



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

MSWs in the Making

CSWE MFP Master's Graduates 2021

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Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues:

The Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is proud to share with you our 2020-2021 master's fellows! Each of the master's fellows in this e-book is an upcoming MSW, committed to advancing clinical practice with racial/ethnic minoritized populations. Please take a few minutes to review the fellows' biographies and career interests. I encourage you to contact them with job opportunities as they further their careers in clinical practice.



Over the course of their master's programs, the fellows have focused their academic interests in mental health and/or substance use topics. Fellows have acquired skills that will enable successful social work careers in a range of practice settings through enriching field learning opportunities.

With funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the CSWE MFP has supported master's fellows since 2014. This year's fellows were selected from a highly competitive national application process. Over the course of the one-year fellowship, MFP master's fellows receive stipends, mentorship and training to prepare them for successful post-MSW careers. Throughout the fellowship year, training topics have included anti-racism and interdisciplinary clinical practice, simulations that apply SBIRT and motivational interviewing concepts, and licensure preparation.

Feel free to contact me at dnguyen@cswe.org with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Nguyen". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Duy Nguyen, PhD, LCSW

*Director, Minority Fellowship Program
Council on Social Work Education*



Jelwyn Agbayani

She, Her, Hers

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I am a specialized-year MSW student at Seattle University working in Adult Community Support services for my field placement at Sound Health. After graduation, my goal is to work with youths in either children and family services or school social work. Despite having worked with mainly adults in the 2 years of my program, I feel that the skills and practices that I have acquired in my work, such as engagement, needs assessment, case management, teaching of distress tolerance skills, active listening, empathy, and cultural humility, are transferrable in working with youths from diverse populations. Also, prior to entering the MSW program, I served as an AmeriCorps college coach for College Access Now (now a branch of the national College Possible) in Seattle, where I supported first-generation high school students from low-income backgrounds, in accessing and excelling in college at rates equal to their more advantaged peers. I am a firm believer in serving the community that I am a part of, so I would like to stay in Seattle to continue to support BIPOC/immigrant/refugee youths and their families in increasing their sense of belonging and quality of life here.



Maritza Alva

She, Her, Hers

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Hello, my name is Maritza Alva. I am a graduate student at New York University (NYU) obtaining a master's degree in social work. I am a first-generation graduate student and a queer immigrant woman of color. My personal experiences growing up in low-income immigrant communities taught me about the importance of community support and resiliency. My goal is to obtain an LCSW and provide accessible mental health services to underserved communities and empower immigrant communities to achieve their definition of success. Additionally, I plan on using my bilingual skills (English and Spanish) to provide psychoeducation on trauma recovery, domestic violence, migration trauma, and the importance of mental health to various communities. Prior to NYU, I spent 4 years at a nonprofit serving migrant youths seeking asylum in the United States. During my time at NYU, I had the opportunity to intern at a domestic violence prevention agency where I served children and adults by providing individual therapy services using CBT, play therapy, and group therapy. My postgraduation plans are to return home to California and seek employment in the Los Angeles County area where I can receive supervision and experience toward an LCSW. I would like to continue working with youths, immigrant communities, and trauma survivors.



Ariana Arenas

She, Her, Ella

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I am currently enrolled in the master's of social work program at San José State University. My clinical experience began at Rebekah Children's Services (RCS) as an intern in the Outpatient Department. During my time at RCS, I realized that the lack of bilingual clinicians available greatly affected individuals' experiences and access to mental health services. I understand the importance of delivering services to clients in their preferred language, and I want to be able to support Latinx communities in having access to mental health services in Spanish. I possess cultural humility and a high level of respect for diversity. My current internship placement is with Independence High School in the role of a school social work intern. I am passionate about working with children, families, and adolescents in a mental health setting. My personal strengths include Spanish fluency, being open to learning, welcoming feedback, and taking direction well. I am eager to learn, self-motivated, driven, and embrace opportunities to grow. Clinically, I am skilled in developing therapeutic alliances, treatment planning, and conducting mental health assessments such as the child and adolescent needs and strengths assessment. I have Medi-Cal billing experience and have provided face-to-face rehabilitation sessions to clients in English and Spanish.



Jessica Grace Broadbent

She, Her, Hers

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I am currently in my last semester at the University of Utah in the MSW program, with a focus on mental health. Although my area of focus is mental health, I am also extremely interested and focused on substance use. Due to my interest in both of those areas, I am currently working at an intensive outpatient program (IOP) for adults with substance use disorders. The IOP is called Recovery Works and is an additional resource under the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI; formerly University Neuropsychiatric Institute) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Along with my schooling and internship experiences, for the past 4 years I have also worked on an adult medical-psych inpatient unit at the University of Utah hospital. I have had the opportunity to also work with teenagers and youths while at HMHI. I am passionate about serving young adults who struggle with mental health and substance use disorders. I enjoy fast-paced environments and can see myself potentially working in a hospital or other fast-paced facility. I am unsure of where I would like to practice in the future, but there are states that I have considered more than others, such as California, Utah, Texas, Oregon, and Washington state.



Christine Cantrell

She, Her, Hers

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I am presently enrolled at the Stony Brook School of Social Welfare in Stony Brook, NY. My concentration is in integrated health, and I am interning at the Shinnecock Indian Reservation. In this role I build links and partnerships with local substance use disorder (SUD) providers as part of a Tribal Action Plan through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. I have been working as a substance use counselor (CASAC) for the past 20 years. For the past 6 years most of my career has been focused on screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment because I am a New York certified trainer/provider. My focus is to relocate to New Mexico after graduation to aid local tribes with SUD issues to a place of healing and wellness.



Tania Carrillo

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My name is Tania Carrillo, I attend California State University Fullerton, and I am in the master's of social work program. My concentration is in Community Mental Health. I am seeking employment in Southern California as a mental health clinician in a low-income community where I can serve children and families from diverse backgrounds. I am bilingual in Spanish and have experience interpreting clinical concepts and principals. My current field placement is at East Whittier City School District, where I provide individual and group counseling to students who have individualized education plans. My previous field placement was at Pathways Community Services, where I provided individual and family therapy for children, adolescents, and caregivers. I have approximately 5 years of experience working with children and families from underrepresented communities in different capacities. For example, I have experience in the school system, family resource centers, group homes, and outpatient mental health clinics. Past supervisors would describe me as dependable, compassionate, disciplined, and flexible. Overall, I am excited and ready to be part of a team whose mission is to aid vulnerable populations.



Ashley Yerim Choi

They, Them, Theirs

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I am a final-year student at the Columbia School of Social Work, specializing in advanced clinical social work practice with concentration on health, mental health, and disabilities. I am currently a psychotherapist in training at the Kull Initiative for Psychotherapy. During my time, I have practiced various modalities of psychotherapy, from narrative therapy to somatic therapy. I have served predominantly queer and trans young adults of color, who are navigating complicated grief, intergenerational trauma, ambiguous loss, attachment injuries with families and partners, and racial violence. Rooted in trans-affirmative and trans-led care, I have also served trans and nonbinary clients, who are navigating transphobic interpersonal and institutional relationships. With an analysis of race, class, and gender at the forefront, I plan to start a therapy collective for low-income, working-class, undocumented, and/or unemployed queer and trans communities of color. The collective will be based in the Greater New York region, serving immigrant and low-income communities of color with multilingual health services. In the meantime, I hope to continue practicing psychotherapy in the Greater New York region.



Alison F. Chou

She, Her, Hers

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In April 2021 I will graduate with my MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work with a concentration in Advanced Clinical Practice. During my first year of study, I interned at Mercy Center (Bronx, NY), a community center where I provided family coaching and counseling to Spanish-speaking families through the Family Forward program. I currently provide psychotherapy at Liberation Institute (San Francisco, CA), a nonprofit committed to serving diverse client populations. I draw on the practice wisdom that has come from my 8 years of full-time work experience, including in the fields of educational consulting and advocacy/counseling for survivors of domestic violence and crime. Although I have extensive experience working with Latinx immigrants, I am dedicated to serving all BIPOC communities, as well as to closing the treatment gap for these populations. As an Asian American, the daughter of immigrants, and a bilingual Spanish-speaker, I bring an intersectional, culturally sensitive perspective to my work. I am also deeply committed to working in a trauma-informed, anti-oppressive framework. Postgraduation, I am seeking opportunities to provide clinical services to adults, children, and families. I plan to be located in the San Francisco Bay area, although I have flexibility to relocate. I hope to work with a mission-driven organization committed to social justice, advocacy, and service provision for historically underserved groups.



Stephanie Davila

She, Her, Ella

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I am attending the University of Texas at Austin in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work on the clinical track. I am currently placed at Vida Clinic providing teletherapy to children, families, and individuals and facilitating support groups for teachers. I have 8 years of direct service experience working with individuals and families in mental health and education in both English and Spanish. I have provided case management to families and have led groups for mothers on postpartum depression and for young girls on increasing coping skills and self-efficacy. I am most interested in working with the Latinx and Spanish-speaking community to reduce the stigma of mental health services. I see myself working with individuals, parents, and families in navigating two cultures. I plan to work in the Central Texas area, and I hope to work at an agency that values the clinician's well-being. I firmly believe that if we do not take care of ourselves, we cannot care for others. Additionally, coming from a systems approach and a social justice lens, I think it is necessary for mental health agencies to provide services no matter the client's ability to pay.



Andrea Camacho de Anda

She, Her, Hers

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My name is Andrea Camacho de Anda. I am an MSW student at Arizona State University, with a concentration in direct practice and a specialization in health/behavioral health. I am also in the Latino Cultural Competency Graduate Certificate program. My current placement is at the Arizona State Forensic Hospital. As an intern, I work with an populations experiencing serious mental illness in a multidisciplinary team to provide behavioral health services. I also work as a case manager at an outpatient integrated health-care center. In this role I provide coordination of care and pseudo-therapeutic services to youths and families with behavioral health needs and substance use disorders. After graduation I would like to stay in the area of forensic social work with an emphasis on mental health. In the past I have worked in various court-involved settings, including juvenile detention, substance use treatment facilities, and forensic hospitals. I have experience working with youths, families, and adults at the individual and group levels. I am bilingual and can provide services in written and verbal Spanish. I am incredibly passionate about working with underserved and stigmatized communities. I am also passionate about working with the Latinx community due to a shared cultural background.



Briana Fair

She, Her, Hers

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My name is Briana Fair. I am currently a second-year MSW candidate at California State University, San Marcos. I am interning at Rady Children's Hospital as a medical social worker. At my placement I have had the opportunity to work in the psychiatric department as well as the medical floor. For the last 9 years I've had the opportunity to work in the field of mental health serving children and adolescents, child welfare, medical social work, and higher education. These experiences have allowed me to strengthen my crisis intervention, assessment, and critical thinking skills alongside being well-versed in the field of mental health services. After graduation, I plan to continue in the field of children and adolescent mental health. I plan to apply for jobs in the San Diego area, but I'm open to relocating within the next year. I plan to pursue my LCSW as well. I am passionate about working with children and adolescents who are experiencing behavioral health issues and hope to take part in destigmatizing suicidal ideations, creating a world where assessing for suicide is common knowledge.



Roberto Godinez

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I am an advance standing master's of social work student attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My focus is on mental health, and my current field placement is at Clinica Latina, an outpatient mental health clinic that serves the Spanish-speaking population of Dane County. I also have firsthand experience serving consumers of mental health services at the Yahara House, an organization applying the clubhouse model of psychosocial rehabilitation. As a returning adult student, I believe that my prior experience working in schools, community centers, and as a case manager for youths and families has given me skills that will be transferable to my career in the mental health field. Being a first-generation American allowed me to experience firsthand the importance of culturally responsive services and of a service provider whom you can communicate with and trust. As someone who is bilingual and bicultural, I hope to provide culturally relevant mental health services to members of the Latinx community and transnational/immigrant families.



Araceli Gonzalez

She, Her, Ella

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My name is Araceli Gonzalez, and I am a University of California, Los Angeles, master of social welfare candidate with a concentration in Health & Mental Health Across the Lifespan. My current internship is at Providence St. John's Child and Family Development Center, which provides services to underserved children, adolescents, and families throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. As a clinical social work intern, I provide English- and Spanish-language psychotherapy services to youths ranging from preschool age to older adolescence. In addition, I facilitate collateral services with caregivers. I work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team of psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and other care providers to consult and provide quality care to clients. Using my training in evidence-based practices, such as managing and adapting practices, I aim to provide quality support services using culturally and developmentally appropriate interventions. My passion for trauma-informed work pushes my desire to help youths understand their situations and foster positive coping. After graduation, I aim to secure employment in the Greater Los Angeles area as a clinical therapist. In this role I hope to work for a community mental health agency supporting youths and families in underserved communities.



Karolina Guzman

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My name is Karolina Guzman, and I am a master's of social work candidate at Stony Brook University in Long Island, New York. My concentration is Family, Youth, & Transitions, and I expect to graduate in May 2021. My current field placement is with the Percy Ellis SEEK program of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. This educational opportunities program provides academic and financial support to predominately Black and Latinx students in undergraduate programs. In this role I facilitate mandated weekly group therapy sessions for students on academic probation. Topics covered during sessions include self-management strategies, positive coping, addressing barriers, and exploring identities. My personal style of engagement includes dynamics of play, movement, and lived experience, all of which have supported my work with marginalized groups, specifically transitioning adults. I also value serving and supporting youths and adolescents, working to increase their awareness and coping skills. By incorporating aspects of play, I hope to challenge the stigma around what psychotherapy looks like. After graduation, I plan to obtain my LMSW license and begin offering clinical support to youths and families from marginalized communities. Although I am open to opportunities along the East Coast, I am currently seeking employment in New York City.



Kara Haney

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I am a candidate for an MSW at San Jose State University, graduating in May 2021. My concentration is Adult Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder. My current field placement is at Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health-Substance Use Disorder Services. I deliver individual and group counseling sessions that use mindfulness-based practices, motivational interviewing, dialectic behavior therapy, cognitive behavior therapy, and the Seeking Safety curriculum. I also provide intake assessments and case management, attend subcommittees to collaborate in assessing programs, and document progress notes in the county's database (Avatar). I have been a mindfulness meditation teacher for 20 years and developed mindfulness recovery programs in local communities. I bring valuable aspects of trauma-informed practices, compassion, and a personal experience of 25 years in recovery from substances myself. I deliver ethical practice from a transcultural perspective. After achieving my LCSW, I envision having a part-time private practice for individual and family counseling services while working with an agency to create sustainable social programs that serve the vulnerable population experiencing co-occurring conditions of mental health and substance use disorders. I am interested in establishing my career in the Northern California South Bay Area: San Jose, Santa Cruz, and Monterey.



Arie Hayre-Somuah

She, Her, Hers

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I am a current advanced year, clinical track, MSW student at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to this program, I obtained my master's and bachelor's degrees in public health at Brown University and Kent State University, respectively. My ultimate career goal is to seamlessly integrate the two fields to address racial/ethnic mental health disparities and provide psychotherapeutic treatment to members of communities that are historically underserved. I intend to specialize in the treatment of African American/Black individuals struggling to navigate the demands, changes, and challenges that early adulthood presents. Furthermore, I have clinical interests in college counseling; bariatric counseling; crisis intervention/acute services; racial trauma; maternal mental health; and the treatment of anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Geographically, I am open to work on the eastern coast of the United States, particularly in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area; Philadelphia, PA; and New England. However, I am open to opportunities that may be a good fit outside of these locations!



Regina Honorat

She, Her, Hers

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I am a graduate student at Columbia University obtaining an MSW specializing in advanced clinical practice. My current field placement is at UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital, where I am responsible for designing individual and family clinical interventions, documenting clinical records, and implementing counseling and psychoeducation. I have several years of valuable expertise in combating mental health disparities and inequity. I have expertise in providing collaborative and effective therapeutic services to individuals to introduce quality and accessible mental health care. In addition, I have gained expertise in combating various modes of inequity such as food inequity in rural communities, pregnancy-related income inequity by providing free data-driven adoption plans, and advocating for the rights of disabled individuals as a direct support professional and live-in staff member. My career goals are focused on providing mental health and substance abuse services to underserved communities. More specifically, I am passionate about serving adolescents and providing quality therapeutic services to address trauma and help build resilience. I am primarily looking to work in Florida, but I am open to relocating depending on the opportunity.



Maria Carolina Izquier

She, Her, Hers

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I emigrated to the United States 6 years ago. In Venezuela I trained as a clinical psychologist. For more than 15 years I worked as a university teacher, as a supervisor for the master of clinical psychology program at the Andres Bello Catholic University, and as a psychotherapist in poor and excluded communities of Caracas. Currently, I am a candidate for the master's degree in clinical social work at Boston College, with certificates in Attention to the Latinx Population and Trauma. My field placement for 2 years has been the Cambridge Health Alliance, Department of Psychiatry, specifically the Latinx program, working as an adult therapist. My goal is to work in mental health to address Latinx clients' unique challenges in the greater Boston area.



Anthony D. Jones

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I am a student at Jackson State University in Jackson, MS, obtaining my MSW degree. My current field placement is in Tulsa, OK, at a counseling agency that is contracted through the local school district. As a former teacher and an MSW graduate, I have had the opportunity to combine my passion for community, children, and education while using and enhancing my critical skills for practicing social work and psychology. Because of my experience, I am especially prepared to learn and engage with my peers as a team to articulate the complex needs of education equality and equity. My professional goals consist of advancing racial equity and improving the quality of education from pre-K through college by continuing to develop as a leader, engaging with key stakeholders, and acquiring specialized skills through advanced training. Geographically, I'm excited to work in any city that has a demand for social workers.



Irang Kim

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I am a social worker specializing in minorities' issues with 3+ years of community social work experience. As an MSW student and through the direct and indirect practice experience serving marginalized communities across the United States and Korea, I am pursuing a career as a clinical social worker specialized in cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness for anxiety, depression, addictive behavior concerns, multicultural conflicts, and immigrant trauma. I am currently participating in an MSW program specialized in addiction and recovery at North Carolina State University. After graduation I will receive Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate and Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist Associate licenses in North Carolina. My field placement is the NC State Counseling Center, and I am leading individual and group therapy sessions under supervision. I have been serving diverse international students, second generation, and minority students in this college setting. I am very passionate about serving ethnically and racially diverse clients and seek cultural competency training and consultation from diverse practitioners within my network. I am a good fit for a setting where diverse therapists are needed to serve Asian American, second generation, immigrant clients, and international students and their families. My career goal is to become a minority therapist who can fill the language and culture gap in the community. I have seen many clients who explicitly asked for a cultural match, and I feel more than happy to be there to meet their needs. I would prefer to stay in the Wake County, North Carolina, area to serve minority youths and families with addiction and recovery treatment and behavioral health needs. I am trained to be able to treat both substance use and behavioral health issues.



Hannah Lozano

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I am a master's of social work student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the Organizational Leadership concentration, and I have attained the Trauma Treatment Certificate. I have worked as a research assistant for two faculty members at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, gaining skills in quantitative and qualitative data analysis. My current field placement is at Harmony Family Center, where I run program evaluations, review policies, assist in strategic planning, write grants, and keep clinicians and administrators engaged in legislation affecting our client population. I have experience as a policy analyst in the Texas Senate and Tennessee General Assembly, where I developed skills in policy analysis, legislative advocacy, and leadership. Additionally, my previous role in evaluation and family support in a community school with Knox Education Foundation allowed me to work directly with students and families from an underserved community to understand their needs and coordinate resources accordingly. I am passionate about serving families of color through policy advocacy and program development to eliminate health disparities and improve access to mental health resources. I am currently located in Knoxville, Tennessee, and I am actively looking for positions all over Tennessee where I may use my skills to advance an agency's mission.



Gabriela Martinez

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I am a clinical student at the Crown Family School of Social Work (formerly known as SSA) at the University of Chicago. My field site role is as a mental health youth therapist at Children's Home and Aid (CHA), a leading outpatient child and family agency in Chicago. At CHA, I practice trauma-focused cognitive therapy with People of Color (POC) teens in individual and group treatment. I simultaneously practice direct behavior therapy at Life Strategies, an applied behavioral analysis therapy agency that serves individuals with autism. My past experience is in school social work in working with students, their families, and the community. At the community level, I have worked as a bilingual liaison between Hispanic families and the school corporation of LaPorte in Northwest Indiana by engaging families and providing translation and culturally responsive services. My clinical skills and experience in community engagement with minorities have molded my professional repertoire as a social worker. I value my work with minority children and adolescents and aspire to continue to work with them and the community of the neighborhoods of Chicago in my future career.



Zuni A. Ortega

She, Her, Hers

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I am presently obtaining my master of science in social work with a concentration in Direct Practice with Latino Individuals, Families and Groups from the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). Currently, I am completing my field practicum with the UTRGV Medical School Department of Psychiatry, primarily working on a telemedicine program that uses an interdisciplinary team to provide brief mental health services and community connections to public schools. I have previous experience working as a high school teacher and a controlled substance chemist in addition to volunteering on a critical incident response peer support team. I believe the knowledge, skills, and abilities gained through my experience and education will guide me in providing mental health services to youths and/or public service providers (e.g., first responders) who have experienced traumatic events. My goals are to pursue certification after graduation, and specifically to become a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed chemical dependency counselor. I would like to work in Texas, preferably with the Latinx population, to increase the number of bilingual Latinx mental health providers.



Jacqueline Kristine Pantoja

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My name is Jacqueline Pantoja, and I will graduate from California State University, Fullerton, in the spring of 2021; my concentration is community mental health. My current field placement is at St. Joseph Hospital (Orange, CA) in the Behavioral Health Unit. During my internship I have used my clinical skills, such as conducting clinical interviews, to complete a biopsychosocial assessment, risk assessment, and mental status exam. I have become educated on the LPS Act and how it affects my patients. I have had to prioritize my time so that I can complete my documentation promptly. I have facilitated evidence-based practice groups such as recovery strategies, stress-vulnerability model, and coping with persistent symptoms. I have collaborated with patients to develop an after-care plan that best suits their mental health and housing needs. After graduation I aim to gain employment assisting vulnerable, low-income individuals with mental health services in an outpatient mental health organization or an inpatient setting. I want to provide individual therapy and facilitate psychoeducation groups for adults coping with their mental illness. I am seeking employment in Los Angeles County or Orange County (California).



Taren Payne

She, Her, Hers

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I am an MSW candidate at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in the clinical track One Year Residency program. I am currently placed at The New Life School in the Lutheran Social Services of New York nonprofit organization, an alternative school that primarily serves students transitioning from a recent hospitalization, residential treatment center, and so forth. I collaborate remotely with all helping staff from previous placements as well as outside agencies that will assist my students. I am a knowledgeable and relational social worker versed in varying virtual modules such as Microsoft Teams, Cisco WebEx, Zoom, Google teams, Doxy Me, simple practice, and so forth. I started as a juvenile counselor in the City of New York's Administration for Children's Services; however, I realized that I needed to develop a toolbox of evidence-based practice theory to have a more lasting impact. After graduation and licensure, I am seeking fellowship positions with formal supervision involving young people in New York City. Ultimately, I would like to remotely provide culturally sensitive care to individuals and groups in nonurban communities where there are few therapists of color.



Raquel Puebla

She, Her, Hers

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I am a devoted social worker committed to addressing disparities in mental health services among marginalized populations and increasing access to bilingual therapeutic services. I attend California Baptist University in Riverside, CA; my current internship is in Riverside County at Riverside University Health Systems as a medical social worker intern. In this role I have provided crisis intervention, mental health assessments, and psychoeducation to caregivers and have connected patients and caregivers to community resources. I have participated in multidisciplinary meetings that included law enforcement, medical staff, local community organizations, and child welfare workers. I have 4 years of experience as a social worker and social services practitioner III for Riverside and San Bernardino County.



Simon Rios

He, Him, His

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I am attending the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley and am enrolled in the MSSW program with a micro concentration. My field placement is at DHR Health Behavioral Hospital, where I assist in conducting psychosocial assessments, group sessions, and individual sessions. After graduation I hope to begin working toward becoming certified as an LCSW as soon as possible. My career goals involve working with Latino populations and providing them with mental health services; specifically, I want to work with Latino adolescents and young adults who struggle with mental health issues and help them be aware of the conditions they have, strategies they can use to cope, and help them toward a path of self-sufficiency and independence.



Melanie A. Rosler

She, Her, Hers

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I am completing my MSW at the University of South Florida, School of Social Work. My field placement is with Tampa General Hospital, Health Park, where I provide individual psychotherapy to underserved minorities. I also hold leadership positions in two research laboratories. I have led several suicide prevention initiatives and managed multiple state-wide grants. Additionally, I am the lead facilitator of a psychoeducation and support group for people living with HIV. Through my diverse professional and personal experiences as a bilingual Latina, I would complement any team working to reduce mental health stigma and health-care disparities among minorities. These opportunities have helped shape my leadership, clinical work, cultural competence, project management, and grant writing skills. I am a motivated self-starter who works well independently and in teams and diverse and complex systems. My passion for serving the Latinx community has led me to develop a Spanish family guide for youth suicide prevention. I am also passionate about serving minorities living with HIV, many of which have unequal access to care. As such, I would love to continue pursuing research and clinical opportunities with these populations in the public health and social work sectors.



Aida Sidi

They, Them, Theirs

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I am a student in my final semester of the MSW program at New York University's (NYU's) Silver School of Social Work and am based in the New York City area. I am currently placed at the Institute for Human Identity, where I provide LGBTQ+ affirmative therapy with individuals and couples. My previous placement was at JCCA Preventive Services, where I was trained in the Functional Family Therapy model and provided in-home therapy and case management services to families whose children were at risk of entering the foster care system. I also have experience in crisis work at The Trevor Project and have residential experience working with LGBTQ+ youths experiencing homelessness at the Ali Forney Center. Additionally, I am trained in facilitation and currently work as a researcher and facilitator at NYU's office for Multicultural Education and Programming (in racial justice, disability justice, and immigration justice). I hope to continue intentionally centering my work around marginalized communities and feel excited to work with youths, adults, families, and groups (with a special interest in the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities).



Juliana Smith

She, Her, Hers

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I am a Black woman seeking to serve BIPOC populations, and I am in my final semester of the MSSW program at the University of Texas (UT) Austin's Steve Hicks School of Social Work. Previously, I worked as a graduate advisor at the University of California Los Angeles for 5 years, and I also trained at Didi Hirsch to volunteer on the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. I am currently a clinical intern at VITAL, a collaboration between Central Texas Veterans Health Care System and UT Austin. My role is to provide therapy and outreach to student veterans, attending both UT Austin and Austin Community College. I also serve as a co-leader for a skills training in affective and interpersonal regulation group for veterans diagnosed with PTSD. On the macro level, I am involved in the Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families. My goal is to enhance my knowledge of several treatment modalities to prepare for a career serving veterans, individuals with PTSD, and/or individuals expressing suicide ideation either in the Austin area or in Southern California. Regardless of the client population, my desire is to provide trauma-informed care and help clients foster internal resources to feel their emotions and process their trauma.



Victoria Turner

She, Her, Hers

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I am an advanced-standing student at University of Michigan's School of Social Work in the Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use pathway. I am completing my field placement at Michigan Medicine in the University Hospital in inpatient adult care management. I am passionate about health care and the roles social workers play in addressing the holistic needs of an individual. I have been developing several experiences in various health settings through internships and field placements. I first developed a passion for integrated health during a summer internship at the National Council for Behavioral Health, where I interned on their Center for Integrated Health solutions team. I was first exposed to medical social work during my undergraduate field placement at MedStar's National Rehabilitation Hospital, where I worked with patients and families and facilitated interdisciplinary rounds. My goals include working on the clinical and macro levels to address health inequities. I bring skills of compassion, empathy, adaptability, critical thinking, and dedication into my work as an individual and as a social worker. My professional interests include being a medical social worker in an inpatient hospital setting working with marginalized communities in Philadelphia, PA, or Washington, DC.



Jamie Vo

She, Her, Hers

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I am an MSW student at Seattle University with a concentration in clinical social work. I am passionate about working with refugees/immigrants and the Asian and Pacific Islander community. My current internship position is as a youth mental health counselor at Asian Counseling and Referral Service in Seattle, Washington, where I apply a strengths-based client-centered empowerment model of therapy for Asian and Pacific Islander youths aged 10-17. I also work collaboratively with parents. I am fluent in Vietnamese, and I can complete intakes and conduct therapy sessions with clients in Vietnamese. I have previous work experience as a case management intern at New Horizons in Seattle, which is an organization that provides services for young adults facing homelessness. I helped young adults aged 18-25 with services relating to housing and employment. I have proficiency in using the Epic and HMIS databases. My career goal is to work toward being a licensed mental health practitioner in Seattle or the greater Seattle area, working in a community mental health setting.



Allison Ware

She, Her, Hers

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I am a San Diego local currently enrolled in the California State University, San Marcos, Advanced Generalist MSW program serving the community I was born into. I have substantial experience in the field of immigration, working in refugee resettlement for 3 years prior to pursuing a graduate degree. Since the start of my MSW, I have worked in the fields of human trafficking and intensive outpatient programming. These experiences have given me a diverse set of skills, creating a passion for effective micro and clinical work and a strong vision for macro practice and advocacy. I am passionate about serving our culture-rich neighbors in San Diego County and hope to be an effective clinician to diverse communities affected by substantial mental health and/or substance use crises, especially in light of the ongoing multifaceted pandemic. I hope to work in a setting that serves underserved populations, gives potential for clinical practice, and yet also gives me the ability to effect systemic and broader policy change. My specific skill set includes strong leadership skills and experience, effective communication and rapport building, and willingness to learn and process nuances and the difficulties of the human experience.



Tabari Zahir

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I am currently attending the master's of social work generalist program at California State University, San Bernardino. For the last 2 years I have had the pleasure of delivering mental health services in several clinical settings including a dual diagnosis clinic and a postincarceration reentry center called the Anti-Recidivism Coalition that provides mental health services to their members. I feel fortunate to have worked with both populations because my intention is to work with the formerly incarcerated as a career, and a very high percentage of this demographic has severe trauma and struggle with substance abuse. In preparation for this work, I will go on to enhance my master's degree as an LCSW and also complete my substance use education to become a Licensed Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor in California to professionally deliver mental health and substance abuse services to this neglected population. I live in Los Angeles County and will be looking for work in this county, but I am also open to work in the neighboring counties of Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino.