

BECKY L. THOMAS, PH.D., MSW, LISW-S, ACSW

The University of Akron
School of Social Work & Family Sciences
302 Buchtel Commons
Akron, OH 44325
Phone: 330-972-5682
Email: bthomas@uakron.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare, January 2022

Dissertation title: Association of caregiving stress, optimism, and health outcomes and by race among caregivers with chronic health problems.

Case Western Reserve University

Mandel School of Applied Sciences, Cleveland, OH

Master of Social Work (MSW), May 2004

Joint Master of Social Work Program

Cleveland State University/University of Akron, Cleveland, OH

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, December 1998

Baldwin Wallace, Berea, OH

LICENSE

State of Ohio

Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor

2007

Ohio, # I0800089

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

**The University of Akron – School of Social Work & Family Sciences Akron, OH August
2007 to Present**

Associate Director, August 2022 to present

- Assist in day-to-day operations of School of Social Work and Family Sciences
- Assist in accreditation process for site visit

Adjunct/Senior Instructor, August 2007 to present

- Develop relevant, evidence-based courses to strengthen and produce well-rounded social workers, with a focus on child welfare as well as caregiving topics
- Work to identify scholarly writing opportunities to strengthen the evidence-based practice of social work as a profession
- Develop and instruct undergraduate and graduate students.
- Develop and teach courses/trainings including related to caregivers, veteran cultural, women veterans and family therapy.

- Instruct on policy, research and therapies for children, families, and specialized populations such as veterans and caregivers.
- Instruct on use of implementing different therapies and/or interventions across different vulnerable populations including those without homes.
- Instruct on how to identify and implement interventions that are clinically, evidence based supported.
- Teach assigned courses using both effective and creative methods – see below table

Field Coordinator

July 2018 to February 2021

- Coordinated and optimized the field experience of social work students
- Worked closely with field instructors, faculty, students, and the community to ensure students have an optimal learning environment
- Worked with field team to manage and revised field placement process.
- Identified and assisted in revision and operationalizing the processes to ensure integration of field experiences into the social work program
- Participated in university and school committees
- Facilitated ongoing field orientation sessions for students entering their field experiences
- Coordinated implementation of required field documentation into web-based platform
- Worked with field team members to assist students to obtain course appropriate field placement
- Lead to address problems that arose during field placements
- Reviewed and maintained working knowledge of University and student handbook to ensure proper procedures were followed when student issues developed in field.

UPP Campus Coordinator

July 2017 to February 2021

- Actively recruited students (both undergraduate and graduate) to UPP program
- Advised UPP applicants on admission process
- Monitored the developmental opportunities in field placement of UPP students
- Delivered scholarly national and state presentations
- Effectively assisted applicants through the application process
- Assisted in review of applicants for UPP program
- Provided on-going self-development overview and training with UPP students

Instructor

August 2013 to February 2021

- Developed relevant, evidence-based courses to strengthen and produce well-rounded social workers, with a focus on child welfare as well as caregiving topics
- Worked to identify scholarly writing opportunities to strengthen the evidence-based practice of social work as a profession
- Taught assigned courses using both effective and creative methods – see below table

MSW Admissions Committee

August 2013 to February 2021

- Reviewed applicants to determine all meet criteria to apply

- Led committee meetings to review and revise admission criteria, as needed, and/or review applicants that are labeled for higher review
- Reviewed applicants and determined if meet criteria for admission and if so, which program
- Directed committee to provide reviews of applicants
- Communicated with Graduate School of who the committee admitted.

Lakewood Coordinator/Instructor August 2013 to July 2017

Coordinator

- Actively recruited students to off-site campus
- Advised graduate social work students toward graduation
- Monitored the developmental opportunities in field placement when acting as a faculty liaison
- Delivered scholarly national and state presentations
- Effectively assisted applicants through the application process
- Assisted in review of applicants for graduate school
- Assisted graduate students at Lakewood identify appropriate courses and electives
- Registered graduate students at Lakewood for each semester courses

Field Coordination

- Assisted Field Coordinator to coordinate and optimize the field experience of graduate level social work students
- Worked closely with field coordinator field instructors, faculty, students, and the community to ensure students have an optimal learning environment
- Identified and assisted in revision and operationalizing the processes to ensure integration of field experiences into the social work program
- Participated in university and school committees
- Facilitated ongoing field orientation sessions for graduate students entering their field experiences
- Assisted CBT Lead Instructor in assisting students in course obtain course appropriate field placement

Case Western Reserve University – Mandal School of Applied Social Sciences Cleveland, OH August 2010 to December 2021

Adjunct Instructor

- Continuously identified scholarly writing opportunities to strengthen the evidence-based practice of social work as a profession
- Effectively and creatively taught assigned courses

TEACHING *History*

Courses Previously Taught:

UA SW 7750:675-680 Program Evaluation		Spring 2022
UA SW 7750:442-680 Research		Spring 2022
UA SW 7750:672-801 Community Organization & Planning		Fall 2021
UA SW 7750:430-601 HBSE II		Summer 2021
UA SW 7750:680 Program Evaluation		Spring 2021
UA SW 7750:442-801 Research		Fall 2020
UA SW 7750:680 Program Evaluation		Spring 2020
UA SW 7750-650 Advanced Standing		Summer 2019
UA SW 7750-611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination		Fall 2017
UA SW 7750:650 Advanced Standing		Summer 2017
UA SW 7750:646 Social Welfare Policy		Spring 2017
UA SW 675 Program Evaluation		Spring 2017
UA SW SWK 7750:646		Fall 2016
UA SW 440 Social Work Practice I		Fall 2016
UA SW 7750:650 Advanced Standing Seminar		Summer 2016
UA SW 675 Program Evaluation (Evaluations: 5.96 out of 6.0)		Spring 2016
UA SW 622 Research I (Evaluations: 5.8 out of 6.0)		Spring 2016
UA SW 685 Practice Family & Children (Evaluations: 5.9 out of 6.0)		Fall 2015
UA SW 400 Social Work Practice 1 (Evaluations: 5.8 out of 6.0)		Fall 2015
Advanced Standing Seminar (Evaluations: Instructor: 5.9/Department: 6.0)	7750:650	Summer 2015
Social Work Research Methods I (Evaluations: Instructor: 5.6/Department: 5.0)	7750:622	Spring 2015
Program Evaluation (Evaluations: Instructor: 6.98/Department: 5.0)	7750:675	Spring 2015
Social Welfare and Policy I	SWK 7750:646 (6.5/7.0)	Fall, 2014
Social Work Practice with Families and Children	SWK 7750:685 (6.9/7.0)	Fall, 2014
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2014
Social Work Research Methods I	7750:622	Spring 2014
Program Evaluation	7750:675	Spring 2014
Social Work Research Methods I	7750:622	Fall, 2013
Social Work Practice with Families and Children	7750:685	Fall, 2013
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2013
Home Visits: Safety	7750: 480	Summer 2013 Intercession
Home Visits: Safety	7750: 693	Summer 2013 Intercession
MSASS Research Methods in Social Work	SASS 426:3556	Summer 2013
Social Work Practice in Health Services	7750:456	Spring 2013
Social Work Research Methods I	7750:622	Spring 2013
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2012
Home Visits: Safety	7750: 480	Summer 2012 Intercession
Home Visits: Community	7750: 480	Summer 2012 Intercession

Home Visits: Effective Assessments	7750: 480	Summer 2012 Intercession
Home Visits: Safety	7750: 693	Summer 2012 Intercession
Home Visits: Community	7750: 693	Summer 2012 Intercession
Home Visits: Effective Assessments	7750: 693	Summer 2012 Intercession
Introduction to Field Experience	7750:421	Spring 2012
Fundamentals of Research II	7750:623	Spring 2012
(Two sections)		
Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	7750:427	Fall 2011
Social Work Practice I	7750:401	Fall 2011
Social Work Practice I Skills Lab	7750:405	Fall 2011
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2011
Research Methods in Social Work	SASS 426	Summer 2011
Social Work Research II	7750:441	Spring 2011
Social Policy and Delivery	SASS 470	Fall 2010
Social Work Research Methods I	7750:622	Fall 2010
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2010
Social Work Practice I	7750:401	Spring 2010
Social Work Practice I Skills Lab	7750:405	Spring 2010
Social Work Practice I	7750:401	Fall 2009
Social Work Practice I Skills Lab	7750:405	Fall 2009
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2009
Diversity and Social Work	7750:270	Spring 2009
Social Work Practice IV	7750:404	Spring 2009
Social Work Practice I	7750:401	Fall 2008
Social Work Practice I Skills Lab	7750:405	Fall 2008
Advanced Standing Seminar	7750:650	Summer 2008
Social Work Human Behavior: Large Systems	7750:632	Spring 2008
Dynamics of Racism and Discrimination	7750:611	Fall 2007

Other Prior Academic Experience:

Case Western Reserve University –University Hospitals Cleveland, OH Sept. 2012- Sept. 2015

Research Assistant Principal Investigator: Dr. Sajatovic

- Interview participants of study examining a treatment for bi-polar diagnosis using structured interview outline
- Make follow up calls to schedule/re-schedule sessions with participants

The University of Akron – School of Social Work Akron, OH August 2011 to August 2013

Visiting Instructor

Field Coordination

- Assist Field Coordinator to coordinate and optimize the field experience of undergraduate and graduate level social work students
- Work closely with field instructors, faculty, students, and the community to ensure an optimal learning environment
- Create, manage, revise, and operationalize processes to ensure flawless integration of field experiences into the social work program
- Participate in committee representation on undergraduate & graduate level self-study committees; active participation in university, college, and school committees
- Facilitate and refine ongoing field orientation sessions for both undergraduate and graduate students entering their field experiences
- Participate in field instruction orientation sessions for social work practitioners new to field instruction

Instructor

- Effectively advise social work students toward graduation
- Effectively monitor the developmental opportunities in field placement when acting as a faculty liaison
- Actively participate in service to the university, college, school, and community
- Deliver scholarly national and state presentations
- Develop relevant courses to strengthen and produce well-rounded social workers
- Continuously identify scholarly writing opportunities to strengthen the evidence-based practice of social work as a profession
- Assist with recruiting of students to offsite campus
- Effectively and creatively teach assigned courses

**Case Western Reserve University – Mandal School of Applied Social Sciences Cleveland, OH
January 2011 to December 2011**

Research Assistant Principal Investigator: Dr. Lim

- Identified interested individuals to participate in study
- Work closely with PI to identify needs of study
- Managed dataset to reflect current status of identified participants
- Made follow up calls to interested participants
- Mailed out study questionnaires to interested participants

**Case Western Reserve University – Mandal School of Applied Social Sciences Cleveland, OH
January 2011 to February 2012**

Research Interviewer Principal Investigator: Dr. Beigel

- Identified interested individuals to participate in study
- Work closely with PI to identify needs of study
- Interviewed participants of study using structured interview outline

- Made follow up calls to interested participants

The University of Akron – School of Social Work Akron, OH August 2007 to August 2011

Adjunct Instructor

- Continuously identify scholarly writing opportunities to strengthen the evidence-based practice of social work as a profession
- Effectively and creatively teach assigned courses

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS:

Miller, D. B. & **Thomas, B.** *Psychosocial distress on health quality of life among men with cancer, Social Work Research, NASW.*

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS: NA

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Building effective relationships, Super Chat for Supervisors, VAMC	Cleveland, OH	July, 2022
Looking at Data Management Systems What’s a Field Director to do?! 2019 Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work, October 24-26, 2019	Denver, CO	October, 2019
Career and Graduate School Information Presentation	Kent, OH	October, 2019
Career and Graduate School Information Presentation	Kent, OH	October, 2018
Social Worker Safety	Akron, OH	May, 2017
Career and Graduate School Information	Kent, OH	May, 2016
How to Effectively Educate Veteran Students who Return to College after Service, 2016 BPD Annual Conference	Dallas, TX	March, 2016
Safety in the Community Presentation	Akron, OH	February, 2016

Career and Graduate School Information Fair	Kent, OH	February, 2016
Career and Graduate School Information Presentation	Kent, OH	May, 2015
Meeting Students Where They Are, 2015 BPD Annual Conference	Kansas City, MO	March, 2015
Career and Graduate School Information Fair	Kent, OH	February, 2015
Career and Graduate School Information Fair	Kent, OH	February, 2014
Women Veterans: How to Effectively Meet their Needs, NASW Ohio Chapter, Region 2 (Akron Area)	Akron, OH	November, 2013
It's what we do: The relationship and student success, 2013 Impact and Effectiveness of Developmental Relationships, The Mentoring Institute at UNM	Albuquerque, NM	October, 2013
Worker Safety: Potential Dangers & Protective Measures: Safety for Elders and Staff, Summit Count Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition	Akron, OH	September, 2013
Personal Safety, NASW Ohio Chapter, Region 2 (Akron Area)	Akron, OH	June, 2013
Safety in the Community & Verbal De-Escalation, First Things First Cross Systems Training	Akron, OH	April, 2013
PhD Panel Presentation, National Association of Social Workers Conference	Columbus, OH	November, 2012
Learn about the Role of Military Culture in everyday interactions, University of Akron, Diversity Week	Akron, OH	September, 2012
Overview of Medical Social Work including Medicare and Medicaid	Akron, OH	October, 2012
Spirituality and social support: How they influence quality of life in cancer patients, SSWR	Tampa, FL	January 2011

African American and Caucasian women: Differences in spiritual and social support in experiencing cancer, SSWR

Tampa, FL January 2011

Health Care Act overview – What it means for us, University Hospitals, Social Workers & Other Healthcare Staff

Cleveland, OH March 2010

Health Care Reform Act, Case Western Reserve University – Mandal School of Applied Social Sciences MSASS, MSASS staff & students

Cleveland, OH December, 2009

INVITED POSTER RESENTATIONS:

Students helping students: The impact of social work on student wellness, Building Healthy Academic Communities Consortium

Columbus, OH April 2013

African American & Caucasian women: Differences in spiritual & social support in experiencing cancer (Poster session P2: P2-30), APOS 9th Annual Conference

Miami, FL 23-25 February 2012

Spirituality & social support: How they influence quality of life in cancer patients (Poster session P2: P2-31), APOS 9th Annual Conference

Miami, FL 23-25 February 2012

Communication, decision making, and health-related quality of life in Chinese- and Korean-American breast cancer survivors (Poster session 1: P1-71), APOS 9th Annual Conference

Miami, FL 23-25 February 2012

SERVICE

2013 to 2015 *Reviewer* – for Sage Publications for various textbooks/books related to social worker specifically child welfare

2012 *Student Reviewer* – for *Perspectives on Social Work Journal*

SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS/COMMITTEES

2018 to 2021 *Chairperson/Member* – Citizens Review Panel (CRP)

2014 to 2020 *Member* – Veterans' Steering Committee, The University of Akron

2016 to 2021 *Member* – MSW Admission Committee

2016 to 2016 *Contract Professional Hiring Committee Chair*

2012 to 2015 *Joint Chair* – MSW Curriculum Committee

2012 to 2013 *Member* - Interprofessional Education (IPE) Committee

AWARDS and CERTIFICATES

Michigan Center for African American Aging (MCUAAAR) fellow
Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) certified

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member in Good Standing National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
Member in Good Standing Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Veteran Health Administration | VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, Cleveland OH
Feb. 2021 – Aug. 2022

Clinical Social Worker

Conduct psychosocial assessments in the outpatient geriatric clinic (face-to-face/virtual/tele). Coordination of assignments across different areas in the medical center. On assignment to assist with coverage of the PM&RS inpatient unit to assess and assist in discharge planning for inpatient Veterans. Assist with Saturday social work assistance within the medical center to provide high-risk screenings, discharge planning assistance and other needs of medical team. Advocate for medically comprised/vulnerable Veterans and/or caregivers. Participating in VA VISN 10 Leadership Development Institute FY 22. Coordinate care for Veterans upon discharge from community settings. Completed training on CEAT and PCAFC assessment. Provide referrals and other education for caregivers and Veterans. Coordinate linkage with appropriate VA and community service providers / agencies as needed by the client and/or caregivers. Collaborate with other members of the geriatric team or other interdisciplinary treatment teams as appropriate, i.e., Specialty Clinics, NHCU, Clinic staff, mental health professionals, etc. Collaborate with other geriatric team members and other clinic professional staff to share pertinent factual/diagnostic information to develop and coordinate individualized multidisciplinary treatment plans for each patient. Manage and assist in discharge planning from non-VA community settings. Assist veterans and caregivers to complete Advance Directives and other needed forms (10-10, applying for Aid and Attendance and other compensation needs). Provide information on securing needed services including housing options in community-dwellings, food sources, long-term care living options, hospice/palliative care, respite, home health aides as well as obtaining other relevant benefits for veterans including pension, funeral and burial benefits. Arrange services for Veterans and/or caregivers. Assisted in development of document to allow tracking and provision to report out identified services to increase safe community living. Currently, participating in Leadership Development Institute (LDI) FY 22. Assisting in CEU review for Counselor & Social Worker Board of Ohio. Work with CPSR and VISTA systems.

Benhaven Counseling, Brecksville, OH**July, 2017 – Present***Clinical Social Worker/Therapist (Part Time)*

Provide ongoing and/or crisis therapeutic counseling with individuals who are experiencing crisis and on-going problems with functioning and require therapeutic interventions. Experience is with those who are dealing with traumatic backgrounds, depression, anxiety, adjustments disorders and also with adolescents struggling with depression.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), Home Based Care Program, Cleveland, OH**October 2008 – August 2011***Clinical Social Worker*

- Assisted home bound veterans maintain in their homes to prevent a more intensive care setting
- Participated in weekly interdisciplinary meetings
- Conducted psycho-assessments, cognitive and depressive screenings and other safety screenings as needed
- Assisted in coordinating care of veterans with team psychologist
- Served as field instructor to MSW level social work students
- Advocated and coordinated linkages with appropriate VA and community service providers/agencies as needed by clients
- Provided psycho-education to veterans and/or caregivers on various topics.
- Collaborated with treatment team members to ensure continuity of care and timely service delivery

Lorain County Children Services (LCCS), Family Based Care Department, Lorain, OH**November 2005 – October 2008***Supervisor, Foster Homes*

- Direct supervision of staff of 7
- Ensured licensed foster homes and foster/adoptive homes remained in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations
- Completed performance evaluations on staff;
- Held monthly departmental meetings
- Revised and assisted in development of procedures to ensure continued compliance with current legislation
- Identified new trainers to utilize
- Served on two committees that reviewed need of agency to obtain and/or maintain custody of children as well as to develop appropriate treatment options for children involved with multiple agencies
- Trained interested individuals to become licensed foster/adoptive caregivers
- Help develop SACWIS how-to guide for staff to complete assessments and re-assessments within SACWIS system.

Cuyahoga County Department of Children & Family Services, Cleveland, OH

August 2001 – November 2005

Senior Training Officer

- Identified new trainers to utilize
- Served on statewide Child Welfare program Evaluation Committee to evaluate training program for child welfare staff
- Assisted in organizing and managing training for licensed foster/adoptive parents through agency
- Developed and trained curriculum on federal and state legislation for workers in child protective service (CPS) agency

Cuyahoga Community College/Center for Health Affairs, Cleveland, OH

November 2000 – August 2001

Mentor Coordinator (Grant Funded position)/Instructor

Part Time Faculty: Jan. 01 - Aug. 01

- Developed and trained program participants on cultural diversity in the workplace and coordinated training for staff
- Identified and developed agreements with organizations around greater Cleveland to participate in a grant funded program educating welfare recipients to obtain job skills in form of certificate training program in hospitality/service work area
- Monitored program participants for up to six months after completion of training through start of new employment

Early Start Program – Murtis H. Taylor Multi-Service Center, Cleveland, OH

September 2000 – November 2000

Early Start Case Manager

- Maintained caseload of families
- Enrolled qualified families into federal and state early childhood programs
- Completed weekly home visits on families
- Monitored child development through use of standardized child development tools
- Completed monthly reports to review progress and enrollment of families in program

Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland, OH

August 1999 – August 2000

Unit Supervisor

- Ensured state ratio maintained for staff to child in residential facility
- Ensured staff received necessary training to remain in compliance with state law

- Assisted in facilitation of identified treatment plans of residents
- Participated in multidisciplinary team meetings on weekly basis

Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland CEOGC: Head Start Program: Louis Stokes Center, Cleveland, OH

December 1994 – August 1999

Family Service Worker/Acting Site Administrator (February 1998 – August 1999)

- Maintained caseload of 70+ families
- Ensured enrolled families remained qualified to remain part of federal and state early childhood programs