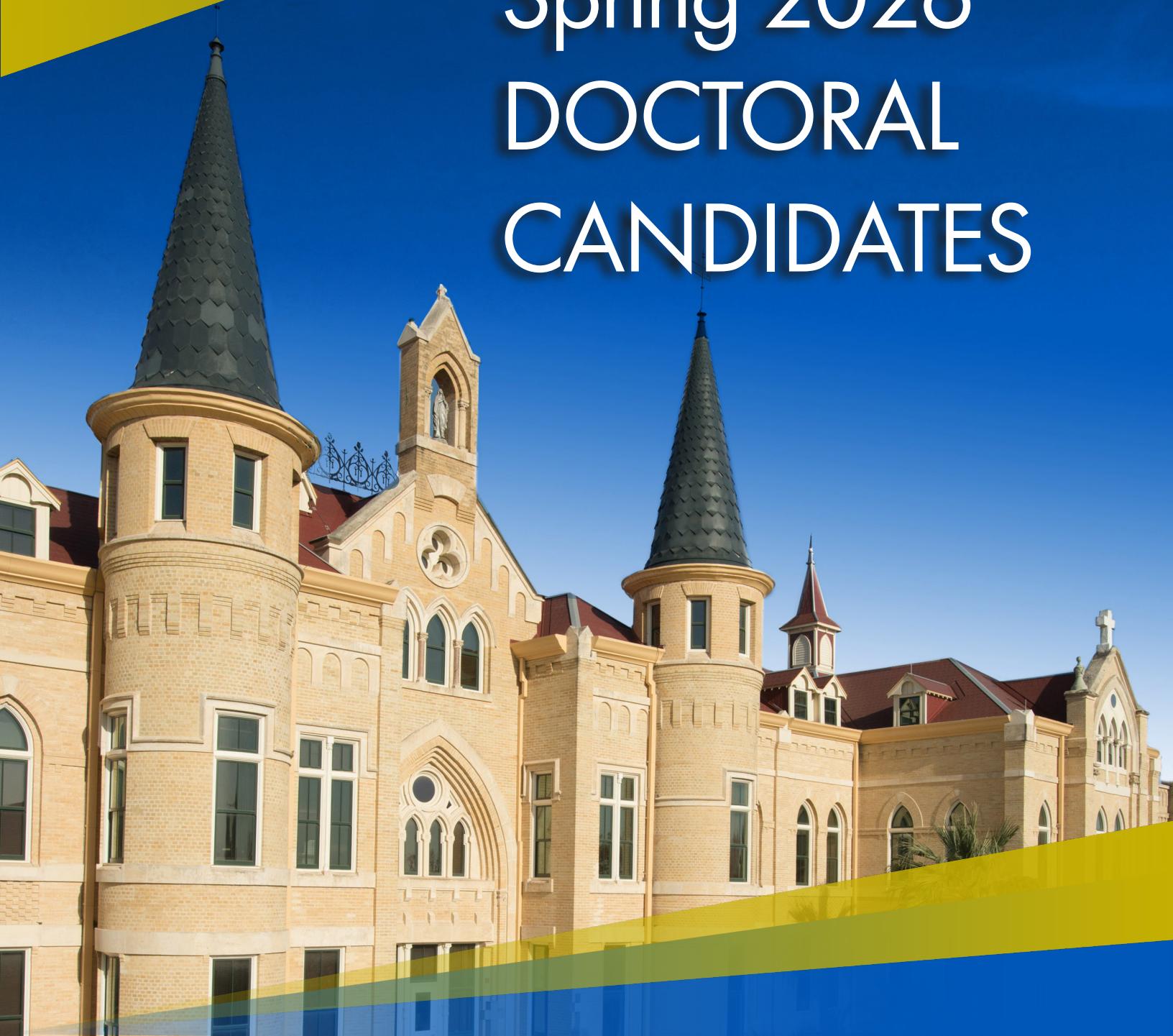




# Spring 2026 DOCTORAL CANDIDATES





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## **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE WORDEN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE**

The Worden School of Social Service is proud to introduce this year's Ph.D. Candidates who are ready to begin a new chapter in their careers.

Their achievements are many, and I am grateful for the representation they have given to Our Lady of the Lake University in the multiple venues in which they have presented and published. There is no doubt that these Ph.D. Candidates will continue to shine brightly in their careers and new employments as their critical work will challenge systemic barriers and give incredible value in the lives of individuals, families, and communities as they continue to promote, advocate, and educate through their research interests for a better and stronger social system.

Their professionalism and deep, personal interest and expertise in their research area distinguishes them as key motivators in the effectiveness in teaching others as educators with a knowledge and drive to be ready to succeed in a rigorous academic environment. I welcome you to take time to review the Ph.D. Candidates CV's and their research interest of these amazing scholars. They are strong academic applicants and ready to meet you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gallegos Ph.D., MSW  
Director  
Associate Professor  
Worden School of Social Service  
Our Lady of the Lake University



## LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I am pleased to introduce the distinguished PhD graduates and candidates from the Worden School of Social Service at Our Lady of the Lake University who are seeking academic appointments beginning in Fall 2025.

These scholars reflect the intellectual rigor and continued growth of our program, and they demonstrate a strong readiness to contribute to the advancement of social work education and research.

Since its founding in 1895, Our Lady of the Lake University has developed as a liberal arts institution that serves a diverse student body across San Antonio, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley. The PhD program in the Worden School of Social Service was established to respond to the evolving needs of the discipline and to prepare scholars for influential roles in research, teaching, and service. The program places particular emphasis on preparing individuals who can advance the missions of minority serving institutions and address complex social challenges through evidence informed inquiry.

This year's cohort offers substantial expertise in areas central to current academic and practice conversations. Their research engages chronic pain, prenatal care and maternal mental health, case management effectiveness, spirituality and social work, loneliness, and social isolation. Their training includes advanced methodological preparation and a strong grounding in theory, inquiry, and applied scholarship. Each candidate brings a forward looking perspective shaped by a commitment to equity and a clear intention to improve the wellbeing of historically marginalized communities.

I encourage you to review the profiles presented in this document and consider how these emerging scholars might support the strategic goals and teaching needs of your institution. Their scholarly achievements, teaching experience, and dedication to service position them to become valuable colleagues and contributors to the broader academic community. Should you wish to learn more about any of our graduates or candidates, I would be pleased to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Alegranta Felleke, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D. Program Director  
Worden School of Social Service  
Our Lady of the Lake University

# SANDRA BRISEÑO-ROSAS

MPA, MSW, LCSW-S

McALLEN, TX AREA



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## EDUCATION

**2022 - 2026** [Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX](#)

**2017 - 2018** [Master of Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX](#)  
Specialization: Service to Hispanic Children and Family

**1999 - 2003** [Bachelor of Science in Social Work, The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX](#)

## BIO:

Sandra Briseño-Rosas has over 20 years of experience in higher education. She currently serves as an Academic Advisor for the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University and teaches a first-year student success seminar. Previously, she coordinated college readiness for TRIO's Upward Bound Math and Science program at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, supporting first-generation Hispanic students. Her background includes outreach in Texas-Mexico border colonias and work with Mujeres Unidas and Southwest Keys. Sandra holds degrees in Social Work and is a Doctoral Candidate at Our Lady of the Lake University. Her research focuses on faculty diversity, BIPOC student challenges, and first-generation college access.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

**Felleke, A., Moorehead, L., Briseno-Rosas, S. & Smith, T. (2024)** Por Los Ninos. Annual Research Report. Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Services

### IN REVIEW:

**Najera, K. & Briseno-Rosas, S. (2025)**. Loneliness among Hispanic First - Generation Undergraduate Students: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Barriers Contributing to Social Isolation. Manuscript submitted  
**Briseno-Rosas, S., Najera, K. & Dollinger, R. (2024)**. Stress and Unrecognized Resilience: A Phenomenological Approach to Navigating the Journey of Hispanic First – Generation Undergraduate Students in Higher Education. *Manuscript submitted*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant**, Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Services  
Summer 2023- Present

Research Project: Trauma-informed mental health services for at-risk children and families, early intervention training for Child Protective Services (CPS) staff, and child mental health outcomes.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Texas A&M University, McAllen, Texas**

**Academic Advisor IV**

March 2023-Present

- Advises and supports general engineering students; reviews records for course recommendations; monitors progress and verifies degree completion. Assists with registration changes and maintains advising records. Prepares and delivers student success content and First-Year Engineering Seminar courses. Refers students to campus resources and creates recruitment presentations for visiting groups.

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Upward Bound Math and Science, Edinburg, Texas**

**College Readiness Coordinator**

November 2003-February 2023

- Recruit and select students; provide academic and career counseling and support services. Plan academic, social, and cultural activities; develop college readiness curriculum for after-school and Saturday sessions. Assist with admissions, financial aid, and college entrance exams (ACT, SAT, TSI). Maintain student database and compile reports for the Department of Education. Supervise office assistants/work-study students and manage tutoring programs. Coordinate annual STEM Summer Research Institute, including staffing, workshops, documentation, waivers, and supplies. Achieved 100% GPA above 3.0, 100% test standards met, and strong post-secondary enrollment and graduation rates. Supported Gates, Dell, and other scholarship recipients.

**Southwest Keys; Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, McAllen, Texas**

**Graduate Social Work Internship- Case Manager**

October 2017 - May 2018

- Monitored students during meals; coordinated cases and documented notes in ETO database, including parent calls on absences and behavior. Maintained and secured student files; entered intake/discharge data. Led individual and group counseling sessions on drug/alcohol prevention, stress management, healthy choices, goal setting, and career/education planning. Proctored IOWA exams and managed academic progress for students completing high school credit modules.

**Mujeres Unidas, McAllen, Texas**

**Undergraduate Social Work Internship- Counseling and Crisis Advocate**

January 2003-May 2003

- Conducted initial assessments for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Facilitated support groups for women and children. Organized Sexual Assault Awareness Month projects. Delivered career and educational assessments, resume workshops, and employment resources. Assisted clients with goal setting and financial management tools.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Texas A&M University, McAllen, Texas, Instructor**

Course Terms: Fall 2023 Sections M01 & M02, Spring 2024 Section M01, Fall 2024 Section M01, Fall 2025 Sections M01 & M02

- Engineering Learning Community & Student Success Seminar (CLEN 181) Facilitated a first-year seminar designed to support incoming engineering students, with a particular focus on the needs of first-generation college students. The course aimed to ease the transition to university life and promote academic success through inclusive pedagogy and active learning strategies. Delivered engaging instruction on key topics such as engineering disciplines, effective study habits, and navigation of university resources. As students advanced through the engineering curriculum, the seminar evolved to include academic planning, career exploration, and professional development. Fostered a collaborative and supportive classroom environment that encouraged critical thinking, peer engagement, and a strong sense of belonging within the engineering community.

### **Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas, Adjunct Instructor**

Course Term: Fall 2023

Social Work Practice: Hispanic Children and Family (SOWK 7334)

- This course equips students with the foundational knowledge and applied skills necessary for effective social work practice with Hispanic children and families. Emphasis is placed on theoretical frameworks, cultural perspectives, and evidence-informed approaches to engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Students explored research and practice strategies tailored to the unique needs and strengths of Hispanic communities, fostering culturally competent and responsive social work practice.

### **Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas, Teaching Assistant**

Course Term: Summer 2023

Social Work Practice: Hispanic Elders (SOWK 7332)

- This course prepares students for culturally responsive social work practice with Hispanic youth. It emphasizes the integration of cultural understanding, theoretical foundations, client engagement, comprehensive assessment, intervention planning, and outcome evaluation. Students have the ability to explore practice approaches that are tailored to the unique experiences and needs of Hispanic youth within diverse social contexts.

### **Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas, Teaching Assistant**

Course Term: Spring 2023

Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Social Systems (SOWK 6331)

- Explores the theoretical foundations of human behavior through a social systems and ecological lens, emphasizing the dynamic and reciprocal interactions among individuals, groups, organizations, and communities. This course focused on how behavioral patterns and social dynamics are shaped by interconnected systems and environments.

## AWARDS

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The University of Texas-Pan American 5-Year Service award  
The Texas Association Student Special Services Program 5-year TRIO Service Award  
The University of Texas-Pan American 10-Year Service Award  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 15-Year Service Award

## DOCTORAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Cafecitos	Year 2022-23
Going to the Job Market with Dr. Hawley-Bernardez	September 28, 2022
CVs and Cover Letters with Dr. Hawley-Bernardez	October 26, 2022
How to Plan and Organize your Dissertation with Dr. Hawley Bernardez	November 20. 2022
How to Submit a Conference Proposal with Dr. Andre	February 22, 2023
Job Offer Negotiations with Dr. Robles	March 29, 2923
Authorship with Dr. Patton	April 26, 2023

## LANGUAGES

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English – Native Language  
Spanish- Speak basic level of reading/writing comprehension.

## INTERESTS

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Frist-generation students, Hispanic children and families, Post-secondary education, First year college readiness among entering freshmen, Retention, Advising models

# RYAN C. DOLLINGER

MPA, MSW, LCSW-S  
LAYTON, UT AREA



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## EDUCATION

2022 - 2026	<b>Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX</b>
2018	<b>Master of Social Work, Texas State University, San Antonio, TX</b>
2017	<b>Master of Public Administration, UT Arlington, TX</b> <b>Certificate of Urban Nonprofit Management, UT Arlington, TX</b>
2009	<b>Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX</b>

## LICENSURE

Texas License Number 61530, Issued 8/30/2021. & Supervisor Designation, Issued 8/15/2023.  
Idaho License Number 62714, Issued 3/14/2025 & Supervisor Designation Issued 3/20/2025  
Utah License Number 14212708-350, Issued 3/24/205

## BIO

Ryan Dollinger is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Designated Supervisor who completed his Bachelor of Social Work at Lamar University, Master of Public Administration and Certification of Urban Non-Profit Management at The University of Texas at Arlington, and Master of Social Work at Texas State University. His eleven years of direct practice experience includes veteran's healthcare, substance misuse, mental health, crisis intervention, aging, inpatient and outpatient healthcare, case management, and private practice. He currently works for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and serves as an Instructor of Social Work at Texas Southern University. Ryan's research interests include clients transitioning from systems, primarily healthcare systems, health disparities, the wellbeing of low income families, emergency mental health, and enhancing case management services.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Veteran Affairs Healthcare System**

#### **Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Patient Aligned Care Team, September 2025-Present**

Manages complex cases with advanced clinical judgment to remove psychosocial barriers, improve access, and deliver patient-centered care. Provides comprehensive assessments, evidence-based interventions, crisis stabilization, and geriatric-focused services for high-risk populations. Serves on interdisciplinary teams to lead care planning, ensure continuity, and maintain accurate documentation. Mentors staff and trainees; coordinates community resources to enhance Veteran outcomes. Applies data analysis and quality improvement to monitor outcomes and drive system-level improvements while managing a complex caseload and providing expert crisis intervention.

### **North Texas Veteran Affairs Healthcare System**

#### **Supervisory Social Worker, High Risk & Specialty Clinics, October 2023-May 2025**

- Supervises seven staff across multiple GS levels for the High Risk & Specialty Clinics team, including CCICM, ALS, Nephrology, CHF, Endocrine/Diabetes, Pulmonary, Geriatric PACT, Maternity, Day Surgery/Pre-Op, and Infectious Disease. Provides administrative, technical, and clinical oversight, including performance management, training, and quality assurance. Establishes standards, evaluates staff, resolves complaints, and implements disciplinary actions as needed. Ensures compliance with Joint Commission, CARF, and VA documentation standards. Collaborates with interdisciplinary teams to maintain professional practice standards and optimize Veteran care. Oversees staffing plans, recruitment, and personnel actions for assigned programs

### **Houston Texas Veteran Affairs Healthcare System**

#### **Post 9/11 Military (M2VA) Case Management & Post Deployment Clinic Integrated Mental Health Provider, November 2021- October 2023**

- Independently conducts comprehensive mental health assessments, diagnoses (DSM), treatment planning, and case management for Post-9/11 Veterans and transitioning Service Members in the M2VA program and Post Deployment Clinic. Provides individual, group, and family evidence-based psychotherapy, crisis intervention, and outcome measurement. Identifies high-risk Veterans, coordinates care, and consults with multidisciplinary teams on psychosocial needs. Completes measurement-based assessments (e.g., depression, PTSD, substance use) per VA standards. Collaborates with DoD facilities for referrals and ensures continuity of care. Facilitates internal/external referrals, educates on VA benefits, and participates in data collection and quality improvement initiatives.

### **West Texas Veteran Affairs Healthcare System**

#### **Acting HCHV Program Manager / Substance Use Disorder Specialist / Licensed Clinical Social Worker, November 2020- November 2021**

- Served as Acting Program Manager supervising 19 staff across multiple GS levels for the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV), including HUD/VASH, VJO, SUDS, CEC, HCRV, HMA, and PSA. Provided administrative and clinical oversight, performance management, and quality assurance. Conducted psychosocial assessments, DSM-based diagnoses, case management, and counseling for Veterans with mental illness, substance use, and homelessness. Delivered evidence-based individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, and care coordination. Consulted with interdisciplinary teams, facilitated referrals, ensured compliance with VA standards, and provided on-call coverage.

#### **Adjunct Instructor of Social Work, January 2020- Present • Teaches undergraduate social work courses in the Department of Social Work at Texas Southern University.**

#### **Social Worker, Volunteer Coordinator, and Bereavement Supervisor, February 2018 – November 2020.**

Supervised 10 staff and managed social work, volunteer, bereavement, chaplaincy, and nurse aide services to ensure organizational compliance with state and federal guidelines. Delivered training and in-services for interdisciplinary teams. Provided psychosocial support, treatment planning, and counseling for patients and families coping with terminal illness. Conducted comprehensive assessments, case management, and individual/group sessions to address grief and end-of-life needs.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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### THE WOOD GROUP CRISIS RESIDENTIAL UNIT

#### On Call Administrator/ Qualified Mental Health Professional II, October 2016 – June 2019

- Supervised operations within both crisis residential and crisis respite residential mental health programs including supervision of 13 mental health technicians, 2 nurses, and 5 licensed mental health professionals.
- Authorize/Deny admission to the inpatient crisis residential and/or crisis respite center based on medical necessity.
- Perform comprehensive psychosocial assessments, case management, and counseling services for clients with mental illness, substance abuse recovery, homelessness, and other identified needs.

### BAPTIST HOSPITALS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

#### Social Worker, January 2015 – March 2018

- Intervenes with patients who have complex psychosocial needs, require assistance with eligibility determination for social programs and funding sources and qualify for community assistance from a variety of special funds and agencies.
- Provide crisis intervention to patients and families with psychosocial needs and coordinates and facilitates the development of a discharge plan of care for high risk patient populations.
- Supervised 4 social service patient navigators, as a member of the social service management team.
- Served on the Hospital Ethics Committee and Patient Safety Committee.

### PINDLETOP CENTER

#### Qualified Mental Health Professional III, Oct 2015 – October 2017

- Interviewing and making clinical determination of mental status, suicidality, homicidally or self-neglect of persons who enter the emergency room or correctional facility either voluntarily or involuntarily.
- Coordinates and/ or authorizes admission to the inpatient behavioral hospital, crisis stabilization unit, and crisis residential center.
- Responds immediately on-site where a psychiatric crisis is occurring responding to calls from within the community, or within the emergency room.
- Provides and/ or refers to appropriate crisis follow-up transitional services to consumers in accordance with the individual plan of care.

### THE WOOD GROUP CRISIS RESIDENTIAL UNIT

#### Qualified Mental Health Professional II, October 2014 – October 2015

- Counsel clients in individual and group sessions to assist them in dealing with substance abuse, mental or physical illness, poverty, unemployment, or physical abuse. Assist clients in adhering to treatment plans, such as setting up appointments, arranging for transportation to appointments, or providing support.
- Refer clients and/or family members to community resources for housing or treatment to assist in recovery from substance abuse and/or mental illness, following through to ensure service efficacy.

### TEXAS TREATMENT SERVICES

#### Substance Abuse Counselor, September 2014 – February 2015

- Counsel clients or patients, individually or in group sessions, to assist in overcoming substance abuse dependencies, adjusting to life, or making changes.
- Complete and maintain accurate records or reports regarding the patients' histories and progress, services provided, or other required information.
- Develop client treatment plans based on research, clinical experience, and client histories.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

- SOCW 360- Research Design & Ethics for Generalist Social Work Practice course provides an overview of design, analysis, and application of qualitative and quantitative research methods with a focus on utilization of research for evidenced- based social worker generalist practice.
- SOCW 448 – Seminar in Social Welfare: International Social Work course provides an exploration of the specialty area of international social work and human rights, with specific focus on international social justice issues
- SOCW 448 – Seminar in Social Work: Spirituality in Social Work Practice course provides an in-depth comprehensive exploration of spirituality in social work practice across all social system levels with a focus on individual and family.
- SOCW 450 - Social Work Practice Research & Evaluation course provides an application of empirical measurements to determine the effectiveness of one's own practice and evaluation of practice skills, policy implementation, program service, and self-assessment.
- SOCW 340 – Seminar in Helping: Examination and discussion of motives, value orientations, and approaches used in helping with emphasis on self-awareness, interviewing, observation, data management, and integration as key tools in the helping process.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Dollinger, R. (2025) *Predictors of Substance Abuse Treatment Completion: An Analysis of Demographic and Behavioral Factors*. Submitted to the Journal of Substance Abuse Practice. Under Review.

Rosas, R., Najera, K., Dollinger, R. (2024) *Stress and Unrecognized Resilience: A Phenomenological Approach of Navigating the Journey of Hispanic First Generation Undergraduate Students in Higher Education*. Submitted. Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work. Under Review.

Dollinger, R. (2003). Op-Ed. "Schools need more social workers, not fewer". Beaumont Enterprise, September 6.

<https://www.beaumontenterprise.com/opinions/letters/article/schools-need-social-workers-fewer-18348684.php>

## AWARDS

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- 2024 HRO In Action Award, North Texas VA Healthcare System
- 2023 Rising Star, Houston VA Healthcare System
- 2021 Individual Performance Cash Award for Substantial CARF Contribution, West Texas VA Healthcare System
- 2021 Group Performance Cash Award for COVID-19 Response Team, West Texas VA Healthcare System
- 2020 COVID-19 Response Team Challenge Coin, West Texas VA Healthcare System 2020 Bronze Touchstone Award, Kindred at Home
- 2019 Distinguished Graduate Award, International Student Foundation
- 2017 Inducted into Phi Alpha, National Social Work Honor Society
- 2016 Employee of the Month, Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas
- 2012 President's Year-Round Growth Award, Lions Club International
- 2009 Outstanding Young Leader Award, Foster Club
- 2009 Volunteer of the Year, Foster Care Alumni of America

# JANET ESPINOZA

MSW, LCSW

LAS CRUCES, NM AREA



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espjanet@nmsu.edu

## EDUCATION

2022 - 2026	<b>Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX</b> Proposed Dissertation Topic: Experiences of Bilingual Families of Children with Autism: Navigating Language, Identity, and Systems Interactions
2018-2019	<b>Master of Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University</b> San Antonio, TX
2014 - 2017	<b>Bachelor of Science, Social Work, New Mexico State University, LC, NM</b>

## LICENSURE:

Licensed Clinical Social Worker-NM SWB-2022-1162 Exp 07/01/2024  
NM Board Approved Clinical Social Work Supervisor (March 2023)  
NM Board Approved Licensed Mental Health Counselor Supervisor (June 2025)

## BIO

Janet is a fourth-year PhD candidate in Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in New Mexico with six years of experience as a mental health clinician in clinic and acute care settings. Janet currently serves as a Clinical Supervisor at The Community Light House and Visiting Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from New Mexico State University in 2017 and her Master's from Our Lady of the Lake University in 2019. Her research interests include children's mental health, autism, Latinx populations, and social work education.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Bobadilla, T. & Espinoza, J. (2025) *Empowering Latina mothers: culturally informed strategies for supporting children with autism spectrum disorder*. Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2025.2524348>
- Bobadilla, T., Hebert, E., Espinoza, J. (2024) *Exploring Professionals' Lived Experiences in the Field of Autism*. Journal of Social Science Research. <https://doi.org/10.24297/jssr.v20i.9564>
- Espinoza, J. & Weekes, A. (2024) *What does TikTok have to do with it? Experiences of Young Adults with Social Media and Life Satisfaction: A Qualitative Analysis*. Journal of Social Science Research. <https://doi.org/10.24297/jssr.v20i.9621>

## PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

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- Espinoza, J. & Hawley-Bernardez, A., (Submitted April 2024 to Journal of Social Work Education) *Teletherapy vs. in-person therapy. Considerations and Training Needs for Social Work Students*.
- Bobadilla, T., Hebert, E., Fisher, C., Espinoza, J., (Submitted November 2024 to Journal of Higher Education) *Understanding Autism Knowledge and Attitudes Among University Students: Towards Inclusive Education and Support*.
- Espinoza, J. (In preparation, 202\*) *Special Education and Early Intervention Service Utilization Among the Hispanic Population in the US*.
- Bobadilla, T., Goller, L., Espinoza, J (In preparation, 202\*). Navigating Ethical and Practical Challenges: An Analysis of Business and Social Work Models in Clinical Settings. Submitted to *Health & Social Work. A Journal of the National Association of Social Workers*.
- Bobadilla, T. Goller, L., Espinoza, J (In preparation, 202\*). Reviving the Concept of the Use of Self in Social Work Practice. Submitted to the *Journal of Social Work Practice*
- Espinoza, J. & Weekes, A., (In preparation, 202\*) *Social Work Faculty's Integration of Spirituality and Religion into Social Work Curriculum: A Mixed Methods Study*.
- Bobadilla, T., Espinoza, J (In preparation, 202\*). *White Students' Perspectives in Education: A Qualitative Inquiry*.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **March 2024-Current | New Mexico State University | Las Cruces, NM**

#### **Advanced Practice with Individuals | MSW**

- Delivered in-person instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Advanced Practice with Families | MSW**

- Delivered in-person instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Generalist Practice with Groups | BSW**

- Delivered in-person instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Mental Health in Social Work Practice | MSW**

- Developed course through the Course Development Institute

- Delivered in-person instruction and facilitated course content delivery

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Sociocultural Concepts | BSW**

- Delivered in-person instruction and facilitated course content delivery

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Advanced Practice with Communities & Organizations | MSW**

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (Online) | MSW**

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

### **August 2023-March 2024 | Our Lady of the Lake University | San Antonio, TX**

#### **Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Individuals and Families | MSW**

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

#### **Social Work Practice with Hispanic Children and Families | MSW**

- Delivered virtual instruction and facilitated course content delivery

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Fall 2024-Spring 2025**, Our Lady of the Lake University, PhD Student.

Qualitative data collection and analysis involving in-depth interviews with faculty in university social work departments. Quantitative data collection and analysis, involving structured surveys of faculty in university social work departments.

Employed a mixed-methods research design to integrate qualitative insights and quantitative findings for a comprehensive understanding of faculty perspectives.

**Fall 2023**, New Mexico State University, Assistant Professor.

Quantitative data analysis of University Students' Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Autism

**Fall 2023**, New Mexico State University, Assistant Professor.

Quantitative analysis of pre- and post-survey data from an Interprofessional Immersion training.

**Fall 2023**, Our Lady of the Lake University, PhD Student.

Quantitative secondary data analysis of special education and early intervention service utilization among U.S. Hispanic population from the 2021 National Survey of Children's Health

**Spring 2023**, Our Lady of the Lake University, PhD Student.

Qualitative data collection and analysis, including interviews of young adults who are TikTok users.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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**Visiting Assistant Professor | New Mexico State University | March 2024 - Present**

- Foster a positive and inclusive learning environment that promotes respect, diversity, and cultural sensitivity.
- Collaborate with fellow faculty members to develop and enhance the curriculum
- Offer individualized support to students through office hours or online communication platforms. Maintain accurate records of student attendance, grades, and other relevant information
- Create and assess course materials, including syllabi, assignments, and exams
- Design and implement effective teaching strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of students. Facilitate meaningful classroom discussions and encourage student participation
- Provide constructive feedback and guidance to students to enhance their learning and professional development
- Adhere to university policies and guidelines regarding academic integrity and professional conduct.

**Lead Clinician | The Community Lighthouse | January 2025-Present**

- Provide clinical supervision to master level clinicians
- Deliver direct evidence-based interventions for individual and family therapy in alignment with clients' clinical needs while tracking and evaluating progress toward treatment goals
- Offer face-to-face and telehealth services to clients and build strong relationships with children, adults, families, and community agencies
- Maintain accurate progress notes and adhere to billing deadlines while effectively implementing critical thinking and writing skills.

### **Lead Clinician | Alegria Family Counseling | December 2020 - January 2025**

- Provide clinical supervision to master level clinicians and conduct clinical evaluations to determine service needs, diagnoses, and treatment planning.
- Deliver direct evidence-based interventions for individual and family therapy in alignment with clients' clinical needs while tracking and evaluating progress toward treatment goals
- Offer face-to-face and telehealth services to clients and build strong relationships with children, adults, families, and community agencies.
- Participate in weekly supervision and monthly clinical collaborations with community organizations
- Maintain accurate progress notes and adhere to billing deadlines while effectively implementing critical thinking and writing skills. Mentor MSW interns to support their professional growth and development

### **Adjunct Faculty | Our Lady of the Lake University | August 2023 - March 2024**

- Foster a positive, inclusive learning environment promoting respect, diversity, and cultural sensitivity.
- Collaborate with fellow faculty members to develop and enhance the curriculum.
- Offer individualized support to students through office hours or online communication platforms.
- Maintain accurate records of student attendance, grades, and other relevant information.
- Create and assess course materials, including syllabi, assignments, and exams
- Design and implement effective teaching strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of students.
- Facilitate meaningful classroom discussions and encourage student participation.
- Provide constructive feedback and guidance to students to enhance their learning and professional development.
- Adhere to university policies and guidelines regarding academic integrity and professional conduct.

### **Therapist | Mesilla Valley Hospital | FEB. 2020 - FEB.2023**

- Conduct psychosocial assessments of admitting patients and collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to develop treatment goals and plans tailored to individual needs.
- Provide individual, family, and group therapy aligned with the clinical needs of the patient or population while continuously tracking and evaluating progress toward treatment goals.
- Support patients in discharge planning and aftercare coordination to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of care.

### **Service Coordinator/CSS Supervisor | Tresco INC | APR. 2019 – FEB. 2020**

- Coordinate and facilitate the development, implementation, and modification of Individualized Service Plans (ISPs) while ensuring accurate documentation and effective execution of service plans (ISP/IFSP)
- Serve as on-call on a rotating schedule to provide support as needed
- Supervise, mentor, and evaluate assigned staff performance to promote professional growth and ensure high-quality service delivery

### **Family Outreach Worker | NMSU-Dona Ana County Head Start | AUG. 2017 – NOV. 2017**

- Actively conduct outreach for eligible children and complete the enrollment process
- Ensure completion of work in an efficient and timely manner to meet deadlines
- Engage partnerships with families to promote parent-child relationships, family well-being, and academic success
- Maintaining complete, accurate documentation on time.

# SARAH M. FARRELL

MSW, LICSW

CASSOPOLIS, MI AREA



253.365.3290



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## EDUCATION

**2022 - 2025      Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX**

**2014      Master of Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA**  
Mental Health Concentration

**2011      Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Sciences, Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE**

**2010      Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts, Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest, CA**

## BIO:

Sarah M. Farrell (she/her/hers) spent the first decade of her career in clinical practice, working with diverse clientele. She returned to academia to focus on answering unanswered questions. She has experience in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research.

Focused on bringing both sound empirical knowledge and validating qualitative research to her work, she set out to better understand the phenomenon of religious trauma. She works as an assistant professor at St. Mary's college, teaching along the continuum of courses. Her teaching and research work both seek to decolonize and deconstruct within education.

## TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

CITI Human Research • Curriculum CITI Internet Research • Motivational interviewing

Cognitive behavioral therapy • Problem-solving therapy • Solution-focused therapy

Crisis intervention • Tutor training • Crucible Institute training on treating extra-marital affairs in therapy • Adoption Services training • Emotionally Focused Therapy Trauma Resiliency Model – Level 1 & 2 • ACUE – Culture of Belonging Course

## HONORS

Recipient of the Gladys M. Salit Award, "Recognizing Academic excellence, outstanding fieldwork performance, exceptional leadership and creativity," University of Southern California, 2015

Phi Alpha Honor Society Research Scholarship Recipient, University of Southern California, 2015

Dean's List, University of Southern California

President's List, Bellevue University

President's List, Cerro Coso Community College

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>University of Southern California</b>	<b>May 2014 – March 2015</b>
<b>School of Social Work</b>	<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>
<b>Volunteer Research Assistant</b>	
Assisted with grant applications, through editing and evaluation of adherence to guidelines. Reviewed literature sources. Assessed applicable measures. Conceptualized research questions	
Offered a biopsychosocial, systems perspective to research team. Made requested recommendations about Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative [CITI] trainings to CITI team to benefit future researchers	
<b>Our Lady of the Lake</b>	<b>June 2023 – Present</b>
<b>Worden School of Social Service</b>	<b>San Antonio, TX</b>
<b>Principal Researcher, quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods</b>	
Designed phenomenological qualitative research study. Designed multiple quantitative research studies.	
Designed mixed methods research study. Developed grant applications. Received IRB approval	
Recruited participants. Interviewed participants	
Designed quantitative research study and completed statistical analysis	
<b>Our Lady of the Lake</b>	<b>January 2024 – June 2024</b>
<b>Worden School of Social Service</b>	<b>San Antonio, TX</b>
<b>Research Assistant</b>	
Conducted literature reviews. Assisted in creating theoretical framework for AI study. Assisted in transcribing interview notes for qualitative study. Worked with a team on theoretical framework and journal selection	
Assisted in participant recruitment	
<b>St. Mary's College</b>	<b>August 2025 – Present</b>
<b>Department of Social Work and Gerontology</b>	<b>Notre Dame, IN</b>
<b>Principal Researcher</b>	
<b>Research Instructor</b>	

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Sarah Farrell, PLLC</b>	<b>March 2019 – Present</b>
<b>Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker</b>	<b>Gig Harbor, WA</b>
<b>Private Practice</b>	
<b>Seattle Christian Counseling</b>	
<b>December 2015 – November 2020</b>	
<b>Clinical Social Worker Associate – Independent Clinical Tacoma, WA</b>	
<b>Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker</b>	
<b>Independent Contractor</b>	
<b>Pregnancy Care Center</b>	<b>January 2011 – February 2015</b>
<b>Executive Director (2012 – 2015)</b>	<b>Ridgecrest, CA</b>
<b>Volunteer (2011)</b>	
<b>University of Southern California</b>	<b>May 2014 – May 2015</b>
<b>School of Social Work – Phi Alpha Honor Society</b>	<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>
<b>Executive Board Member – Virtual Academic Center Representative</b>	
<b>Ridgecrest Regional Hospital</b>	<b>January 2014 – December 2014</b>
<b>Rural Health Clinic</b>	
<b>Home Health and Hospice</b>	
<b>Transitional Care Unit</b>	
<b>Social Work Intern</b>	

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Farrell, S. M. (2024). Religious Trauma: A Phenomenological Inquiry into Impacts on Millennials. *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*, 15(2), 181-197. <https://doi.org/10.18848/2154-8633/CGP/v15i02/181-197>
- Farrell, S. M. (2025). Religious Trauma: A Non-Typology Mixed Methods Study Utilizing Phenomenology and Inferential Analysis to Inquire Into Lasting Impacts and Trauma Outcomes of Exposure to Religiosity on Evangelicals During Formative Years (Order No. 31931077). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (3181482520).
- Farrell, S. M. (2025). Religious trauma: Redefinition, attachment theory as a conceptual framework, and a path forward utilizing Ecospirituality. *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*, 44(3), 264-277. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15426432.2025.2520516>

### Submitted & Pending Publications

- Farrell, S. M. (2013). Adolescent Dating Violence: The Need for Relevant Prevention Strategies. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
- Farrell, S.M. (2024). Religiosity & Decision-Making: An Inferential Analysis of Decision-Making Amongst Individuals Based on Level of Religiosity During Formative Years. *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*. In Peer Review.
- Hawley-Bernardez, A., Patton, J., Malecha, R. A., Farrell, S.M., (2024). Exploring Doctoral Students' Perceptions of Integrating AI in Social Work Education. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. Submitted.

## PEER REVIEW AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Acted as a peer reviewer for The International Journal of Diverse Identities, the Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health, and the The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social and Community Studies.

### Presentations

- The Virtual Field Practicum: A response to the need for radical change in field education. Invited Panel Presentation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.
- Honoring Our Stories. Invited Panel Presentation. Invited Panel Presentation, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.
- Religious Trauma through the Lens of Attachment Theory. Paper Presentation, International Conference on Spirituality and Social Work, Canadian Society for Spirituality and Social Work, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Religious Trauma: A Phenomenological Inquiry into Impacts on Millennials. Paper Presentation, Fourteenth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society, Institute of Religious Studies, Madrid, Spain.
- Exploring Doctoral Students' Perceptions of Integrating Generative AI in Social Work Education. Paper Presentation, Social Work Distance Education Conference, San Antonio, Texas.
- Overcoming Personal Challenges as a PhD Student. Invited Panel Presentation, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas.
- Religiosity and Decision-Making: An Inferential Analysis of Decision Making amongst Individuals Based on Level of Religiosity During the Formative Years. Paper Presentation, Fifteenth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy. Accepted.
- Deconstructing You: An Interactive Workshop Exploring an Online, Self-Reflective Course Through the Lens of a Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Framework. Interactive Workshop. Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference. The University of Alabama School of Social Work, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

## MEMBERSHIPS

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National Association of Social Workers  
Phi Alpha Honor Society  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
American Academy of Religion

# ROY E. MALECHA

LMSW

DICKSON, TN AREA



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## EDUCATION

**2022 - 2026      Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX**

**2013              Master of Social Work, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**

**2009              Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, TN**

## LICENSURE

**Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW), Tennessee**

August 2025- Present

## BIO:

Roy Malecha is a current doctoral candidate within the Social Work PhD program at Our Lady of the Lake University, graduating in May 2026. Before being accepted at Our Lady of the Lake University, Roy obtained a BSW degree (2009) and a MSSW degree (2013). Identifying as a researcher-scholar-practitioner-teacher, Roy has nine years of experience in the field of Social Work and ten years of experience in higher education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Roy's overall area of research interest relates to the ethical integration of religion and spirituality within Social Work education and practice.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**August 2025-Present, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas**

- Lead researcher in a student-led, integrative review study exploring the current literature related to guidelines for the creation of a disability-informed spiritual-competency training for congregational leaders.

**July 2024-May 2025, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas**

- Lead researcher in a student-led, mixed-method study examining predictive factors related to identity dissonance among social work professionals identifying as spiritual and/or religious.

**July 2024-May 2025, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas**

- Lead researcher in a qualitative study examining the processes by which Catholic Sisters with an MSW degree maintain and adapt their sense of self across the adult lifespan.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Director of Field Education**, Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson/Dickson, TN

August 2018-May 2024

- Oversaw Field Education Program
- Developed and maintained connections with field agencies
- Evaluated student performance
- Documented and analyzed data regarding student performance and the performance of the overall program

**Hospital Liaison Team Leader**, Centerstone, Nashville, TN

November 2014-July 2018

- Supervised program providing services to four psychiatric hospitals within the Nashville area
- Compiled data and charted progress regarding the goals of the Liaison Program from the four hospitals in which the Liaison Program provided services using the pivot table feature in Microsoft Excel
- Developed and implemented best-practice processes and procedures that continued to guide the development of the Hospital Liaison Program

**Hospital Liaison**, Centerstone, Nashville, TN

November 2013-July 2018

- Provided coordination of care between the discharging client, hospital staff, and Centerstone staff
- Provided reminder and follow-up phone calls to clients regarding their Centerstone appointment
- Obtained and analyzed data regarding the Hospital Liaison Program

**Family Support Specialist/Therapist**, Health Connect America, Winchester, TN

May 2012-October 2013

- Provided therapeutic support to children and families
- Provided education to parents and families regarding discipline strategies
- Provided education to children and adolescents regarding A&D education

**MSSW Intern**, Amedisys Hospice, Monteagle/Chattanooga, TN

August 2012-May 2013

- Assisted various employees in the completion of their job requirements to include nursing staff, Social Work staff, and hospice chaplain
- Implemented the Quality of Life model when interacting with both staff members and patients
- Routinely visited patients who were enrolled in the hospice program

**Child Protection Services Assessor/Investigator**, Department of Children's Services, Tullahoma, TN

January 2010-March 2012

- Investigated allegations of non-severe and severe abuse
- Collaborated with parents/caregivers to address concerns within the home environment
- Collaborated with Law Enforcement to investigate allegations of severe abuse
- Linked parents/caregivers to resources within the community

**Direct Care Staff**, Tennessee Children's Home West, Pinson, TN

June 2009-October 2009

- Monitored residents at all times
- Administered medications in a safe and confidential manner
- Provided meals per policy and guidelines
- Transported residents to various activities

## TEACHING / ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson/Dickson, TN

### **Assistant Professor of Social Work**

August 2018-May 2024

#### *Undergraduate Courses*

- General Sociology
- Foundations of Social Work Practice
- Social Welfare Policies & Practices I
- Methods of Behavioral Research I
- Methods of Behavioral Research II
- Senior Social Work Seminar
- Senior Social Work Practicum

#### *Graduate Course*

- Clinical Intervention I

Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX

### **Teacher's Assistant**

Summer 2023

#### *Graduate Course*

- Social Welfare Policy and Services

Freed-Hardeman University, Dickson, TN

### **Adjunct College Education Professional**

August 2015-April 2018

#### *Undergraduate Courses*

- Practice with Individuals & Families
- Social Welfare Policies & Practices II
- Professional Communication in Social Work Practice
- Interventions with Populations at Risk

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Malecha, R. E., & Bellian, P. M. (2025, October 25). *Disabilities & congregations: Guidelines for developing a disability-informed, spiritual competency training* [Paper presentation].**

Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

**Farrell, S. M., & Malecha, R. E. (2025, April 11). *Deconstructing you: An interactive workshop exploring an online, self-reflective course through the lens of a bio-psycho-social-spiritual framework* [Conference session].**

Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, United States.

**Malecha, R. E., & Mestas-Vatterott, M. (2024, October 25). *Professional and personal identities of Christians who practice social work* [Poster presentation].**

Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Kansas City, MO, United States.

**Hawley-Bernardz, A., Patton, J., Malecha, R. E., & Farrell, S. A. (2024, April 12).**

*Exploring doctoral students' perceptions of integrating generative AI in social work education* [Conference session]. Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, San Antonio, TX, United States.

**Moorehead, L. A., Malecha, R. E., & Mestas-Vatterott, M. (2024, April 12). *The case for integrating religion and spirituality into social work distance education* [Conference session].**

Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, San Antonio, TX, United States.

**Segovia, J., Salazar-Hinojosa, L., Mestas-Vatterott, M., Smith, T., & Malecha, R. E. (2024, April 11). *Unmasking imposter syndrome: Navigating self-doubt in academic and professional settings* [Conference session].**

Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, San Antonio, TX, United States.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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Worden Doctoral Student Association (WDSA), President  
July 2025- Present

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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**The National Society of Leadership and Success**  
April 2025-Present  
**North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW)**  
February 2025- Present

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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Worden School of Social Services Award (Nomination)  
March 2023

## LANGUAGES

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English (Primary Language)  
American Sign Language (Conversational)  
Spanish (Beginner)

## INTERESTS

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Ultra-Running as it connects to the bio-psycho-social-spiritual model

# LESLIE MOOREHEAD

MSW, LICSW

PORTLAND, OR AREA



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## EDUCATION

2022 - 2026

**Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX**

Dissertation: Chronic Pain and Social and Economic Determinants of Health for Adults in the United States

Dissertation Committee: Alegnta Felleke, Ph.D. (Chair); Eden Robles, Ph.D. (Committee Member); April Viverette, Ph.D. (Committee Member)

2013- 2016

**Master of Social Work, University of Southern California**

Concentration in Mental Health

2004 - 2008

**Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, 2008**

Minor: Communications

## LICENSURE:

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (Washington), Expires 5/21/2026

Credential Number: LW61633579

## BIO:

Leslie Moorehead is a licensed independent clinical social worker. Leslie received her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California. She works full-time as an early childhood mental health consultant with previous child welfare and community mental health experience. She is committed to using research to inform equitable social work education, policy, and practice. Leslie's research interests include social and economic determinants of health, the connection of determinants of health to chronic pain, disability, intersectionality and child-focused behavioral health research. She has presented at multiple peer-reviewed conferences and has three scholarly manuscripts under review.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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### **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, ESD 112 , Vancouver, WA 2024-Present**

- Practice Focus: Behavioral Health and Social Emotional Learning of Infants and Children; Family Capacity Building; Early Childhood Education Staff Wellness and Capacity Building

### **Designated Crisis Responder, Klickitat County Behavioral Health Goldendale, WA 2022-2024**

- Practice Focus: Short-Term Crisis Interventions; Behavioral Health of Children and Adults

### **Mental Health Therapist, ESD 112 White Salmon, WA 2022-2024**

- Practice Focus: School-Based Mental Health Services; Behavioral Health of Children

### **Associate Level Social Worker, Cerebral Inc. Remote 2022-2023**

- Practice Focus: Behavioral Health of Adults; Telehealth

### **Team Leader/Therapist, Comprehensive Healthcare, White Salmon, WA, 2020-2022**

- Practice Focus: Short-Term Crisis Interventions; Behavioral Health of Children and Adults; Field Supervisor for MSW student

### **Director of Social Services, America World Adoption Association – Oregon & Washington**

#### **White Salmon, WA, 2016-2022**

- Practice Focus: International Adoptions; Domestic Adoptions

### **Principle Executive Manager C (Child Welfare), State of Oregon Department of Human Services The Dalles, OR, 2015-2020**

- Practice Focus: Child Welfare; Crisis Management and Child Safety; Staff Skill Development and Professional Growth; Foster Care and Adoptions; Child Abuse and Neglect; Field Supervisor for MSW and BSW students as well as associate-level students

### **MSW Counseling Intern, USC Telehealth Remote 2014-2015**

- Practice Focus: Behavioral Health of Children and Adults; Telehealth

### **Executive Director, Adoption Choices of Oklahoma Moore, OK, 2013-2015**

- Practice Focus: Domestic Adoptions; Community Outreach and Advocacy

### **Child Welfare Specialist III, Oklahoma Department of Human Services Oklahoma City, OK, 2012-2013**

- Practice Focus: Psychoeducation for Adolescents; Child Welfare; Child Abuse and Neglect

### **Clinic Coordinator, The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Oklahoma City, OK, 2012-2013**

- Practice Focus: Community Outreach and Advocacy; Public Health

### **Program Specialist III, University of Oklahoma Center for Public Management, Norman, OK, 2010-2012 ,**

- Practice Focus: Community Outreach and Advocacy; Child Welfare; Foster Care and Adoptions

### **Child Welfare Specialist I, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, OK, 2008-2010**

- Practice Focus: Child Welfare; Foster Care and Adoptions; Child Abuse and Neglect

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Graduate Research Assistant, Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Service**

Summer 2023 – Present

- Research Project: Trauma-informed mental health services for at-risk children and families, early intervention training for Child Protective Services (CPS) staff, and child mental health outcomes

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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Felleke, A., Moorehead, L., Briseno-Rosas, S., & Smith, T. (2024). Por Los Niños. Annual Research Report. Worden School of Social Service, Our Lady of the Lake University.

## PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

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Felleke, A., Gomez, R., & Moorehead, L. (In Process). Strengthening protective factors in hispanic children: A longitudinal evaluation of Project LAUNCH in early childhood behavioral health. To Be Determined. Manuscript submitted.

Moorehead, L. (In Process). Women and chronic pain: A logistical regression on the effects of treatment on self-reported pain frequency. To Be Determined. Manuscript submitted.

Malecha, R., Moorehead, L., & Vaterott, M. (In Process). Roman catholic sisters and social work: A case study on identity formation as impacted by the temporal integration of religion and social work. To Be Determined. Manuscript submitted.

## PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Moorehead, L., Briseno-Rosas, S. & Najera. K. (Accepted).** Disability and Social Work: Incorporating Disability Conversations Into the Classroom.

<https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2025-annualconference/>

**Malecha, R., Vaterott, M., & Moorehead, L. (2024, October).** Professional and Personal Identities of Christians Who Practice Social Work. Council on Social Work Education 70th Annual Program Meeting.

<https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2024-apm/>

**Moorehead, L., Malecha, R. & Vaterott, M. (2024, June).** Religion, Spirituality, and Social Work. NASW National Conference.

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Events/NASW-Conferences/2024-NASW-National-Conference>

**Moorehead, L. (2024, April).** Empowerment and Inclusion of Disability and Physical Health in the Social Work Field and Classroom. Social Work Distance Education Conference.

[https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/SWDE\\_2024\\_Virtual\\_Conference](https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/SWDE_2024_Virtual_Conference)

**Moorehead, L., Malecha, R., & Vaterott, M. (2024, April).** The Case for Integrating Religion and Spirituality Into Social Work Distance Education. Social Work Distance Education Conference.

[https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/SWDE\\_2024\\_Virtual\\_Conference](https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/SWDE_2024_Virtual_Conference)

**Moorehead, L. (2024, February).** Emphasizing Empowerment to Move Health Care Forward: Application of Empowerment Theory to Strengthen Advocacy. 39th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity. <https://pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu/home-2024/>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Adjunct Faculty**, Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Service

**Summer 2024 – Present**

Professor for the following courses: Hispanics in the US: Policy and Programs (MSW); Social Welfare Policy and Services (MSW); Generalist Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities (MSW)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Service

**Spring 2023 – Fall 2024**

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Online Format, Spring 2023

SW 6321: Social Welfare Policy and Services

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Online Format, Summer 2023

SW 6321: Social Welfare Policy and Services

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Online Format, Fall 2023

SW 7366: Hispanics in the US: Policies and Programs

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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Worden Doctoral Student Association (2025-2026). Our Lady of the Lake University. Member.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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Oregon Public Servant Award (AY 2018). State of Oregon.

## MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATIONS

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Dean's Honor List, Our Lady of the Lake University	2023-Present
National Association of Social Work	2022-Present
Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist II, National Anger Management Association	2022-Present
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2013-2016
Dean's Honor List, University of Southern California	2013-2016

## GRANTS

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Grantor: United States Department of Health and Human Services

Research Grant Amount: \$175,000

Duration: 2023-2028

Project Title: Por Los Niños (For the Children)

Principal Investigator: Dr. Alegnta Felleke

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Funding Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Overseeing Federal Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration

Start Date: September 1, 2023

End Date: August 31, 2029

## KEY SKILLS

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- Executed thematic coding using NVivo for 3 semi-structured interviews with social workers who identified as Christian, with findings on impacts of the temporal integration of religion and social work on identity formation.
- Conducted a systematic literature review on trauma-informed care for Hispanic children, screening hundreds of articles and synthesizing findings into a comprehensive report that served as the foundation for an under-review article.
- Utilized SPSS to analyze 9,255-case cross-sectional data set to consider whether participation in pain management treatment predicted pain frequency among women in the United States, which informed study findings for an under-review article and multiple conference presentations.
- Conducted a systematic literature review on social and economic determinants of health, screening hundreds of articles and synthesizing findings into a comprehensive report that served as the foundation for a comprehensive exam specific to chronic pain and determinants of health.

## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent)

## INTERESTS

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Anti-ableist rhetoric. Intersectionality. Inclusive pedagogy. Trauma-informed care. Risk assessment and safety planning. Policy analysis. Intervention outcomes. Crisis intervention and management. Clinical decision making.

# KARLA NAJERA

MSW, LCSW-C  
ROCKVILLE, MD AREA



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karlanajeralcswc@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

<b>2022 - 2026</b>	<b>Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University</b> , San Antonio, TX Proposed Dissertation Topic: Experiences of Bilingual Families of Children with Autism: Navigating Language, Identity, and Systems Interactions
<b>2015 - 2017</b>	<b>Master of Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University</b> San Antonio, TX
<b>2012 - 2015</b>	<b>Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, University of Maryland</b> , Baltimore County

## LICENSURE:

Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) – Maryland (#23571)  
Maryland Board-Approved Clinical Supervisor

## BIO:

Karla Najera, LCSW-C, is a bilingual mental health therapist and clinical social worker in Maryland. A first-generation college graduate and daughter of Honduran parents, she earned her BSW from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and her MSW from Our Lady of the Lake University. Licensed since 2021, Karla brings over 12 years of experience in social services, supporting immigrants coping with trauma, depression, anxiety, and cultural adjustment. She previously served as an Internship Program Supervisor for a nonprofit and now works as a therapist and clinical supervisor in her private practice. Her current research explores financial literacy among first-generation Hispanic MSW social workers.

## PROFESSIONAL & CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

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### **Owner, Therapist, Clinical Supervisor**

Three Hearts Therapy and Supervision Services | Sept 2023 – Present

- Provide individual, couples, and family therapy using evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches
- Supervise MSW interns and pre-licensed clinicians toward LCSW-C
- Oversee HIPAA compliance, intake processes, and business operations

### **Internship Program Supervisor**

EveryMind – Rockville, MD | Sept 2022 – Oct 2024

- Designed and implemented agency-wide internship program for 15–25 students annually
- Recruited, onboarded, and supervised MSW and undergraduate interns
- Collaborated with leadership to ensure quality placements and supervision

### **Virtual Mental Health Therapist (Contract)**

Bethesda Counseling Services | Aug 2021 – Jan 2023

- Provided teletherapy for individuals and families under BCBS insurance
- Delivered crisis support and maintained clinical documentation using Simple Practice

### **Bilingual Mental Health Therapist**

EveryMind – Rockville, MD | Aug 2020 – June 2021

- Managed caseload of 18–21 Spanish- and English-speaking clients weekly
- Supported MSW intern supervision and contributed to agency training

### **Bilingual Therapist**

Ayuda – Washington, D.C. | Feb 2020 – Aug 2020

- Delivered trauma-informed therapy to survivors of abuse, human trafficking, and crime
- Prepared clinical reports to support legal processes and victim services

### **Bilingual Youth & Family Therapist**

EveryMind | Jan 2018 – Jan 2020

- Provided school-based and clinic-based therapy using CBT and TF-CBT
- Developed individualized treatment plans and worked with multidisciplinary teams

### **Family Case Manager**

Linkages to Learning – Montgomery County Government | Oct 2015 – May 2017

- Managed caseload of 32 families; coordinated wraparound services and benefits
- Led parent education groups and conducted community outreach

## TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Our Lady of the Lake University – San Antonio, TX | June 2025 – August 2025

- Taught SOWK 7338: Modern Social Work Theory and Practice with Hispanic Children and Families
- Designed and delivered course content for hybrid Ph.D. program
- Facilitated discussion on culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices
- Provided grading, feedback, and academic support to graduate students

### **Guest Lecturer**

University of Maryland School of Social Work | March 2022

Course: SWCL 775 – Clinical Social Work Practice with Immigrants and Refugees

- Delivered lecture on clinical licensing pathways and trauma-informed care
- Shared field insights on working with immigrant and refugee populations

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATION

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### Under Review:

- Najera, K. & Briseno-Rosas, S. (2025). Loneliness among Hispanic First - Generation Undergraduate Students: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Barriers Contributing to Social Isolation. Manuscript submitted
- Briseno-Rosas, S., Najera, K. & Dollinger, R. (2024). Stress and Unrecognized Resilience: A Phenomenological Approach to Navigating the Journey of Hispanic First – Generation Undergraduate Students in Higher Education. Manuscript submitted

## PRESENTATIONS

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- Najera, K., & Diaz, V. (May 2021). Cuidar al Cuidador: Supporting the Caregiver.
- Presentation for caregivers, Rockville, MD.
- Najera, K., Baltimore, K., Watson, J., & Godfrey, M. (August 2021). EveryMind Mental Wellness. Presentation to Congressman Trone, Rockville, MD.

## KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

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### Clinical Supervision & Leadership

- Designed and led internship programs across multiple departments
- Mentored interns and early-career clinicians, resulting in high retention and licensure success

### Trauma-Informed & Culturally Responsive Therapy

Extensive experience with TF-CBT, Sandtray, and expressive therapies

Skilled in working with immigrant, refugee, and first-generation populations

### Program Development & Evaluation

- Developed innovative supervision and training curricula aligned with academic standards
- Monitored outcomes to enhance intern satisfaction and professional growth

### Languages

- Spanish: Fluent (spoken and written)
- English: Native

## PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

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- Mental health advocacy in immigrant and underserved communities
- Mentorship and clinical supervision for future social workers
- Trauma healing modalities (e.g., expressive, somatic, and body-based practices)
- Equity in higher education for first-generation students and professionals

# MIRANDA VATTEROTT

LCSW

LOS ANGELES, CA AREA



(310) 503-4492



mr.vatterott22sp@ollusa.edu

## EDUCATION

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2022 - 2026	<b>Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX</b> Dissertation: Postpartum Depression in US Born Mexican American Women: A Grounded Theory Study on Help-Seeking Behaviors
2017 - 2018	<b>Master of Social Work, University of Southern California</b> Concentration in Health
2000- 2004	<b>Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Santa Clara University</b> <i>Minor: Religious Studies</i>

## LICENSURE:

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Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (Washington), Expires 5/21/2026  
*Credential Number: LW61633579*

## BIO:

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Miranda Mestas Vatterott received her BS in psychology from Santa Clara University and her MSW from the University of Southern California. She has experience supporting new parents and families since 2013. She has worked as a birth and postpartum doula, patient advocate, childbirth educator, and parent coach. She currently works as mental health provider in a group private practice. Miranda's research interests are perinatal mental health help seeking behaviors in Latinas, infant attachment, cultural postpartum practices, and lactation as it relates to mental health. Miranda lives in Los Angeles, CA.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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### **Mental Health Provider**

TimelyCare, Remote

January 2025 – Present

- Provide comprehensive mental health services to college students in California via telehealth
- Connect students to community and academic resources as necessary
- Create psychiatric referrals to maintain smooth transition to care

### **Clinical Social Worker**

Norina Verduzco-Murphy, MSW, LCSW & Associates, Los Angeles, CA

October 2022 – Present

- Provide complete mental health services in person and via telehealth
- Conduct psychotherapy assessments, diagnosis, treatment planning, and case documentation to adult individuals and couples

### **Emotional Wellbeing Therapist**

Harvest Home, Los Angeles, CA

October 2021 – March 2025

- Served as a field instructor to MSW students, providing supervision and collaborating with them to develop comprehensive learning plans
- Conducted individual psychotherapy sessions with pregnant and parenting residents in person and via telehealth
- Facilitated in person group therapy using Seeking Safety model
- Developed and maintained confidential documentation, including intakes, treatment plans, progress notes, and outcome measures

Participated in weekly case conference meetings with the residential team to coordinate residents' care. Assisted in guiding strategy and implementation of trauma informed policies as a member of the Trauma Informed Care and Resilience Committee

### **Alumnae Case Manager**

Harvest Home, Los Angeles, CA

April 2020 – October 2022

- Provided case management to former residents utilizing the Critical Time Intervention model
- Initiated follow-up calls with clients and guided alumnae in goal setting and action plans
- Facilitated referrals to community agencies and resources
- Recorded and maintain accurate documentation in client files
- Collaborated with the care coordination team to facilitate resident's smooth transition out of the shelter
- Created and facilitated a community advisory board made up of former residents
- Provided reflective supervision to MSW student interns

### **Associate Clinical Social Worker**

Well Baby Center, Mar Vista, CA

December 2020 – December 2021

- Provided complete mental health services, including psychotherapy, assessments, diagnosis, treatment planning, and case documentation
- Provided parent coaching to individuals
- Facilitated and taught court mandated group parenting classes
- Participated in weekly reflective supervision
- Regularly read and reviewed relevant psychotherapy articles to discuss in group supervision

## **Associate Clinical Social Worker**

Claris Health, Inglewood, CA

April 2019 - January 2021

- Provided in person psychotherapy to individuals and couples
- Attended trainings and in-services geared toward working with current clients
- Assessed and diagnosed clients for mood and anxiety disorders
- Promoted collaboration among the treatment team

## **Client Services Director**

Claris Health, Inglewood, CA

December 2017 - April 2020

Analyzed and evaluated the care coordination program

Coordinated medical and support services for patients

- Processed patients' referrals and sent them to community partners
- Remained up to date on best practices through trainings and continuing education
- Fostered ongoing relationships with community partner organizations
- Ensured confidentiality of all patient files and correspondence
- Trained and managed student interns and volunteers

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

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### **Worden Ph.D. Program Endowment Scholarship**

Our Lady of the Lake University

2025

### **Endowment Scholarship Recipient**

Our Lady of the Lake University

2023

### **PSI Perinatal Action Fund Scholarship Receipt**

Postpartum Support International Conference

2023

### **BIPOC Membership Award Recipient**

California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

2023

## **KEY SKILLS**

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Learning management systems (Blackboard, Engage)

Google Workspace (Google Docs, Drive, & Google Sheets),

Microsoft 365

Communication platforms (Teams, Slack)

Data collection and analysis (NVivo, Dedoose, SPSS, Qualtrics)

Electronic health records systems (Simple Practice, Therapy Notes, TheraNest)

Salesforce

## **LANGUAGES**

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English - Native

Spanish - Basic knowledge

## **SEARCH INTERESTS**

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Perinatal mental health

Cultural postpartum practices

Perinatal health care access

Homelessness and pregnancy

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Doctoral Research Assistant  
Worden School of Social Service, Our Lady of the Lake University  
October 2022 – December 2024  
Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health)  
Supervisor/PI: Alegnta Felleke

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Urdan, T. & Mestas, M. (2006).** The goals behind performance goals. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 98(2), 354-365.

## PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

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**Mestas Vatterott, M.** The call to integrate feminist and attachment theory in perinatal mental health social work practice. *Journal of Mother Studies*

**Malecha, R., Mestas Vatterott, M., & Moorehead, L.** Identity integration among Christian social workers in later adulthood: A case study of identity formation across Erikson’s seventh stage of psychosocial development. *Social Work and Christianity*.

## PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Mestas Vatterott, M. (2025, March 14-16).** *The Body: Decolonizing How We Feed our Children* [Virtual Panel]. The Museum of Motherhood’s Academic and Arts Conference, St. Petersburg, Fl.

<https://mommuseum.org/mom-conference-2025-cfp/>

**Malecha, R. Mestas Vatterott, M., & Moorehead, L. (2024, October 24-27).**

*Professional and Personal Identities of Christians Who Practice Social Work* [Poster]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Kansas City, MO. <https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2024-apm/>

**Moorehead, L., Malecha, R. & Mestas Vatterott, M. (2024, June 19-22).** *Religion, Spirituality, and Social Work* [Poster]. National Association of Social Workers Conference, Washington, DC.

[https://napsw.org/annual\\_conference.php](https://napsw.org/annual_conference.php)

**Mestas Vatterott, M. & Robles, E. H. (2024, April 18).** *Creating Culturally Centered Practices Through the Exploration of Postpartum Practices in the Mexican Community* [Workshop]. National Association of Perinatal Social Workers Conference, Seattle, WA. [https://napsw.org/annual\\_conference.php](https://napsw.org/annual_conference.php)

**Moorehead, L., Malecha, R. & Mestas Vatterott, M. (2024, April 12).** *The Case for Integrating Religion and Spirituality in Social Work Distance Education* [Workshop]. Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, Online. <https://www.ollusa.edu/worden-school/swde/index.html>

**Segovia, J. Hinojosa-Salazar, L., Mestas Vatterott, M., Malecha, R., & Smith, T. (2024, April 11).**

*Unmasking Imposter Syndrome: Navigating Self-Doubt in Academic and Professional Settings* [Panel]. Social Work Distance Education Virtual Conference, Online.

<https://www.ollusa.edu/worden-school/swde/index.html>

**Mestas Vatterott, M. & Segovia, J. (2024, February 22-24).** *Western medicine and traditional healing: bridging the gap in the Latinx community* [Workshop].

LSWO National Latinx Social Work Conference 2024, Oaxaca, Mexico.

<https://www.lswo2023.com/oaxaca-2024>

**Felleke, A., Segovia, J., Gibbons, G., Dollinger, R., & Vatterott, M. (2023, October 26 – 29). Addressing metal health among young children: Learnings from Project LAUNCH. It's time to act: Defining and Reckoning Anti-Racist Social Work Education. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA. <https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2023-apm/>**

**Mestas Vatterott, M. & Segovia, J. (2023, September 28-30). Addressing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders in the Latinx community through storytelling [Workshop]. LSWO National Latinx Social Work Conference 2023, Chicago, IL, United States. <https://www.lswo2023.com/general-8>**

## TEACHING / ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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### **Adjunct Faculty**

Worden School of Social Service, Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote  
May 2024 – Present

#### *Courses Taught*

- SOWK 6325: Generalist Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
- SOWK 6315: Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups

### **MSW Field/Practicum Instructor**

Harvest Home, Los Angeles, CA  
August 2021 – Present

- Serve as a field instructor for MSW students from University of Southern California, Azusa Pacific University, California State University, Los Angeles, and Columbia University
- Ensure the intern's fieldwork and activities align with the specified competencies of the social work program
- Collaborate with intern to create a comprehensive education plan
- Provide intern with a variety of micro and macro social work learning opportunities
- Meet with intern on a weekly basis for direct supervision and process recording review
- Meet with college's faculty liaison at least once a semester during internship
- Evaluate intern's performance once a semester

### **Teaching Assistant**

Worden School of Social Service, Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote  
January 2023 – December 2023

#### *Courses Taught*

- SOWK 6321: Social Welfare Policy and Services
- SOWK 6325: Generalist Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
- SOWK 6332: Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Individuals and Families

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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### **National Association of Perinatal Social Workers**

- Board member at large
- Advocacy committee member
- Student committee member

### **Postpartum Support International**

- California chapter diversity, equity, and inclusion committee chair
- California chapter board recruitment committee member
- Perinatal Mental Health Alliance for People of Color member

### **National Association of Social Workers**

### **Society for Social Work and Research**

### **California Society for Clinical Social Work**

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### **Editorial Review Board Member**

Journal of Mother Studies, Remote

July 2025 – Present

### **President**

Worden Doctoral Student Association – Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote

January 2025 – July 2025

### **Proposal Reviewer for 2025 Annual Program Meeting**

Council for Social Work Education, Remote

February 2025 – March 2025

### **Vice President**

Worden Doctoral Student Association – Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote

April 2024 – December 2024

### **Proposal Reviewer for 2024 Annual Program Meeting**

Council for Social Work Education, Remote

February 2024 – March 2024

### **PhD Cultural and Research Series Committee Member**

Worden School of Social Service – Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote

December 2023 – Present

### **Academic Journal Launch Committee Member**

Worden School of Social Service - Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote

December 2023 – Present

### **Peer Reviewer**

Smith College Studies in Social Work, Remote

September 2023 - Present

### **Cohort Four Student Representative**

Worden School of Social Service - Our Lady of the Lake University, Remote

July 2023 – July 2024

## PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### **Conference Planning Committee Member**

2026 Yale Women's Mental Health Conference, Remote

July 2025 – Present

### **Membership Committee Member**

National Association of Perinatal Social Workers, California Chapter, Remote

June 2025 - Present

### **Board Member**

National Association of Perinatal Social Workers

May 2025 – Present

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board Member**

Postpartum Support International California Chapter, Remote

June 2024 – Present

### **Policy Committee Member**

National Association of Perinatal Social Workers, Remote

August 2023 – Present

### **Training Committee Member**

Maternal Mental Health Now, Los Angeles, CA

October 2019 – Present

# ARTHALIA WEEKES

MSW, LCSW

JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS, AREA



254-466-5237



aweekes@kavanahlifecounselingsvcs.com

## EDUCATION

2025	<b>Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University,</b> San Antonio, TX
2012	<b>Master of Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University</b> San Antonio, TX
2008	<b>Bachelor of Science, Social Work, Tarleton University</b>

## BIO:

Arthalia Weekes, LSCSW, has worked in the field of social work since 2008 and is trained in several evidence-based practices. She serves as a Regional Manager for a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and owns Kavanah Life Counseling Services, a private mental health practice. In addition to her clinical leadership, Arthalia teaches MSW courses at Our Lady of the Lake University, where she also serves as an Adjunct Professor. Her research interests include racial disparities in mental health, religious trauma in the Black Church, sexuality and mental health, and effective treatments for diverse populations.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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**2024 – Present** **Regional Manager, Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness, Council Grove, KS** Ensure provision of quality mental health services using a strengths-based, client-centered model. Provide leadership, supervision, and clinical oversight for Coffey County staff. Direct clinical processes including assessments, diagnoses, treatment planning, interventions, utilization review, and discharges. Conduct staff performance evaluations (productivity, caseload management, documentation, billing, client satisfaction). Recruit clients and identify service opportunities through outreach and community collaboration. Represent agency at local/state meetings; build partnerships and deliver community presentations.

**2023 – Present** **Adjunct Professor, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX** Teach MSW courses, including Social Work Practice with Youth and Psychopathology. Provide instruction, grading, and individualized feedback. Adapt syllabi to enhance student learning for real-world practice.

**2022 - 2023** **InnovaTel (Embedded at Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness), Clinical Social Worker, Telehealth Provider**  
Delivered individual and family therapy for children and adults. Conducted clinical intake assessments, court evaluations, and discharge planning. Coordinated care with community agencies and provided client advocacy. Maintained accurate documentation and developed individualized care plans.

**2020 – 2021** **Veterans Health Administration, Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, VA Virtual Liaison Program Manager**  
Facilitate transfer of wounded, ill, and injured Service members from DoD to VA facilities across 12 states. Conduct psychosocial assessments and provide brief psychotherapy. Deliver outreach to military treatment facilities outside of regular service areas.

**2019 - 2020** **Department of Defense, Irwin Army Community Hospital Embedded Behavioral Health, Clinical Social Worker**  
Conduct psychosocial assessments and provide evidence-based therapy. Deliver specialized interventions for PTSD, depression, and anxiety. Evaluate treatment effectiveness and determine fitness for military service.

**2018 – Present** **Founder/Lead Clinician Kavanah Life Counseling Services, Kansas**  
Conduct psychosocial evaluations and provide individual, couple, family, and group therapy. Deliver evidence-based interventions for depression, PTSD, BPD, bipolar disorder, and anxiety. Evaluate treatment effectiveness and adjust care plans accordingly.

**2014 - 2019** **Veterans Health Administration, Manhattan Vet Center Kansas Social Worker**  
Provided readjustment counseling for veterans and families (PTSD, MST, bereavement, family/marital issues). Delivered crisis intervention, case management, and advocacy. Facilitated individual and group therapy, referrals, and outreach services. Served as Acting Director, active member of Women Veterans Council.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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VHA – Eastern Kansas Social Work Practice Committee  
Council on Social Work Education  
Worden Student Doctoral Association- Founding Member/Chair of Committee  
Black Entrepreneurs of the Flint Hills

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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2013 – Civilian Achievement Award  
• Recognized for outstanding professional contributions.

## EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

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January 2021 – September 2021, Veteran Health Administration Central Office – 9/11 VA Remembers Good News Stories/Media Subcommittee, Editor  
• Edited submitted stories for a National-Level Toolkit.  
• Collaborated on developing toolkit materials for the 20th anniversary commemoration of 9/11.

## KEY SKILLS:

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- Clinical Expertise in social work theory and practice.
- Effective leadership and supervision with the ability to manage multidisciplinary teams, optimize caseloads, and ensure accountability.
- Model professionalism and foster collaboration across offices and departments. Cultural Competency and the ability to work with diverse populations, collaborate with community partners, representative of organization and community meetings.
- Effective oral and communication skills, including public speaking.
- Ethical awareness and integrity.
- Experienced in program development, evaluation, and policy implementation.
- Extensive experience supporting active-duty soldiers, veterans, and families.
- Have provided excellent Supervision skills for LMSW individuals seeking Clinical licensure.
- Trained in multiple evidence-based practices with certifications; these include EMDR (In-Certification), CBT-I, Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT-Certified), Motivational Interviewing, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Brain Spotting (In- Certification), Traumatic Event Management Facilitator Course, and National Organization for Victims -Victims Advocate Certification.

## LANGUAGES:

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English - Native

## INTERESTS:

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Community wellness initiatives  
Veteran advocacy  
Writing and curriculum development