

# Elissa Hardy, LCSW

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## Executive Summary:

- Development and grants management: Managed over \$4 million in local, state and federal grants aiding in creating lasting solutions for homelessness, substance use, and mental health.
- Program design, implementation and development: Planned, implemented and developed two successful interdisciplinary non-profit programs from the ground up. Revitalized and managed existing programs, leading to a promotion of Director of these programs.
- Supervisory experience: Skilled at building, energizing and supervising teams. This includes recruiting, hiring and supervising staff of diverse backgrounds and education, as well as master's level clinicians toward licensure.
- Policy development and analysis: Developed policy and procedure manual for Housing First programs. Member of the Quality Improvement and Quality Management Oversight Committees.
- Advocacy work, community building, and collaboration: Represented the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Jefferson Center for Mental Health as well as the homeless population and those experiencing mental health and substance issues on committees in Metro Denver, Jefferson County, Clear Creek County and Gilpin County. Formed community relationships with community landlords, Denver Housing Authority, methadone clinics, Mental Health Center of Denver, Colorado Medicaid partners, City of Denver, Denver Health, Denver County Courts (Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Court to Community Program), Clear Creek County Sheriff's Department, Gilpin County Sheriff's Department, substance treatment programs, community partners in Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties, etc. Experienced in managing programs that are a collaborative effort of more than one agency and oversight of the grants that involve many community partners. Volunteer experience with American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Colorado AIDS Project, Nebraska AIDS Project, Urban Peak (youth homeless shelter), Mountain Pet Rescue.
- Leadership: Eleven years of experience managing and directing social service programs. Responsible for ensuring the best possible care using evidenced based practice for over 400 program participants. Experience in leading meetings, team buildings, planning and conducting classes, lectures and presentations on a local, state and national level. Strong ability to make quick decisions and problem solve.
- Grant writing: Awarded local, state and national grants.
- Research and teaching: Researched and facilitated support groups and workshops regarding the effects of trauma and secondary trauma in the workplace. Researched and taught classes on trauma informed care for staff, community members and graduate social work students.
- Clinical experience: Experienced in completing comprehensive clinical intakes utilizing the DSM to determine diagnostic impressions, recommending and providing appropriate treatment.

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## Professional Experience:

### Denver Public Library – Denver, CO

February 2015 – present      **Community Resource Specialist**

- Develop Community Resource Specialist/LCSW position. Provide intervention and resource connection for the homeless and other at-risk populations that utilize the Denver Public Library's services. Develop and provide training to library and security staff on the topics of trauma informed care, mental health, substance use, poverty, privilege and more. Connect with community partners and Denver's Road Home to collaborate in the effort to end homelessness.

### Jefferson Center for Mental Health – Wheat Ridge, CO

April 2014 – February 2015      **Manager of Mountain Services**

December 2014 – present      **Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Mobile Crisis and Crisis Walk in Center**

- Supervised the Mountain Outpatient, School-based, Jail Based (Clear Creek County JBBS) and co-located Integrated Health staff. Served as the Community Mental Health Site Manager for the mountain locations of Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. Promoted strong community partnerships and coordinate behavioral health services and programs with key agencies in the mountain communities.
- Provide crisis intervention for individuals experiencing mental health crisis.

## **Colorado Coalition for the Homeless – Denver, CO**

January 2013 – April 2014      **Program Director – Housing First and ACT Services**

March 2012 – January 2013      **Program Manager – Bridges HITT team**

September 2005 – October 2011      **Program Manager – 16<sup>th</sup> Street Housing First and ACT and IDDT**

- Planned, implemented, developed and supervised Housing First, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Interdisciplinary Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT), and High Intensity Treatment Teams (HITT) for one of the top homeless agencies in the country. Promoted to the Director of these teams as well as two additional teams.

## **Swedish Medical Center – Englewood, CO**

October 2011 – February 2012      **Emergency Room Social Worker**

- Provided psychosocial assessments for individuals in the Emergency Room who required assistance with resources, insurance, mental health and substance treatment. Navigated city resources and served as an advocate for patients.

## **Journeys – Omaha, NE**

April 2005 – September 2005      **Outpatient Clinical Supervisor/Therapist**

June 2003 – April 2005      **Community Reintegration Coordinator**

- Implemented and developed the Community Reintegration program for an adolescent treatment program for those experiencing mental health, substance use, and legal issues. Supervised staff and created the Alumni Group of graduates from the program which included the members of the Alumni Group mentoring those in treatment. Developed relationships with schools, employers, probation officers and other community groups to assist adolescents in reintegrating into their communities. Promoted to the Outpatient Clinical Supervisor position which included supervision of this program and the Intensive Outpatient Program. The Journeys program is a collaboration of Catholic Charities of Omaha, The Child Saving Institute of Omaha and Omaha Home for Boys.

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## **Teaching Experience:**

### **University of Denver – Denver, CO**

September 2012-present      **Adjunct Instructor at the Graduate School of Social Work**

Courses Taught:      Trauma and Recovery (Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

Interventions for Responses to Trauma (Spring 2013)

Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma (Fall 2014)

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## **Licensure and Education:**

January 2006      Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of Colorado #523

May 2003      MSW, Social Work, University of Nebraska at Omaha

December 1998      BS, Social Work, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Minor in Psychology

April 2009      Certified Yoga Instructor

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## **Presentations and Trainings:**

**Trauma Informed Supervision;** Jefferson Center for Mental Health, training for all managers, Wheat Ridge, CO; Winter 2014-2015

**Trauma Informed Care for our Communities;** Health Advisory Committee, Idaho Springs, CO; October 7, 2014.

**Keynote Speaker;** Metro State University School of Social Work Phi Alpha Honor Society; Denver, CO; April 15, 2014

**Co-facilitator for Secondary Trauma Resiliency Training;** Vital Hearts; Denver, CO; October 2009; July 2011; May 2014

**Housing First in an Affordable Care Act Community;** National Housing First Conference; Chicago, IL; March 14, 2014

**Trauma Informed Care Ongoing Training for All Staff;** Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Denver, CO; 2013-2014

**Trauma Informed Care;** Colorado Coalition for the Homeless All Staff Retreat; Denver, CO; October 30, 2013

**Housing First;** Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Conference; Denver, CO; May 19, 2011

**Using ACT, Housing First, and Harm Reduction with the Chronically Homeless Population;** National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference; Washington D.C.; June 26, 2009

**Using ACT, Housing First, and Harm Reduction with the Chronically Homeless Population;** Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Conference; Denver, CO; June 3, 2009

**Vicarious Trauma;** Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Conference; Denver, CO; May 23, 2007

**Grief and Loss in the Homeless Population;** guest speaker at University of Denver Psychology of Grief and Loss course in the International Disaster Psychology Program; Denver, CO; September 19, 2006

**Chemical Abuse/Dependency Informational Presentation;** HALT class at Westside Alternative High School; Omaha, NE; May 14, 2004. Child Saving Institute Foster Parent Support Group; Omaha, NE; October 27, 2004. Youth Group at St. James United Methodist Church; Omaha, NE; January 9, 2005. Youth Group at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; Omaha, NE; March 21, 2005. Health and Human Services; Omaha, NE; June 14, 2005

**Information on Drugs and Alcohol and the benefits of Cognitive Therapy in the Adolescent Population;** Journeys; presented to Douglas County/Sarpy County Probation and Health and Human Services; Omaha, NE; December 15, 2004