

Jason Vitello

jasonvitello@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO, *Masters of Social Work*, June 2012
Augusta State University, Augusta, GA, *Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*, December 2007
Georgia Military College, Martinez, GA, *Associates in Religious Studies*, December 2004

CERTIFICATIONS

Butler Institute for Families, Denver, CO, *Child Welfare Academy Certification*, June 2013
Family Leadership Training Institute, Denver, CO, *FLTI Certification*, June 2013
Nurturing Parenting Program, Denver, CO, *NPP Facilitator Certification*, September 2011

PRACTICE INTERESTS

Generalist practice, children, youth, families, health care, mental health, behavioral health, community empowerment/organizing, civic engagement, addictions, veterans, access, organizational change, power, privilege and oppression, social justice, existentialism

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Racial relations, strategic collaboration across struggles, civic engagement, systemic trauma, father absence

TEACHING INTERESTS

Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Theory, Practice, Research, Policy, Power, Privilege and Oppression, Critical Race Theory, Medical Social Work, Health, Mental Health

PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Facilitator for *Denver Dialogues for Young Children: The Raising of America*. Ford Warren Library (Denver, CO, March 14 2, 2015)
- 2014 Panelist for *Family Leadership Training Institute: Five Points Community Outreach*. Crossroads Theater (Denver, CO, September 30, 2014)
- 2014 Panelist for *Progress & Possibilities in Early Childhood: Building a Shared Understanding of Toxic Stress in the Early Years-Accomplishments and Next Steps*. Mile High United Way (Denver, CO, December 2, 2014)
- 2014 Panelist for *Family Leadership Summit: A Father-full Society*. Children's Hospital (Denver, CO, September 30, 2014)
- 2014 Panelist for *Nurturing Parenting Program Training*. Families First (Denver, CO, August 18, 2014)
- 2014 Guest Lecturer for *Critical Race Praxis: Anti-Oppressive Practice*. University of Denver, Craig Hall (Denver, CO, May 22, 2014)
- 2014 Panelist for *Evolving Trends and Perspective in Health and Wellness*. (Denver, CO, April 12, 2014)
- 2013 Panelist for *Family Leadership Summit: Diverse Populations: Impacts of Father Absence*. Children's Hospital (Denver, CO, March 9, 2014)
- 2012 Moderator/Facilitator for *Color of Politics*. University of Denver, Sturm Hall (Denver, CO, September 24, 2012)
- 2012 Key Panelist and Moderator for *Whole Man Expo: Minority Men Experiences*. Cable Center (Denver, CO, September 8, 2012)
- 2012 Presenter for *Center for Multicultural Excellence: Excellence Awards*. Cable Center (Denver, CO, May 24, 2012)
- 2012 Moderator/Facilitator for *Anti-Oppressive Practice*. University of Denver, Craig Hall (Denver, CO, January 11, 2012)
- 2011 Presenter for *Disrupting Privilege Symposium*. University of Denver, Sturm Hall (Denver, CO, May 20, 2011)

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2012 Research Interviewer and Co-Author of *Report on Race Relations Between African Americans and Latinos in the City of Denver* for the Office of Mayor Michael Hancock

PRACTICE/CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Colorado State University Extension, *Family Leadership Training Institute Youth Facilitator*, January 2015- Present

- Facilitates 120 hour, 20-week curriculum that integrates personal and child development, leadership training, civic literacy and civic participation skills to 12 youth in Denver Five Points community
- Mentors youth in development of community/civic project
- Assists in recruitment of guest speakers from within academic, business and political communities
- Assists in coordination of various events such as retreats, "Day at the Capitol," and local and state graduation ceremonies

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, *Adjunct Professor*, September 2014- Present

- Teaches and performs other faculty duties for SOWK-4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Denver VA Medical Center Patient Aligned Care Team, *Social Worker*, August 2013- Present

- Coordinate delivery of medical, social, and emotional support to veterans and their families in outpatient primary care clinic
- Provide consultation and education to veterans and their families on advance directives, services, benefits and resources
- Facilitate meetings with veteran and families to help define patient-centered goals of care
- Arrange transportation for veterans for appointments and post-operation discharge
- Collaborate with other disciplines, internal programs and community agencies to coordinate appropriate services for veterans
- Assess veterans for depression, suicide risk and decision making capacity for referral to mental health treatment as necessary
- Assists needy, disabled and homeless veterans in obtaining financial assistance, legal aid, housing resources
- Coordinate respite, Adult Day Health Care, or long term care in Contract Nursing Homes for eligible veterans
- Provide task supervision to social work intern
- Participate in multidisciplinary meetings to construct and implement systemic interventions to improve facility wide employee satisfaction
- Chair committee designed to enhance and improve the employee experience within Social Work Service

Jefferson County Human Services, *Delinquency Services Case Worker*, March 2013- August 2013

- Perform casework duties for at risk youth and juvenile offenders in wide range of specialty areas such as substance abuse, truancy, runaway behavior, and criminal behavior to facilitate safety, permanency and well-being
- Facilitated family and adolescent crisis response interventions
- Assessed for safety, risk, child abuse, neglect, delinquency and parent/child conflict
- Provided testimony at juvenile justice court hearings and provided dispositional recommendations
- Co-facilitated Family Team Meetings to determine optimal service plans
- Participated in Jefferson Co. Human Services Inclusivity Committee to promote cultural awareness and inclusivity

Denver Family Therapy Center, ROC Aftercare Program, *Therapist*, September 2012-August 2013

- Provided a full range of social work services including case work, individual, family and group counseling, discharge planning, case management and other services for juvenile probationers and their families
- Administered biopsychosocial assessments to determine individual and family needs and treatment plan
- Provided individual, family and group counseling using evidence based practices to address issues related to drug abuse/addiction, communication, conflict resolution, distorted cognitive functioning, lack of trust within parent-child relationship, trauma and more
- Acted as a mental health consultant to other team/staff members and treatment providers
- Collaborated and provided updates on progress to probation and courts

Fatherhood Support Services, Clinician, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, August 2010-October 2013

- Counsel and mentor 39 fathers to enhance communication, coping, conflict resolution and relationship building using family centered focus
- Administer psychosocial assessments to determine needs and service plan
- Assist fathers in navigation of institutional and societal obstacles to increase involvement in their children's lives
- Facilitate the 16 week Nurturing Parenting Program group sessions
- Administer and scores assessments related to parenting, self-esteem, depression and nurturing ability
- Assist agency in grant writing, marketing, networking and public relations
- Conduct research to assist in design and implementation of intervention tools
- Assists in the task supervision and oversight of 4 social work students

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PRACTICE/CLINICAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Shades Of Brown Alliance (SOBA) *President*, September 2010-June 2012

- Planned and facilitated events and dialogues around racism, privilege, oppression, social justice and inclusiveness
- Recruited educators and community leaders to serve as facilitators and panelists for events
- Advocated on behalf of students of color to voice concerns to school administration
- Coordinated and attended meetings with the Dean and Associate Dean to discuss the enhancement of multicultural curriculum and the increasing of minority representation amongst faculty and the student body
- Participated in several prospective faculty interviews to inquire about their commitment to social justice, empowerment, inclusiveness and multicultural presence and reflexivity
- Actively recruited on campus for organization members and leaders
- Collaborated with other student leaders across the University of Denver to promote interests of marginalized groups on campus
- Continues to mentor active leaders to assist in the sustainability and continued success of the organization

Denver VA Medical Center Palliative Care Unit, *Intern*, September 2011-May 2012

- Coordinated delivery of medical, social, and emotional support to patients and their families diagnosed with terminal and advanced illness
- Counseled veterans and their families to assist them in coping with the loss and grief experiences of disability, terminal illness and death
- Actively participated in multidisciplinary medicine, surgery and palliative rounds to determine treatment plans
- Assisted in facilitation of family meetings to help define client-centered goals of care and timely and appropriate discharge planning
- Collaborated with other disciplines and community agencies to coordinate appropriate discharge and facilitate continuity of care for veterans
- Facilitated weekly psycho-educational Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and Seeking Safety groups in residential PTSD clinic
- Co-facilitated psycho-educational Matrix Relapse Prevention groups in Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- Observed and participated in treatment plan meetings in Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

Garden City Counseling Center, *Parent Aid*, July 2009-2010

- Assisted 47 families in attaining employment, housing, parenting enhancement, medical care, community resources and public assistance
- Collaborated with clients, Dept. of Children and Family Services, and support systems to identify needs and help facilitate the design and implementation of treatment plans
- Administered and scored assessments related to parenting, stress index and nurturing ability to clients
- Provided testimony at court hearings related to child welfare, case plans, protective orders and public housing benefits

Georgia SAFE, *Case Manager*, February 2008-February 2009

- Designed and implemented treatment plans for clients (25 specialized foster children ages 1 to 17)
- Ensured that clients received and sustained adequate services related to medical, mental health, social, cultural and educational needs
- Provided strengths based mentoring, training and guidance to clients to assist in the areas of social skills, gang awareness, academic achievement, independent living, relationship building, self esteem, health and hygiene and various life skills
- Recruited foster and adoptive families
- Worked closely with families, community partners and Dept. of Children and Family Services toward permanency and discharge plans

Southeastern Family Institute, *Intern*, June 2007-February 2008

- Administered psychological assessments to 24 clients under investigation by the Dept. of Family and Children Services
- Assisted in treatment planning and facilitation of group therapy sessions for registered sex offenders
- Organized and attended meetings with public service officials for licensure of non-profit facilities
- Assisted in the team planning and development of programs for 19 troubled teenagers
- Supervised visitations between foster children and their birth families to ensure they were performed according to State policy guidelines

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014-Present SOWK-4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment, MSW, University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

COMMUNITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014-Present Family Leadership Training Institute, *Five Points Youth Facilitator*, Denver, Colorado

2011-2014 Nurturing Parenting Program, *Facilitator*, Denver, Colorado

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STUDENT MENTORSHIP/TASK SUPERVISION

Graduate School of Social Work MSWs -

Brian Polovoy – Graduated in 2014

Vance Louie – Graduated in 2014

Jill Turner – Graduated in 2013

Joelle Mendoza – Graduated in 2013

HONORS, ASSOCIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

- Member of Advisory Council On Racial Diversity (ACORD) at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work
- Board Member of Mile High Independent Living Center
- Member of Civic Canopy Symposium Steering Committee
- Member of Early Childhood Colorado Partnership Speakers Bureau on Toxic Stress
- Completed LEAN Six Sigma Yellow Belt Training
- Chair of committee designed to enhance and improve the employee experience within Social Work Service at the Denver VA Medical Center
- Member of multidisciplinary team implemented to enhance and improve the employee experience throughout the Denver VA Medical Center
- Member of city-wide Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID)
- Member of state-wide Colorado Fatherhood Council (CFC)
- Member of Phi Alpha (Social Work Honors Society)
- Member of Psi Chi (Psychology Honors Society)
- Contributing author for *Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Lives: Defining Moments* anthology
- Elected class speaker for 2013 Family Leadership Training Institute State Graduation
- Elected valedictorian/class speaker of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver Class of 2012