

CHARLES D. SYMS

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Master's of Social Work	California State University at Sacramento Sacramento, California (1979)
Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies	State University College at Buffalo Buffalo, New York (1975)

CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)	State of New York
Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW)	National Association of Social Workers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School of Social Work (SSW), State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Clinical Assistant Professor (9/98 - present)

As a member of the faculty provided instruction and advisement to graduate level students.

- Provides instruction of first year intervention and human behavior courses
- Provides instruction of second year concentration courses, primarily in the Alcohol and Other Drug Problems Concentration

Courses Taught include:

- SW 503 – Diversity and Oppression
- SW 505 – Theories of Human Behavior and Development
- SW 520 – Interventions 1 and Interventions 1 Lab (SW 550)
- SW 521 – Interventions 2
- SW 560 – Nature and Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems
- SW 561 – Dual Diagnosis
- SW 562 – Integrative Seminar in Alcohol and Other Drug Problems
- SW 587 – Addiction and the Family
- Provides academic advisement to first and second year graduate students
- Acts as liaison to graduate students in field experience
- Chair of the Alcohol and Other Drug Problems Concentration
- Serves on School of Social Work (S) and University (U) Committees as assigned. Current assignments include;
 - Diversity and Policy Sequence
 - Personnel Committee (S)
 - Recruitment Committee (S)
 - Research Advisory Committee (S)
 - School of Social Work/Office of Mental Health Evidence Based Project - Children and Adolescents Project Advisory Board (S)
 - Sequence and Chairs Committee (S)
- Provided project administrative oversight for several SSW projects: Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004), VISA Project (2000-2001), Northeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center (2000-2001) Allstate Project (2003-2004), The Department of Social Services/SSW collaboration - Transition to Independence Project (2003-2004). Responsibilities included;
 - Program/Project development
 - Program/Project implementation
 - Day to day administrative oversight
 - Hiring of staff
 - Supervision of staff
 - Completion or ensuring the completion of technical reports to funders

School of Social Work (SSW), State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Adjunct Instructor (9/96-12/96)

Provided course instruction for Dual Disorders (SW 561).

Adjunct Instructor (1/98-5/98)

Provided course instruction for Integrative Seminar for Alcohol and Other Drugs (SW 562).

Medaille College, Buffalo, NY

Instructor (1/85 – 5/85)

Developed content and provided instruction for a new course in the College's Department of Human Services.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Children's Services Department, Child and Family Services of Buffalo and Erie County, Buffalo, NY

Director (1/96 - 8/98)

This a management position within a large multi-service family service agency. Responsibilities included:

- Overall administration and supervision of child welfare programs; including adoption and special needs adoption, regular and therapeutic foster care, child protective services, recruitment/retention of resource families and parents
- Supervision of 47 full and part-time employees and approximately 70 resource parents
- Identification of policy/program needs, and where appropriate recommends and implements policy/program development within the agency and broader community
- Assures accountability to Agency boards and committees, as well as contract and oversight Agencies

Clearview Treatment Services, Mount Saint Mary's Hospital, Lewiston, NY

Mental Health Specialist/Alcoholism Counselor III (6/91 - 12/95)

As a member of a multi-disciplinary team, provides chemical dependency treatment to adults in an in-patient rehabilitation program. Duties included:

- Clinical supervision of addiction counseling staff
- Provides administrative supervision of the unit in absence of Director
- As part of the management team, develops and maintains agency standards of treatment
- Develops and implements specialized programming for individuals with co-occurring disorders (mental illness and substance misuse)
- Conducts psychotherapeutic and psycho-educational groups
- Acts as agency representative to community committees, groups and task forces
- Conducts training/in-services on the unit and in the community

New York State Office of Mental Health, Attica Correctional Facility, Attica, NY

Psychiatric Social Worker II-Forensic (7/90 - 2/91)

As a member of a multi-disciplinary team, provided out-patient mental health services to individuals incarcerated at the state correctional facility. Duties included:

- Emergency assessment and crisis intervention; and when appropriate, directed admission to facility residential crisis treatment program
- Acted as clinical coordinator in two of the facility's special housing units
- Conducted client assessments, treatment planning, and individual therapeutic intervention

Erie County Department of Social Services, Buffalo, NY

Clinical Specialist-Child Protective Services

(3/83 - 7/90)

As a member of the Director's administrative team, provided clinical consultation to Child Protective Services staff. Duties included:

- Specialized diagnostic assessment and clinical consultation to staff on difficult or complex cases
- Participated in development of methods and standards of assessment of risk and goal-oriented treatment planning
- Provided specialized consultation to the Sexual Abuse Team
- Acted as agency liaison/representative to various agencies, committees, groups and task forces
- Provided training and technical assistance to professional individuals and groups

Erie County Department of Social Services, Buffalo, NY

Senior Child Protective Services Worker

(7/79 - 3/83)

Responsible for the investigation and validation of reports of child abuse and maltreatment. Duties included:

- Assessment of levels of risk in home environment
- Determined need for, formulated and implemented service plans to make home safe
- As assigned, provided technical assistance with investigations and service plan development to protective services workers and protective services worker trainees

Institute for Human Services Management, Sacramento, CA

Research Associate

(5/78 - 7/79)

Under the auspices of California State University at Sacramento, conducted social research and developed training protocols for government and private industry. Duties included:

- Developed research instruments
- Gathered, compiled, and analyzed data
- Wrote analytical reports and descriptive, non-technical summaries
- Supervised student assistants assigned to project

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National:

National Association of Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) – invited member of panel social work educators/trainers developing competencies regarding children of alcohol/drug abusers to be infused into social work curriculum. (2005)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)– invited member of task force that developed and wrote the NASW's first set of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Practice Standards. (2004)

State/Local:

Institute for Professional Development in the Addictions – invited member of a group to make recommendations for recruitment and retention of frontline addictions counselors. (2005)

SCHOLARLY, RESEARCH, And CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

Smyth, N. and Syms, C. (2007). Alcohol Abuse. In B.A. Thyer & J.S. Wodarski (Eds.), *Social Work in Mental Health: An Evidence-Based Approach* (pp. 157-182). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Wiechelt, S., Lutz, W., Smyth, N. & Syms, C. (2004). Integrating Research and Practice: A Collaborative Model for Addressing Trauma and Addiction. *Stress, Trauma, and Crisis*, 8, 179-193.

Rice, C., Wright, B., Smyth, N. & Syms, C. (2001). Introduction to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Assessment and Feedback Using Brief Motivational Interviewing. Albany, NY: Northeast States ATTC. (A training CD.)

Boston University/NIDA Minority Capacity Training Program. Selected as a member of cohort 2. Summers 2001 and 2002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and WORKSHOPS

[Conference panel with Wiechelt, S. Swarthout, J., Roche, E.] Assessing Trauma in Addiction Treatment: A Research Practice Collaboration. “Strengthening Systems, Investing for Results” - *New York State Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, 7th Annual Conference (2004)*

[Conference workshop] Understanding Co-Occurring Disorders. “*Treatment Courts Past, Present, and Future: Your Expectations, Our Realities*” – *New York State Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, 5th Annual Conference (2003)*

[Conference panel with Wiechelt, S. Swarthout, J., Roche, E.] Integrating Trauma Screening: Research Practice Collaboration. “*Women, Trauma, and Addictions*” – *15th Annual ADPA Women’s Issue Conference, Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America (2003)*

[Conference panel with Wiechelt, S. Swarthout, J., Roche, E.] Implementing System Change: A Practice-Research Partnership on Trauma and Addictions. “*Strengthening Partnerships*” - *New York State Association of Substance Abuse Providers 6th Annual Statewide Conference (2002)*

[Conference Presentation] A School Violence Intervention Project: Practical Considerations for a University (and CBO) and School Collaboration. “*Leave No Child Behind: Improving Under-performing Urban Schools*” - *A State University of New York at Albany Conversations Across the Disciplines Conference (2002)*

[Conference panel with Monaco, A., Randolph, K., Sylves, A.F.] Innovative Models for Children & Adolescent with Special Needs. “Special Needs and Social Justice: a collaborative approach” – The Mental Health Association of Erie County (2001) [Workshop with Swarthout, J.] Mental Health Issues in Health Care for Minorities. “*Narrowing the Gap: Decreasing Disparities in Minority Health*” – *Minority Health Coalition, Health Connection, Catholic Health Systems (2001)*

GRANTS

New York State Education Department - 21st Century Grant. Collaborated with Child and Adolescent Treatment Services in the writing and implementation of the grant. Grant to provide educational support, recreational and character development programming and family/social support to students and families in three Buffalo City Schools. A member of grant implementation team. Funded \$450,000/year for five years (2004)

New York State Education Department - 21st Century Grant. Collaborated with Child and Adolescent Treatment Services in the writing of grant. Grant to provide educational support, recreational and character development programming and family/social support to students and families in three Buffalo City Schools. Not funded (2003)

New York State Department of Education – Extended Day/School Violence Prevention Continuation Grant. In collaboration with the Buffalo City School District; wrote grant, developed programming, implemented program, administrative oversight, staff supervision, and wrote year end reports for the following years: 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004. (\$100,000/year for each year)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Erie County Department of Mental Health’s Community Services Board
- Erie County Department of Mental Health’s Community Services Board – Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee
- Lake Shore Behavioral Health – Board of Director’s
- New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) – Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) Certification Board
- United Methodist Church – Niagara District Board of Ordained Ministry
- Western New York Practice/Research Network (PRN)

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION

Gilda's Club (1/05 -)

Men's Networking Group Leader

Mutual aid group leader for men who are living with women living with cancer.

Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Buffalo NY (1/95-1/97)

MICA Consultant

Provided programmatic, policy, and case consultation to psychiatric social club and community residence staff. Part of team that started a MICA (STEMSS) support group.

Child and Family Services of Erie County, Buffalo, NY (1/88-1/95)

Group Leader-Domestic Violence

(7/02-7/03)

Utilizing psychotherapeutic and psycho-educational interventions, conducted treatment groups for men and women in abusive/ battering relationships. Conducted clinical assessment of perpetrators and victims for domestic violence program admission and placement.

Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Erie County, Buffalo, NY (1/94-1/95)

Planned Parenthood of Niagara County, Niagara Falls, NY (1/94-1/97)

Social Worker Consultant

Provided guidance to professional staff in establishing the policies and procedures for counseling and social services activities. Provides in-service education, as needed, for clinical staff.

Visiting Nursing Association of Western New York, Amherst, NY (1/90-1/94)

Trainer

Provided required New York State training to those mandated to report child abuse and maltreatment.