

2022

Doctor of Social Work Graduates

California Baptist University
Riverside, CA
www.calbaptist.edu/DSW



Doctor of Social Work

Message from the Director

Dear Colleague,

The Doctor of Social Work program at California Baptist University is excited to share with you the graduates of the class of 2022. Each of these graduates is passionate about developing solutions to address our world's most pressing social problems. They are also deeply committed to serving the most vulnerable and oppressed in society. As scholar-practitioners, they possess the leadership acumen, research skills, and practice competence to lead our profession forward.



Our graduates have developed social innovations to tackle the Social Work Grand Challenges; and their innovative projects address issues such as homelessness, mental illness, food insecurity, racial disparities, and child abuse. They have spent the last several years engaging with community members and stakeholders to develop these innovations in partnership with the communities that are most impacted. Although our DSW students began their doctoral journey in the midst of a global pandemic, they thrived and maintained a commitment to excellence. Through their perseverance and dedication to their educational goals, these graduates have exemplified Christlike character and integrity that will set them apart from their counterparts.

All of these graduates are expected to receive their Doctor of Social Work degree in August 2022. We are excited about their future and pray that God will use them to bring hope and healing to a broken world. If you are interested in learning more about their work, please contact them directly. For more information about the DSW program please connect with us at www.calbaptist.edu/DSW.

Sincerely,

Krystal Hays, PhD, LCSW
DSW Program Director
California Baptist University

“Leading Community Change around the Globe”

List of Graduates

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Laura Andrade | La Cena Jones |
| Liza A. Arellano | Autumn King |
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| Carina Bedolla | Erica McIntosh |
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| Esteria Borcsa | Jennifer Penner |
| Alba Bradley-Delgado | Angelica Plascensia |
| Monique Browning | Araceli Ramirez |
| Guadalupe Buitron | Monique Roach |
| Jennifer Carson | Tanisha Robinson |
| Sara Cortes de Pavon | Keren Sandoval-Simon |
| Delyn Fraley | Jeramy Sanquist |
| Kristina Gordon | Sarah Sawaf |
| Corey Jackson | Teresa Serrano |
| April Johnson | Evan Thomas |



Laura Andrade, DSW-C, MSW

landrade@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: A Shepherd's Role: Mental Health Literacy Training for Clergy and Church Leadership

Interests: Mental Health Stigma and the Latinx Community

Laura Andrade has served as an investigating social worker for the Riverside County Department of Social Services, Children Services Division, specializing in serving at-risk children who have been abused and/or neglected. She transitioned into the Permanency Program as an adoption social worker, guiding families through the adoption process and securing permanency for dependent children.

She also has experience as an adjunct professor at California Baptist University.

Ms. Andrade holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of California-Riverside, a Master of Social Work from California State University-San Bernardino with an emphasis on Child Welfare. Her doctoral studies have focused on reducing mental health stigma and increasing mental health treatment participation among the Latinx population. She hopes to continue to serve the Latinx community and partner with the local Seventh-Day Adventist Church to build the community's capacity to provide a supportive environment for individuals experiencing mental illness. Professor Andrade is also passionate about educating the next generation of change agents and hopes to pursue a career in higher education.



Liza A. Arellano, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

larellano@calbaptist.edu www.lizaarellano.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lizaarellano/>

Project Title: Step Up to Step Down, California: Engaging Caregivers Towards Training Solutions

Interests: Child Welfare, Congregate Care, Preventative Child Welfare Services, Training and Development, Secondary Trauma

Liza Arellano is an Assistant Professor and the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program Director at California Baptist University (CBU) in Riverside, California. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Behavioral Science and her Master of Social Work (MSW). She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a private practice with a clinical focus on helping professionals address burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion fatigue. She has over 15 years of experience in child welfare, serving in various capacities, including childcare in residential placements, conducting child abuse investigations, staff training and development, supervising blended and specialized units, and managing child welfare placement programs. She has conducted qualitative research with foster parents in California to gather their feedback on training needs regarding the placement of children transitioning from group homes/Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs. Her interests include improving outcomes for youth in congregate care, preventative child welfare services, and the effectiveness of on-the-job training for child welfare social workers.



Chanda Bass, DSW-C, LCSW, C-SSWS, CCTP, CATP

<https://www.motivatedstrategiesllc.com/> chandadione.bass@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: A Cultural Adaptation of the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) for the Richmond, Virginia Region

Interests: Trauma Exposure in Public Schools

Chanda Bass, LCSW, obtained her BA in English from Queens University of Charlotte in 1993 and her MSW in 1998 from Virginia Commonwealth University. For the past 24 years, Chanda has worked as a School Social Worker in public schools in Virginia and has provided training for school personnel and served as a clinician for marginalized youth. Through her work experiences, Chanda developed an interest in supporting youth with trauma

exposure, and she subsequently earned two professional certifications in trauma-informed treatment. Chanda has expertise in curriculum development, crisis intervention, and risk assessment. Chanda's research interests include examining approaches for supporting students with traumatic histories in schools. Chanda is the founder of MotivatEd Strategies, LLC, which offers professional development services for educators and mental health providers. Chanda's professional goals include attaining a leadership position in public education, continuing to provide training for mental health providers and educators, and obtaining a faculty position in higher education.



Carina P Bedolla, DSW-C, MS, LMFT, LPCC

carina.bedolla@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Awareness is Change - Mental Health Stigma Training

Interests: Mental Health Stigma

Carina Bedolla is a doctoral candidate in the Doctor of Social Work Program at California Baptist University. Carina also holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Counseling Psychology. As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Carina has over five years of clinical experience in the public sector. The primary focus of her clinical experience has consisted of working with adults and families impacted by substance use and mood disorders. During her time in this role, she has witnessed

the injustices faced by the community of individuals with mental illness. Many of these injustices were at the hands of those providing mental health services. While she has had the honor and privilege to support individuals in overcoming these challenges, the experiences have served as catalysts for her area of research. In her doctoral studies, her focus has been on addressing mental health stigma in emerging clinicians. It is her belief that by developing opportunities for early intervention, mental health clinicians will finish graduate studies with increased insight and awareness that will better equip them in serving the mental health community and further, serving as advocates in joining the fight against mental health stigma.



Maritza Bojorquez, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

maritza.bojorquez@calbaptist.edu

<https://www.breakingcyclescounselingca.com/>

Project Title: Increasing Electronic Health Literacy Among Latinx Communities

Interests: Health Literacy and Latinx

Maritza Bojórquez earned her Master of Social Work degree with an emphasis in health at the University of Southern California. In addition, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the California State University, Pomona. Maritza has worked in various settings throughout her career, including child welfare as a foster care social worker and in medical settings as a nephrology social worker, and as a behavioral health provider. In addition, she serves as

an adjunct instructor at the University of Massachusetts Global. Maritza's employment and family experiences are the motivation that led to her focus her research on increasing electronic health (e-health) literacy among Latinx communities to decrease health inequities. She believes in educating Latinxs to improve their digital capacity to better understand basic health information in order to make appropriate health decisions. Maritza's professional goals include identifying community-based interventions to help increase e-health literacy among the Latinx communities. Also, she plans to teach and train new and experienced social workers to provide culturally-competent services.



Estera Borcsa, DSW-C, M.A., LCSW

<http://www.Esteraborcsa.com>

Project Title: "Peace Unleashed"-Global Diplomacy Training Program

Interests: Global Policy

Estera Borcsa is passionate about peace building on a global level, international law, women's empowerment, and breaking generational issues in children impacted by complex trauma. Estera earned a Master's degree from the University of Southern California (USC) with a concentration in Psychology, Policy and Law. Estera is an international ambassador and is currently the SDG Action Chair for the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations in order to help countries and organizations overcome

barriers to achieving the world goals in their home countries. Estera is currently creating a diplomacy training program based on neuroscience for United Nations member states to help diplomats overcome barriers to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Estera is the founder of Teach Train Transform LLC, an international training consortium built to create sustainability for oppressed communities worldwide through training, education, and advocacy. Estera is a licensed psychotherapist, clinical director of intensive mental health programs, and adjunct professor. Estera conducts trainings for law enforcement, FBI field offices, Orange County courts, universities, and the International Peace Institute. Estera has earned several awards such as International Distinguished Women Leader, Peace Builder of the Year, Community Hero and International Impact Leader.



Alba Bradley-Delgado, DSW-C, AMFT, BCBA

Alba.BradleyDelgado@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Task Training Assistant: A Psychoeducational Video-Based Training for Employers of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Interests: Social Inclusion for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Alba Bradley-Delgado received her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from California Baptist University in 2012 and her Bachelors in Psychology from California Baptist University in 2010. After receiving her Master's degree, she began her 8+ year-long career in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) working as a behavior interventionist providing one-on-one direct services to children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Alba received her Applied

Behavior Analysis Coursework Completion certificate from Chapman University in 2017 and became a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst in 2018. As a BCBA in a supervisory role, Alba oversees the ABA treatment implementation for children and adults with ASD and other developmental disabilities. Alba is also a Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist currently pursuing licensure in the state of California. Alba is interested in topics related to social inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities and the de-stigmatization of mental health services. She hopes to open her private practice and use her bilingual abilities to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, Alba hopes to utilize the knowledge gained in her doctoral studies related to macro-level intervention and entrepreneurship to innovate and create change in various areas of need.



Monique S. Browning, DSW-C, DPA, M.A.

<http://www.becs.llc>

Project Title: Identifying Cultural Bias Among Healthcare Treatment Providers

Interests: Health Equity, BIPOC Clients, Cultural Bias

Dr. Browning prides herself on serving marginalized communities experiencing health disparities, cultural bias, social injustice, and inequity. Her career expanded from federal government agencies, where she transitioned military to civilian life. She also developed work-study programs for veterans, assisted veterans with educational and work opportunities, and cultivated a childcare program for veterans, which passed into law in May 2010. Dr. Browning has

worked with individuals with serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbance ensuring that mental health programs such as First Episode Psychosis (FEP) were adequately developed and implemented in the U.S., Pacific Jurisdictions, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Dr. Browning current position assists healthcare professionals with their student loan debt and ensures marginalized communities are treated appropriately. She operates a thriving consulting business (Browning Executive Consulting Services LLC – www.becs.llc). Dr. Browning has led the charge of service, prevention, and access to care for all populations in these positions. Therefore, she aspires to obtain an LCSW, retain a senior leadership position within the federal government, and continue helping corporations identify their cultural bias among leadership, staff, and clients.



Guadalupe Buitron, DSW-C, MSW, ACSW

lupebuitron.dsw@gmail.com; www.lupebuitron.com

Project Title: First Gen Money Program: Promoting the Financial Capability of First Generation College Students in the Digital Age

Interests: Financial Capability, Financial Inclusion, Racial Wealth Equity, First-Generation College Students, and the Latinx Community

Guadalupe Buitron is a first-generation Latina social worker based in Riverside, CA. Lupe earned her MSW from California Baptist University in 2019. She has several years of direct practice experience in child welfare, community social work, and mental health. In 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lupe saw the need in her community and felt led to pursue a doctorate in

social work. Her doctoral studies have focused on promoting the financial capability of first-generation college students. Her research interests include financial capability, financial inclusion, racial wealth equity, first-generation college students, and the Latinx community. Lupe is certified in financial social work and currently works as a financial therapist with Financial Therapy Solutions, where she provides financial therapy nationwide via telehealth.



Jennifer Carson, DSW-C, M.A., PPS-SC

www.drjenncarson.com; www.linkedin.com/in/jennlynncarson;
jcarson@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Help with Hope

Interests: Suicide Prevention

Jenn Carson is an elected board member at the American Association of Suicidology and the Crisis Line Coordinator for 951-686-HELP, the Inland SoCal Crisis Helpline, a project of Inland SoCal United Way. Jenn holds a Diploma from Moreno Valley High School, a B.A. in Social Studies from Baylor University, an M.A. in Counseling from George Washington University, and a K-12 Pupil Personnel Services Credential from the California Department of Education. Jenn is a certified trainer in Mental Health First Aid, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), and safeTALK (Suicide Alertness). Before serving in suicide prevention, Jenn worked in K-12 education for 15 years. Jenn is a Doctor of Social Work Candidate and adjunct professor at California Baptist University's College of Behavioral and Social Science. Jenn is also an inspirational speaker. Jenn Carson has spoken about her journey from suicidal child of a homicidal father to becoming mental health activist on CNN, NPR, the BBC, The Today Show, Marie Claire Magazine, People Magazine, and Huffington Post. In addition, Jenn Carson provides trauma-informed consultation, suicide prevention training, and motivational speaking at churches, conferences, schools, and workplaces.



Sara Cortes de Pavon, DSW-C, MPA

sara@pilasconsulting.com; www.pilasconsulting.com

Project Title: Progress Initiative for Latino Advancement & Success (PILAS)

Interests: Latinos and First-Generation College Students

Sara Cortés de Pavón received her BSW in 2012 and her MPA in 2015 from CBU. For the past 14 years, she has worked for the City of Perris Housing Authority administering the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program supporting community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities. Recently, she was tasked with leading the city's quality of life efforts to address homelessness. While at the city, she worked with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and was approached

by several members asking her questions on the college-going process. These members were first-generation students whose parents were unable to assist them during the process. It was during this time Sara was able to fuse her two passions: education and working with teens and young adults. Sara's research focuses on the disproportion of Latino matriculation in higher education among first-generation college students. She is the founder and CEO of Progress Initiative for Latino Advancement & Success (PILAS), LLC dba PILAS Consulting. Sara created a college preparation program for parents which orientates parents to the U.S. education system, provides an understanding of the college preparation process, and aids in building social capital through support systems for parents to enhance their own education and employability.



Delyn Fraley, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

delyn.fraley@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Working Together: Integrating a Professional Centrism Training Curriculum in Inter-professional Education

Interests: Healthcare, Collaboration, and Care Coordination

Delyn Fraley is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Doctor of Social Work candidate focused on improving health outcomes for individuals through improved collaborative practice. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from California State University at Long Beach in 2009 and 2013, respectively. Throughout her career, Delyn has provided therapeutic and case management services to children, youth, families, and

older adults within the hospital, primary care, and outpatient mental health settings. Additionally, she has ten years of quality management, process improvement, and supervisory experience within the non-profit industry. Currently, she is a Clinical Program Manager for a Wraparound program serving foster youth. Her work has targeted barriers to care coordination and collaborative practice, specifically within the areas of professional centrism and strategies to improve healthcare providers' tendency to engage in collaborative practice. Through her research endeavors, she developed an educational curriculum for healthcare students engaged in interprofessional education to increase awareness of their own professional centrism and biases, including strategies to reduce the impact of professional centrism within the healthcare team.



Kristina West Gordon, DSW-C, MSW

KGordon@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Preventive Programs for At-Risk Families of Child Maltreatment: Using Home Visiting and Intergenerational Relationships

Interests: Child Welfare and Child Abuse Prevention

Kristina received her bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2010 and a Master's in Social Work with a specialization in child welfare in 2012 from California State University, San Bernardino. Following obtaining her MSW, Kristina worked in the child welfare field for almost a decade, accumulating extensive experience serving at-risk and historically marginalized populations, including foster youth and families who have

experienced child abuse and neglect. Kristina also possesses five years of leadership experience as a supervisor and staff developer. Her expertise in child welfare has led to her doctoral research, which focuses on assessing the effectiveness of home visiting programs in decreasing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. She has worked as adjunct faculty in MSW programs across the state in the last year and is passionate about developing professional social workers. Kristina founded KG Child Welfare Consulting to help nonprofits and government leaders to strengthen families and prevent system involvement whenever possible.



Corey A. Jackson, DSW-C, MSW

coreyajackson@gmail.com

Project Title: Afrocentric Capacity-Building

Interests: African American Inequities

Corey A. Jackson, MSW, was elected to the Riverside County Board of Education in 2020 and represents portions of the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, and the unincorporated community of Mead Valley. Corey Jackson is a local nonprofit and civil rights leader who is one of the leading social justice advocates in the region. He currently serves as the founder and Chief Executive Officer of SBX Youth and Family Services whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty and violence through mentoring, education, and community organizing. Mr. Jackson continues to serve his community as the Political Action Chair of the Riverside NAACP and serves as Youth Minister at the Moreno Valley Church of Christ.

Corey's scholarship focuses on building agency within the African American community to address historic inequities. His particular areas of interest include capacity-building and other community development elements.



April Johnson, DSW-C, MS, LMFT

apjohnson@calbaptist.edu;

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/april-johnson-313729176/>

Project Title: Make Nutrition Your Intention: Innovative Strategies to Achieve Food Security in African American and Latinx Households

Interests: Grief and Loss, Marriage and Couples, Mindfulness, Total Body Nutrition

April Johnson, LMFT, received her BA in Psychology from California State University, San Bernardino, and her MS in Counseling Psychology from California Baptist University. April's passion is providing counseling for traumatic stress, grief and loss, end of life stages, terminal illnesses,

oppositional defiance, and conducting geriatric, marriage, and couples counseling. In addition, April's direct practice, familial, and personal health issues directed her inspiration toward her research in nutrition, explicitly for achieving food security in vulnerable populations for sustainable health outcomes. April is also a United States Air Force (USAF) veteran who was honorably discharged and proceeded to work for fifteen years in human resources throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. April is currently serving as a provider in a group practice at C & C Center for Healing located in Redlands, California, and part-time as an Adjunct Professor. In addition, April is the Founder and CEO of a nonprofit organization called Genesis HOPE Inc., which serves as a platform to increase food security in minority homes by providing direct access to resources supporting nutrition and mental health. After obtaining her DSW, April aims to enhance and expand her nonprofit agency and obtain a tenure position at a higher-education institution.



La Cena L. Jones, DSW-C, LMFT, M.S, MPA

LacenalaChelle.jones@calbaptist.edu

www.linkedin.com/in/lacenajlmftds/

Project Title: Contributing Factors to Racial Disparities in Home Removal Processes by Child Welfare Agencies

Interests: Racial Disparities in Child Welfare Practices; Mass Shootings; Trauma-Informed Care and Punitive Diagnosing by Non BIPOC Clinicians

La Cena L. Jones is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She is currently operating in the scope and purpose that she believes God created her for. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, she will move forward with working in higher education while continuing her research on racial

disparities in child welfare systems' home removal processes. Her strengths rest in communication, advocacy, and systems management with a focus on continuous quality improvement. She loves teaching and training and will pursue a career in creating content specific to ensuring the efficacy of front-line clinical staff and social service organizations.



Autumn Pamela King, DSW-C, M.S., MFT, PCC

aking@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: The National Fatherhood League: Increasing Father Involvement in the Black American Community

Interests: Child Welfare

Autumn King holds a master's degree in counseling psychology. As a social work researcher, Autumn's ultimate research goal is to increase father involvement in the Black American Community. Her long-term career objective is to engage in community-based research that will contribute to the body of knowledge around father engagement promotion and reduce barriers that interfere with father involvement. More specifically, Autumn is interested in utilizing a community-based research model to develop a father centered parenting training, mentor program, conferences, and social events to increase father involvement in the Black American community. Autumn King currently serves as a Social Work Supervisor at Knotts Family Agency. In her role, Autumn is committed to serving in the child welfare system and desires to increase the quality of service to children in the foster care system. As the Social Worker Supervisor, Autumn ensures that assigned social work personnel provides the highest quality support to foster/adoptive parents and comprehensive case management for children/youth in foster care. Autumn also directly serves resource families to support children and youth in out-of-home care and maintains strong relationships with community-based organizations and partners, including county children, family services, and Community Care Licensing.



Dretona T. Maddox, DSW-C, MSW, BSN, RN, PHN, LCSW

dretona@dretonamaddox.com

Project Title: Patient-Provider Engagement and its Impact on Maternal Health Outcomes for African American Pregnant Teens: A Social Impact Film

Interests: Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Healthcare

Dretona T. Maddox, MSW, BSN, RN, PHN, LCSW, is the founding executive director of Purposely Chosen, Inc., a non-profit organization established in 2006 that provides support and advocacy services for pregnant/parenting teens in foster care and their babies. This organization includes two maternity homes in Southern California. Dretona's personal and organizational mission is to help displaced teen moms keep their babies through non-stigmatizing support, advocacy, and parenting education. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Phoenix and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California, focusing on Community, Organizing, Planning, and Administration (COPA). Maddox has diverse direct practice experience in nursing and social work, including neonatal intensive care nursing, subacute care for medically fragile children, public health nursing, children with physical and intellectual disabilities, case management, health care policy, and child welfare. Her research interest includes teen parent advocacy, health care inequities for pregnant teens, and maternal mental health for pregnant and parenting teens.



Erica McIntosh, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

erica.mcintosh@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Examining Provider Comfortability to Improve Healthcare Outcomes Among Black Indigenous People of Color

Interests: Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Health Equity

Erica McIntosh received her MSW from California State University, Northridge. Erica has held various social work positions, including psychotherapy (dual diagnosis-substance use disorder and serious mental illness), case management, medical social work, and homeless veteran healthcare. Erica is a homeless program team lead and clinical supervisor for VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Erica developed “Cultural Humility and

Tough Conversations: Strategies for Allyship and Authentic Engagement in Clinical Supervision,” which is now a required training for the VA Loma Linda MSW internship program. Erica has co-taught and guest lectured in social work courses and presented on various topics at conferences. Erica’s poster, “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Examining Implicit Bias in Nursing Education Programs,” won first place in “Prevention, Intervention & Protective Factors” at Resilience Con, 2022. Erica is interested in improving health equity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, stigma reduction, and improving patient-provider communication. During her DSW program, Erica created the interdisciplinary health equity task force, JEDIS Heal. Erica founded a private practice and hopes to teach full-time in the future. Erica is a disabled United States Air Force veteran.



Rashael Nevels, DSW-C, M.S., AMFT, PCC

rnevels@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: The Jabez House: Bridging the Gap for Unhoused African Americans Experiencing Mental Illness

Interests: Mental Health, Displaced Populations

Rashael Nevels received her BA degree in Psychology from UC Riverside in 2013 and MS degree in Counseling Psychology from CBU in 2017. Shortly after obtaining her MS degree, Rashael became employed as a Social Services Coordinator at a psychiatric urgent care center. In that role, she facilitated discharge planning for individuals placed on involuntary holds and helped

clients with linkages to much-needed community resources. Rashael has worked with marginalized populations, including unhoused individuals, those with severe mental illness and dual diagnoses, and individuals with disabilities. Her experiences in social services served as a catalyst in her advocacy of unhoused individuals experiencing severe mental illness. Her scholarly research addresses homelessness and mental health within the African American community in Los Angeles county. Specifically, Rashael is interested in addressing gaps in services for unhoused African Americans experiencing mental illness. Rashael hopes to open a Housing First program to eliminate barriers for unhoused individuals in accessing permanent housing and outpatient mental health services. Other professional goals include obtaining licensure as an LMFT and transitioning into a career in higher education.



Jennifer Penner, DSW-C, LCSW, PPSC
jpenner@calbaptist.edu; www.arukahconsulting.com

Project Title: The Hatbox Project: A Proposal for a Research and Community Informed Post-Adoption Capacity Building Model

Interests: Post-Adoption, Child Welfare, Trauma, and Attachment

Jennifer Penner is an LCSW who received her BA in Behavioral Sciences 2001 and her MSW and PPSC credential in 2004. Twenty-two years ago, Jennifer began her career in residential care, supporting the needs of adolescents. Jennifer has provided administrative support to foster care staff and monitored visit support for children and their birth families. Jennifer also served as a Child and Family Specialist and Facilitator in Wraparound and provided case management and adoption social work support. Additionally, she has worked as a school social worker and spent several years as a trainer and group facilitator, specifically with pre-and post-adoption families, community professionals, and foster and adopted youth. She co-established and developed Digital Storytelling workshops for foster and adopted youth. She has also continued working as an adoption home study writer and has since worked as an interim adoption supervisor. Finally, she has and currently serves as Adjunct Faculty at California Baptist University. Her research and innovation focus are on increasing accessible, available, and competent post-adoption support. She also has a heart for faith-based communities invested in adoption by helping to raise awareness around the lifelong commitment and challenges inherent for those in the adoption constellation.



Angelica Plascencia, DSW-C, LMFT
angelica.plascencia@calbaptist.edu; angelicaplascencia@gmail.com

Project Title: Education For Our Future: Workshop Series to Support Adolescent Mothers in Continuing Education

Interests: Adolescent Mothers and Education

Angelica Plascencia obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from California Baptist University. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over a decade of experience working with children, teenagers, and adults of all ages in community-based settings, clinics, and schools. She has had the opportunity to provide therapy in different modalities, has led trauma-informed trainings, presented parent workshops on various topics, and has connected individuals and families to needed resources in the community. Angelica has a passion for working with adolescent mothers and first-generation college students and desires to increase access to mental health services, academic support, and resources for young mothers to promote their overall wellbeing. Angelica values cultural humility and strives to provide services from a culturally sensitive perspective. She utilizes her bilingual skills to increase access to mental health services for underserved Spanish-speaking communities, adolescent mothers, and first-generation college students. Angelica plans to use her gained experience in the field to continue serving her community and is deeply passionate about closing the gap in services for underserved communities.



Araceli Ramirez, DSW-C, MS, LMFT

araceli.ramirez@calbaptist.edu; www.j-a-r-joininactionandride.com

Project Title: Join in Action and Ride (JAR) Social Enterprise

Interests: Mental Health and Social Enterprise Development

Araceli Ramirez is a first-generation Latina college graduate. She received her undergraduate degree in Human Services and her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. Araceli has provided inpatient drug treatment services for adolescents in the Greater Los Angeles area, therapeutic and case management services in a community-based setting, school-based settings, and in-home services for under-resourced youth and their families in the Greater Los Angeles area and the Inland Empire. Through working

with under-resourced youth, she identified a greater need for connection. Araceli learned of the impact of horses on adolescents and how that could benefit mental health. Since then, Araceli has opened a private practice, Hope of All Hearts Marriage Family Counseling Center (www.hopeofallhearts counseling.org), became a certified equine-assisted mental health provider, and became a founding community member for Arenas for Change (ARCH). Araceli focuses on equine-assisted services perceived and associated health outcomes for youth. Through her research, Araceli has launched Join in Action and Ride, LLC, a social enterprise providing equine-assisted services and products. Araceli will focus on improving access and increasing equine-assisted services for under-resourced youth in the Inland Empire at a free or reduced cost to create a social impact on mental health.



Monique Nicole Roach, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

MoniqueN.Roach@calbaptist.edu

Project Title: Mental Health Disparities Among African American Women and Motivating Factors that Encourage Engagement in Mental Health Services

Interests: Mental Health Disparities Among African American Women

Monique Roach is interested in reducing mental health disparities for African American women. She earned a Master's in Social Work with a concentration in non-profit management, a certification in Aging, and a bachelor's degree in public health at Rutgers University. Monique has over 20 years of experience in mental health and community-based services for at-risk populations. As a licensed clinical social worker, Monique focuses on research, practice, and

teaching to promote mental health equity and improve health outcomes for disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Her research initiatives center around eliminating barriers to care, increasing access to mental health supports, and identifying factors that underlie the excess burden of depression and other diagnosable mental disorders among African American women. Her long-term career objective is to utilize a community-based research model to develop tailored mental health interventions with community-based agencies, including Black churches. Monique aims to develop future social workers by creating competent and culturally sensitive human service psychoeducation programs. She has also started a private practice where she provides therapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families.



Tanisha Robinson, DSW-C, MFT

info@gloriisme.com

Project Title: Cultural Humility Training

Interests: African American Women with Lupus

Tanisha Robinson is a highly resourceful and solution-oriented professional with extensive experience in people management and conflict resolution. She has strong interpersonal talents with a passion for cultivating lasting relationships. She has the unique ability to capture and disseminate critical information from diverse communities in organizational programs. Her work with SBX Youth and Family Services and the National Family Life and Education Center shows this. Building Resilience in African American Families, Community

Reinvestment Program, and Rapid Re-Housing are a few programs Tanisha has facilitated. She is an engaging presenter and skilled oral and written communicator. Tanisha has a passion for working with and advocating for the lupus community. Her goal is to decrease discrimination and inequity in healthcare among African American women with lupus. Tanisha's article, "Psychosocial Interventions that Improve Health Outcomes for African American Women with Lupus," has been accepted for publication by Healthcare Journal. She has created cultural humility training for medical students and professionals who serve African American women with lupus. Lastly, she founded Glori Is Me, LLC with the vision to create an experience of wellness for the consumer. She believes that every person can achieve success and an unwavering belief in the Power of the Gospel.



Keren Sandoval-Simon, DSW-C, MSW

ksand1030@gmail.com; heavenlylullabies@gmail.com

Project Title: Assessing Mental Health Symptoms to Reduce Prevalence of Depression and Anxiety Among Perinatal Patients

Interests: Maternal Mental Health

Keren Sandoval-Simon is a first-generation Latina. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology in 2017 and Master of Social Work in 2019 at California Baptist University. She is currently working towards my Doctor of Social Work Degree also at California Baptist University. Keren has significant experience working with diverse, low-income communities, specifically in behavioral play therapy by providing intensive, individualized, one-to-one behavioral coaching.

She has also worked in foster family case management where she worked closely with foster youth to build solid and trusting rapport with children and families, fostering trust through communication and collaborated with community program leaders and advocates. Presently, Keren is working as a Medical Social Worker practicing in maternal mental health where she provides comprehensive social services to assist perinatal patients and their families find practical methods to overcome social, emotional, and environmental barriers to achieve optimal functioning and attainment of health. Her research is motivated in finding new and innovative ways to work with healthcare workers to assist perinatal patients with mental health concerns pre and post-partum.



Jeramy A. Sanquist, DSW-C, LMFT

jsanquist3@yahoo.com

Project Title: Unsheltered Peoples Center (UPC)

Interests: Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness

Jeramy A. Sanquist is a licensed clinical therapist for San Bernardino County, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Jeramy is a motivated, personable business professional with multiple college degrees and a successful track record of working with youth, adults, and individuals with serious mental illness since 2003. Jeramy is an experienced team leader and mid-level supervisor with past experience in K-12 education, the Probation Department, and business experience as a licensed Real Estate Agent and entrepreneur. Jeramy is flexible and versatile with an ability to maintain a sense of humor under pressure. Poised and competent with demonstrated ability to transcend cultural differences. Jeramy has created and written policy and procedures for the TAY program, the Patients' Rights Office, and the InnRoads program. Jeramy hopes to receive his Doctorate in Social Work and to continue to be a leader in advocacy for individuals struggling with mental illness in San Bernardino County.



Sarah Sawaf, DSW-C, MSW, LCSW

sarahsawaf11@gmail.com

Project Title: "Yotes Matter": Using Art to Reduce Mental Health Stigma at CSUSB

Interests: Mental Health Promotion and Stigma Reduction in Higher Education

Sarah Sawaf, LCSW, received her BA in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside in 2012. She earned her Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in Mental Health from the University of Southern California in 2015. She worked in county-contracted agencies serving adults and families with moderate to severe mental illnesses until 2017. In 2018, she began working as a mental health therapist in the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) department at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). Throughout her time at CSUSB, Sarah has been a regular presenter for the Health and Wellness Workshop Committee, co-chair of the Mental Health Awareness Month Committee, and CAPS Liaison in the Be Well Yotes collaborative. She currently volunteers as a Board of Directors member for Jacob Joseph and Jabez Family Counseling and Professional Services Group. She is also a Psi Chi Mentor at UCR for undergraduate psychology students and one of the cohort representatives in the DSW program at CBU. Her interests are in mental health promotion and stigma reduction in higher education. As a doctoral candidate in the DSW program, she is working on developing a new art-based mental health stigma reduction program for CSUSB.



Teresa Serrano , DSW-C, MS, LMFT

teresa.serrano@calbaptist.edu; www.hopewellnesscounseling.com

Project Title: What Social Supports Significantly Impact Educational Attainment for Parenting Teens?

Interests: Teen Mothers and Education

Teresa Serrano obtained a Bachelor's Degree in sociology and a Master's in counseling psychology. Teresa is a first-generation graduate student and identifies as a woman of color. She became a young mother at age 14 and became inspired to empower other young mothers. Her professional goal as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist is to provide psychoeducation on trauma, depression, anxiety, life transition, domestic violence, migration

trauma, and the importance of mental health to various communities. She values providing services to clients in their preferred language and hopes to help Latinx populations gain access to mental health care in Spanish. Teresa has had the opportunity to serve foster children, underserved communities of all life spans, veterans, and adults with severe mental illness. Teresa's ultimate goal is to continue educating and promoting higher education in her community, especially young mothers. Teresa wants to promote access to educational resources and mental health to young mothers to decrease long-term disparities. Her postgraduation plans are to continue to do private practice, work with immigrants and first-generation individuals, write a book, and explore opportunities to help young mothers reach their full potential in life by becoming resilient.



Evan Thomas, DSW-C, MSW, ASW

ethomas@csusb.edu

Project Title: FAITHS Throughcare Program Community Evaluation: Custody to Community Track

Interests: Justice-Involved Population/Criminogenesis

Evan Thomas is the Co-Founder and Director of Reentry Operations for the Family Attachment Intervention Through Healing Solutions (FAITHS) Throughcare Program. The FAITHS Throughcare Program is an evidence-based rehabilitative program that serves the justice-involved population in partnership with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department providing psychoeducation, case management, and counseling. Evan has participated

in and/or presented at multiple committees across San Bernardino County such as the Maternal Health Network Criminal Justice Core Team, the Reentry Collaborative, the Community Vital Signs Initiative Data Committee and Implementation Committee, Department of Behavioral Health's African American Awareness Subcommittee, the Democratic Committee, and the Inland Empire Fair Chance Coalition. Evan has worked with at-risk youth, individuals living with Autism, and low SES families before beginning his work with the justice-involved population. While pursuing his clinical social work license, Evan's professional goals focus on improving the criminal justice system through systemic, cultural, and policy reform to break intergenerational cycles of trauma, reduce recidivism, and create safer communities.

RONALD L. AND JANE D. ELLIS
GREAT COMMISSION PLAZA



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that
I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even
to the end of the age. — MATTHEW 28:19-20 NASB

