



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION  
MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

# MSWs in the Making

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# Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues:

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is proud to continue the legacy of support for master's and doctoral fellows who are being positioned to positively impact communities of color. During the 2022-2023 funding cycle, the Council on Social Work Education's MFP has been able to utilize funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to host trainings, create networking opportunities, provide financial assistance, and ensure professional mentoring and licensure for its fellows. These initiatives were aimed to meet the objectives of SAMSHA to reduce the effects of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities by increasing the number of individuals trained to work with underrepresented and underserved racial/ethnic minority persons with or at risk for mental health and/or substance abuse disorders.



We are immensely proud of the fellows and want to introduce them to you via this year's CSWE MFP MSW View Book. This View Book celebrates the successes of our fellows and highlights their experiences, training and areas of practice or research specialization. It is our hope that you will review the bios of this cadre of scholar-practitioners and envision them as potential colleagues in your fields of practice, exemplars of social work who are educated at the highest levels and emerging leaders in our profession. There is no doubt that these fellows will contribute to the mental health and substance use disorder workforce in ways that are almost unimageable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kesslyn Brade Stennis".

**Kesslyn Brade Stennis, PhD, MSW, MDiv.**

*Director, Minority Fellowship Program*

*Council on Social Work Education*



## **Bridget Agnew**

*she/her/hers*

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I am an MSSW candidate at the University of Texas Austin's Steve Hicks School of Social Work in the clinical track. As a Black American woman, I am most interested in serving those most marginalized. I have 8 years of experience in positive youth development and substance-use prevention. Black feminist thought, crip theory, and other critical frameworks inform my practice. While I am aware that I cannot remove all obstacles in a young person's life, I wholeheartedly understand the power of relationships and the importance of my role in creating the conditions for young people to thrive. As a substance-use prevention specialist, I take immense pride in empowering youth to make healthy decisions and equipping them with the tools necessary to resist negative peer pressure. I see myself as a future community organizer working alongside other institutional change agents to disrupt and dismantle racism. While this may seem like an unrealistic endeavor, I understand that anti-racist organizing is the only way back to ourselves and each other. I look forward to serving as a strong healer, rooted in community.



## **Tashee Brown**

*she/her/hers*

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I am a Medical/Clinical Master of Social Work student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, anticipating graduating in April. My current field placement is with Children's Aid Society's Project Independence, a transitional independent living program for new and expectant mothers between the ages of 16 and 21 who are without stable housing. I engage in individual 1:1 sessions with clients, lead therapeutic groups, and provide case management and advocacy for each client and their child. I have more than 8 years of experience working in mental health and crisis intervention for youth and adults at a local mental health nonprofit called Crisis Center, Inc. I worked as a case manager for adults with severe mental illnesses for 2 years before advancing to my current role as Youth Services Coordinator. In this position, I have gained experience in training and supervising volunteers, providing prevention education presentations in five counties, keynote speaking, speaking on panels, writing grants, training school faculty, and conducting community outreach. In 2020, my presentations shifted virtually, where students felt comfortable sharing with me their experiences with race-based traumatic stress. This knowledge, paired with my own personal experience, encouraged my passion for providing mental health support for Black youth and families. My professional goal is to provide therapy and advocacy for individuals in underserved communities.



## **An Bui**

*she/her/hers*

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I am a social worker, poet, and water rooster who was born in Viet Nam and raised in San José. I am proud to earn my advanced generalist MSW from San José State University in May 2023. I partner with youth ages 6–20 with specialty behavioral health needs at Gardner Health Services in the Intensive Outpatient Program. I am part of the QTViet Cafe Collective of artists and healers, and through my writing, I explore family dynamics, queer Catholic Vietnamese identity, and grief. I have about 2 years of clinical social work and 5 years of program management and coordination under my belt, and I am eager to continue learning and growing. I love partnering with youth and young adults in their therapy journeys and facilitating workshops on mental health, poetry, social justice, and career exploration. I am passionate about serving youth and young adults from diverse backgrounds, such as first-generation, im/migrant, LGBTQ+, and people of color. I aspire to serve as a clinical social worker and poet in San José, CA providing individual therapy, facilitating groups and workshops, and creating revolutionary art alongside fun, collaborative, and visionary colleagues. My HIGH5 strengths are Coach, Believer, Deliverer, Storyteller, and Empathizer.



## **Lauren Elizabeth Chacón**

*she/her/ella*

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I am a Master of Social Work student at Washington University in St. Louis, concentrating in mental health. At my current field placement, Mercy Professional Services, I provide individual psychotherapy to Latine adolescents and adults. My previous field placement was at SSM Health Behavioral Health St. Clare's Hospital Youth and Family Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). As part of the IOP team, I facilitated group therapy sessions for adolescents experiencing mental health issues and their guardians. Additionally, I conducted intake assessments for new clients entering IOP. These experiences have deepened my understanding and strengthened my ability to identify, address, and prevent barriers to care. Through my education, both in the field and the classroom, I have learned and applied the following therapeutic modalities when working with clients: intensive short-term dynamic psychotherapy, motivational interviewing, dialectical behavior therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Post-graduation, I will continue my work as a therapist serving BIPOC populations, specifically Latine adolescents, while pursuing my LCSW. I aim to work with organizations that are culturally humble, trauma informed, and dedicated to equitable practices. I am currently searching for employment in the Midwest and in California, Colorado, and New Mexico.





## Lamont Conley

*he/him/his*

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Hello! I am attending Wayne State University pursuing my Master in Social Work with an interpersonal practice concentration. My current field placement is at a therapy agency called Transformative Mind Counseling. I have years of professional and volunteer experience working with children and adolescents as a mentor and case manager with nonprofits. In addition to experience, I bring integrity, empathy, passion, and professionalism to my profession. I am also proficient in the use of technology and virtual platforms to meet online. I am passionate about providing therapy to adolescents. My desire is to work with Black adolescent males in the Metro Detroit area.



## Nataly Del Cid

*she/her/ella*

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My name is Nataly Del Cid, and I am a first-generation graduate student who was born and raised in Southeast Los Angeles by a Mexican-Guatemalan family. I am a Master of Social Welfare (MSW) student at my alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley, where I also earned a BA in psychology. As a 1st-year MSW student, I completed my field placement at Familias Unidas, a community-based mental health clinic specializing in serving monolingual, Spanish-speaking Latinx adults, children, and families navigating mild-to-moderate mental illness. I was also a recipient of the Latinx Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health training program, which provided me with resources and opportunities in developing skills in delivering culturally relevant intervention methods. During summer 2022, I had the opportunity to engage in an enriching service-learning program in Oaxaca, Mexico called Sin Fronteras. I had the opportunity to learn about *curanderismo*, also known as traditional medicine, and delivery of mental health services in Mexico. I am completing my 2nd-year field placement at West Contra Costa County's Child and Adolescents Services as a bilingual mental health clinician. I specialize in working with Black and Latinx youth providing individual, family, and group therapy with a foundation of trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and evidence-based practices. I have an extensive amount of experience in empowering low-income communities of color toward healing and socioeconomic mobility by providing direct social work and trauma-informed therapeutic services. I am passionate about cultivating resources and healing spaces that center Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) values and the conceptualization of wellness and healing justice. After graduation, I intend to utilize my MSW and Massage Therapy Certification to integrate mental health, bodywork, and meso-American ancestral medicine and make these holistic healing services accessible to low-income BIPOC communities in the Bay Area.



## Tahiti Dominguez

she/her/hers

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I am in my final year of my MSW program at California State University San Marcos, where I intend to graduate in May 2023. My current internship is at Rady Children's Hospital Outpatient Psychiatry. At Rady's, I provide direct services to a diverse population. I provide therapy to youth ranging in age from 5–21 years old from various communities across the county of San Diego. I have experience in working with diverse populations in assessing risk and safety, completing biopsychosocial-spiritual assessments, diagnosing, developing case plans, working in collaboration with interdisciplinary teams, working with those who have experienced trauma, and case management. My interest in social work is working in direct practice providing therapy to youth who have experienced trauma. I am passionate about serving the youth Latine population of San Diego and working in prevention of substance use. Currently, I see myself continuing to work with youth in serving the Latine and low-socioeconomic status communities of San Diego and am looking for future employment.



## J'Mae Ferguson

she/her/hers

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Hello! I am currently pursuing my MSW at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. My concentration is in Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse. I am on the advanced standing track, which has me set to graduate July 2023! I am currently placed at SafeHouse Center, a domestic violence and sexual assault resource center in Ypsilanti, MI. I work in the Prevention Education and Response Teams departments. I am adaptable, organized, and have strong time-management skills. My field placement expanded my skillset in brief crisis intervention, direct service work, and group facilitation. My long-term goal is to become a licensed marriage and family therapist and work with Black/African American families to address generational trauma and family dynamics. Short-term, I can see myself working with middle-school aged children either individually or in a group setting. I am open to working almost anywhere! I have considered remaining in Michigan for some time. I have also looked at Boston, Maryland, and California.



## Shianne W. Graves

she/her/hers

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*Boozhoo* (Hello), I am attending the Master of Social Work (online) program through the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma. I am currently in an employment-based practicum on my reservation on the Red Lake Nation in Red Lake Minnesota at *Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog*, which translates to “Uplifting Our Relatives” in our Ojibwe language (formerly known as Red Lake Family and Children Services). I am in the Mental Health department providing therapy and crisis work to our Indigenous relatives. Being that I am an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, I am very passionate about providing mental health services with an Indigenous focus to the Indigenous client. My career goal is to be duly licensed with an LICSW and LADC where I can implement and provide co-occurring treatment on the reservation. I am also very interested in researching how our culture can be utilized as therapeutic interventions.



## **Sydney Gray**

*she/her/hers*

[sydneydgray@gmail.com](mailto:sydneydgray@gmail.com)

My name is Sydney Gray, and I am currently an MSW student at California State University, Long Beach, specializing in Integrated Health. My current focus is on maternal health and I presently intern with the City of Long Beach Black Infant Health Program (BIH). At the BIH, we take a holistic approach to Black maternal health and provide a wide variety of services including group counseling and individualized case management. My focus as a social worker is on the mental health of Black women during the perinatal period and what interventions are best suited for this population. Additionally, my graduate thesis was a grant proposal that included extensive research on the history of reproductive care in the United States and the social determinants of health that contribute to the health disparities experienced by Black women during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. Post-graduation, I am looking for opportunities to further enhance my clinical skills to understand how race, gender, and physical health conditions such as pregnancy intersect and affect the mental processes of Black women and their families. I am currently looking for opportunities to work in the Los Angeles, San Diego, and other nearby regions of California.

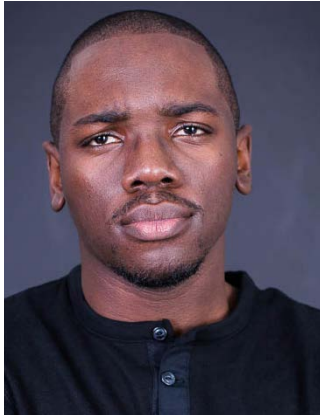


## **Shauna Marie Griffin**

*she/her/hers*

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I am an MSW candidate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. My academic concentration is clinical behavioral health with a specialized focus on social work in the workplace and employee assistance programs. My internship is at an intensive outpatient program where I provide individual and group therapy to adults with co-occurring disorders. I also lead DUI education classes, complete intake assessments, and organize referrals. I previously interned at a youth residential treatment center where I led social skills groups, provided family therapy, collaborated with social service agencies, and utilized trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. I am trained in mental health first aid; transcranial magnetic stimulation; motivational interviewing; screening, brief intervention, and referral for treatment; tele-behavioral health delivery of services; and restorative practices. I entered my MSW program with more than 10 years of experience in the mental health field. My skillset includes case management, crisis intervention, strengths-based assessments, solution-focused interventions, and trauma-informed care. My goal is to find employment in the state of Maryland. I would ideally like to work with clients who are “at a crossroads” in their life such as adolescents/young adults, employees seeking stability, recently incarcerated or homeless, and those in substance use recovery. I am passionate about helping others realize their full potential and find their place in the world. I am clinically interested in being trained to provide dialectical behavioral therapy and in earning credentials as a certified employee assistance professional.



## Linden Christopher Isles

*he/him/they/them*

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I am an advanced standing student at the Columbia University School of Social Work (CSSW). My area of specialization is advanced clinical practice with a focus on health, mental health, and disabilities. For practicum learning, I intern at the Neurodiversity Program at CUNY-LaGuardia Community College where I provide coaching and other services to students that identify with autism spectrum disorders, pervasive developmental disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, neurological disabilities and social anxiety, as well as isolated and stigmatized individuals. Prior to CSSW, I earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, where I also minored in gender studies. My post-graduation goal is to secure training and employment opportunities that will allow me to work with men from marginalized communities. This aligns with my own interest in learning and researching the connection between substance use, intimate partner violence, incarceration, and vulnerability to HIV among young men. I am in New York, but I am open to relocating for an organization that embodies trauma-informed care and healing-centered practices. My long-term goal is to attain my clinical license (LCSW) and I do hope to pursue a PhD in social work in the future.



## Faith Kim

*she/her/hers*

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Hello! I am currently a 2nd-year clinical MSW student at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2), where I am concentrating on geriatric social work. My field placement this year is at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Inpatient Medical-Surgical Unit, providing psychosocial assessments and discharge planning. My prior experiences include providing health case management services during my summer internship at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Pennsylvania, as well as employment case management services at my 1st-year field placement, Nationalities Service Center. As such, my populations of interest include older adults, veterans, and immigrants. Clinically, I am highly interested in trauma and trauma-informed care, mental illness, and substance use disorders. I also served as Vice Chair of SP2's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Social Work Collective for the past 2 years and have deep personal interests in the AANHPI community, racial trauma, and cultural humility/competence in social work practice. I see myself working with these populations and interests in any capacity, primarily in Seattle, WA, where I will be moving post-graduation.





## Erica Lee

*they/she*

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I am an MSW student with a concentration in clinical mental health at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. I will be graduating spring 2023 with my MSW and a certificate in disability policy and services. My current field placement is at Macalester College (Saint Paul, MN) as a counseling intern and provide individual and group counseling. I primarily serve students of color, queer students, and other historically marginalized students at the college. I have experience working with and for communities of color to work towards equity. I am committed to continue learning and growing to serve queer people of color of all diverse backgrounds in an accessible, strengths-based, and person-centered way. Post-graduation I would like to continue to work with and for these groups in mental health counseling in the Twin Cities. I hope to work in an environment that values sustainability, continual learning, and trauma-informed practice.



## Flor Maciel

*she/her/hers*

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I am completing my MSW at George Fox University's College of Social Work in Portland, OR. My field practicum is at Polk County Behavioral Health, where I am a Qualified Mental Health Professional intern providing direct and indirect work within the youth and family outpatient department. At my field practicum, I conduct mental health assessment intakes and work with children and adults for individual and family therapy. During my undergrad, I assisted children through the discharge planning process at a residential treatment facility where I found an interest and need for mental health services among marginalized communities. I am also passionate about networking with community partners to support and match client needs. Because I am bilingual in Spanish and English, I would love to continue developing my clinical skills to work with families, children, and adults in the Hispanic community to fill in my community's cultural and language needs. My goal is to stay in my local Salem, OR, and surrounding area and expand my knowledge to a school setting offering therapy interventions to children and families in the future.



## Halimah McBryde

*she/her/hers*

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I am completing my last semester in the Master of Social Work program at the University at Buffalo. I am doing a work-based field placement at Resources and Help Against Marital Abuse, a faith-based domestic violence organization. I am fortunate to have experience working with many different populations, including the elderly, youth, adolescents, newborns, minorities, low-socioeconomic status, and immigrants/refugees. As I move from student to employee my hope is to bring the plethora of experience, I have from working with different populations to best serve my clients. As a Muslim and African American, my hope is to work with inner-city youth providing nontraditional forms of therapy, such as equine therapy, directly in the city.



## **Claudia Montas**

*she/her/hers*

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I am currently a Master of Social Work student at Florida Atlantic University. My current field placement is at Caron Renaissance, a substance use treatment center that focuses both on substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring mental health issues. I am responsible for completing biopsychosocial assessments, creating treatment plans, and documenting clinical records. At Caron, I also deliver group sessions that are shaped by dialectical behavior therapy, motivational interviewing, mindfulness, and psychodynamic psychotherapy. With what I have thus far experienced and observed, as an emerging clinician I am eager to develop skills in complex and developmental trauma, as I work toward licensure. Furthermore, I also have an affinity for the integration of micro and macro social work and applying such into my practice. I have been fortunate to have explored this integration while in my program, through my work with two nonprofits in my community, where I am conducting community-based participatory research, assisting with the development of behavioral health curriculum in high schools, and assisting adolescents facilitate trainings, and train the trainer sessions, for youth across Palm Beach County. In starting my career, I would like to continue my work in substance use disorder treatment and working with families through a trauma-informed approach. After accomplishing my goal in licensure, I visualize myself working part-time in private practice serving individuals and families working through SUD and complex trauma, providing pro-bono therapy, and integrating macro social work by being contracted with agencies in my community. I am interested in developing my career in my community, the greater Palm Beach County, FL area.



## **Karaya Morris**

*they/them/theirs*

[Karaya.Morris@du.edu](mailto:Karaya.Morris@du.edu)

My name is Karaya Morris, and I am a concentration-year Master of Social Work student at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, with an anticipated graduation of June 2023. I have worked to complement my academic concentration in mental health with intersectional, multi-issue field placements, such as my current placement at Sexual Offense Resource Services. Additionally, I seek to advance our field's research in mutual aid and its interactions with burnout and intersectional identities; sexual and behavioral health outcomes; and outcomes for incarcerated or at-risk populations. I am also passionate about innovating more effective methods of social work education and engagement, such as in planning and facilitating curriculum for the University of Denver's inaugural mutual aid fellowship program or leading workshops in alternative media to enhance the accessibility of our techniques and research to a wider audience. Following graduation, I plan to apply my skills to work in Colorado and New Mexico on issues related to outcomes for individuals involved in the carceral punishment system, end-of-life and post-mortem care, and policy advocacy.



## **Viviana Najera**

*she/her/hers*

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Hello! My name is Viviana Najera, and I am a MSW candidate at Columbia University. I am on the advanced clinical track with a specialization in health, mental health, and disabilities. My current internship placement is at New York Presbyterian Hospital where I work in an interdisciplinary team of doctors and social workers to assist patients with Movement Disorders in managing their conditions through care coordination, treatment planning, and psychoeducation. In my previous position, I provided individual, family, and group therapy to Medicaid recipients in schools and in homes. I also expanded my skills in conducting comprehensive clinical assessments, risk assessments, and facilitated workshops on mental well-being in English and Spanish. Prior to attending Columbia University, I worked in the nonprofit sector in the Los Angeles area where I assisted in writing grant proposals for increased mental health services for children and families. As a future licensed clinical social worker, I aim to provide behavioral health services that are culturally and linguistically responsive to communities of color, specifically Latinx and Spanish-speaking individuals. I am most interested in continuing to work in a hospital or clinic setting in California or New York.



## **Sarah Presley**

*she/her/hers*

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I am a current 2nd-year student at The Ohio State University pursuing my Master's in Social Work with an emphasis on substance abuse and mental health. I am passionate about making mental health services widely available, especially for individuals currently incarcerated, and I envision myself working to advocate for a rehabilitative-focused criminal justice system. I have vast experience within the criminal justice system in various roles, currently as an intern for the Ohio Public Defender's Office within their Mitigation and Investigation Unit. I also have published research that focuses on the impact of incarceration on the family system. Upon graduation in May 2023, I am seeking a full-time position within the criminal justice system to provide direct mental health services to those incarcerated and be engaged in policy measures focused on reform. I am open to opportunities that align with this goal across the United States.



## **Alizay Sajjad**

*she/her/hers*

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I have worked in the social work field since 2017. I am currently a Crisis Intervention Specialist of 988 and additionally a social work behavioral intern at Gouverneur/Gotham Outpatient New York Public Health and Hospital. 988 is the national suicide hotline aiming to provide crisis intervention services and next-day appointments to folks, and Gouverneur is a hospital providing long term therapy services to patients in marginalized communities. As a social work intern and a crisis intervention specialist, I have provided short- and long-term therapy and crisis intervention support to folks and supported the organizations to better them. As part of the social services field, I have worked hard to support professional platforms and serve communities in need. My passion is working with communities of color, and I continue to further my knowledge so I can best serve them. I live in New York for work, and often visit my family in Washington. In my free time, I use my art skills to print, make clothes, draw, and cook!



## **Kelly C. Sanchez**

*she/her/hers*

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I am a current clinical track MSW student at the University of Connecticut with a focus in health and wellness through the lifespan. Prior to this program, I obtained my master's in public health at Brown University. My current field placement is with the Empowerment, Mindfulness, Motivation & Education Coalition at Optimus Health Care, a girls and women's empowerment program through a federally qualified health center. There, I provide individual and group therapy to adult women of color, many of whom are monolingual Spanish-speaking. My professional interests include health disparities research; racial trauma; and treatment of anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder. I intend to specialize in the treatment of Black, Indigenous, and women of color. My ultimate career goal is to integrate the fields of social work and public health to address racial and ethnic mental health disparities and provide psychotherapeutic treatment to members of communities that are historically underserved. I am primarily looking to work in Connecticut but would be open to remote work in any geographic area.





## **Daria Stein**

*she/her/hers*

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I am a clinical Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland School of Social Work specializing in behavioral health. After a decade in the hospitality industry, I sought a change of career to pursue work centered around social justice and human rights. My career experiences have led me to pursue a sub-specialization in social work in the workplace. I believe that work is a place where we can have a tremendous impact on people's lives. My field placement this year is at the U.S. House of Representatives Office of Employee Assistance where I serve as a counselor addressing a complex body of issues affecting mental and emotional wellbeing. As a certified yoga teacher, I integrate mind and body in behavioral health care, using yoga and mindfulness techniques as an intervention for depression and anxiety. It is also extremely important that economic justice be at the center of my work. I would specifically like to address both financial stress and economic advancement, helping to provide an equitable economic future for my clients. In addition to my academic work, I volunteer for CASH Campaign of Maryland as a tax preparer providing free services to community members. My career goal is to provide therapeutic support to both employees and their families and confronting the intersection of racism, poverty, and mental health.



## **Jonquil Johnson Thompson**

*she/her/hers*

[jrjohnson25@yahoo.com](mailto:jrjohnson25@yahoo.com)

Hi, I am Jonquil! I will be completing my MSSW from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in May 2023 in macro generalist studies. I am currently completing my practicum with the Center for the Advancement of Youth Development at the University of Memphis. Policy, programs, advocacy, community work, and administration are all strong passions of mine and areas where I thrive. Post-graduation, I will be completing licensure and preparing for a role where I can further be an asset to my community here in Memphis through continuing to promote and advance mental health access and awareness in my daily works. I could do this best through developing and implementing programs and policies that change how minorities receive equitable access to services such as education, health care, housing, and employment.



## **Chyna Tucker**

*she/her/hers*

[chynatucker@ucla.edu](mailto:chynatucker@ucla.edu)

My name is Chyna Tucker, and I am a 2nd-year Master of Social Welfare student at University of California, Los Angeles in the Health and Mental Health Across the Lifespan area of concentration. My current placement is at Venice Family Clinic–Sandy Segal Youth Health Center. As a behavioral health intern, I work with middle-school and high-school students through individual and family therapy. In this role, I create treatment plans and help clients reduce distressing mental health symptoms, identify, and create positive coping skills, and explore and process their lived experiences. I also conduct group therapy sessions focused on helping young Black girls process and navigate unique stressors. Additionally, I work at the University of Southern California in a research lab focusing on women’s mental health and substance use, assisting with project management and manuscript preparation. I value serving marginalized communities through clinical practice, research, and teaching. After graduation, I plan to work in a clinical mental health setting with adolescents and adults, gaining hours toward becoming an LCSW, and I am currently seeking employment in Los Angeles, CA. I hope to become a clinician that empowers and educates people disproportionately affected by mental health illness, addiction, and unequal access to personalized services.



## **Myra Villas**

*she/her/hers*

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I currently attend the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago. As a student in the Kiphart Scholars Program in Global Health and Social Development, I have been focused on social work from an international and cross-cultural lens. Through the clinical concentration track, I have developed skills to deliver trauma-informed and client-centered mental health services, with emphasis on relational-cultural, cognitive behavioral, and family systems approaches. My current field placement is at the Marjorie Kovler Center in the Child Trauma Program, where I provide therapy to immigrant and refugee youth. This role has given me a sturdy foundation for working with clients with trauma histories, navigating systems especially related to immigration, and operating with a cultural humility stance. Upon graduating, I am relocating to the Bay Area in California where I hope to continue working with immigrant youth and families in a mental health setting as I work towards obtaining N. I am seeking a work environment that supports my curiosity and continued learning through uplifting team support, reflective supervision, and open dialogue. I hope to help an organization move towards a decolonizing framework and examine its role in unjust systems. As I start my career, I also envision myself supporting community level work that explores intersections of climate and public health and their impacts on migrants and other vulnerable populations.



## Rebecca Watkins

*she/her/hers*

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My name is Rebecca Watkins, and I am a current advanced-year, clinical/macro track with a behavioral health specialization, MSW student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. My expected graduation date is May 2023. My current field placement is at Sheppard Pratt Health System, one of the oldest private psychiatric hospitals in the nation, to provide mental health, special education, substance use, developmental disability, and social services. At Sheppard Pratt Health Center, I work with an interdisciplinary team of providers (e.g., psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists.) in an inpatient setting. I have a caseload of four clients, and I'm responsible for completing psychosocial assessments, discharge planning, treatment plans, and individual, group, and family therapy. My experiences during my field placements, prior work and volunteer experiences, my self-motivation, organizational skills, and flexibility/adaptability in a team setting will guide me toward my professional career as a social worker. After graduation, I plan to obtain my LMSW license. After obtaining my LMSW license, I would like to gain employment in the medical social work setting (e.g., hospice, dialysis, hospitals). I am currently seeking employment in Maryland, but I am also open to career opportunities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.



## Alban Zamora

*he/him/his*

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I am Alban Zamora and I plan to graduate this summer. I am earning my MSW at The Catholic University of America, where I have decided to take the clinical concentration. My placements have been in bilingual, Hispanic settings. The first placement was at a senior center; the second one was at a community clinic. They were both in Washington, DC. As an intern, I have worked with a population experiencing diverse mental illnesses in a multidisciplinary team to provide behavioral health services. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to work with support groups (families, teenagers, and older adults). After these experiences, I am excited to see what the future holds since this is a career change for me. For the last 20 years, I have worked in four countries as a bilingual journalist. I specialized in telling the stories of those who do not have a voice. But later, aware of the mental health crisis that affects our community, I decided it was time to follow my calling because I believe great therapists do not just provide care—they do care. In my next role, I strive to support multicultural clients in achieving their full potential and becoming better human beings.