

Leah Topek-Walker, LCSW-R

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Education

Stony Brook University, School of Social Welfare

May 2005

Master of Social Work

- GPA 3.93/4.0

The New School, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts

May 2002

Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts, Dual Focus: Creative Writing and Social Work

- GPA 3.6/4.0

Professional Experience

Stony Brook University, School of Social Welfare

September 2016 - Present

Lecturer & Field Education Coordinator

- *Field Faculty:*
 - Coordinate and oversee placements for graduate and undergraduate students.
 - Supervise 2-3 Field Liaisons each year.
- *Field Liaison:*
 - Act as Field Liaison for 40-50 undergraduate and graduate students each year.
- *Library Internship Program:*
 - Oversee the Library Internship program expansion from 2 to over 20 placements.
 - Provide weekly group supervision to 13-17 students each year.
 - Work collaboratively with the Schools of Public Health and School of Nursing to develop new interprofessional programming in libraries.
 - Oversee 1 Field Instructor in the Library Program.
 - Community Engagement Grant: Southold Library received a \$5000 grant from North Fork Side by Side to use in conjunction with the Internship program to engage the LatinX community.
 - Teen Mental Health Grant: Southold Library received another grant from North Fork Side by Side to address unmet needs for teens in Southold around mental health issues.
- *HRSA Grant:*
 - Acted as a liaison between the grant program and partner agencies in the community.
 - Brought in new agencies to partner with and expanded the populations the program can serve.
 - Screen and place students in the program:
 - 2021 - 2022, filled 26 slots
 - 2020 - 2021 filled 50 slots
 - 2019-2020 filled 10-12 slots
 - Participated in the student intern orientation to the program and training in SBIRTS and Motivational Interviewing.
 - Participated in and facilitated monthly booster sessions to help students understand and process what they are learning, and to connect their internship experience to social work and interdisciplinary competencies.
 - Act as liaison and support for the students throughout the academic year.
- *Field Education Committee Member:*

- Examine field education, assess successes and challenges, and propose changes.
- *Lecturer:*
 - Graduate Courses Taught:
 - Integrating Seminar
 - Undergraduate Courses Taught:
 - Overview of the Social Work Profession
 - Introduction to Fields of Practice
 - SBU101: Introduction to Stony Brook

Leah Topek-Walker, LCSW, P.C.

October 2009 - Present

Psychotherapist

- Provide individual and family psychotherapy in an atmosphere of support, nurturance, respect, and encouragement.
- Empowered clients to recognize and utilize their own strengths, skills, and abilities and help them establish, pursue goals, and find direction for themselves regarding the issues they present.
- Focus on individuals with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or a history of trauma.

FEGS – Federation Employment Guidance Services

Central Islip Behavioral Health Clinic

June 2013 - February 2016

Administrative Team Leader

- Provided direct clinical and administrative supervision to 15 therapists, as well as oversight for all of their cases in the mental health clinic.
- Provided supervision and administrative coverage to the entire clinic, which includes 30 clinical staff and 1,000 patients.
- Oversaw and completed administrative tasks, OMH reports, incident reports, and crisis intervention when needed.
- Coordinated intakes and scheduling.

Positive SPACE

March 2011 - June 2013

Team Leader

- Provided supervision to clinicians in the Positive SPACE program, which served individuals living with and affected HIV.
- Coordinated new referrals to the program.
- Served as the liaison between other HIV providers in the Long Island Community.
- Assisted with monthly and yearly reports to state and federal funding sources.
- Carried a small caseload (20 clients) and provided individual therapy and HIV support.

Positive SPACE

May 2004 - March 2011

Clinical Social Worker

- Provided individual, couples, family, and group therapy to people living with and affected with HIV and who had a diagnosed mental health condition, substance use disorder, and difficulties adjusting to HIV status.
- Provided individual therapy for HIV positive inmates at the Suffolk County Correctional Facility.
- Facilitated therapeutic group for teenagers of HIV positive parents.
- Facilitated HIV prevention psycho-educational groups for teenagers.
- Provided intakes and assessments for emergency financial assistance and housing assistance programs.

Partners in Caring

September 2004 - May 2005

Social Work Intern

- Assessed and provided case management services for newly impoverished clients.
- Assisted clients in applying for social services, such as health care and food stamps.
- Provided counseling, shelter, food pantry, and financial assistance resources to clients.
- Worked with volunteer services to appropriately match clients with volunteers.

Family Services Department

May 2004 - May 2005

Youth Prevention Education Specialist

- Facilitated psycho-educational groups and one-time workshops for youth living with eating disorders and violence prevention.
- Facilitated training for professionals on eating disorders and violence prevention.

Lindenhurst Union Free School District

September 2003 - June 2004

West Gates Elementary School

Social Work Intern

- Facilitated small groups for students mandated to receive counseling and those who were referred to the social work office.
- Facilitated individual counseling for students, as needed.
- Provided counseling and groups focused on behavior modification, socialization, bereavement, and divorce.
- Coordinated services and support for homeless families.
- Completed all paperwork and reporting responsibilities of a school social worker.

Publications

Stony Brook Medicine Health Libraries Laboratory (HLL)*, Pandolfelli, G., Hammock, A., **Topek-Walker, L.**, D'Ambrosio, M., Tejada, T., Ratta, C.D., LaSala, M. E., Koos, J. A., Lewis, V., & Scott, L. B. (2021). An interprofessional team-based experiential learning experience in public libraries. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*, 00(0), 1-10.

<https://www.doi.org/10.1177/23733799211048517>

Presentations

Mitchell, J. J. & **Topek-Walker, L.** (2021, November). Being the Change: Field Placements that Teach Micro and Macro Simultaneously and Create Positive CHanges in their Community. NYSSWEA Statewide Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY

Benz-Scott, L., Hammock, A., Pandolfelli, G. & **Topek-Walker, L.** (2021, October). Building A New Program of Research and Inter-Professional Practice in Partnership with Public Libraries of Long Island: the Healthy Libraries Program. Stony Brook School of Social Welfare Research Series. Stony Brook, NY

MEDLI (Medical and Scientific Libraries of Long Island) Monthly Meeting (2021, June). HeLP Program Presentation. Suffolk County, NY

Nassau County Teen Librarians Monthly Meeting (2021, April). Teen Mental Health and Social Work in the Library Presentation. Nassau County, NY

Suffolk County Teen Librarians Monthly Meeting (2020, May). Teen Mental Health and Social Work in the Library Presentation. Suffolk County, NY
Social Work in the Library (2018, May). Long Island Library Conference. Melville, NY

Professional & Volunteer Service

- Committee Member, Patchogue Medford Union Free School District Board of Education Curriculum, October 2021 - Present
- Brookhaven Democratic Women's Caucus, September 2021 - Present
- Co-President, Jewish Cultural School Board of Directors, June 2019 - Present
- National Association of Social Workers, May 2005 - Present

Licence, Certification, & Training

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licence No. 077631
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, May 2021
- Trauma Interventions
- Motivational Interviewing
- EMDR

