

## Melissa R. Dziedzic, MSW

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***Master's level, person-centered, strength-based social worker, innovative thinker and a highly motivated self-starter of implementing new projects and tasks***

### QUALIFICATIONS

- 10+ years of experience in community mental health, child welfare, family and parent education/support, and school-based settings
- Strong foundation in crisis intervention, brief and solution-focused counseling skills with children, adolescents, adults, and families
- Reliable supervisor and seasoned field educator for aspiring social workers with 8 years of experience in providing supervision, program management, development, evaluation, marketing, strategic planning, and collecting research-based outcomes

### EDUCATION

Widener University <b>Master of Social Work</b>	August 2013 Chester, PA
Gwynedd Mercy University ( <i>formally Gwynedd-Mercy College</i> ) <b>Bachelor of Arts in Human Services</b>	May 2010 Gwynedd Valley, PA

### SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

West Chester University of Pennsylvania <b>Director of Field Education, Graduate Social Work</b>	Nov. 2019-Current West Chester, PA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and administer the MSW field education program</li><li>• Identify, develop, and evaluate field education opportunities throughout the region in relation to the program's mission and goals and accreditation core competencies</li><li>• Visit prospective Field Sites and maintain relationships with Agencies/Organizations</li><li>• Vetting of Internal/External Field Instructors</li><li>• Coordinate the student placement process by assessing student's professional development/readiness, matching students to appropriate Field Placement Site through referral process appropriate to the student's learning needs and the program objectives for field education, and confirming the placement with the student and the field site</li><li>• Conduct Orientation to Field Practicum for students prior to the start of the semester</li><li>• Provide Orientation and ongoing training for Field Instructors</li><li>• Consult with Faculty Field Liaisons regarding students' learning processes</li><li>• Coordinate problem-solving and termination processes as necessary</li></ul>	
Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley, PA <b>Adjunct Faculty (Instructor)</b>	August 2019-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecturer for SOC: Principles of Sociology</li><li>• Introduce students to the basic principles of social theories, problems, and scientific research methods</li><li>• Understand the students' needs and strengths to cultivate a safe learning environment</li><li>• Create and facilitate engaging lesson plans that capture and motivate students to create change in their communities, personal lives, and professional encounters</li></ul>	

## **SOCIAL WORK FIELD EXPERIENCE**

Access Services, Ft. Washington, PA

Jan. 2010-Dec. 2019

### **Director of Respite and Host Family Recruitment**

Feb. 2017-Nov. 2019

- Provide oversight, leadership, supervision, and operational support to a team of agency-wide staff providing Host Family Recruitment and Respite Services
- Ensure that policy and procedures, licensing requirements, best practices, and quality management tools are implemented across the entire agency
- Recruit quality host family providers by representing the agency at community events, showcasing our Foster Care, Life Sharing, and Respite programs servicing 11 counties throughout Eastern Pennsylvania
- Chairperson of the agency-wide Host Family Recruitment Committee; the vision is to recruit quality, well trained providers, using innovative strategies that will support the growth and strengthening of host family programs

### **Field Placement Supervisor**

April 2012-Dec. 2019

- Supervise Bachelor's and Master's level students from local colleges/universities majoring in social work, psychology, and human services during their semester or year-long field placement experience
- Educate through hands-on experience in the field and facilitate conversation that relates to the concepts being taught in the classroom
- Collaborate with each intern in creating their learning contract and making ongoing revisions, as needed to ensure continued learning and professional development
- Evaluate skills and implementation by reviewing process recordings on an ongoing basis
- Provide weekly one-on-one supervision, offering ongoing support, and communicate progress or concerns with the student and field liaison from the college/university

### **Assistant Director, Mobile Crisis Supports**

Jan. 2015-Feb. 2017

- Supported children, adolescents, and adults in the Bucks and Montgomery County communities by offering 24-hours a day, 7 days a week phone counseling and mobile intervention to assess risk and establish safety
- Oversaw the day-to-day operations of the department to guarantee youth and family satisfaction and that crisis calls are being responded to in a timely, respectful, and professional manner
- Developed and supervised the crisis coordinators; as well as recruit, hire, and train new staff
- Assisted with marketing efforts to promote the program at community events, school presentations, and county meetings

### **Assistant Director, Bucks County LIFE Program**

April 2012-Nov. 2013

- Supervised the Administrative Case Management Coordinator, Family Support Specialists (FSS), the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPS), and interns by providing support, case review, and training opportunities through weekly supervision to enhance professional growth and development
- Maintained the program evaluation and development plans, utilized community and training resources, produced articles in the program newsletter, facilitated social skills groups, attended strategic planning and multi-system meetings
- Oversaw all aspects of family support within the Bucks County community by providing families with resources that support their needs

### **Foster Care Coordinator (Intern to Hire)**

Jan. 2010-April 2012

- Recorded and evaluated the behaviors of children with special needs who are in foster care and provided therapeutic interaction
- Supervised, supported, and educated 8-10 foster families by providing training on the latest diagnoses and behavioral, cognitive, and socialization interventions
- Empowered families and clients to utilize positive crisis intervention skills by remaining solution-focused

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Catholic Social Services

Sept. 2013-Jan. 2015

**School Social Worker, Bonner & Prendergast Catholic High School**

Drexel Hill, PA

- Collaborated with administration, faculty, and staff with essential information to better understand the cultural societal, economic, familial, and health factors that could be affecting the students' performance and behavior
- Established the International Student Mentorship Club; the purpose of this club was to embrace cultural diversity and to provide socialization opportunities for international and American students
- Facilitated individual and group counseling to students who are struggling emotionally, behavioral, socially, developmentally; as well as participate in team and family meetings to monitor the students' progress
- Obtained and coordinated community resources to meet the needs of the students and their families while continuously advocating for new and improved community and school resources

**GRADUATE-LEVEL INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**MERCY CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA**

Sept. 2012-Jul. 2013

**MSW Intern, School Social Work**

- Facilitated weekly individual sessions with 10-15 students, empowering them to develop in areas of self-awareness, gaining and maintaining healthy relationships, understanding the importance of teamwork, problem solving strategies, and futures planning
- Collaborated with external education and social service agencies to provide a variety of resources for students and their families
- Assessed the dynamics of the home environment, particularly in relation to its ability to support the educational objectives for the students and the school

**ACCESS SERVICES, Fort Washington, PA**

Sept. 2011-Apr. 2012

**MSW Intern, Autism Supports Program**

- Assisted clients with an Autism or Asperger's Syndrome diagnosis become involved in the community through teaching social and daily living skills
- Informed family members, team members, and co-workers of training opportunities to better serve the clients with an Autism or Asperger's diagnosis
- Planned, programmed and promoted events that attracted transition age youth with a mental health and/or Autism diagnosis to encourage socialization skills.