

DONNA K. AMTSBERG, LCSW

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EDUCATION

- Certified Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) MH Practitioner, 2014
- Registered Play Therapist Training, DePelchin Children's Center, 2013
- Licensed Masters in Social Work. University of Houston, 2002
- Bachelor of Science, Psychology. University of Houston, 1998

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Trauma Education Program Development
- Trauma-Focused CBT with Children, Adolescents and Adults
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Implementation Science in Evidence-Based Trauma Treatment
- Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy
- Play Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Links between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty
- Domestic Violence Program Development
- Fatality Review Team Development

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW)

08/13 to Present

Clinical Assistant Professor

Director, Trauma Education Program

- Responsible for instructing students enrolled in the GCSW; Curriculum includes Foundation classes in Practice, Online Self-Care curriculum, Transtheoretical-Cognitive Behavioral Interventions, Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment of Children and Adolescents, Assessment, Trauma in Social Work, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Family Violence.
- Supervision of GCSW students in equine-assisted psychotherapy field sites.
- Development and oversight of Trauma Education Program.
- Supervision of Trauma Education Program Fellows in field sites.
- Collaboration with GCSW Research Centers.
- Principal Investigator – ACE's Study with Survivors of Family Violence for Northwest Assistance Ministries
- Local Evaluator – "Bridging the Gap" Program Evaluation for The Bridge over Troubled Waters, Inc.
- Faculty Advisor for Clinical Leadership Society (Student Association).
- Consultation/Training work with Catholic Charities; trauma-informed agency practices.

Houston Community College System (HCCS), Adjunct Professor

01/08 to 12/13

- Clinical Assessment, Counseling Theories, Interviewing Skills Development, Community Organization, Group Therapy, Human Services Practicums and Child Advocacy Studies Training course.
- Experienced with WebCT, Blackboard and Moodle/Eagle Online.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ACE Scores relating to survivors of Family Violence
- Barriers to Self Sufficiency in Family Violence Cases
- Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy
- Imposter Phenomenon

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freedom Place / Arrow Ministries

11/15 to Present

Contract Equine Therapist

- Responsible for development and delivery of equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP) services for adolescent, female clients/victims of human trafficking.
- Board member of Arena Development Committee
- Responsible for EAP education for Freedom Place staff and volunteers.

Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM), Director, Family Violence Center

03/97 to 06/13

- Responsible for \$600,000+ annual program budget.
- Development and implementation of operating guidelines.
- Recruitment, training and supervision of staff and volunteers.
- Responsible for writing and administering grant funds within state and federal guidelines.
- Develop and present domestic violence and related seminars to professional groups.
- Clinical work with clients in both individual and group settings.
- **Advisory Board member and clinical site for GCSW's Child Trauma Program.**
- Development, administration, and analysis of agency-wide Needs Assessments.
- Responsible for recruitment, training and supervision of graduate social work and clinical students.
- Responsible for crisis intervention services agency-wide.

Harris County Adult Violent Death Review Team (AVDRT), Chair

01/03 to 12/15

- Responsible for collecting case list information on domestic violence homicides/suicides in cooperation with the Harris County District Attorneys Office, Law Enforcement, Medical Examiner's Office, and other county agencies.
- Responsible for overseeing a secure environment for the confidential file information.
- Providing statistical, non-confidential information to the AVDRT members and to other agencies by request.
- Responsible for the writing, production and dissemination of the biannual AVDRT report to citizens of Harris County and Texas.
- Recruitment and training of county-wide agencies to partner with the AVDRT.

Private Practice, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

11/11 to Present

- Certified in Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP), EAGALA model

Harris County District Attorney's Office, Family Violence Case Manager

12/94 to 03/97

- Interviewed and assessed the needs of victims of family violence, both adults and children regarding protective orders and criminal charges.
- Instituted a data collection process regarding animal cruelty/abuse statistics.
- Prepared witnesses for testimony in criminal cases.
- Testified in family violence criminal cases.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Member, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC)
- Chair, Adult Violent Death Review Team, Harris County (AVDRT)
- Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA)
- University Committee - EAGALA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Co-founder of county-wide **PetSafe Program** with the Houston SPCA. 1997 to Present
- Creator of **#1800SAFE campaign** 2015 to Present

PUBLISHED WORK

- Texas Speech Communications Journal, August 1997, 08/97
Cruelty to Animals ... A Communication Form in Family Violence