

SANDRA HARRISON

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COUNSELOR ~ SOCIAL WORKER ~ EDUCATOR

Non-Profit / Counseling / Program Development & Management

Compassionate, knowledgeable counselor and social worker with broad-based experience in program development, community education, and training in the field of domestic violence, posttraumatic stress, health issues, and managing work and phase of life transitions. In addition, serve an expert public speaker and trainer in the area of men's and women's issues.

Counseling Experience:

- Domestic Violence
- Child, Adolescent & Family Counseling
- Women's Issues
- Therapeutic & Support Groups
- Individual
- Hotline & Crisis Intervention
- Teenage Dating Violence
- Multicultural Counseling

Teaching & Program Development:

- Public Speaking & Presentations
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Multi-media
- Community Education
- Infant Syndrome Programs
- Computers

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Master of Arts in Counselor Education Community Agency Counseling
KEAN COLLEGE – Union, NJ

Master of Science in Education
Bachelor of Science in Education
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – Albany, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Currently performing volunteer work and public speaking through local agencies and crisis centers.
Coordinated with Squibb to initiate and deliver a program on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder on the Frontline.

YWCA OF EASTERN MONMOUTH COUNTY – Monmouth County, NJ
Director of Outreach Services, 2010 - 2022

Provided assistance to walk-in clients in a busy shelter for battered women. Counseled women, teens, and children. Participated in program development and management. Supervised a staff of 15 volunteers and one paid legal advocate. Communicated expertise relating to current issues in the field of domestic violence. Attended conferences, training programs, and educational seminars related to counseling.

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*Professional Experience Continued****Program Development & Management:***

- **Clothesline Project.** Worked in conjunction with Kean University to initiate the “Clothesline” project through which battered women and children designed t-shirts with various designs promoting the awareness of battering and abuse.
- **Public Speaking.** As a proficient public speaker, presented more than 40 lectures and speeches per year at schools, colleges, and civic organizations to educate people about battering and abuse.
- **Men Against Violence.** Supervised men’s group composed of men who were batterers. Maintained responsibility for calls and intake of men. Performed administrative tasks including filing and communications.

CENTER FOR WOMEN – Newark, NJ
Counselor, 2020 - Present

Performed diverse services and program development for a volunteer organization that specialized in program research, education, advocacy, and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to ensure their individual rights.

Program Development & Management:

- **Families-in-Transition Program.** Facilitated support groups of mothers, separated or divorced, and their children to help adjust to their present situations. Provide families with a safe environment.
- **Domestic Violence Support Services Teenage Dating Violence Program.** Taught a two-day multi-media presentation with discussion in high school health classes in Essex County about domestic violence and teenage dating violence. Stressed importance of stopping cycle of violence and encouraging healthy relationships. The program was aimed to educate young men and women about patterns of abuse, to present alternatives to violent behavior and point out resources for obtaining help.
- **Project GRO (Groups Reaching Out).** Facilitated peer support discussion groups for women who share common concerns including divorce, widow, aging parents, and health.
- **W.I.S.H. (Women in Self-Help).** Assisted in manning confidential hotline crisis line, providing information and referrals.
- **National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.** Participated and completed training as a speaker for Shaken Baby Syndrome.

PROJECT PROTECT WOMEN’S SHELTER – YMCA – Perth Amboy, NJ
JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN’S SERVICE, INC. – New Brunswick, NJ
Counselor, 2015 - 2018

Counseled homeless, victims of domestic violence, and recovering victims of drug and alcoholism with children. Conducted individual counseling with DV outreach clients and residential clients in the shelter. Served as individual counselor for adolescents living at the shelter. Oversaw Hotline Crisis Line, information, and referrals. Facilitated domestic violence support group. Interacted daily with clients. Performed crisis management intervention. Managed client documentation, intake, and discharge. Attended and participated in all staff meetings.