Initiatives, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, July 2024 - Present

Community Embedded Faculty Peer Support, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, April 2022 - May 2024

Adjunct Faculty, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, August 2019 – April 2022

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Psychotherapist, **Starting Gate Therapy**, March 2020 – Present

Psychotherapist, **Colonial Psychiatric Associates**, July 2017 – January 2021

Director/Founder, **Peninsula Voices for Change**, December 2016 – December 2018

Clinical Supervisor, **NNBHC: Acute Hospital**, May 2016 – April 2017

Residential Social Worker, **LaSalle School**, August 2013 – July 2015

Program Director, **Hope House Women and Children's**, January 2012 – February 2013

LINC Brooklyn Borough Coordinator, **Children's Aid Society**, March 2010 – December 2011

Case Manager- Mental Health Juvenile Justice, **Parsons**, June 2009 – December 2010

## AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Complex trauma
- Serious mental illness
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Trauma-focused mental health
- Anti-racist practices in social work

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

SLWK 601 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I  
SLWK 610 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II  
SLWK 604 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Groups & Families I  
SLWK 605 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Groups & Families II  
SLWK 607 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students  
SLWK 608 Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advance Standing Students  
SLWK 703: Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Disorders  
SLWK 704. Clinical Social Work Practice  
SLWK 704: Clinical Practice: Hybrid Version  
SLWK 703: Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Disorders  
SLWK 705: Clinical Practice II: Hybrid Version  
SLWK 705. Clinical Social Work Practice II  
SLWK 727: Trauma and Social Work Interventions  
SLWK 791 Treatment of SMI through an Evidence Based and Trauma Informed Perspective

## **COURSES DEVELOPED**

SLWK 791: Mental Health & Practice (Summer 2024)  
SLWK 791: Neurobiology & Social Work (Summer 2024)  
SLWK 703: Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Disorders (Summer 2024)  
SLWK 727: Trauma and Social Work Interventions (Spring 2024)  
SLWK 607: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students, Online Modality (3 credits) (Spring 2024)  
SLWK 746: Psychopharmacology (Spring 2024)  
SLWK 705: Clinical Practice II: Hybrid Version (3 credits) (Spring 2022)  
SLWK 791: Treatment of SMI through an Evidence Based and Trauma Informed Perspective (3 credits) (Spring 2023)  
SLWK 604: Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups I (3 credits) (Summer 2023)  
SLWK 604: Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups I: Hybrid Version (3 credits) (Summer 2023)  
SLWK 605: Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups II: Hybrid Version (3 credits) (Spring 2023)  
SLWK 605: Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups II (3 credits) (Summer 2023)  
SLWK 607: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students (3 credits) (Summer 2023)  
SLWK 704: Clinical Practice I: Hybrid Version (3 credits) (Summer 2023)  
SLWK 705: Clinical Practice II (3 credits) (Summer 2023)

## **CERTIFICATES DEVELOPED**

Trauma Certification (Presented to MSW Program Committee, September 2023)

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION DEVELOPED**

Insights into Serious Mental Illness: A Comprehensive Seminar Series, including a digital badge for participants (Level 1 Introduction to Serious Mental Illness) (November, 2023)

### **UNPUBLISHED PAPERS**

1. DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2021) Beacon: A Curriculum for Change. [Unpublished doctoral dissertation]. School of Social Work, University of California.

### **INVITED/NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2023, November). Navigating Parental Guilt with Grace. Interactive Presentation presented to The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute at the Wilder School: Richmond, VA.

DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2023, February). Childhood Mental Health. Interactive Presentation presented to Project PIR Seminar at VCU.

### **REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2022, May). Beacon; A Curriculum for Change. Interactive Presentation presented to NASW-VA Conference: Richmond, VA.

### **TRAININGS**

DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2022, September). Structural Mental Health: Part 1. UMFS, Richmond, VA.

DeSena- Jacobs, C. (2022, September). Structural Mental Health: Part 2. UMFS, Richmond, VA.

### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

Nov. 28, 2022, SSW annual report: [Students produce podcast series in clinical practice class](#)

Feb. 8, 2024, SSW blog: [High-demand, social work-led course puts an anti-racist lens on serious mental illness](#)

Feb 16, 2024, SSW blog:

<https://blogs.vcu.edu/social-work/2024/02/16/cassie-desena-jacobs-presenting-at-national-conference-about-course-development/>

### **AWARDS/HONORS/FELLOWSHIPS**

Accepted/ Completed Spring 2024 Institute for Transformative Leadership Cohort Program, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, School of Business, VCU

Accepted to National Initiative for Trauma & Education & Workforce Development Faculty Summer Institute, 2024 at UNC

Beacon: A Training for Schools Recognized by Sage: Publishing in October 2023

VCU Antiracist Educator Series Part I & II (2021-23)

Spotlight Student, USC, May 2021

Sorenson Institute Emerging Leaders Scholar, 2019

### **SERVICE TO THE VCU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

- Clinical Content Coordinator (SLWK 604, SLWK 605, SLWK 607, SLWK 703, SLWK 704, SLWK 705), (August 2023- Present)
- Course Sequence Coordinator, SLWK 604/ SLWK 605 Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups I & II (Aug 2023 - Present)
- Course Sequence Coordinator, SLWK 601/610 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I & II (Aug 2022 - present)
- Created, Organized and Facilitated Clinical Skills Lab (August 2023- Present)
- Organized and Facilitated Licensure Panel (April 2023)
- Chair, Spring Readmission Panel (January 2023- April 2023)
- Pep Talk with Professionals Seminar, Private Practice, (2023)
- Pep Talk with Professionals Seminar, Private Practice, (2022)
- Community Embedded Faculty Support, (April 2022 – Present)
- Member, MSW program committee (Apr 2022 - present)
- Member, APC program committee (Aug 2022 - present)

### **SERVICE TO VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

- Member, University Council (August 2023- May 2024)
- Member, Library De-Escalation Task Force (January 2024- Present)

### **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

- Volunteer Soccer Coach, Williamsburg WISC, 2021- Present

### **MEMBER/AFFILIATIONS**

**Member** – Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), 2020 – Present

**Member** – Phi Alpha Honor Society, 2019 – Present

**Member** – World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), 2019 – Present

**Ally** – National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN), 2019 – Present

**Provider** – Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Transgender Network, 2017 – Present

**Member** – National Association of Social Workers (NASW), 2007 – Present

**Board Member** – Our Space, 501(c)(3), Boston, MA, 2017 – 2021

**Chair** – Southeastern Human Rights Board, 2014 – 2017