

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS: Spring 2021**

**ANGELA ALSTON, L.C.S.W., L.A.D.C, S.A.P, C.C.T.P**, has been in the Human Services field for over 25 years. Ms. Alston has experience working with clients with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, anger management, coping skills and behavioral issues. She specializes in substance use treatment. Ms. Alston has worked for methadone clinics, adolescent group homes, Eating Disorders facilities, Juvenile Detention Centers, developmentally disabled population, hospital settings, and the Department of Correction.

**CHARLES ATKINS, MD**, is a board-certified psychiatrist, member of the Yale volunteer faculty, a past regional medical director for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the state of Connecticut and author of over twenty books including *Co-Occurring Disorders: Integrated Assessment and Treatment of Substance Use and Mental Disorders* (PESI, 2014/2021), that is part of the core-curriculum in schools across the country. Dr. Atkins has lectured to mental health and healthcare professionals across the country on integrated treatment, opioid use, bipolar disorder and many other issues. His articles have appeared in publications ranging from *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* to *Writer's Digest Magazine*, and *PARADE*. He earned his MD from Emory University Medical School.

**ISABEL BALLARD, M.S.W.**, her degree is Master of Applied Social Science (MSW equivalent). Ms. Ballard is currently an intern at Bella Care Hospice in Ohio. She currently works at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center. She is a Certified Riding Instructor. Ms. Ballard provides mindfulness initiative for program and barn staff. She is currently at Student Run Health Clinic in Ohio as the director of Social Work and on the International Association of Veterinary Social Work Board Director of Communication & Social Media.

**THOMAS E. BROFFMAN, PhD, L.I.C.S.W., C.A.A.D.A.C., C.C.S., C.E.A.P.**, has been a social worker and addictions counselor for many years. He is a regionally known motivational interviewing trainer and consultant for over 23 years. He recently retired from academia after 14 years. He returned to clinical practice at the Connection, Inc. He has a BSW and a MSW from the University of Pittsburgh, SSWK and a Ph.D. from Boston College, GSSW. He is the vice president of the CT-NASW.

**ANTHONY CRETELLA, R.N.**, is a Registered Nurse who has worked as a Medical / Surgical Nurse since 2010 in the state's largest hospital systems. Previous to coming to Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services he worked in Connecticut's Department of Corrections as a Nurse and Facility Staff Educator. While with CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services he has functioned as a Nurse Consultant and Clinical educator.

**TAYLOR D'ADDARIO, B.A.**, is a Grant Manager and Consultant who provides state departments and mental health agencies technical assistance around developing substance use programs. Taylor received her bachelor's degree from The University of Rhode Island. Taylor is a Licensed Substance Use Counselor. She is pursuing her Master's degree at Salve Regina University in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

**FIORIGIO (FRED) FETTA, L.P.C., ICGC-II, BACC, AADC**, is the Clinical Director of Problem Gambling Services with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) in Connecticut. Prior to his work with DMHAS, he provided treatment at United Community & Family Services (UCFS) for gamblers and persons affected by gambling in Eastern Connecticut for seven years in the roles of Supervisor and clinician of the Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program. Fred was also a substance abuse clinician in a Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program for nearly two years at Community Substance Abuse Centers (CSAC) in Hartford. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Eastern Connecticut State University and his Master's degree in Community Counseling at Fairfield University. Fred is on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB).

**RICHARD FISHER, L.C.S.W.**, is the Director of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Office of Workforce Development. He has over forty years of experience in the behavioral health field as a clinician, program director and administrator. He is an adjunct faculty of the UCONN School of Social Work and the faculty of the New England Institute of Addiction Studies and was formerly a clinical instructor for the UCONN School of Medicine Psychiatric Residency Program. He has maintained a private practice in individual, couples, and family therapy since 1984.

**DAVID HOWE, L.C.S.W.**, has over 40 years of experience in the mental health and addiction recovery field as an administrator, psychiatric clinician, consultant and trainer. He served as Director of Recovery Services and Consumer Affairs Director from 2007-2014 at Connecticut Valley Hospital. During that time, he was twice honored with the State of CT Distinguished Managerial Services Award for his administrative oversight, research and implementation of Person-Centered Recovery-Oriented Services. Known for his ability to effectively improve systems through creative problem solving, he pioneered a collaborative patient/staff committee that implemented significant reduction in the use of restraint and seclusion on inpatient units. He has developed and implemented a variety of innovative recovery oriented initiatives that have ongoing influence on services and culture at CVH and the surrounding state mental health and addiction community. David is Clinical Director of the St Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury and is a member of the adjunct faculty in Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine.

**SAMIA HUSSEIN, M.P.H.**, currently serves as a Trainer at the Office of Multicultural Health Equity with the Office of the Commissioner. She received her Master's in Public Health from the University of Connecticut and her Undergraduate degree from Central CT State University. She has experience developing training curriculum and facilitating workshops in various settings and has worked with diverse populations.

**KATIE KIRCH, L.C.S.W., ICGC-II**, is a 2011 Graduate of the UCONN School of Social Work and received her LCSW in 2013 where she worked as a therapist for the Bettor Choice gambling treatment program at The Connection Inc., in Middletown, CT. From there, she has gone on to become the Program Manager for The Bettor Choice Program at Wheeler Clinic in Hartford, CT. As an Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor, she has dedicated her career to helping those affected by Gambling Disorders in the state of CT. Katie has continued to develop her professional skills by becoming an EMDR therapist and an Acupuncture Detox Specialist and has taught Social Work courses as an Adjunct Professor at the UCONN School of Social Work in Hartford, CT. Katie has also been able to share her knowledge and experiences on a national level where she presented at the National Conference on Problem Gambling at both the Orlando, Florida Conference in 2014 and in Baltimore, Maryland in 2015.

**KELLY LEPPARD, CPS**, is a Certified Prevention Specialist and the Primary Prevention Services Coordinator for Problem Gambling Services with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Kelly has been working in the prevention field since 2008 after graduating from Western New England University. Prior to the State, Kelly worked for the Southington STEPS Coalition as the coordinator of a Federal Drug Free Communities Support Program grant.

**KIMBERLY PLATT, L.C.S.W., L.A.D.C.**, is Program Manager for the Wheeler Clinic and a member of the DMHAS Office of Workforce Development. She has over twenty years of experience as a clinician, program director and consultant in the behavioral health field. She serves as adjunct faculty at Manchester Community College and maintains a private practice.

**DONALD SCHERLING, Psy.D., L.A.D.C., C.C.S.**, is a Senior Clinical Consultant and Clinical Faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, MA, where he is also a Health Educator, Employee Assistance Counselor, Behavioral Health Wellness Coach, and serves on the Physician-Practitioner Health Committee and the Care for Caregivers Yoga Wellness program. Dr. Scherling is a certified trainer for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC), the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR Institute), and a Senior Clinical Consultant & Trainer with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, the CT Women's Consortium and other regional and statewide agencies in the Northeast. He is a senior trainer and consultant to SAMSHA/CSAT, the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and other regional and statewide agencies in the Northeast & Midwest.

**RAYMOND TAFRATE, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor and clinical psychologist at Central Connecticut State University, as well as a fellow and supervisor at the Albert Ellis Institute for Behavior Therapy. He is also an author, consultant and trainer.

**DAVID TOLIN, Ph.D.**, is the Founder and Director of the Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living, and an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. He was the 2014 President of the Clinical Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, and a principal investigator for the National Institutes of Health. He received the Award for Lifetime Contribution to Psychology from the Connecticut Psychological Association. Dr. Tolin is the author of over 150 scientific journal articles, as well as the books *Doing CBT: A Comprehensive Guide to Working with Behaviors, Thoughts, and Emotions* and *Face Your Fears: A Proven Plan to Beat Anxiety, Panic, Phobias, and Obsessions*. Dr. Tolin has been featured on the reality TV series *Hoarders*, *The OCD Project*, and *My Shopping Addiction*, and has been a recurrent guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Dr. Oz Show*, and *Anderson Live!*

**AVIVA VINCENT, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., V.S.M.**, earned her doctoral degree from Case Western Reserve University, Veterinary Social Work Certificate from the University of Tennessee, a fellowship with Animals in Society, and trained at The Institute for Interdisciplinary Salivary Bioscience Research, "spit camp". She is an instructor in the Veterinary Social Work and Veterinary Human Support Certificate Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research interest includes exploring the physiological impact of the human-animal bond; specifically, the potential animal support to reduce fear and anxiety in stressful situations. She is co-founder and owner of Healing Paws LLC, the only VSW practice in Northeast Ohio. Dr. Vincent is on the advisory board of the Center for Human Animal Education Research and Education at Ohio State University, board of directors for the International Association of Veterinary Social Workers, and is founder of the human-animal interactions workgroup with the National Association of Social Workers-Ohio chapter. Dr. Vincent is a contributor to the forthcoming volume *The Comprehensive Guide to Interdisciplinary Veterinary Social Work, and Career Paths in Human-Animal Interaction for Social and Behavioral Scientists*.

**JEREMY WAMPLER, L.C.S.W., ICGC-II, BACC, L.A.D.C.** is the Program Director for the State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Problem Gambling Services. Jeremy earned his Master in Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University, and he has been practicing in the field of problem gambling for over a decade. He is a board member on the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board, as well as the Association of Problem Gambling Services Administrators. Jeremy is a licensed clinical social worker, internationally certified gambling counselor, licensed alcohol and drug counselor, as well as a board approved clinical consultant, through the IGCCB.

**JOANNA WHITE, M.S., Ed.D.** is an experienced lecturer, trainer and instructor. She is the Assistant Professional, Program Coordinator for Human and Social Services at Manchester Community College. She has a strong background working in the human services administration and higher education.

**PATRICIA D. WILCOX, L.C.S.W.** is the Vice President of Strategic Development at Klingberg Family Centers in New Britain, CT. At Klingberg she was a clinician and the Clinical Director before obtaining her current position in 2005. She specializes in the treatment of traumatized children and their families and has presented extensively on this topic at several conferences including the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of Social Workers, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the Black Administrators in Child Welfare, the Alliance for Children and Families, and the American Association of Children's Residential Centers. Ms. Wilcox is the creator of the Restorative Approach, a trauma and relationship based approach to congregate care treatment of children and the author of *Trauma Informed Care: The Restorative Approach* published by NEARI Press. She is a trainer for the Risking Connection® trauma training program and an adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and St. Joseph's University School of Social Work. Ms. Wilcox was selected as the Social Worker of the Year by NASW/CT in 2011.