

University of Southern California
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
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EDUCATION

- 2011** **Masters of Social Work, University of Southern California**
Concentration: Community, Organization, Planning, Administration
Sub-Concentration: Military Social Work
- 2006** **Bachelors of Social Work, California State University Chico**
Major: Social Work
- 2003** **Associates Degree, Mt. San Antonio College**

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024 – Present** **USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**
Assistant Professor, Practicum Education
Manage as a practicum liaison, student placement responsibilities and agency placement development. Contribute to scholarships through presentations and trainings with a focus on educational assessment, innovative pedagogy, practicum education curriculum policies, and related issues. Hold responsible leadership roles nationally, internationally, and within the School and University.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2023** SOWK 591 Applied Learning in Practicum Education 1 (2.5 hours)

FACULTY SERVICE / GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

- 2024** **Grant-Activities**
CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health Stipend
Recruit and select students and provide mentorship for 8 to 12 MSW first- and second-year students receiving \$25,000 stipends from the California Social Work Education Center. Students intern and work post-graduation in underserved areas providing public behavioral health services.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

- June 2024** **San Diego Center for Children**
Military and Family Dynamic: Understanding the
Impact on Dependent Children training (1.5 CEU) (Co-facilitator)
- April 2024** **Mt Saint Mary's University**
Highlighted the strengths students gain from applying their higher
education to the workforce and highlighted how diversified the use of
psychology can be in any work environment. Capstone Course (Guest
lecturer)
- March 2024** **Mt Saint Mary's University**
Utilized my professional experience to demonstrate the psychological
complexities that exist within Veteran and Military Family communities,
and my role as a clinical social worker. Practicum Course (Guest lecturer)
- Mt Saint Mary's University**
Taught on the cognitive complexities within the homeless Veteran
community, the challenges and potential barriers Veterans and families
face, and potential positive and negative outcomes. Cognitive Psychology
Course (guest lecturer)
- March 2021** **Mt Saint Mary's University**
Cognitive complexities within the homeless Veteran community, the
challenges and potential barriers Veterans and families face, and potential
positive and negative outcomes. Capstone Course (Guest lecturer)
- October 2020** **Mt Saint Mary's University**
Educated students about the Military and Veteran culture, the challenges
service members may face when transitioning into civilian life, the
challenges of someone being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress
Disorder and the impact it may have on family members. Crisis
Intervention Course (Guest lecturer)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Private Practice Therapist**July 2023 – Present**

- Practicing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for individuals ages 18 to 65 years of age struggling with depression, anxiety, high stress, or have served in the armed forces transition to civilian life.
- Implementing the Strength-Based Approach to help individuals recognize their capabilities and value, to help confront environmental constraints preventing personal growth.

- Working collaboratively with individuals on learning new coping skills and exercises to help manage stress, work through interpersonal difficulties and challenging situations.

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles (VOALA)

Veteran Peer Access Network

March 2020 – June 2023

Clinical Supervisor

- Developed and managed program budget, program development, performance goals, and service delivery in accordance with stated grant requirements.
- Collaborated with VOALA Veteran programs and community partners to help represent the interests of the agency, the program, and its participants in all networking and public relations opportunities.
- Allocated resources that staff would need to help Veteran and Families achieve their goals.

Battle Buddy Bridge (B3)

October 2021 - March 2022

Clinical Supervisor

- Managed staff and graduate interns (Battle Buddies) to provide intensive outreach and comprehensive community engagement with Veterans and Military Families in need of community resources.
- Leveraged the talents and perspectives of Veterans served to help facilitate direct access and service to those experiencing problems adjusting to life after military service.
- Navigated the outreach and comprehensive community engagement to reach Veterans and gently walk with them through the processes necessary to acquire transportation, food, benefits assessment, legal assistance, mental health care, housing, and more.

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles

October 2018 - March 2020

Veteran Services Administrative Manager/Program Liaison 1

- Formulated policy and procedures to promote grant and contractual agreements for veteran run programs.
- Developed training material and identified training opportunities for staff in veteran services.
- Served as a liaison with community partners, Veteran Affairs, regional coalition coordinators, and other community organizations to strengthen community involvement for Veterans and family members.

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles

May 2018 - October 2018

Housing Urban Development –Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

Lead Clinical Case Manager

- Trained and coordinated educational opportunities for clinical case managers to meet the standard of practice set by Veteran Affairs (VA).
- Collaborated and networked bi-monthly with homeless veteran community program providers.
- Provided direct clinical case management for veterans enrolled in the HUD-VASH program.

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles

June 2017- May 2018

HUD-VASH Clinical Case Manager

- Provided clinical case management for veterans, including educating, coaching, and advocating for services and/or resources in support of their treatment goals.
- Tracked and monitored veterans' progress towards meeting treatment goals through ongoing psychosocial assessments and in-person visits with Veterans and their families.
- Worked independently, networking with community service providers and landlords, to help homeless Veterans to become permanently housed.

Carlos L. Lopez & Associates, LLC.

February 2017 – May 2017

HUD-VASH Team Leader

- Provided quality management by training new case managers in computer systems and documentation standards required by Veteran Affairs.
- Collaborated with the Associate Director of Operations in reviewing staff's cases, levels of productivity, and identifying areas for growth.
- Applied direct evidence-based practice and trauma-informed care for Veterans and their families.

Los Angeles Department of Veteran Affairs

March 2013 – November 2016

HUD-VASH Social Worker

- Provided clinical case management for veterans as a permanent employee with Veteran Affairs.
- Referred Veterans to the VA and/or community services to address concerns and issues presented.

- Served as a participated in multidisciplinary teams and community service providers to identify best forms of treatment for homeless Veterans.

Social Service Professionals

August 2011 – March 2013

Los Angeles Department of Veteran Affairs HUD-VASH Contracted Social Worker

- Managed a caseload of 73 chronically homeless Veterans and their families.
- Applied motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care to empower homeless Veterans.

LA County Department of Military & Veteran Affairs

September 2010 – May 2011

The Los Angeles County Navigator Pilot Program – Intern

- Provided brief therapy and crisis intervention to young homeless Veterans not eligible for VA healthcare.
- Incorporated referrals and joint planning efforts with Department of Mental Health (DMH) and community partners, due to ineligibility for VA health care.
- Co-Administered the development, implementation, and data collection for the Veteran System Navigator Pilot Program under DMH & DMVA oversight.

Harbor View Community Center

February 2007 – August 2009

Therapeutic Behavioral Specialist

- Coached behavioral interventions to children and adolescents in the community and at an RCL-14 (lockdown) group-home facility, in deterrence of being placed at a higher level of care.
- Modeled, educated, and empowered parents/caregivers with the use of interventions to promote the child/adolescent's ability to meet their behavioral goals.
- Worked in conjunction with therapists, teachers, and parent partners, to best meet the educational and needs of the clients.

Rosemary's Children Services

July 2006 – July 2007

Children's Counselor

- Provided case management for adolescents 12-18 y/o with emotional, behavioral, and educational difficulties in a level-12 residential group home setting.
- Worked collaboratively with clients in meeting treatment goals, probation mandates, or family reunification.

- Managed, supervised, and documented behaviors and progress of clients in the home and in school.