

Rachel Derrington, MSW, PMP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Strategies, Denver, CO Project Manager

2008-present

- Provide technical assistance to OFA grantees as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as an intermediary for Annie E. Casey Foundation youth relationship education grantees (6 grantees in various parts of U.S.).
- Manage on-line Clearinghouse (www.healthymarriageinfo.org) by identifying scholarly articles, government reports and policy briefs, and ensuring they are uploaded to website.
- Oversee author contracts and edit all products submitted (60+ products per Fiscal Year).
- Oversee budgets and deliverables for website hosting/design and research sub-contractors.
- Author and co-author Fact Sheets, Research Briefs, Special Collections, How-to-Guides, Tool Kits and Tip Sheets and ensure their timely release on website.
- Select materials for distribution for conferences and present on various topics.
- Write and edit website content.
- Participate in and facilitate research and policymaker work groups.
- Supervise Project Specialist and Research Assistant.
- Serve as clearinghouse project liaison to OFA federal project officer.

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work Family Policy Adjunct Professor

Present

- Teach second year graduate students family policy as it relates to federal and state family strengthening activities.
- Assist Associate Dean with the creation of family policy curriculum.

The Adoption Exchange, Denver, CO

2006 - 2008

Adoptive Families Program Coordinator/Recruitment Response Team Specialist

- Assist prospective and licensed adoptive families (in English and in Spanish) on how to maneuver through the child welfare system in Colorado
- Teach adoption information class to families, which gives an overview of the child welfare system, including foster care, foster-adopt and adoption programs
- Train families who adopted on issues such as attachment, traumatized children, parent-infant bonding, sensory integration, child development, grief, loss, abandonment, sexual abuse, identity development, and post-institutionalization
- Currently developing training course in conjunction with Parker Adventist Hospital on above issues for adoptive families
- Build relationships with community resources by making presentations and doing site visits, including county, state and federal entities
- Write newsletter
- Develop and manage budget
- Supervise intern, administrative staff person and data entry person
- Facilitate Spanish Adoptive/Foster Parent Recruitment program for Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas
- Serve on the Foster Care and Permanency Task Force (SB 07-064) Children and Families subcommittee, which includes presentations and research on child welfare issues such as CORE services, TANF, foster youth emancipation, adoption subsidies,

Child and Family Service Reviews, and kinship care (was also on planning committee and assisted with writing the bill)

- Serve on the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council Children and Families subcommittee, which is a legislated council that makes recommendations for mental health policy and Medicaid. Includes research and presentations on child welfare and its relationship to Medicaid.
- Coordinated military adoptive family recruitment, including presenting at conferences (Child Welfare League of America, 2007) and training caseworkers as necessary
- Assisted Montana DFS and Wyoming DFS with child welfare recruitment of adoptive families
- Participated in Children's Bureau roundtable discussions on the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families and post-adoption services

National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver, CO

2006

Contract Research Assistant

- Tracked and coded adoption bills and legislation for all fifty states for project with the Urban Institute
- Created interviewing protocol for project
- Interviewed key legislative staff and legislators involved in drafting adoption legislation

Research Analyst

- Provided child welfare policy technical assistance to state legislatures and various legislators, including research on adoption subsidies, caseworker best practice, racial disparity in child welfare and court/agency collaboration
- Wrote child welfare legislation summaries
- Wrote monthly newsletter for all fifty state legislatures on kinship care

El Paso County Department of Human Services

Colorado Springs, CO 2005-2006

Research Intern

- Assisted the El Paso County Quality Assurance team and the El Paso County Family Visitation Center with creation of family satisfaction survey
- Analyzed data

New Genesis Denver, CO

2005

Case Manager

- Managed shelter staff of 5 paraprofessionals
- Case manager for men in homeless shelter; utilized brief therapy and solution-focused therapy
- Facilitated groups for men and women in transitional housing on dealing with depression, substance abuse

EDUCATION

M.S.W.

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO

B.A. Psychology

University of Denver, Denver, CO

CERTIFICATION

Project Management Professional 2011