

Karlene Gacita, Psy.D.
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Rockwall, TX 75087
972-771-3969

EDUCATION:

Psy.D. Clinical Psychology January 2015-August 2019
Albizu University
Child Psychology Concentration
APA-Accredited Program

Master of Science in Psychology December 2011-July 2013
University of Phoenix

Bachelor of Science Elementary Education January 2004-December 2006
University of Central Florida

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

Lakewood Group, LLC November 2019-present
Private Practice

Postdoctoral Fellow- November 2019-July 2021
Licensed Clinical Psychologist- July 2021-present

- Provide individual therapy for children, adolescents, and families.
- Administer psychological, neuropsychological, and personality assessments for mood and anxiety disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, learning disorders, as well as behavioral and emotional problems.
- Communicate and consult with parents, teachers, and other collaterals.
- Provide services in English and Spanish.

Day Treatment Center/Community Mental Health Center August 2018-August 2019
Astor Services for Children & Families

Doctoral Psychology Student
Jamila Codrington, Ph.D., Supervisor
Weiyen Chung, Psy.D, Supervisor

An inter-disciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioner, psychologists, mental health counselors, and social workers provide individual counseling and psychotherapy, school consultation/educational advocacy, family therapy, psychiatric evaluation and medication evaluation, psychological testing, crisis intervention and case management.

Day Treatment Center/Outpatient Clinic

- Provided individual therapy for children and adolescents with multiple diagnosis of emotional, behavioral, learning disabilities, and ADHD difficulties varying in severity.
- Delivered treatment modalities including play therapy, social skills training, milieu therapy, group therapy, individual therapy, family systems work, crisis intervention, and psychiatric treatment.

- Co-led classroom based groups focused on CBT manualized treatments and emphasized the development of affective awareness and coping, cognitive awareness, and adaptive problem solving skills.
- Conducted in-vivo therapeutic interventions within the day treatment milieu.
- Participated in psychiatric consultations, daily clinical rounds, clinical treatment team meetings, case presentations, day treatment program staff meeting, and addressed classroom management issues.
- Provided consultation with parents, teachers, behavioral coaches, and other collaterals.
- Coordinated treatment and services including foster agencies, preventive case workers, ACS workers, home-based waiver services personnel, teachers, and inpatient psychiatric hospital staff.
- Advocated for the children and families via case management.
- Communicated with psychiatric units to seek hospitalization placement for children and adolescents engaging high risk behaviors, aggression, and suicidal/homicidal ideation.
- Collaborated treatment approaches with supervisor, psychiatrist, and evidence-based trained outpatient clinical staff.
- Delivered Parent Management Training courses with an overview on child development, technology, anger management, and Individualized Education Program.
- Participated in structured evidence-based treatment training protocols including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
- Administered cognitive, academic, and projective assessments to individuals with mood and anxiety disorders, intellectual disabilities, and trauma history.
- Facilitated intakes, generated psychological reports, and provided feedback to clients and their families.
- Scored and interpreted assessment responses as well as clarify clinical recommendations to client and their families.
- Provided services in English and Spanish.

**Inpatient Psychiatry Unit
Nicklaus Children's Hospital**

May 2017-April 2018

Multidisciplinary team of psychiatrist, psychiatrist fellow/resident, psychologist, nurse practitioner, therapist, case coordinator, activity program coordinator, nursing team, and behavioral health technician

External Practicum Student

Janet Rosen, Psy.D., Supervisor

Crisis stabilization unit offers a safe, highly structured and staff-intensive environment. The inpatient program is a 20-bed unit incorporating multiple ranges of daily therapies and activities designed at fostering problem-solving and coping skills, and self-esteem. Children and adolescents present with acute disorders including disruptive mood dysregulation disorder, depression, anxiety, psychosis, drug use, as well as in distress due to history of severe trauma, peer alienation, and family discord.

- Conducted biopsychosocial assessments with youths and families of multiple socioeconomic statuses.
- Provided individual therapy with children ages 5-17 with psychiatric disorders.
- Facilitated music, art, processing, anger management, and social skills group therapy.

- Conducted family therapy with patients and their relatives to begin procession issues leading to admission and to provide psychoeducation. These sessions were often conducted in Spanish.
- Consulted with a team of clinicians to provide treatment recommendations for patients.
- Provided intensive outpatient therapy and facilitated parent education, multi-family, and adolescent dialectical behavioral therapy groups to develop social, communication, and coping skills to improve areas of functioning.
- Attended and provided consults in interdisciplinary team meeting three times a week.
- Provided crisis intervention plans and management of at risk teens to address suicide risk, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, trauma, and domestic violence to stabilize at risk patients.
- Established and maintained communication with psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health technicians, medical students, residents, DCF investigators, and case managers to provide appropriate and comprehensive treatment services for children and families.
- Maintained patient charts and progress notes in accordance with the hospital standards to include diagnosis, symptoms, and problems addressed.
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary treatment team to discuss treatment plans, progress, and discharge decisions.

Jessica Rivera, Psy.D.

August 2016-April 2017

Neuropsychologist

External Practicum Student

Private practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with neurocognitive deficits including neuropsychological and psychological assessment, cognitive retraining, and individual psychotherapy.

- Administered neuropsychological and personality assessments in the private practice setting to individuals with mood and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, neurocognitive disorders, intellectual disabilities, as well as evaluations for workers compensation and vocational rehabilitation to patients throughout the lifespan.
- Generated neuropsychological and psychological reports and provided feedback to patients and their families as well as explain clinical recommendations.
- Scored and interpreted assessment responses.
- Conducted intake assessments to individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Provided services in English and Spanish.

Behavioral Psychology

January 2016-August 2016

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

External Practicum Student

David Coe, Ph.D., Supervisor

The program is designed to provide a wide range of clinical experiences with children, adolescents, and families. Children and adolescents present with a range of psychological disorders including autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, feeding and swallowing, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, anxiety and learning disorder.

- Provided behavioral therapy to children ages 2-18 with emotional disorders, learning disabilities, and developmental disorders.

- Conducted intakes with families and adolescents.
- Provided bedside consultations with families and children in the medical floors.
- Provided psychotherapy incorporating cognitive-behavioral and play-therapy.
- Conducted evaluations for children believed to be on the autism spectrum using the Autism Diagnostic Observational Scales-2 (ADOS) /Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R).
- Applied behavioral therapy for eating disorder interventions to children ages 2-6.
- Developed constructive relationships with parents, patients, families, and colleagues.

Goodman Psychological Center

May 2015-December 2015

Albizu University

The Goodman Psychological Center is Albizu University's outpatient clinic serving Miami's ethnically and socioeconomically diverse population.

- Provided individual therapy to individuals with emotional disorders and psychiatric disorders.
- Conducted intake interviews with adolescents and families from diverse cultures.
- Administered mental health assessments including Brief Symptom Inventory.
- Shadowed initial intake evaluations conducted by a psychology intern.
- Participated in didactic trainings such as self-care practices and similarities in culture and religious beliefs.
- Interacted with all patients and their families in a professional way using effective communication.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assessment of Intelligence

August 2016-October 2017

Teacher Assistant

Shannon Worton, Psy.D.

- Assisted students with administration, scoring, and interpretation of Wechsler measures.
- Conducted check-outs with students to ensure proper administration.
- Provided feedback to students regarding administration skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Institute of Child and Family Health

April 2016-December 2016

Piecework Clinician

- Facilitated at home support therapy with at risk youth and teens where I was able to have firsthand experience how the home environment affects their psychological conditions and behaviors.
- Collaborated with teachers to implement new behavior management techniques and aided in the teacher's understanding of cultural differences with the children's family.
- Provided therapeutic intervention to children, adolescents, and families who are coping with a wide array of issues including behavior and adjustment problems, depression, anxiety, child abuse, and trauma receive therapeutic services.

- Delivered psychoeducation to parents on how to generalize the interventions and benefits learned in therapy to their child's home and school environment.

Therapist

August 2015-March 2016

Mercedes Rosenberg, Psy.D.

- Conducted intake interviews of children, couples, and families.
- Facilitated individual and group therapy to youth and adolescents with emotional disorders.
- Conducted psychological and psychoeducation testing for children, adolescents, and adults.
- Explained testing results and treatment recommendations to the families.

Elementary Teacher

January 2007-June 2015

James H. Bright Elementary/ Miami Dade Public County Public Schools

Grades: Taught third and fifth

- Implemented hands-on, simulation, and technological methods to instruction to engage students in active learning.
- Educated general education students as well as learning disabled and special needs students who were in the inclusion program.
- Taught in English and Spanish to inclusion classes to meet the needs of immigrant students.
- Conducted parent workshops i.e. FCAT information.

Behavioral Technician

January 2014- August 2014

New Way Day Services

- Facilitated Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy to children with Autism and integrated their families in order to help generalize the benefits of therapy.
- Implemented Individualized Treatment Plans under the direction of a behavior analyst.
- Documented progress reports and advancement in treatment plans.
- Communicated in a professional and respectful manner with parents, behavior analysts, therapists, and clients.

Teacher Assistant

January 2001-December 2004

Royal Kids Academy

- Assisted in one-to-one instruction of children needing specialized services.
- Enforced school and class rules to help teach students proper behaviors.
- Provided supervision and behavior management of children in and out of the classroom setting.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Research Group

Shannon Worton, Psy.D. & Yalemni Luna DeLaurier, Psy.D.

Self-Care Study among First Year Child Psychology Graduate Students

- Investigated the relationship between self-care practices among psychology graduate students working with children and adolescents.
- Assisted in preparation for the IRB approval.

Workshop Presentation

Gacita, K., Worton, S., & Luna DeLaurier, Y. (2017). Experiencing trauma: Implication for youth with a cognitive or intellectual disability: A workshop presentation. Workshop Session presented at the Charleston Child Trauma Conference, Charleston S.C.

Poster Presentation

Gacita, K., Morello, A., Worton, S., & Luna DeLaurier, Y. (2018). Alternatives for ABA: Overview for Treatment Implications within Autism Spectrum Disorder presented at the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Washington, D.C.

Morello, A., **Gacita, K.**, Worton, S., & Luna DeLaurier, Y. (2018). Symptomatology in Children and Adolescents Presenting with Co-Occurring Autism and Gender Dysphoria. Presented at the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Washington, D.C.

Badino, A., **Gacita, K.**, Oshiro, R., Yukawa, J., Worton, S., & Luna DeLaurier, Y. (2018). Mental Health Trainees Primal Challenge: Self-Care. Presented at the National Association of School Psychologists, Chicago, IL.

Gacita, K., Morello, A., Marrero, B., & Worton, S. (2017). Best practices of child personality assessments. Presented at the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association, Orlando, FL.

Yukawa, J., Alicea, I., Bruscantini, L., **Gacita, K.**, Lowe, B., Oshiro, R., & Worton, S. (2017). The importance of self-care behaviors for first year child psychology graduate students. Presented at the Miami International Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Miami, FL.

Alpizar, J., **Gacita, K.**, Morello, A., & Rodriguez, M. (2017). Long-term brain effects of childhood trauma in the transgender community: A literature review. Presented at the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Marrero, B., Alpizar, J., **Gacita, K.**, & Morello, A. (2017). Attachment styles as a mediator of early life endangering trauma on brain development: A literature review. Presented at the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

DOCTORAL PROJECT/DISSERTATION:

Committee: Shannon Worton, Psy.D., Chair & Yalemni Luna Delaurier, Psy.D., Reader
Experiencing Trauma: Implication for Youth Diagnosed with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities

Proposed: October 6, 2017

Defended: July 18, 2018

VOLUNTEER WORK:

Social Professional Development Chair

AU Students Advocate for Youth Child Club

- Acted as the student liaison between the club officers and the Psy.D. students.
- Assisted in promoting and advertising for the club.
- Promoted research ideas within the organization.
- Participated in community activities including the Autism walk and Battles Buddies walk where awareness was raised and support was provided for the needs of individuals with autism and families with children with intellectual and physical disabilities.

First Year Student Representative

AU Students Advocate for Youth Child Club

- Served as a liaison between the child club and first year doctoral students

LANGUAGES:

Fluent in Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Psychological Association (APA)

The Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, APA Division 53

CERTIFICATIONS:

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength CANS-NY 2016 Training, Testing, & Certification
- Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for Traumatized Children Web Course
- Motivational Interviewing
- TCI Training- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative- CITI Training
- National Child Traumatic Stress Training (NCTSN)
 - Cultural and Contextual Considerations in the Treatment of Childhood Traumatic Grief
 - Integrating Evidence-Based Practices in School Interventions
 - Applying Evidence-Based Psychosocial Treatments for Ethnic Minority Youth with Traumatic Stress and Substance Abuse Problems
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Web Training (TF-CBT)
- Healthcare Provider CPR and AED Certified
- CPI Training- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- Elementary Education K-6
- ESOL Endorsement

REFERENCES:

Available upon request.