

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS: Winter 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.

JENNIFER D. BERTON, PhD, L.C.S.W., CADC-II, is currently in private practice. Dr. Berton has extensive experience working in a variety of substance use disorder and mental health treatment programs. An experienced trainer and consultant, she is the author of the book [Ethics for Addiction Professionals](#).

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 CRETTELLA, 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.

LAUREN DONINGER, EdD, L.A.D.C, L.P.C., has been in the field of mental health and addiction services since 1983. She is on the faculty at Gateway Community College in New Haven with primary teaching responsibility in the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor Program (DARC).

CHRIS DORVAL, L.C.S.W., L.C.D.P., L.C.D.C.S., I.C.A.D.C., is a therapist in private practice, a Business Development Officer for Recovery Centers of America, a Project Coordinator for Rhode Island College SBIRT Training and Resource Center. He has worked as the Director of Clinical Outreach and Development for an international training and consulting agency, and as a clinician and clinical supervisor in addiction treatment for over 6 years.

FIORIGIO (FRED) FETTA, L.P.C., ICGC-II, BACC, AAC, 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 thirty five 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 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.

KAITLIN FOSHAY BROWN L.P.C., L.A.D.C., is a licensed professional counselor, licensed drug and alcohol counselor, internationally certified gambling counselor, and board certified clinical consultant for the National Council on Problem Gambling. She graduated with her undergraduate degree in psychology and sociology and received her master's in clinical mental health counseling. In her role with the Council, she has facilitated workshops both regionally and nationally for students, providers, seniors, and recovery communities. Kaitlin currently serves on CT Suicide Advisory Board, Women's Services Practice Improvement Collaborative as well as the National Council on Problem Gambling's Helpline, Treatment, and Prevention Committees. Kaitlin previously worked as a therapist for Connecticut Bettor Choice gambling-specific treatment programs, at The Connection Inc. and MCCA. She has experience with inpatient, detoxification, and intensive/outpatient treatment settings with a specialization in the field of co-occurring disorders for over 10 years.

MICHAEL GAUDET, L.I.C.S.W., L.C.D.P., earned his undergraduate degree at Bridgewater State College and his MSW from Rhode Island College in 1984. He is currently the Center Director at Arbour Counseling Services, Rockland, MA. He has extensive clinical and supervision experience in substance abuse treatment. Mr. Gaudet trains and consults across the country on clinical and professional growth topics. He is a faculty member of the New England Institute of Addiction Studies since 1986.

WILLIAM. GILBERT, PH.D, M.S.W, L.C.S.W, AACD, has over 25 years of experience as a clinician, administrator, supervisor, and educator. He earned his PHD at University of Connecticut. Mr. Gilbert has published in the journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions and the Addiction Professional. He currently teaches at Elms College (Chicopee, MA), Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT) and Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO.) Dr. Gilberts provides clinical social worker services to people with mental illness and substance use disorders at Griffin Counseling Services.

HANER HERNANDEZ, Ph.D, earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Springfield College and a Master of Education with concentrations in Counseling Psychology and Addiction Studies from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. His doctoral degree was earned at the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His major was Community Health Education and his minor was Social Justice Education. In addition, Mr. Hernandez holds an advance Certification in Drug and Alcohol Counseling at the reciprocal level, is licensed in Massachusetts, and is a Certified Prevention Specialist.

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.

BOB JOPE, L.M.H.C., is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. He teaches Motivational Interviewing for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and as adjunct faculty at Salve Regina University, Rhode Island College, and previously at the University of Massachusetts Boston; he is also a consultant with the Addiction Technology Transfer Center at Brown University and has worked as a Motivational Interviewing coder for a nationally-recognized coding agency. Bob is the lead trainer for Jope Consulting Services, and has taught Motivational Interviewing at agencies all over New England. Holding a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology, Bob has worked in the mental health, child welfare, and substance abuse fields for the past twenty-five years. He was originally trained in Motivational Interviewing by Stephen Andrew in 2007, and has since trained with Ali Hall and Alan Lyme. Bob has also developed and taught program-specific MI training applications, and has trained hundreds of people in various levels of Motivational Interviewing.

ROBIN P. MCNAUL, M.S.W., is the Executive Director of True Colors, Inc. She has co-authored two books and several articles on LGBTQ youth and is a nationally recognized thought leader. Robin is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2016 CCSU Women of Influence Award, the 2014 HRC Upstander Award, the 2011 UCONN Award for Excellence in Public Engagement, 2008 National Education Association's Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights and the 2008 Social Worker of the Year (NASW, CT Chapter). In 2017 she was named one of the Advocates', 50 States; 50 Heroes.

SUSAN MCKINLEY, L.C.S.W., has been working in the Connecticut mental health system for more than 30 years. Ms. McKinley has experience working in residential and psychosocial rehabilitation programs, and has been a clinician in both inpatient and outpatient substance abuse and psychiatric treatment facilities. Since 1999, Ms. McKinley has worked for the Whiting Forensic Hospital, providing social work and completing forensic evaluations.

SHELLY NOLAN, M.S., L.P.C., is the Director of Women's Services for the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS.) She oversees women specific programming throughout the state including both outpatient and pregnant and parenting residential programs. Prior to transitioning to this position, Shelly was a Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, overseeing the state substance use disorder treatment continuum of care. Many of these programs serve women with behavioral health needs; among the most vulnerable, pregnant or post-partum women. She supported the implementation of SAMHSA grants targeted at addressing the impact of the national opioid crisis through expansion of CT's medication assisted treatment network and integration of peer support services. Prior to coming to DMHAS, Shelly has held a variety of direct service and leadership roles within the behavioral health system. She holds a M.S. degree in Counseling and is a CT Licensed Professional Counselor.

REBECCA PETERSEN, L.C.S.W., is a Program Manager for Women's Services within the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS.) She works directly with the Women & Children's residential and REACH programs providing on-site evaluation for DMHAS contract expectations, implementation of current initiatives and best practices. She participates in a variety of community based collaboratives and work groups aimed at supporting women's specific holistic needs. Prior to coming to DMHAS, Rebecca has worked within the Department of Children and Families, private non-private agencies, and a private practice specializing in trauma, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, LGBTQ individuals, and substance use disorders. She earned her MSW and is a LCSW.

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.

NICOLAS RUF, M.A., L.A.D.C., is an adjunct faculty at Southern New Hampshire University. He has been an adjunct faculty at Northern Vermont University and at the New England Institute of Addiction Studies. Mr. Ruf has served as faculty at NEIAS Best Practice School.

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!*

BOB VIETRO, M.S., L.A.D.C., ICGCII, has treated and studied substance misuse/disorders and process addictions, including gambling. He has practiced in both residential and outpatient treatment settings. Bob also has extensive experience in planning and facilitating family Interventions and mediation. Bob has received an award from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling in recognition of his contribution to the field and work in problem gambling as well as a Certificate of Special Recognition from US Senator Richard Blumenthal.

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.