

Chiquita V. Whittington, LMSW

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Michigan State University- School of Social Work

East Lansing, MI 48824

Work (517) 353-5537

EDUCATION

Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) July 2021

Master of Social Work- Advanced Standing May 2014
Michigan State University, East Lansing MI

Bachelors of Social Work May 2013
Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI
Minor: **Interdisciplinary**

College Preparatory Diploma June 2009
Flint Northern High School, Flint, MI

Professional Experience

Michigan State University, School of Social Work November 2021- Current
Director of Fostering Academics and Mentoring Excellence (FAME)

- Coordinated all services provided by the FAME Program (Fostering Academics, Mentoring Excellence), including life skills coaching, mentoring, monthly workshops and training, and finals week survival kits.
- Researched best practices to increase student engagement and collected qualitative and quantitative data to monitor program progress.
- 2024- Spearheaded stakeholder negotiations to secure \$150,000 in scholarship funds to aid in student recruitment for the program.
- Head coach for FAME, delivering individualized support to 50-70 Michigan State University students per year with backgrounds in foster care or other nontraditional upbringings.
- Supervised a multidisciplinary team, including program staff, interns, and volunteer mentors.
- Monitored contract compliance and maintained accurate documentation, monthly reporting, and billing statements for the DHHS-funded program.

- Developed and implemented program policies and procedures, and conducted assessments and student-led case planning and interventions.
- Established and maintained partnerships with university personnel to create a supportive network for foster youth alumni on campus and enhance the availability of resources for at-risk students.
- Conducted outreach to high school foster youth on accessing higher education and participated in community outreach to raise awareness of the challenges faced by former foster youth in higher education.

Whaley Children's Center, Clinical Therapist

November 2016-November 2021

- Provided therapeutic treatment for adolescents (ages 5-17) who have experienced extreme abuse or neglect.
- Conducted comprehensive assessments, including psychosocial histories, court reports, individual treatment plans, behavioral and suicide risk assessments, and safety planning.
- Facilitated individual, group, and family therapy sessions and participated in interdisciplinary clinical team meetings.
- Collaborated with families, attended case conferences, review hearings, IEP meetings, and coordinated with external service providers to support children's permanency and long-term well-being.
- Provided crisis management and after-hours on-call services.
- Co-Facilitator, Independent Living Program
- Assisted in implementing an independent living program for youth ages 15+, focusing on teaching essential life skills aligned with the Casey Life Skills Assessment.

Harambe Management Solutions (contract) Taylor Life Center/Consumer Services, Inc (CSI).

July 2018-July 2019

- Developed and monitored person-centered plans and treatment goals to support clients' mental health and well-being.
- Assessed clients' needs and linked them to appropriate public and private resources to enhance their care and services.
- Coordinated services with other treatment team members, ensuring a collaborative approach to client care.
- Maintained strong relationships with referral sources and stakeholders to facilitate timely service delivery.
- Worked both in office and in clients' personal residences to ensure comprehensive care and support.

- Provided family psychoeducation to empower families with knowledge and strategies to support clients' mental health.
- Petitioned the court to address serious mental health needs, advocating for appropriate legal and treatment interventions.
- Maintained active communication with clients' family members and friends to ensure a supportive and informed care network.
- Held a part-time position, balancing a caseload and delivering high-quality case management services.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Service (DHHS) May 2015 –November 2016

- Worked with a diverse population of families in both urban and suburban settings, providing comprehensive foster care services.
- Conducted weekly to monthly client visits to assess needs, monitor progress, and connect families with appropriate services.
- Facilitated Family Team Meetings to develop and implement support plans tailored to individual family needs.
- Represented families during civil court hearings, advocating for their rights and needs in legal proceedings.
- Performed case management duties, ensuring timely service delivery and accurate documentation.
- Completed initial and updated plans, as well as court reports, to ensure compliance and support family reunification efforts.
- Held a full-time position, managing a caseload while maintaining a strong focus on client advocacy and family preservation.

Wolverine Human Services

August 2014- May 2015

- Provided therapeutic treatment to adolescent males (ages 13-17) for 6-9 months at Wolverine Human Services.
- Completed psychosocial histories, court reports, individual treatment plans, and behavioral assessments.
- Conducted suicide risk assessments, safety plans, and PREA assessments to ensure client safety and well-being.

- Led individual, group, and family therapy sessions to address mental health needs and promote recovery.
- Participated in interdisciplinary clinical team meetings to develop and evaluate treatment plans.
- Supervised and mentored youth specialists, ensuring the effective implementation of treatment strategies.
- Facilitated case conferences and family visitations to ensure collaboration between clients and their support systems.
- Held a full-time position, managing a demanding caseload and ensuring continuity of care for all clients.

Whaley Children's Center

June 2013- July 2014

- Worked directly with adolescents and children to support basic everyday needs, including cooking, cleaning, social interaction, and educational goals.
- Became CPR certified and trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) to effectively manage crises and ensure safety.
- Gained experience working with children who have experienced abuse or neglect, fostering empathy and understanding of trauma dynamics.
- Developed and facilitated anger management groups to promote emotional regulation and positive behavior among youth.
- Reviewed and understood individual case files and behavior plans to provide tailored support and interventions for each child.
- Held a part-time position, contributing to a positive and structured environment for at-risk youth.

Flint Community Schools

September 2013- April 2014

- Provided services to students with special needs as part of the Learning Support Staff (LSS) team.
- Assisted in the preparation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIPs) to support student development.
- Facilitated social work groups focused on stress and anger management, emotional identification, self-esteem, and improving classroom behavior.
- Maintained direct contact with parents to provide updates, support, and collaborate on student progress.
- Documented case notes and observed a wide range of diagnoses to better understand and support elementary students with diverse needs.

- Held a part-time position, contributing to a positive and supportive school environment for students with special needs.

Certifications

2016-Current

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Certificate, EMDR Certification, and trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI).

Professional Affiliations

Black Female Fatherhood Scholars Network (BFFSN)

October 2024- Current

- Committee Member
- To engage in targeted study and produce evidenced-based research on Black fatherhood and the impact of a father's influence on the family dynamic.
- To educate society and key stakeholders to see Black fathers in a more positive light.
- To equip others with training on best and promising practices for engaging and supporting Black fathers in various societal settings.
- Project assistant

Michigan State University- School of Social Work: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Committee

September 2024- Current

- Committee Member
- Support initiatives to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in the MSU School of Social Work, focusing on student and faculty recruitment, course content, outreach, and research.
- Contributed to creating a welcoming, accessible environment and developing programs that prepare social workers for diverse and inclusive practice in local and global contexts.
- Co-facilitating- Training and discussions for upcoming Continuing Education

June 2024- Current

Research Project: Exploring Professional's Perspectives of Administering a Campus-Based Support Program for College Students with a History of Child Welfare Involvement

- Assisted in editing and refining interview questions to ensure clarity and relevance to research objectives.
- Provided a listing of potential diverse and qualified candidates to be a part of the study.
- Will conduct interviews with participants, gathering valuable qualitative data for analysis.

- Will work with the research team to maintain data integrity and ensure adherence to ethical research guidelines.

Greater Flint Health Coalition BIPOC-Planning Committee January 2024- Current

- Committee Member
- Collaborated in planning and facilitating community-wide events in Flint, Michigan, addressing mental health and other critical needs of the BIPOC community.

Michigan State University Women of Color Community- Co- Director

January 2022- Current

- Awarded the Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant (CIEG) totaling \$15,000 from Michigan State University’s Office for Institutional Diversity & Inclusion; co-facilitated grant writing efforts since 2023 across multiple funding years.
- Co-facilitated and hosted various WOCC events, including the Fall Welcome, Annual Conference, reading and discussion groups, and social events (e.g., end-of-year social, sisterhood luncheons).
- Organized quarterly meetings with MSU administrators and the full membership body, as well as networking groups focused on professional development, travel, and wellness.
- Aligned WOCC efforts with MSU’s DEI Strategic Plan (launched in Fall 2021), in partnership with the Office of the Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer and the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, to promote visibility, support, and recognition for the contributions of women of color at MSU.

Board Member of Edible Flint

May 2021- January 2023

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Greater Flint

April 2017-January 2020

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

- Delivered presentations for Social Work 200 course at Michigan State University (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2025), sharing insights from lived experience as a Children's Protective Worker and Foster Care Child Welfare Worker.
- Discussed relevant statistics, case studies, policies, and procedures to enhance students' understanding of child welfare.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

October 2022-Present

Co- Principal Investigator: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, “*Youth in Transition*” Grant

ADVISORY POSITION:

August 2022- Present

Fostering Academics and Mentoring Excellence- FAME, Student Activity Board (SAB)- MSU Registered Organization, Faculty Advisor

- Attend meetings with students to act as a guidance for their group discussions.
- Collaborate on event planning.
- Process annual renewal for RSO
- Complete recommendations letters on behalf of student leaders

