

Wendy B. Mahoney
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EXPERTISE

Demonstrated ability to be a leader in the social service field by enhancing and promoting the wellness of men, women, adolescents and children. Proven knowledge of developing productive relationships and collaborative partnerships with local citizens, governmental/nonprofits and community organizations. Demonstrated abilities and skills to build collaborations and focus diverse participants on a common goal. A dedicated commitment to providing innovative programs that reflect the needs, values, diversity, aspirations and priorities of children, families and the communities that serve them. Lifetime commitment to meeting the special education needs of at-risk youth; with emphasis on the developmental biological, psychological and spiritual concerns over their lifespan. A dynamic leader who possesses the ability to communicate and motivate people to build capacity to meet the needs of the population they serve within their environmental contexts.

EDUCATION

Doctoral Student, Public Policy and Administration, August 2014- Present
Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Doctoral Student, Educational Psychology, May 2011-July 2013
Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

6th year Certificate, Educational Administration, July 2003
Minnesota State University- Mankato, Mankato, MN

Master of Science Degree, Rehabilitation Counseling, June 1990
Mankato State University, Mankato, MN

Bachelor of Arts Degree, Psychology, May 1988
Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jackson, MS

Executive Director

2013-Present

Conduct activities of the organization to achieve the mission and goals; Assist the Board of Directors in developing and implementing annual and long term organizational goals; Perform and oversee day to day organizational operations; Supervision, hiring, and evaluation of full time and contractual staff; Writing and grants management; Develop and facilitate fund raising activities; Maintain relationships with major public and private agencies that interface with services and policies for the victims of domestic violence throughout the state; Legislative advocacy; and Organizational development.

Divine Strategies Consulting (formerly WBW Consulting), Jackson, MS

Principal Consultant

2001-Present

Provide contracted services for state and local agencies concerning issues of children's mental health and school related issues in special education and diversity training; Assist in the implementation of tools to be utilized in reducing bias in special education; Assist in the

development of pre-referral process for the disproportional number of African-American students being referred to special education; Provide mental health support services to HIV/AIDS support group; Teach mental health class; Present at conferences on issues pertaining to children's mental health, managing challenging behaviors and other issues related to mental health; Work with the following agencies and organizations: MN Association for Children's Mental Health, MN Department of Education, Minneapolis Urban League, Community Fitness Today, Genesis II For Women, Alcorn State University, Durant Missionary Baptist Church, Central Mississippi Residential Center, SMHART Institute 5th Annual Research Conference, Bread of Life Catering, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, The ARC of Mississippi and American Psychological Association.

Westat, Rockville, MD

Field Data Collector (part-time)

2012-2013

Conduct interviews in a local community for a national health and alcohol study for the United States Public Health Services; Collect information about alcohol use and disorders and related physical and mental health conditions; Transmit data; Receive saliva samples; and Screen participants using a computer assisted program.

MS Families as Allies for Children's Mental Health, Inc., Jackson, MS

Executive Director

2009-2011

Perform activities of MSFAA to accomplish the organizational vision; Manage the overall operations and supervision of all staff members carrying out the day-to-day activities of major components of the agency; Fiscal control and business management; Diversify resource development, grant writing and funding-raising; Program planning and personnel management; and Maintain relationships with major public and private agencies that interface with services and policies for the state's children and youth with serious mental health needs.

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Mississippi, Jackson, MS

Executive Director

2008-2009

Conduct activities of NAMI MS to achieve the mission and goals of the agency; Assist the Board of Directors in developing and implementing annual and long term organizational goals; Perform and oversee day to day organizational operations; Supervision, hiring, and evaluation of paid and volunteer staff; Oversee the organization's programs; Budget management; Develop and facilitate fund raising activities; and Implement a public relations plan including public speaking and marketing of the organization's educational programs and advocacy services.

Mississippi Protection and Advocacy System, Inc. (Disability Rights Mississippi), Jackson, MS

Education Advocate

2007-2008

Provide advocacy and advice to families of children with disabilities within the school system; Help families navigate the educational system; Attend school meetings, due process hearings and mediations; Assist in families understanding their rights according to IDEA and ADA; and Maintain active caseload of families statewide; and Trainings to parents and professionals about special education policies and procedures.

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health, St. Paul, MN

Assistant Director

2006-2007

Provide supervision to staff; Program development and oversight; Assist executive director in management duties; Budget management for programs; Develop annual training series for statewide implementation; Serve as organization designee on various statewide committees;

Coordinate school-based mental health program; Write grants to foundations and state government agencies for funding; Assist in development and implementation of organizational effectiveness goals; Coordination of annual statewide mental health conference of 1300 participants.

Education Advocate/Trainer and Project Coordinator 2003-2007

Create bridges between parents and schools; Help families navigate the educational system; Train parents to advocate for their child; Assist families in determining educational needs and the most appropriate placements, accommodations, and modifications; Provide telephone coaching, file reviews or families with children with mental health disorders; Facilitation and coordination of trainings for teachers, students and other professionals about mental health disorders and the relationship between the mental health disorder and a child's behavior; Trainings to parents on special education policies and procedures; Facilitation and coordination of school based educational mental health programs.

Lutheran Social Service of MN, Minneapolis, MN

Project Coordinator/Part-time 2002-2003

Coordination of activities for teen pregnancy prevention program in the areas of community organizing, media and curriculum implementation; Facilitation of bi-monthly youth involvement council; Facilitation of core advisory group meetings; Maintain and monitor program budget; Provide quarterly program report; Organize annual carnival.

John F. Kennedy High School, Bloomington Public Schools Independent District #271, Bloomington, MN

Administrative Assistant 1998-2001

Administrator for all ninth grade students in the high school; Monitored and implemented student discipline and attendance policies; Assisted in coordinating special programs for at-risk students; Assisted in managing student behaviors; Facilitation of operations for a new lunch policy; Member of the site-based management team; Teacher assessment and evaluations; Supervision of various student services and programs.

Counselor/Mental Health Social Worker/SAFE and Drug Free Schools Coordinator 1995-1998

Independently counseled a caseload of 250 students in areas of social, emotional, educational and vocational skill development; Assessed mental health needs and established support based on student's needs in the area of special education; Actively maintained a classroom of emotionally and behaviorally disturbed students; Administer and facilitate individual and group therapy sessions; Counseled students who violated the tobacco and chemical abuse policy; Establish positive resolutions and alternatives for at risk youth and their families; Maintained positive parent/teacher/student relationships.

Perspective Advocacy, Minneapolis, MN

Counselor/Mental Health Support (part-time) 1997-1998

Provided counseling and mental health support for an individual caseload of children who were in a short-term out of home placement; Assisted children and families in reunification plan by facilitating individual and family sessions; Group facilitator for dual diagnosed children in an after school program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

Case-Manager Assistant (part-time) 1995-1996

Created and managed up to 110 Big Brother and Sister matches on a routine basis; Facilitated and resolved problems that occur within the matches; Aided the agency with its goal of increasing the number of matches on a quarterly basis; Maintained comprehensive client files accurately record and process data.

MN Department of Human Services, Children's Mental Health Division, St. Paul, MN
Program Consultant 1993-1995

Administered technical assistance to all 87 counties in developing a Children's Mental Health Coordinating Council as mandated by legislation; Assisted with the designing of a 1000 participant statewide children's mental health conference; Created and maintained state documents to be used as an advisory mechanism for the coordination of various services; Redesigned therapeutic practices to achieve a reduction in waiting time and increase the level of efficiency of services.

Washburn Child Guidance Center, Minneapolis, MN
Family Community Support/Out Patient Therapist 1991-1993

Provided in-home individual and family therapy to severely emotionally disturbed adolescents; Served as a community liaison and advocate for community based programming with an emphasis on establishing alternative solutions for severely emotionally disturbed youth; Facilitated individual, group and family therapy sessions for families and children ranging from 5-16 years of age.

TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SPEECHES

"Building Self-Esteem in African-American Children," Frogtown Family Resource Center, St. Paul, MN, 1995

"Are You Living the Dream," Martin Luther King Celebration, Duluth, MN, 1998

"What is Mental Health," Community Fitness Today, Minneapolis, MN, 2002

"African-American Children in Special Education," Roseville Area School District, Roseville, MN, 2002

"Developing a Framework for Cultural Liaisons," MN Department of Education, Roseville, MN, 2003

"We Fall Down But How Do We Get Up," Genesis II for Women, Minneapolis, MN, 2003

"Building Self-Esteem in African-American Children," MN Association for Children's Mental Health, St. Paul, MN 2003

"A Teacher's Guide to Children's Mental Health," various school districts throughout Minnesota, 2003-2005

"Recognizing Early-Onset Mental Health Disorders: Key Warning Signs and Next Steps for Educators," various school districts throughout Minnesota, 2005-2006

"We Fall Down But How Do We Get Up," St. Paul Schools Project Achieve, St. Paul, MN, 2007

"Cultural Differences," Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN, 2007

"Are You Living the Dream," Mississippi Department of Mental Health Consumer Conference, Jackson, MS, 2007

"Stigma and Mental Illness," Health Systems of Mississippi, Jackson, MS, 2008

"It's a Brain Thing," Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS, 2009

"Classroom Strategies and Accommodations for Children with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders," Wilkinson Head Start, Woodville, MS 2009

"It's a Brain Thing," Central Mississippi Residential Center, Newton, MS, 2009

"Mental Health in Minority Communities," commUNITY cares, Hattiesburg, MS, 2010

"Pressing Past Your Frustrations: Parents as Advocates," Willowood Development Center, 2010

"Mental Health Resources for Children and Adolescents," NAMI-MS Conference, Jackson, MS, 2011

"Recognizing Early-Onset Mental Health Disorders: Key Warning Signs," Durant, MS, 2011

"Understanding Mental Illness: The Person Vs The Illness," Newton, MS, 2011

"Depression: It's A Brain Thing," Jackson State University, Jackson, MS 2012

"Classroom Strategies and Accommodations: Warning Signs for Educators", Jackson, MS, 2012

"Domestic Violence 101," "Understanding Domestic Violence: Myths and Facts," numerous

presentations throughout Mississippi, 2013-Present

“Experiencing Domestic Violence: From There to Here,” Care Lodge Conference, Meridian, MS 2014

“Domestic Violence and Disability,” Mega DisAbility Conference, Jackson, MS, 2014

“The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children,” Child Welfare Institute Conference, Jackson, MS 2015

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Community Member – Phillips Family Network, 1998-2002

Agape House for Mothers, Inc – Board of Directors Chair, 2003-2005

Bridges of Hope Restoration Services, Inc. – Board of Directors President, 2006-2007

The Nominal Group, Inc.– Anniversary Planning Committee Member, 2007

New Dimensions Ministries – Member, Teacher and Leader, 2007- 2011

Five Talents, Inc – Board of Directors, 2009-2012

Disability Rights Mississippi - Board of Directors Treasurer, 2010-2012

100 Black Men of Jackson – Gear Up Mississippi, 2011

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Mississippi, Support Group Facilitator, 2011-2013

Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Certified Peer Support Specialist, 2012-2013

Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Personal Outcome Measures Interviewer, 2012-Present

Kingdom Kabod Outpour Center, Minister of Helps, 2011-Present

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Certification, 2012

NAMI BASICS, State Trainer, 2014

California Brief Multicultural Competence Scale Training, 2014

Community Links, Inc., Board of Directors, 2014-Present

Tougaloo College Graduation Destination Program, Mentor, 2015-Present