

Education:

2023-Present	Doctor of Philosophy School of Social Work Virginia Commonwealth University
2016 - 2018	Master of Social Work California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, CA Concentration: Children, Youth, and Families CalSWEC Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Stipend Program Recipient
2009 - 2010	Master of Education Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA Concentration: Special Education and School Administration Graduate Assistant to Associate Professor Michael Karpinski
2005 - 2009	Bachelor of Arts in Education and Teaching Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA Double Major: Elementary Education, Special Education Minor: Spanish

Research Experience:

	Virginia Commonwealth University
Current positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study Coordinator: Understanding the school experiences of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness• Qualitative Interviewer: Marsha and Marian's Neighbors Housing Program• Research Team Member: Transgender and Nonbinary youth and young adult wellbeing• Graduate VIP Research Assistant: Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium

Virginia Commonwealth University

- 2023-2024 • **Study Coordinator:** Rams 2 Rams Peer Support Program
- **Research Team Member:** Rams 2 Rams Peer Support Program
- **Research Team Member:** Marsha and Marion's Neighbors
- **Research Team Member:** Evaluating the Trans Mentor Project

Research Presentations

- March 2025 **Project HOPE-Virginia State Conference**
Panel speaker: Research Use with K-12 Students Experiencing Homelessness
- January 2025 **Society for Social Work and Research**
"They Just Get Me:" Co-Creating Visibility and Growth through a Trans Specific Mentoring Program
- Summer 2024 **LGBTQ+ Research Symposium**
Reframing wellbeing for Trans and Nonbinary young adults
- Spring 2024 **VCU Graduate Research Symposium: Second Place Award**
Exploring Factors of Wellbeing for Non-Binary people
- Fall 2024 **Vertically Integrated Projects Showcase**
School Faculty and Staff Preparedness to Support Student Mental Health

Professional Experience:

- 2017-Present **Co-Founder, Community Training Director (Virtual Position)**
Youth Assistance Coalition, San Diego, CA
Leadership member of 501(c)(3) to alleviate youth homelessness
Supervise Youth Assistance Coalition Interns
Coordinate community collaboration and engagement with service providers
Develop policy and evidence-based practices to achieve desired outcomes

2022-2023	Adjunct Professor: Master of Social Work Program Portland State University, Portland, OR Social Work 531: SW Practice with Individuals and Families II Social Work 541: Societal, Community and Organizational Structures
2022-2023	School Social Worker North Clackamas School District, Portland, OR Conduct individual and group sessions focused on mental health Assess individual student needs and coordinate student accommodations Collaborate with students and families to ensure access to resources
2018-2021	Protective Services Worker Child Welfare Services, San Diego, CA Conduct family-centered case management and access to resources Utilize Evidence-Based Practice tools to assess safety and risk Complete court reports and case plans to facilitate reunification MSW Graduate Intern Task Supervisor
2017-2018	MSW Intern East County Mental Health Clinic, San Diego, CA Facilitated weekly therapeutic support groups Completed comprehensive Behavior Health Assessments Conducted screening and walk-in assessments to triage clients effectively Met with clients routinely for individual therapy and treatment planning
2017-2018	MSW Intern East County Case Management, San Diego, CA Conducted therapeutic case management to adults in San Diego County Developed individualized client plans to improve community functioning Collaborated with local organizations to increase client support network Assisted clients in obtaining long-term housing and medical care

2015-2017	Youth Support Partner San Diego Youth Services, San Diego, CA Provided clinical case management of youth experiencing homelessness Conducted trauma-focused support groups Developed strength-based client and family treatment plans Created individualized interventions to improve mental and physical health Assisted youth in completing high school and college programs
2011-2015	Special Education Teacher and Case Manager Mililani Middle and Mililani High School, Mililani, HI Co-taught High School English for inclusionary settings Advised students in the special education department Facilitated Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings Piloted High School Section 504 and Accommodation Programs Saturday School teacher for identified at-risk youth Volleyball assistant coach and youth athletic mentor

Completed Trainings:

San Diego Youth Services Training Academy:

- Trauma Informed Care
- HIPAA and Confidentiality
- Motivational Interviewing
- Understanding Addictions and Recovery
- Seeking Safety and Crisis Intervention
- Foundations of Cognitive Based Therapy
- Suicide Prevention

Child Welfare Services:

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Child Welfare Services Program and Policy
- Teaming with LGBTQIA+ Youth and Families
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Certification
- Fairness and Equity in Practice
- ICWA and Working with Native American Tribes
- County Counsel Training: Domestic Violence Protocol
- County Counsel Training: General and Severe Neglect Substantiation
- County Counsel Training: Engaging Incarcerated Parents

Professional Credentials:

- Pennsylvania Teaching License:
Special Education PK-12 (May 2009-May 2012)

- Hawaii Teaching License
Standard License: Special Education K-12 (July 2011-July 2016)
Standard License: Secondary English 7-12 (July 2011-July 2016)
- California Teaching License
Specialist Instruction: Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Sep. 2014-Sep. 2016)
Multiple Subject: Elementary Reading, Writing, Math (Sep. 2014-Sep. 2016)
- Associate Clinical Social Worker
Issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (May 2019)
- School Social Work License
Issued by the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (August 2020)

Other Languages:

- Spanish: basic proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing