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EDUCATION

St Mary's University of Minnesota
M.A. Human Development 2008
Emphasis: Custody and Parenting Time
Thesis: "Custody and Parenting Time Mediation: Helping Parents in the Midst of Crisis"

South Dakota State University
B.S. Human Development and Family Studies 2003
Minor: Sociology
Graduated Magna Cum Laude; Major GPA: 4.0

EMPLOYMENT

1/10 – Present Knapp Counseling and Associates Sioux Falls, SD
Parenting Resolution Specialist

- Coordinate with South Dakota and Minnesota professionals and judicial officials in implementing effective strategies to help families successfully resolve custody and parenting time disputes.
- Conduct custody and parenting time mediation, custody evaluations, parenting coordination, Early Neutral Evaluations, and visitation supervision.

6/10 – 11/10 Sanford School of Medicine, University of SD Sioux Falls, SD
Deaf-Blind Family Specialist

- Provide information and support to families to improve the quality of services by supporting families and caregivers of children who have a combined vision/hearing loss.
- Develop public awareness activities; conceptualize and make recommendations regarding children who are deaf-blind.

5/04 – 12/09 Hennepin County Family Court Services Minneapolis, MN
Office Specialist III, Intake Specialist, Family Court Mediator/Evaluator

- Conduct intake with Family Court clients to obtain essential information, screen for domestic abuse, explain services, and ensure cases are appropriately opened.
- Communicate with judicial officers regarding clarification of court orders, case status, and execution of services.
- Perform custody and parenting time mediation with self-referred clients; Conduct partial and full custody evaluations with Court ordered clients.

MEMBERSHIP

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), National Member
National association comprised of judicial officials, lawyers and family court professionals

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Regional Member
Regional association comprised of judicial officials, lawyers and family court professionals

Minnesota Association of Custody Resolution Specialists (MACRS), Member
Association comprised of custody evaluators, mediators, and family law professionals

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, Member

Network of individuals focused on father involvement and family success

Golden Key Honor Society, Member

Honor society for college members with outstanding GPA

Phi Omicron Epsilon Honor Society, Member

Honor society for Family Science majors with outstanding GPA

TRAINING

SD Achieve GreenSTAR Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD (October 21, 2010).

“Personality Disorders - Parts 1 and 2” Presented by Gregory Lester, Ph.D.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) 47th Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado (June 1-5, 2010).

Training comprised of judicial officials, lawyers and custody professionals from across the world. Session focus on: brain development and anger management, assessing alienation, unraveling coercive control, best interest parenting time schedules, interviewing children, judicial concerns, alienation interventions, and how to help high conflict parents.

Parenting Consulting/Coordination Training at Hamline University Mediation Center (November 2009)

Parenting Coordination training presented by Andrea Niemi, JD and Karen Irvin, LMFT.

Hennepin County/Washburn Child Guidance Center: Best Interests of the Child: Bi-Weekly Training (September-December 2009)

Training presented by Ann Gearity, Ph.D., LICSW and research associates from University of Minnesota

Prevent Child Abuse America, Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN) and University of Minnesota: We Can Parent Together (September 2009)

2009 Regional Co-Parenting Workshop

Hennepin County Family Court Services- Observation and Practice Clinic, Minneapolis, MN (January-December 2009)

Bi-Weekly Custody Mediation Observation Group

Center for Excellence in Children’s Mental Health: 2008-2009 Lessons from the Field: Autism Series, St. Paul, MN.

Quarterly training on various aspects of Autism led by national professionals

Minnesota Association of Custody Resolution Specialists (MACRS), St. Paul, MN (October 23, 2009)

“Dilemma: Child Sexual Abuse Allegations in Child Custody Cases” by Tim Wright, Psy.D.

Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA): Annual Training Conference, Bloomington, MN. (March 25-27, 2009)

Training targeted at mental health, chemical health and resource availability to Minnesota clients utilizing a variety of professional speakers.

Minnesota Association of Custody Resolution Specialists (MACRS) Annual Advanced Topics Training, St. Paul, MN. (October 24, 2008)

“Keeping Kids Out of the Middle” Presented by Benjamin Garber, Ph.D.

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN): Minnesota Fatherhood Summit, St. Cloud, MN. (January 12-13, 2009)

Training regarding fatherhood involvement and statewide initiatives to help families.

Hennepin County Family Court: Initial Case Management Conference, Minneapolis, MN. Presiding Judge Tanja K. Manrique, (December 1, 2008), Judge Jay M. Quam (April 15, 2009)
Training regarding the Initial Case Management Conference process

Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA): Annual Training Conference, Bloomington, MN. (March 26-28, 2008)

Training targeted at mental health, chemical health and resource availability to Minnesota clients utilizing a variety of professional speakers.

Center for Excellence in Children's Mental Health: 2007-2008 Lessons from the Field: Attachment Series, St. Paul, MN.

Quarterly training on various aspects of Attachment led by national professionals

Minnesota Association of Custody Resolution Specialists (MACRS): Solomon's Surrogates: An Introduction to Court-Ordered Child Custody Evaluations, Duluth, MN. (May 21-24, 2007)

40- hour Child Custody Evaluation Training presented by Angie Banga, JD and Robert Sierakowski

Minnesota Association of Custody Resolution Specialists (MACRS): Child Custody and Parenting Time Mediation, Minneapolis, MN (September 24-28, 2007)

40- hour Child Custody Mediation Training presented by Kay Kraus, JD and Jennifer Livingston Rojer

Hennepin County Family Court Services: Internal Monthly Mediation/Evaluation Application Training, Minneapolis, MN (2004-2009)

"Difficult Clients"; "Evaluation Topics"; "Interviewing Children", "Use of Settlement Conferences"; "Paternity and Child Custody"; "Child Support"; "Child Protection Notification"; "Brain Trauma"; "Guardian ad Litem Involvement"; "Minnesota Child Support"; "Uncoupling Process"; "Reintegration of Disrupted Parent/Child Relationships"; "Early Neutral Evaluation"; "Feedback in ENE"; "Use of Chemical Assessments and Psychological Evaluations in ENE"; "Domestic Abuse"; "Psychological Services Orientation"; "Custody Evaluation Writing"; Babies and Overnights";

Hennepin County Family Court Services: Individual Shadowing, Weekly (2004-2009)

Shadowed professionals throughout Custody Evaluations, Mediation, and Early Neutral Evaluations

GROUP INVOLVEMENT

- South Dakota Parenting Resolution Association
- Computer System Creation Group
- Triage Group
- Mediation Observation and Practice Clinic (OPC Group)
- Data Relations System (DRS) Planning Group
- Research Group; Journal Article Review Team

CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

- Certified Family Life Educator, National Council on Family Relations (2003)
- Qualified Custody and Parenting Time Mediator, MACRS (2007)
- Qualified Custody and Parenting Time Evaluator, MACRS (2007)
- Qualified Early Neutral Evaluator, Hennepin County FCS (2007)
- Qualified Parenting Coordinator; Hamline University Mediation Center (2009)
- Awarded Certificate of Appreciation by Minnesota 4th Judicial District (December 2009)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Educator – Avera McKennan Education Department **2010-2011**
Teach participants in workshop forum; assist with foundational parenting courses.
Provide quarterly training on the effects of divorce on children and recognition in the daycare setting

Co-Parenting Educator – Private Contractor **2011**
Conduct co-parenting education utilizing Parents Forever curriculum across South Dakota.
Training is targeted to divorcing/separating couples disputing custody and parenting time.