

CHRISTINA MARSACK, LMSW, PH.D.- A.B.D.

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Wayne State University, Social Work Anticipated: April 2016
Detroit, Michigan
Dual title in Gerontology
Inter-disciplinary focus: Public Health
Dissertation Title: **An Examination of Quality of Life of Parents of Adult Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Chair: Faith Hopp, MSW, Ph.D.
- MSW** University of Michigan, Social Work December 2006
Geriatric Hartford Fellow
Concentration: Interpersonal Practice
Recipient of School Social Work Certificate,
Specialist in Aging Certificate
- BS** Wayne State University, Special Education May 2005
Detroit, Michigan
GPA in Major- 4.0, Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

SPECIALTIES

Aging and Disability; Quality of Life and Caregiving; Autism Spectrum Disorder; School-Based Services for Students with Disabilities

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publication

Brisebois, K., Trzcinski, E. & **Marsack, C.** (2015). The relationship between caseworker assessments of clients' social networks and child welfare placement outcomes. *Families in Society, 18*(2), 90-105.

Hopp, F.P., **Marsack, C.**, Camp, J.K., and Thomas, S. (2014). Go to the hospital or stay at home? A qualitative study of expected hospital decision making among African Americans with advanced heart failure. *The Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 57*, 4-23.

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

Marsack, C. (In progress). “It took me being a Doberman with lipstick”: The struggles of mothers of adult children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to navigate a subpar service delivery system.

Camp, J., Resko, S., & Marsack, C. (In progress). Trends in poverty and economic disparity: Intersection between race, gender, and mental disability in the United States.

Marsack, C., Hicks, L., & Marsack, J. (In progress). Physical and emotional ramifications of parenting for caregivers: Evidence of self care and resiliency.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Programmatic Specialist, CDC Contact: C. Zometa** 2013-2014
- Worked collaboratively with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO)
 - Analyzed reports regarding local health departments utilization of Stanford’s Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)
 - Reviewed results from the evaluation of the CDSMP’s implementation from local health departments
 - Compiled key findings and lessons learned
 - Presented findings at NAACHO’s annual meeting

- Subject Matter Consultant- Aging, CDC Contact: M. Moore** 2013
- Collaborated with the NACCHO and the CDC to examine the preparedness of local health departments to address the needs of older adults during National Emergencies
 - Investigated participating health communities to improve factors that facilitate emergency preparedness for older adults and individuals with disabilities in various communities around the United States
 - Conducted in-depth interview with health communities regarding emergency preparedness and assisting with data analysis
 - Participated with the CDC to write key findings
 - Disseminated key findings to prepare for National Emergencies in the U.S.

- Hospice of Michigan/Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan** 2011
- Assistant on Research Project, Principal Investigator: F. Hopp**
- Project- Evaluation of @HOME Support Program
 - Conducted an extensive literature review
 - Reviewed economics, hospice, and end-of-life care material
 - Prepared an annotated bibliography

Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan 2011 to 2012
Research Practicum, Principal Investigator: Dean Cheryl Waites

- Project- Detroit Healthy Aging Project
- Conducted qualitative analysis- thematic coding
- Utilized Atlas.ti v.6.2 software
- Prepared written material and presented based on the analysis

Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan 2010
Assistant on Research Project, Principal Investigator: F. Hopp

- Project- Decisions in Advanced Heart Failure Dyad Project
- Conducted literature review on relevant material
- Engaged in data analysis procedure
- Co-authored manuscript

Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan 2004 to 2005
Student Researcher, Principal Investigator: D. Moxley

- Project- Incarcerated Pregnant Women's Program Project
- Center for Evaluation and Organizational Learning research affiliate
- Conducted interviews with The Children's Center staff
- Qualitative data analysis
- Prepared written material and presented at multiple conferences

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Marsack, C. (upcoming - October 2015). *An examination of quality of life of parents of adult children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presentation will be at Wayne State University.

Marsack, C., Green, T., & Thompson-Reid, P. (2014, November). *Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: Lessons Learned and Recommendations from Clinical Health Provider*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Marsack, C., Zometa, C., Green, T., Harvey, I., Thompson-Reid, P., & Traveras, S. (2014, July). *Linking Clinical Health Providers to Recruit Participants into the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: Lessons Learned and Recommendations*. Presented at the NAACHO Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Marsack, C.N., & Waites, C. (2013, October). *Exploring the Context and Realities of Aging for African American Elders in an Urban Environment*. Presented through Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology, Dearborn, MI.

Barragan, C. & Marsack, C.N. (2012, November). *Nursing Home Policy Analysis: Highlighting the Need for Social Work Title Protection in Long-Term Care Facilities*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Marsack, C.N. (2012, November). *Determining and Informing Healthy Aging and Health Promotion Among African American Elders*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Marsack, C.N. (2012, March). *Determining and Informing Healthy Aging and Health Promotion Among African American Elders*. Presented at the University of Toledo Midwest Graduate Symposium, Toledo, OH.

Marsack, C.N. (2005, March). *The Potential of Strength-Based Practices on Deficit Situations: Effects of the Criminal Justice System on Incarcerated Pregnant Women*. Presented at the Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum, Lansing, MI.

Marsack, C.N. (2004, November). *The Potential of Strength-Based Practices on Deficit Situations: Effects of the Criminal Justice System on Incarcerated Pregnant Women*. Presented at Wayne State University's Research Conference, Detroit, MI.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWER

Gerontological Society of America, Annual Scientific Meeting, abstract reviewer, 2015

Gerontological Society of America, Annual Scientific Meeting, abstract reviewer, 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 2014 - present

Part-Time Faculty, School of Social Work

- Instructor for *Introduction to Social Work*, a undergraduate course with approximately 30 students per semester
- Facilitate instruction to orient students to the social work profession
- Supervise peer mentors to help facilitate community service learning projects for students

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan Winter 2014

Part-Time Faculty, School of Social Work

- Instructed *Grief and Loss*, a graduate course with approximately 30 students

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan Summer 2013, 2014, 2015

Part-Time Faculty, School of Social Work

- Instructed *Human Behavior Theory for Social Work Assessment*, a graduate course with approximately 30 students, covering the following areas: a broad range of theories that relate to human behavior, theoretical alignment with the NASW Code of Ethics, pragmatic theoretical application with regard to the social work profession, and specific relevance to oppressed and marginalized individuals and groups.
- Facilitated group activities and class discussions related to course material

- Emphasized theoretical connections to the social work profession
- Instruction capitalized on the critical analysis of theoretical modalities

ITT Technological Institute, Troy, Michigan

2012

Adjunct Instructor, General Studies

- Instructed *Research Methods*, an undergraduate course averaging 30 students per quarter, covering the following topics: methods of data collection, quantitative and qualitative research methods, proposal writing, and writing research papers.
- Developed power points, assignments, and homework
- Provided verbal, written, and grade feedback to students

PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Troy School District, Troy, Michigan

2010-2015

Teacher Consultant

- Managed caseload of students who receive an array of educational services
- Modified curriculum that considers academic, social and emotional strengths and needs
- Served as the district representative for Individualized Educational Planning Committee meetings
- Advised as part of a collaborative committee for new special education referrals, Behavior Intervention Plans, Manifestation Determination Reviews
- Consulted with teachers to integrate students with special needs into the least restrictive environment
- Recommended best practice methods to classroom teachers
- Maintained Individualized Education Program records and documentation
- Assessed student learning needs
- Collaborated with outside agencies, such as Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, foster care, etc.
- Coordinated Teacher Consultant Moodle site development
- Facilitated Health Care Aid trainings
- Supervised Health Care Aid and coordinated staff placements and schedules
- Mentored special education teacher (2013-2014 school year)

Private Practice Counseling, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

2009-2013

Grief Counselor

- Facilitated individual and group counseling for children, adolescents and adult clients at different developmental levels, including children with developmental disabilities and those at gifted levels
- Received clients based on referral from Yatooma's Foundation For the Kids
- Provided emotional support to families after the loss of a parental figure
- Educated families and surviving parent on the grief process and the repercussions on children and adults

- Provided parents with the knowledge base, tools and resources, and strategies to provide the utmost continuity and stability following parental loss that are age and developmentally appropriate
- Developed familiarity with the stages and impact of grieving surrounding various circumstances and ages

Troy School District, Troy, Michigan

2007-2010

Special Education Teacher

- Developed curriculum that considers academic, social and emotional needs
- Created and implemented IEP goals/objectives, Behavior Intervention Plans, and specialized curriculum
- Instrumental in providing transitional supports and pathways to enhance student independence
- Implemented student accommodations and behavior management strategies
- Collaborated with outside agencies, such as Deaf Blind Central, to support student needs
- Collaborated with a number of specialists, such as Orientation and Mobility specialists, to enhance student growth
- Provided consultation to families regarding emotional and academic concerns
- Developed familiarity regarding medical procedures for medically fragile individuals
- Directed and supervised health care aid staff regarding manner in which to work with students with various needs
- Chaired the North Central Association Reading Committee impacting educational accreditation

Grand Blanc Community Schools, Grand Blanc, Michigan

2006 to 2007

Special Education Teacher

- Developed curriculum to address individual learning styles and needs
- Worked with students receiving special education services and at-risk students with a number of emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges and needs
- Served as co-teacher/self-contained teacher for various subject levels
- Established positive rapport with a diverse high school student population
- Differentiated instruction and implemented accommodations
- Presented curriculum that was motivating to reticent learners
- Created and implemented behavior plans and individualized education plans
- Served on the Positive Behavioral Support team and the Literacy School Improvement Committee
- Participated in the GenNet Technology Pioneer program
- Collaborated as an interdisciplinary team member to enhance student performance

Citizens for Better Care, Detroit, Michigan

2006

MSW Student Intern

- Served as an intern from May 2006 – August 2006
- Advocated on behalf of nursing home residents and families to enhance quality of life
- Learned resident rights and nursing home protocol

- Developed familiarity with the Medicaid Waiver Program
- Advocated for resident rights and safety
- Developed familiarity with the Nursing Facility Transition Service
- Conducted assessments for nursing home residents anticipating transition back into the community
- Assisted in planning for residents upcoming discharge from nursing facilities
- Educated residents and families of rights
- Collaborated with the long-term care ombudsman in the Detroit area
- Developed understanding of dispute resolution techniques to follow up on nursing home complaints
- Worked in conjunction with nursing home residents, families, and nursing home staff to resolve complaints
- Performed assessments for nursing home residents for the Nursing Facility Transition Service program following completion of internship (1099 employee)

**University of Michigan's Housing Bureau for Seniors, Ann Arbor, Michigan 2005-2006
MSW Student Intern**

- Served as an intern from September 2005 – April 2006
- Worked on behalf of the HomeShare program and the Tax Preparation Program
- Developed an understanding of the HomeShare program and challenges for seniors and others to secure affordable, reliable housing
- Conducted intake assessments and helped with the HomeShare application for potential HomeShare clients
- Collaborated with community partners to promote equity for vulnerable seniors
- Coordinated and organized the Tax Preparation program for one tax season
- Worked in conjunction with AARP tax preparation volunteers to assist seniors seeking tax preparation services
- Organized the schedule to maintain efficiency for this program
- Participated in a Medicare Part D seminar to develop familiarity of this new legislation
- Advocated on behalf of vulnerable seniors to ensure tax preparation and seniors received appropriate drug coverage under Medicare Part D
- Developed an awareness of supports available for low-income seniors
- Provided appropriate community referrals (when appropriate) for seniors

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Research Support Award 2015
\$2,000 awarded by Wayne State University's Graduate School and School of Social Work

School of Social Work Tuition Scholarship Fall 2014
Awarded by Wayne State University

Graduate Professional Scholarship 2013-2014
Awarded by Wayne State University

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| School of Social Work Tuition Scholarship Awarded by Wayne State University | 2012-2013 |
| Midwest Graduate Research Symposium Award Poster Presentation Award Recipient- 3 rd Place | 2012 |
| Graduate Student Research Assistant Through Wayne State University, School of Social Work | 2011 |
| Graduate Professional Scholarship Awarded by Wayne State University | 2011-2012 |
| Hartford Geriatric Fellowship Geriatric fellow at the University of Michigan | 2005-2006 |
| Michigan Undergraduate Research Funding Wayne State University | 2004 |

CERTIFICATIONS

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|---|---------------|
| LMSW License State of Michigan | present |
| State of Michigan Teacher Consultant Approval | 2010-present |
| Provisional / Professional Teaching Certificate State of Michigan- K-5 all subjects, K-8 in self-contained classroom, K-12 Special Education | 2005-present |
| School Social Work Certification | Received 2007 |

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- College Transition Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, January 18, 2013
- START Training: Working with Students with Asperger's Syndrome**
Oakland Schools, Waterford, Michigan, December 12 & 13, 2012
- Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Training**
Troy School District, Troy, Michigan, October 23 & 25, 2012
Received Crisis Prevention Institute Certification
- Working with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Troy School District, Troy, Michigan, September 1 & 2, 2010

Yearly Professional Development through Troy School District, 2005-present

Achieved a minimum of 40 hours of professional development yearly

Professional Development includes a wide variety of topics

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AGESW

Chapter member

Gerontological Society of America

Chapter member

National Association of Social Workers

Chapter member

Sigma Phi Omega, 2005-2006

Vice President, University of Michigan branch

Center for Evaluation and Organizational Learning, 2004-2005

Research Affiliate, Wayne State University

COMMUNITY SERVICE & AWARDS

Recipient- 2013-2014 Outstanding Special Education Staff Award, Troy School District

Honored for two nominations – Awards ceremony held by the Troy Parent Advisory Council

Recipient- 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Performance-Based Compensation, Troy School District

Based on evaluation as a consultant - highly effective rating

Volunteer- sewed and donated over 150 dresses for underprivileged children overseas (Costa Rica, Honduras, Rwanda, and other countries), 2009-2013

International Volunteer HQ, San Pedro, Costa Rica

Volunteer work with children in orphanage, August 2011

University of Detroit Christian Dental Association

Dental outreach service in Yaruca, Honduras, August 2010

Yatooma's Foundation for the Kids

Special Events Volunteer, Birmingham, Michigan, 2007-2009