

Michelle Topal, MSW, LCSW
Change for Living Counseling PLLC

111 Windel Drive, Suite 213
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 360-1929

EDUCATION

- 1994 University of North Carolina. Masters of Social Work. Honors Project (Developed MSW Human Sexuality Curriculum).
- 1985 State University of New York at Purchase. Bachelor of Arts (Sociology, Women's Studies and Human Sexuality). Awarded with Honors/Honors Thesis.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- 5/06- Present **PSYCHOTHERAPIST**-Change for Living Counseling PLLC - Private Practice Owner, 111 Windel Dr, Suite 213, Raleigh, NC 27609.
- 4/05- 5/06 **PSYCHOTHERAPIST**-Carolina Partners in Mental Health, LLC, 1055 Dresser Ct., Raleigh.
Provide individual and family therapy to adults, children, couples and families in private outpatient clinic. Conduct intake evaluations, assign DSM diagnosis, develop treatment plans, complete necessary paperwork, monitor and evaluate treatment goals. Provide case management services.
- 9/04- 4/05 **SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISOR** - NC Behavioral Health Services, Raleigh NC
Develop and implement all clinical services at day treatment program for adolescents and clinical services at alternative school, including program materials, policies, and behavioral system. Provide individual/group/family treatment to adolescents at alternative school. Conduct psychiatric evaluations and individual/family/group treatment at mental health clinic for clients of all ages/backgrounds. Provide child and family treatment to children of mother's in substance abuse recovery. Assist with contract and grant management and writing. Supervise staff.
- 4/03- 9/04 **TEAM LEADER/MANAGER** – Telecare Durham ACTT, Durham NC
Manage daily operations at community based program for SMI client population of 108. Supervision to seven clinicians, including RN. Provide individual, family and group therapy, CBS, case management, case management and crisis/triage to clients. Develop community resources. Liaison with other agencies. Chart review and audits to maintain Medicaid, HIPAA and corporate compliance. Shift management. Interview, train, manage and evaluate staff. Maintain agency resources. Lead clinical meetings and oversight of all clinical operations. 24 hour O/C supervision.
- 12/99- 4/03 **CLINICAL CARE MANAGER** - Value Options, RTP, N.C.
Provide clinical management of out patient and higher levels of care for managed care company. Review clinical care provided to a variety of clients throughout country to ensure clinically appropriate/effective treatment to members with complex mental health and substance abuse issues, including North Carolina Medicaid clients.
- 8/98- 10/99 **REGIONAL DIRECTOR** - Institute for Family Centered Services, Raleigh, N.C.
Manage regional operations of intensive in-home family therapy program. Annual operating budget of \$700,000. Clinical supervision of up to fifteen Master's level clinicians. Coordinate all services. Review all documentation to ensure Medicaid compliance. Manage all financial aspects of five county region, including billing, granting writing, program development and expansion, diversification of funding, and marketing. Recruit, hire and train all new staff. 24 hour O/C supervision of staff and program.

M. TOPAL CV

9/94-
7/98

PROGRAM COORDINATOR - Wrenn House/Homesteaders, Haven House, Raleigh

Provide clinical supervision to direct care staff of two crisis intervention programs; runaway/homeless/crisis shelter for youth and their families and in home family preservation program. Programs included 24 hour crisis phone line, providing basic needs for youth in shelter, and individual and family counseling. Interview, hire, train and evaluate staff. Provide direct care to youth and families, including treatment planning and case management. Maintain shelter facility. Ensure programs compliance with requirements of funding sources, including Medicaid.

1994
Summer

SOCIAL WORK INTERN/THERAPIST - Johnston County Mental Health Center, N.C.

Provide individual and family therapy to children and families in community child mental health center. Inpatient and outpatient caseload. Conduct initial screenings, biopsychosocial assessment, and determine dsm diagnosis. Develop treatment plans, monitor and evaluate treatment goals. Provide case management service. Community outreach education about mental health issues. Train staff and develop procedures to provide services to deaf clients.

10/94-
10/99

PROGRAM DIRECTOR/GROUP FACILITATOR-A Safer Place Youth Network (ASPN)

Assist with facilitation of group meetings for program helping LGBTQ youth ages 14-21 years old in Triangle area work on sexual orientation/identity issues. Provide phone information to all consumers, including young people and parents. Program development including, outreach and educational materials, training materials/program, volunteer recruitment and coordination, fundraising activities, program policies and procedures. Also plan, supervise and coordinate youth activities, collaborate with other community agencies and respond and coordinate education and outreach activities in the community.

1993
Summer

SOCIAL WORK INTERN - AIDS Service Agency, Raleigh, N.C.

Assist with providing client services and agency evaluation for community based non-profit agency serving people with HIV disease. Develop tools and conduct community needs assessment to assist agency in three year strategic plan. Provide client intake, assessment, crisis intervention, short term counseling, case management and advocacy for case load of agency clients. Assist with community education and volunteer training programs. Participate in staff and agency board meetings. Develop and implement agency's procedures and staff training to ensure services to the deaf.

5/88-
10/93

SHIFT SUPERVISOR and INFORMATION SPECIALIST- American Social Health Assoc, *Centers for Disease Control's National AIDS & STD Hotlines*, RTP, N.C.

Supervised and evaluated information specialists on CDC national information and referral hotline. Trained in supervisory skills to manage daily activities of hotline. Provide back up to line workers on difficult calls. Interview, hire and train all new staff. Research and develop information on sexually transmitted diseases for CDC's hotline. Design and develop training program and manual. Data base upkeep.

10/86-
9/90

WAIT PERSON - Irregardless Café, Morgan Street, Raleigh, NC.

7/85-
7/86

CHILD CARE WORKER- Jewish Care Assoc, *Pleasantville Cottage School Residential Treatment*, and New York Foundling Hospital, *St. Agathas Children's Group Home*, N.Y.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS: American Sign Language. TTY/TDD. Website development/maintenance.