

John R. Gyourko

Curriculum Vitae

HBS 2078
235 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

gyour2jr@jmu.edu
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7025-5998>
[Google Scholar](#)

EDUCATION

- 2024 PhD **Social Welfare** | University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: *Foster youth identity fraud victimization: Prevalence and characteristics, risk factors, and protective interventions*
Committee: Drs. Johanna Greeson (chair), Greg Ridgeway, & Dennis Culhane
- 2020 MSW **Clinical Practice** concentration | Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2008 BS **Psychology** | Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024–present **Assistant Professor** | James Madison University, Department of Social Work
2020–2024 **Research Fellow** | University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- ❖ Child maltreatment epidemiology and prevention.
- ❖ Child welfare workforce recruitment, development, and retention.
- ❖ Cybercrime and financial exploitation, with special emphasis on child victimization.
- ❖ Financial social work.
- ❖ Social work field education.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 **President Gutmann Leadership Award** | University of Pennsylvania [\$1,440]
Individual grant for the presentation and dissemination of original research.
- 2023 **Presidential Service Award** | National Association of Social Workers, PA chapter
Annual award for distinguished leadership and service in the social work profession.
- 2023 **Summer Research Institute Fellow** | Natl. Data Archive on Child Abuse & Neglect
- 2022 **Hal Levin Award** | University of Pennsylvania [\$1,500]
PhD in Social Welfare program award for meritorious scholarship.
- 2022 **Field Research Scholar** | Transforming the Field Education Landscape [\$500]
Honorarium sponsored by the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work.
- 2022 **President Gutmann Leadership Award** | University of Pennsylvania [\$600]

- 2020 **MSW Student of the Year** | National Association of Social Workers, VA chapter
- 2020 **Service and Leadership Award** | Virginia Commonwealth University
Annual award for distinguished leadership and service in the School of Social Work.
- 2020 **Elaine Rothenberg Social Work Award** | Virginia Commonwealth University
Master of Social Work program award for outstanding academic achievement.
- 2019 **Open Social Work** | Virtual Library of Virginia Course Redesign Program [\$500]
Honorarium for contributions to *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work*.
- 2007 **Undergraduate Literary Contest** | Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Award for best short fiction.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

- 2024 **Community Independence Initiative** | Co-investigator (PI: Dr. J. K. P. Greeson)
Study title: The Impact of Peer-Driven Change Over Time
Funding: Children International [\$15,000]
- 2022–2023 **Research Challenge Grant** | Co-Investigator (PI: Dr. J. K. P. Greeson)
Study title: Evaluation of Family Reunification Programs in Western Kenya
Funding: Center on Applied Research for Vulnerable Children and Families [\$10,000]
- 2021 **PhD Summer Research Fellowship** | Principal Investigator
Study title: Financial Abuse Prevention Programming for Youth in Foster Care
Funding: University of Pennsylvania [\$6,100]

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

[* indicates undergraduate or graduate student co-author]

1. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (2024). Predictors of identity crime victimization of adolescent youth in foster care. *Victims & Offenders*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2314693>
2. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (2024). Reintegration of street-connected children in Kenya: Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Family Strengthening Program. *Child and Family Social Work*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.13154>
3. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (2024). “The program encourages us not to have a heavy heart”: A qualitative study of family strengthening programs in Kenya. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 19(2), 321-342. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2024.2326435>
4. Garcia, A. R., Berrick, J. D., Jonson-Reid, M., Barth, R., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Kohl, P., Greeson, J. K. P., Drake, B., & *Cook, V. (2024). The stark implications of abolishing child welfare: An alternative path toward support and safety. *Child and Family Social Work*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.13141>

5. Drake, B., Jones, D., Kim, H., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Garcia, A., Barth, R., Font, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Berrick, J. D., Greeson, J. K. P., Cook, V., Kohl, P. L., & Jonson-Reid, M. (2023). Racial/ethnic differences in Child Protective Services reporting, substantiation, and placement, with comparison to non-CPS risks and outcomes: 2005—2019. *Child Maltreatment*, 28(4), 683-699. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231167320>
6. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2023). Annual credit checks for adolescent youth in foster care: Factors associated with identity fraud victimization. *Child Maltreatment*, 28(2), 372-383. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595221101504>
7. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2022). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic: Material and financial well-being by foster care status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and race. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 92(3), 334-348. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000615>
8. Berrick, J. D., Barth, R., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2022). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services: A response to commentaries. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 542-552. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221095497>
9. Barth, R., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2021). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 483-498. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315211050000>
10. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Ortiz, A. J., Coleman, D., & Cancel, S. (2021). “One hundred and ninety-four got licensed by Monday”: Application of design thinking for foster care innovation and transformation in Rhode Island. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 128, 106166. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106166>
11. Barth, R., Jonson-Reid, M., Greeson, J. K. P., Drake, B., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Shaw, T. V., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2020). Outcomes following child welfare services: What are they and do they differ for Black children? *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 14(5), 477-499. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2020.1814541>

Manuscripts Under Review, in Revision, or in Press

1. **Gyourko, J. R.**, *Vasquez, N., Mack, L., Kenyatta, A., Barth, R., Garcia, A. R., & Greeson, J. K. P. *Lived experience data in foster care research: A scoping review* [Manuscript in revision]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work.
2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, *Silver, J., & Greeson, J. K. P. (2024). *Financial and psychosocial challenges reported by social work students: Findings from a cross-sectional online survey* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/uath2>
3. Berrick, J. D., Barth, R. P., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Garcia, A. R., Greeson, J. K. P., & **Gyourko, J. R.** *Is child welfare oppressive?* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. University of California-Berkeley, School of Social Welfare.

Manuscripts in Preparation

1. Greeson, J. K. P., Garcia, A. R., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Berrick, J. D., Barth, R. P., & Drake, B. *Disentangling poverty and child maltreatment: Radically reforming definitions of neglect* [Manuscript in preparation]. University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice.
2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. *Safeguarding the consumer credit records of youth in foster care: What interventions reduce risk of child identity fraud?* [Manuscript in preparation]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work.
3. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., Mallory, K., Fehlig, L., Jácome, C., Yanes, N. D. L., Gutiérrez, F. A. R., & Guamos, D. *A mixed methods evaluation of Children International's pilot Community Independence Initiative* [Manuscript in preparation]. University of Pennsylvania, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research.
4. **Gyourko, J. R.**, *Colquitt, E., *Silver, J., *Adeleke, C., & DeCarlo, M. "We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others": Student perspectives on the costs, challenges, and ethics of social work education [Manuscript in preparation]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work.
5. **Gyourko, J. R.**, *Bonilla, P. O., *Adeleke, C., & DeCarlo, M. *How much is enough? Toward a sustainable field practicum paradigm in social work education* [Manuscript in preparation]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work.
6. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & *Gzesh, A. *Mental health and social connectedness of foster care-involved young adults during the first COVID-19 lockdowns* [Manuscript in preparation]. James Madison University, Department of Social Work.

Research Reports, Briefs, & Other Publications

1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2024). *Consumer credit freezes for children and youth in foster care: Implementation processes and outcomes* [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
2. Garcia, A. R., Berrick, J. D., Jonson-Reid, M., Barth, R. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Kohl, P., Greeson, J. K. P., Drake, B. & Cook, V. (2024). *Reform, not abolish, child welfare: A science-informed path*. Child Welfare Monitor. <https://childwelfaremonitor.org/2024/01/29/reform-not-abolish-child-welfare-a-science-informed-path/>
3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2021). *Voices of young people aging out of Virginia's foster care system: Findings from the Youth Exit Survey, July 2019—December 2020* [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
4. Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2020). *The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19* [Research report]. University of Pennsylvania, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research. <https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Foster-Youth-COVID-19-REPORT.pdf>
5. **Gyourko, J. R.**, DeCarlo, M., Cummings, C., & Agnelli, K. (2020). *Graduate research methods in social work: Student workbook*. Open Social Work. <https://pressbooks.rampages.us/msw-research/back-matter/appendix/#back-matter-6-section-1>

6. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019). *Financial education and asset development programs for adolescent youth in foster care* [Issue brief]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
7. **Gyourko, J. R.** & Moore-Jones, L. (2019). *Consumer credit freezes for children and youth in foster care: Policy and practice guidebook*. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
8. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Moore-Jones, L. (2018). *Annual credit checks for youth in foster care: Policy and practice guidebook*. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers & Posters

[* indicates undergraduate or graduate student co-author]

1. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (2024, August). *Reintegration of street-connected children in Kenya: Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Family Strengthening Program*. Poster presented at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect, Uppsala, Sweden.
2. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (2024, August). *"The program encourages people not to have a heavy heart": A qualitative study of family strengthening programs in Western Kenya*. Poster presented at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect, Uppsala, Sweden.
3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (2024, January). *Predictors of identity fraud victimization of adolescent youth in foster care*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2024/webprogram/Paper52426.html>
4. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & *Silver, J. (2024, January). *"We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others": Student perspectives on the costs, challenges, and ethics of social work education*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2024/webprogram/Paper52128.html>
5. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & *Silver, J. (2023, October). *Social work student perspectives on the challenges and costs of field education*. Paper presented at the 69th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
6. *Silver, J., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, October). *Financial and psychosocial challenges reported by social work students: Findings from a cross-sectional online survey*. Paper presented at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Pocono Manor, PA.
7. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2023, January). *Factors associated with identity fraud victimization of adolescent youth in foster care*. Paper presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper50162.html>
8. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, January). *Credit freezes as protective interventions for children in foster care: Exploring child welfare workers' experiences with implementation*. Poster presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper51200.html>

9. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2022, January). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19: Health and social connectedness. In E. Aparicio (Chair), *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth in and transitioning from foster care*. Symposium paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2022/webprogram/Session12566.html>
10. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2021, January). *The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19*. Poster presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [virtual event]. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2021/webprogram/Paper42255.html>
11. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Cage, J. (2020, January). *Credit checks for youth in foster care: Detecting, addressing, and preventing child identity theft*. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2020/webprogram/Paper39553.html>
12. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & King, H. (2019, April.) *Is counseling integral to buprenorphine-assisted opioid addiction treatment? Examining counseling participation and treatment retention at a Richmond, Virginia clinic*. Poster presented at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work Student Research Symposium, Richmond, VA. <https://t.co/yFULW6RajU?amp=1>
13. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Oder, R. (2008, April). *Factors in virtual reality performance: The role of external stimuli in video games*. Poster presented at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate and Prospective Graduate Student Symposium, Blacksburg, VA.

Invited Presentations & Workshops

1. Werner, M., Heldman, J., Wasileski, G., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2024, April). *Dual status youth*. Invited panel discussant for the Innovation Center for Youth Justice 2024 Spring Symposium, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.
2. Carreon, E. D., DeCarlo, M., Gewirtz, R., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Kahn, J., & Willis, T. (2024, March). *The end of unpaid internships*. Invited panel discussant for the National Week of Action symposium, Payment for Placements (P4P) campaign [virtual event].
3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, November). *Lived experience data and stakeholder inclusion in child welfare research*. Invited presentation for the Advisory Board Meeting, Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
4. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & *Silver, J. (2023, November). “*We shouldn’t have to struggle this hard to help others*”: *Student perspectives on the costs, challenges, and ethics of social work education*. Invited presentation for the Monthly Members Webinar, PA Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers [virtual event].
5. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, May). “*We shouldn’t have to struggle this hard to help others*”: *Student perspectives on the costs, challenges, and ethics of social work education*. Invited presentation for the Transforming the Field Education Landscape project, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary [virtual event].
6. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, March). “*We shouldn’t have to struggle this hard to help others*”: *Student perspectives on the costs, challenges, and ethics of social work education*. Invited presentation for the Board of Directors Meeting, PA Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Mechanicsburg, PA.

7. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, October). *Supporting successful transitions from foster care to adulthood: Credit checks, credit freezes, and the Youth Exit Survey*. Invited presentation for the Independent Living Services Annual Training event, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA.
8. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, June). *Virginia's Youth Exit Survey initiative: Statewide launch and survey administration protocols*. Invited presentation for the Northern Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Warrenton, VA.
9. **Gyourko, J. R., & Moore-Jones, L.** (2018, September). *Youth Exit Survey design and pilot implementation*. Invited panel presentation and workshop for the Central Region Independent Living Coordinators Committee Retreat, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

James Madison University

- 2024 **Social Policy** | Instructor
 2024 **Social Work Practice in Macro Systems** | Instructor

University of Pennsylvania

- 2024 **Introduction to Social Work Research** | Co-Instructor
 2023 **Criminal Justice Data Analytics** | Teaching Assistant
 2023 **Advanced Social Work Practice II** | Guest Lecturer
 2023 **Integrative Seminar in Child Welfare** | Invited Seminar Leader
 2022 **Social Science Seminar** | Guest Lecturer
 2021 **Integrative Seminar in Child Welfare** | Invited Seminar Leader

Penn Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning & Innovation

- 2024 Certificate in College and University Teaching
 2023 Teaching in Hybrid Formats (workshop)
 2023 Engaging Students Through Group Work (workshop)
 2023 Teaching Statistics to Non-Statisticians (workshop)
 2022 Designing a New Course: From Syllabus to Implementation (workshop)
 2022 Integrating Your Research Projects Into Courses (workshop)

SERVICE

Editorial Service for Professional Journals

- 2022–present **Child Welfare** | Ad-hoc reviewer
 2022–present **Families in Society** | Ad-hoc reviewer

Committee Service

- 2024–present **Faculty Development Committee** | James Madison University
Reviews faculty applications for research grants and professional development funds.
- 2024–present **Faculty Search Committee** | James Madison University
Participates in recruitment and hiring processes for an open Assistant/Associate Professor position in the Department of Social Work, College of Health and Behavioral Studies at JMU.
- 2024–present **Faculty Advisor—Phi Alpha Honor Society** | James Madison University
- 2022–present **Workforce Committee** | National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania chapter
In partnership with clinical practitioners and social activists, serves on committee dedicated to researching, engaging, and promoting the Pennsylvania social work workforce.
- 2021–2022 **School of Social Policy & Practice Student Government** | University of Pennsylvania
Appointed by the Doctoral Student Steering Committee to serve as PhD in Social Welfare cohort representative in student government.
- 2021 **Planning Committee** | Bringing Science to Bear on Child Welfare Reforms
Collaborated with scholars from Washington University in Saint Louis and the University of Kentucky to organize a virtual summit event with 100+ attendees. Served as co-host during panel discussions and breakout room sessions.
- 2021 **Social Responsibility Advisory Committee** | University of Pennsylvania
Deliberated social and environmental justice issues surrounding university endowment investments. Provided issue briefs and shareholder proxy vote recommendations.
- 2019–2020 **Master of Social Work Program Committee** | Virginia Commonwealth University
Drafted, reviewed, and approved academic curricula and MSW program policies.
- 2019–2020 **School Programs Committee** | Virginia Commonwealth University
Drafted, reviewed, and approved School of Social Work academic standards.
- 2019 **Grade Review Committee** | Virginia Commonwealth University
Participated in ad-hoc meetings to deliberate School of Social Work student grade appeals.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024–present **Practicum Poverty** | Co-Investigator
In collaboration with an intercollegiate team of social work faculty, students, practitioners, and policy advocates, analyzes quantitative and qualitative survey response data to investigate relationships between field practicum requirements and the financial, psychosocial, and academic well-being of students pursuing social work degrees.
- 2023–present **Community Independence Initiative** | Co-Investigator
Engages with social work practitioners and community stakeholders in Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines to conduct an evaluation study funded by Children International. Assesses the impact of community investment programs on child and family well-being.

- 2023 **National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) | Fellow**
Processed and analyzed intensive longitudinal administrative data during NDACAN's annual symposium and training event. Applied imputation methods to handle missing data.
- 2022–2023 **Challenges and Barriers in Social Work Education | Principal Investigator**
In partnership with the National Association of Social Workers (Pennsylvania chapter), developed and administered a survey examining the financial and psychosocial challenges reported by students pursuing social work degrees.
- 2022–2023 **Agape Children's Ministry Family Strengthening Program | Co-Investigator**
In collaboration with Kenyan and U.S. nonprofit agency leaders and frontline practitioners, planned and implemented a program evaluation study funded by the Center on Applied Research for Vulnerable Children and Families.
- 2021 **COVID-19 Microcash Grant Application Data Briefing | Research Consultant**
In partnership with the nonprofit advocacy organization Think of Us, analyzed data from financial assistance applications submitted in November 2020 by young people with lived foster care experience in the United States. Synthesized research findings to promote the equitable and effective allocation of pandemic relief funds by state child welfare agencies.
- 2020–2022 **The Experiences of Foster Care-Involved Youth During COVID-19 | Co-Investigator**
In collaboration with the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania, analyzed survey data collected from young adults with lived foster care experience during COVID-19. Examined respondents' self-reported financial, material, and psychosocial circumstances during the early months of the pandemic.
- 2018–present **Financial Exploitation of Youth in Foster Care | Principal Investigator**
Investigates the prevalence, incidence, and correlates of financial maltreatment of young people in foster care, with special emphasis on child identity theft and cybercrime victimization. Works with state government partners to access, process, and analyze child welfare case records linked with intensive longitudinal data from multiple sources.
- 2018–present **Youth Exit Survey Initiative | Co-Investigator**
Administers a mixed-mode survey of young adults exiting Virginia's foster care system. Facilitates ongoing data collection in partnership with 120 county and municipal jurisdictions across the state. Analyzes survey response data and synthesizes research findings in semi-annual reports to the Virginia General Assembly.
- 2018–present **Open Social Work | Copy Editor & Sustainability Coordinator**
Creates and manages content for *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work*, an open-source, MSW-level academic textbook. Engages with diverse stakeholders to curate culturally sensitive and accessible content. <https://pressbooks.rampages.us/msw-research>
- 2006–2007 **Center for Applied Behavior Systems | Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Contributed to studies investigating pedestrian safety, alcohol consumption, and road signage in Blacksburg, Virginia.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Professional Positions

- 2018–present **Youth Services Program Specialist** | Virginia Dept. of Social Services, Richmond, VA
Administers financial abuse prevention programs for children/youth in foster care. Administers longitudinal surveys of young people with lived foster care experience. Maintains and analyzes state-level administrative datasets tracking foster care service provision and child outcomes. Synthesizes research findings to inform child welfare policy and practice.
- 2015–2018 **Employer Relations Coordinator** | ServiceSource Inc., Oakton, VA
Led networking and partnership development for a nonprofit grant initiative with a mission to expand career opportunities for people with disabilities. Increased total number of employer partnerships by more than 500% during tenure. Negotiated customized employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- 2014–2015 **Family & Youth Specialist** | SAFY, Las Vegas NV
Managed a caseload of children and adolescents in foster care. Conducted home visits; attended court proceedings, child and family team meetings, and education plan meetings; provided psychosocial rehabilitation services and independent living skills training; developed and implemented permanency and transition plans; and mentored older youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Provided crisis stabilization services.
- 2011–2013 **Residential Treatment Counselor** | Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke VA
Supported juvenile justice- and child welfare-involved adolescent males in a secure residential treatment facility. Planned and implemented psychoeducational interventions and recreational activities to support therapeutic milieu. Managed recreation budget.
- 2010–2011 **Mental Health Clinician** | Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke VA
Provided intensive in-home services to support adolescents living with mental health and substance use disorders. Developed and pursued treatment goals in collaboration with case managers, therapists, clients, and families.
- 2009–2011 **Residential Flex Counselor** | Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke VA
Supported juvenile justice- and child welfare-involved adolescent males in a secure residential treatment facility. Provided independent living skills training, supervised community outings, and mentored residents to support successful transitions to adulthood.
- 2009 **Relief Counselor** | Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke VA
Provided on-call residential support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Administered medications and assisted with daily living activities.
- 2008 **Area Supervisor** | Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax VA
Supervised 35 staffers and coordinated programming at six elementary school-based summer day camp sites with a combined total of approximately 300 children (ages 6 to 13).

Field Practicums

- 2019–2020 **MSW Clinical Practice Intern** | Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond VA
Supported behavioral health case management and crisis stabilization services. Mentored children and adolescents.
- 2018 **MSW Generalist Practice Intern** | Virginia Dept. of Social Services, Richmond VA
Provided therapeutic mentoring and mental health support services for youth in foster care.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2018 **Youth Housing Stability Coalition** | Richmond, VA
Engaged with stakeholders to address youth homelessness in the Richmond, Virginia area.
- 2000–2008 **Hartwood Foundation** | Fairfax, VA
Participated in public rallies to support civil rights advocacy for persons with disabilities.
- 2000–2008 **Central Fairfax Services** | Fairfax, VA
Facilitated recreational and vocational training activities for persons with disabilities.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2023–present **Member**, American Society of Criminology
- 2022–present **Member**, Council on Social Work Education
- 2021–present **Member**, American Psychological Association
- 2020–present **Member**, International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care
- 2019–present **Member**, Society for Social Work and Research
- 2019–present **Member**, National Association of Social Workers
- 2008–present **Member**, Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society