

Sarah D. Lawson, LICSW, MSW

Education

University of Maryland, Baltimore

May 2018

Master of Social Work, Clinical Behavioral Health

Licensed Independent Social Worker in DC (#50082649)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker in VA (#0904013514)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Clinical in MD (#26880)

Indiana University-Bloomington

May 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Minors in Business and Jewish Studies

Experience

Whitman-Walker Health, Washington, DC

September 2019 – Present

Supervisor of Youth Mental Health

- Provide de-pathologized, strengths-based individual therapy, treatment planning, and gender-affirming behavioral health support for LGBTQ+ and HIV impacted youth trauma survivors ages 10-30
- Manage referrals and intakes for Youth Mental Health program and match clients with clinicians
- Collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team to ensure oversight of grant functions through the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants and participate in development of annual RFP submission
- Supervise graduate-level interns, provide consultation to all members of Youth Mental Health team, and lead monthly team meetings
- Develop and facilitate trainings for mental health clinicians and community partners on topics including trauma-informed approaches with youth and LGBTQ+ youth best practices
- Serve as external liaison to community partners for Youth Mental Health program for referrals, warm hand-offs, collaboration, and as a participant in the Victim Assistance Network

Private Psychotherapy Practice, Arlington, VA

November 2021 – Present

Psychotherapist

- Provide individual and family therapy to youth ages nine through adulthood
- Collaborate with community partners for holistic care including non-profit and government agencies
- Use somatic interventions, expressive modalities, and relational therapy to provide care for clients

DC Center for the LGBT Community, Washington, DC

May 2018 – August 2019

Social Worker/Therapist

- Independently oversaw all aspects of social work program in community health setting, including case management, ongoing individual and group therapy for LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing trauma and/or violence, crisis intervention, and referral services
- Managed part-time social worker and social work intern in daily tasks and case conceptualization
- Served as liaison to Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, managing all deliverables and statistics for program grant and maintained a positive grantor relationship by attending coalition meetings

Whitman-Walker Health, Washington, DC

August 2017 – May 2018

Behavioral Health Clinical Intern

- Provided individual therapy for LGBTQ+ and HIV affected young people ages 13-30 using trauma-informed modalities and art interventions
- Facilitated mental health focused psycho-educational and skills development groups for adolescents, including planning and facilitating an overnight mindfulness retreat

Synergy Family Services, Langley Park, MD

August 2016 – April 2017

Social Work Intern

- Conducted in-home family and individual therapy sessions to youth and adolescents, using play therapy, art interventions, and narrative therapy
- Collaborated with clients to create treatment plans working towards achieving therapeutic goals
- Navigated community resources and supports with clients and families

Safe Shores – The DC Children’s Advocacy Center, Washington, DC

March 2013 – July 2016

Manager of Grants and Social Media and Contract Communications Consultant

- Managed grants and foundation relationships, including serving as liaison to Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, to support interventions for children affected by abuse including collaborating with a multi-disciplinary team to assess needs and targets and overseeing large-scale government grants
- Responsible for all grant reports and monitoring of budget expenditures
- Oversaw all creative, multi-media elements of organization’s outreach work including website and social media

Fellowships and Activities

University of Maryland – School of Social Work

August 2017 – May 2018

Behavioral Health Workforce Integration Service and Education (BHWISE) Fellow

- Received inter-professional training opportunities, specialized seminars, focused coursework, and a \$10,000 stipend to work with adolescents and transitional-aged youth with behavioral health care needs
- Collaborated with teams of health, law, and human services professionals to complete case-based learning activities focused on integrated health care approaches

Collective Action for Safe Spaces, Washington, DC

May 2013 – September 2016

Board Member

- Engaged in community outreach and fundraising efforts to support sexual assault prevention
- Increased organizational revenue through peer-to-peer fundraising and helped to plan, develop and organize staff for large annual event

Beltway Poetry Slam, Washington, DC

August 2010 – February 2015

Founder and President

- Created nationally-recognized slam poetry organization
- Oversaw all aspects of monthly poetry competition, including logistics and talent recruitment
- Collaborated with national artists and local communities to bring events to every DC ward

Madeira High School, McLean, VA

September 2011 – June 2015

Poetry Teacher and Coach

- Facilitated after-school workshops and coached high school team in poetry performance
- Collaborated with faculty to create lesson plans to complement in-school curriculum activity

Skills and Certifications

- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing trained
- Certificate in Advanced Trauma Treatment – Level One
- Certificate in Sensorimotor for Trauma Themes – Level One
- Stewards of Children™ Sexual Abuse Prevention trained

- Poetry performer and workshop facilitator with 15 years of experience working with youth and adults