

Education

Doctorate in Clinical Sexology (In Progress)

International Institute of Clinical Sexology
Miami Shores, Florida

Master of Social Work

North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina
M.S.W, Master of Social Work

Bachelor of Arts

Huston-Tillotson University
Austin, Texas
B.A, Sociology

BRIDGES Academic Leadership Certification

University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution Certification

Manouso Mediation
Houston, TX

Work Experiences

April-Autumn Sparks...

NC, FL, TX

January 2017-Present

Sex Therapist, Life Coach, Speaker, Fashionista

April-Autumn is a transformative therapist, speaker and life coach, helping people, organizations and businesses reimagine themselves. She collaborates with individuals, groups and organizations utilizing 3 different platforms to empower them to reach their full potential.

- April-Autumn Sparks...Conversation is a training and educational component specifically designed for groups, schools, organizations and businesses who want to understand the complexities of Power-Based Personal Violence which include issues of bullying and bias, sexual harassment/assault/misconduct and intimate partner violence. The seminars and training courses are based on a three-prong model of Respect, Responsibility and Resiliency.
- establisHER (Healed, Empowered, Restored) is April-Autumn's approach to holistic therapeutic services. She believes that every person can overcome pain and challenges if they start with a positive viewpoint of SELF and is ready to make changes to reclaim the spark they once had. April- Autumn is committed to helping her clientele become their authentic selves through the healing of their hearts, empowering their minds, and restoring them to move forward on their journey.
- Thrift Therapy is Brief Solution Focused life coaching, and therapy coupled with thrifting/shopping for extra flare! Through this wildly successful program, April-Autumn collaborates with clients who are pursuing new opportunities to transform their business, prepare for the next season, or create a new chapter in their lives through an affordable, personalized, one-on-one, therapeutic shopping experience.

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Thrift Therapy is April-Autumn's way of re-imagining her client's idea of themselves from a broken to empowered person, stylishly.

Duke University

Durham, NC

October 2016-May 2023

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker/Gender Violence Prevention & Intervention Coordinator

The Women's Center

The Duke University Women's Center promotes a campus culture that ensures the full participation and agency of women students at Duke. We are committed to a campus culture that provides all students access to a full range of personal and professional choices, fosters agency and self-determination for all, and creates transformative experiences to understand and resist patriarchal oppression in our lives and the world. We approach our work using the guiding values of social justice, community and change. Responsibilities include:

- Steering Committee Co-Chair for the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Intervention Taskforce
- Supporting the University's overall response to gender violence for undergraduate, graduate and professional student populations, their families, friends and significant others.
- Providing evaluation, brief psychotherapy, crisis intervention and /or personal counseling utilizing individual, conjoint and group treatment modalities to assist Duke students who experience gender violence;
- Evaluating and improve the university's strategies to prevent and respond to gender violence through a multidisciplinary and cross-departmental cooperative approach
- Reducing the impact of gender violence on all members of the campus community.
- Assisting students by providing counseling, advising, support, direction, feedback, critique, referral and guidance to individuals and groups.
- Serving as advisor on the components of Title IX and the Campus SAVE Act as well as other federal regulations and national campaigns that impact the campus community, policies, procedures and best practices.
- Providing crisis response for campus incidents of gender violence on an on-call basis with the other Office of Gender Violence Prevention and Intervention staff members;
- Providing evaluation, brief psychotherapy, crisis intervention and/or personal counseling utilizing individual, conjoint and group treatment modalities to primary and secondary survivors of gender violence trauma;
- Consulting with other administrators, faculty and staff concerning the needs of students and advocate for the student across the campus, making referrals to other services as necessary; consult with other disciplines also working with survivors (law enforcement, judicial, hospital/medical) to ensure comprehensive and coordinated service delivery.
- Preparing reports concerning the history and treatment of students. 50% Maintain all clinical records in compliance with university policies and HIPAA regulations. ○ Reviewing and updating client service policies annually.
- Providing clinical and consultative supervision for advanced trainees (MSW).
- Facilitating the development of partnerships and efforts to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to students and key constituents.
- Providing leadership and support to the university gender violence taskforce; with other members of OVGPI
- Developing an annual strategic plan and calendar of meetings, events and training in support of the reduction and elimination of gender violence.

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- Managing program budgets and projects by monitoring monthly expenditures, ensuring the timely submission of check requests, reimbursements, and procurement card receipts.
- Developing strategies that will facilitate policy and social norms change related to sexual violence.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with campus, community and national agencies that support the mission of Women's Center; regularly identify and seek collaborative partners to further the work of the Women's Center.
- Assisting with the general promotion of the Women's Center and of feminist and womanist dialogue about gender-based violence through media and technology. 25%
- Design, conduct and critique qualitative and quantitative measures and analyses to shape the climate and programmatic responses in relation to the reduction of gender violence.
- Evaluate and assess programmatic effectiveness through regular qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- Develop campus wide system for statistical analysis and quality assurance for response to gender violence cases; maintain centralized statistics of gender violence reported across the campus;
- Design and implement sexual assault case review meetings and ensure process improvements are made;
- Monitor implementation of evidence-based interventions, best practices and recommendations from campus safety reviews.

Texas A&M University

February 2015 – September 2016

Program Director/Coordinator

College Station, TX

The Office of CLEAR- Consensual Language, Education, Awareness and Relationships

The Office of CLEAR is a part of the Offices of the Dean of Students and is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating health strategies, policies, programs and services for Texas A&M University students; providing health training and guidance; performing outreach functions on and campus; and supervising student staff, interns and/or peer educators. Responsibilities include:

- Create a program and infrastructure to open an office within the Offices of the Dean of Student Life to support students and provide prevention education around the issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/domestic violence, stalking and related retaliation
- Develop, coordinate and implement Step-IN Stand-UP Campus Campaign to educate all incoming students and provide continuing education on sexual violence to 50,000+ students in the Texas A&M community
- Co-Chaired the Green Dot Bystander Intervention Program Steering Committee
- Coordinate, facilitate and evaluate efficacy of the Texas A&M Green Dot Bystander Intervention Program
- Development and implement 3-year plan for prevention education for Title IX Develop and facilitate educational workshops that increase students', faculty's, and staffs' knowledge and awareness sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and related retaliation.
- Increase students' knowledge on the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ability and educate students in the primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence and provided opportunities for skill development through participatory learning

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- Develop culturally competent training in response to new student camps and orientations which include Howdy Camp, Fish Camp T-Camp and Gig 'Em Week.
- Evaluated process and outcomes to understand and articulate the value of trainings
- Develop partnerships with other departments and agencies in the community to address the areas of healthy relationships, sexual assault, sexual health and domestic/dating violence.
- Develop and implemented training for campus officers on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence
- Collaborate with Women's Resource Center to create programs to increase participation and utilization of the women's center by women of color.
- Collaborate with Department of Multicultural Services to provide culturally appropriate programs for students of color relating to healthy relationships, consent, alcohol and other drugs.
- Coordinate and implement the SHARP (Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention) Program

CHI- St. Luke's Health The Woodland's Hospital

The Woodlands, TX

December 2014- December 2016

Violence Prevention Coordinator

CHI St. Luke's Health-The Woodlands Hospital, an extension of CHI St. Luke's Health System, was built in 2003 to offer the local community family-centered care in a healing environment. Located on a beautiful 62-acre campus in The Woodlands, patients and visitors appreciate our one-of-a-kind clinical atmosphere with soothing colors, warm textures, and gentle architectural lines that provide a healing environment for the body, mind, and spirit.

- Lead efforts with domestic violence programs to build their capacity to incorporate prevention messages, strategies and evaluation into programming and services.
- Develop and deliver social marketing and public awareness campaigns to target audiences that promote violence prevention, unify The Woodlands gender-violence field, and raise public awareness in The Woodlands
- Develop and implement public awareness and marketing plans that include strategy, goals, budget and tactics that involve colleagues from across the organization including member programs. ○ Demonstrate a clear understanding of, and commitment to, primary prevention, community organizing, and community planning.
- Provide education, technical assistance/support and resources to domestic violence programs and other constituents regarding primary prevention, social change and community organizing.
- Develop a media relations strategy, seeking high-level placements in print, broadcast and online media.
- Utilize social media to engage audiences and raise awareness across the greater Houston area and design content to speak to multiple cultural, linguistic and life-span communities.
- Monitor, analyze and communicate public relations results on a quarterly basis.
- Evaluate opportunities for partnerships, sponsorships and advertising on an on-going basis.
- Maintain a keen understanding of trends affecting domestic violence victims and make appropriate recommendations regarding the communication strategy surrounding them.
- Ensure that prevention efforts and initiatives are inclusive and reflective of diverse populations across geographic regions, racial/cultural groups, gender identity/sexual orientation, and people with disabilities groups.

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Houston Area Women's Center

January 2013 – December 2014

Training Specialist

Houston, TX

The Houston Area Women's Center embraces the feminist belief that all individuals should have equal access to political, legal, economic and social rights. Responsibilities included:

- Developed and trained professionals in the intervention of sexual and intimate partner violence, providing opportunities for skill development through participatory learning and role plays
- Developed and trained advocates to increase knowledge on the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ability as it relates to sexual and domestic violence
- Assisted in training over 3,000 professionals in 2013 from the following fields: health care, law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, youth educators, and Houston Area Women's Center staff and volunteers
- Built and educated youth and adults in the primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence, providing opportunities for skill development through participatory learning and role plays
- Developed and taught educational workshops that increased participants' knowledge about sexual violence, domestic violence, and dating violence perpetration and victimization
- Trained Houston Area Women's Center and sister agencies' staff and volunteers through the Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Advocacy certification program
- Assisted sister agencies in their development of professional trainings and educational workshops in the intervention and primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence
- Maintained ongoing strategic relationships built through networking, trainings and outreach with community partners including Texas Southern University, Rice University, Memorial Hermann HealthCare System, Houston Police Department and Planned Parenthood.
- Educated youth and adults in the primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence and provided opportunities for skill development through participatory learning
- Increased participants' knowledge about sexual violence, domestic violence, and dating violence perpetration and victimization through educational workshops
- Developed culturally competent trainings in response to individual, business, and agency requests
- Evaluated process and outcomes to understand and articulate the value of trainings
- Developed organization policy for outside agencies and educational institutions regarding sexual violence and intimate partner violence

North Carolina Central University

Durham, NC

August 2010 - February 2013

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Campus Coordinator

The Women's Center

NCCU Women's Center promotes the academic, personal and professional development and the potential of women on campus. Responsibilities included:

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- Coordinated the SART Team and collaborated with other departments on response to campus emergencies
- Provided plan for response to campus emergencies, aftercare and evaluations on response
- Assist in planning, implementation, and evaluation of emergency preparedness exercises and drills to test the university's response to a variety of crisis situations.
- Provided instruction to students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents through workshops and presentations concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, healthy relationship, policies, procedures and women's issues
- Provided educational training for incoming students during orientation week, as well as throughout the year for students, administration, faculty and staff on Coordinated Community Response to intimate partner and sexual violence.
- Provided direction and training on Title IX compliance, how to conduct a civil rights investigation to meet your Office of Civil Rights expectations and helped create and maintain a welcoming, supportive, equitable and safe environment for all campus community members
- Worked with other university offices to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, Title IX and Clery to ensure Sexual Assault reporting.
- Developed partnerships with other departments and agencies in the community to address the areas of health relationships, sexual assault, sexual health and domestic/dating violence.
- Developed and implemented training for campus officers on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence.
- Developed campus policy and training for student's faculty and staff regarding sexual violence and intimate partner violence
- Collaborated and developed campus policy and trainings for North Carolina State University, Campbell University and Meredith College for student's faculty and staff regarding sexual violence and intimate partner violence
- Provided education training for the Athletic Department of North Carolina Central University concerning The Hook-up Culture, Privilege & Power and Athletes & Violence on Campus
- Provided crisis counseling, safety planning and systems advocacy to student victims/survivors and their families.
- Responsible for physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and academic development of youth residents in accordance with individual action plans and program policies
- Supervised MSW intern and ensured the practice of generalist Social Work perspective to serve the university community and use the skills of communication, empathy and to identify needs of students on a grander scale.
- Modeled positive relations with community groups, schools, authorities, and peers.

Media Interviews and Presentations

Ain't it #MeToo?: Barriers to Support for Black Women After Sexual Assault on Campus. Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), Lift Every Voice, May 2020.

It's #MeToo...Right?: Including Women of Color in the Discussion of Sexual Violence. TEDxDuke, February 2020.

Ain't it #MeToo?: The Recruitment and Retention of Black Women in Higher Ed. NASPA Multicultural Institute: Advancing Equity and Inclusive Practice, December 2019.

Comparing Our Notes at the Intersection of Race Gender and Sexual Assault. NASPA Multicultural Institute: Advancing Equity and Inclusive Practice, December 2019.

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Ain't I a Woman Too? The Intersections of Race, Victimhood & Survivorship in Sexual Violence. Wednesdays at John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, October 2019.

Ain't I a Woman Too? The Intersections of Victimhood & Survivorship. NCCASA 2019 Conference: Movement and Momentum: The Energy and Strategy to Push us Forward. May 2019.

The Complexities of Checking the Box for Violence Prevention. NASPA Mid-Managers Conference. June 2018.

Let's Talk About Gender Violence...In Greek Life: Exploring Prevention Training with Councils. North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2018 Biennial Conference Moving Forward: Redefining Justice in the Domestic Violence Movement. May 2018.

Gender Wednesdays- Please Believe Me... From Lemons to Lemonade After a Sexual Assault. Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, Duke University. April 2018

Lines That Divide Us: Misogynoir vs. Black Hyper-Masculinity. Texas A&M University Southwestern Black Leadership Conference. The 29th Annual SBSLC: "Activating the Vision", January 2017.

Step IN, Stand UP for Prevention. NASPA Violence Prevention Conference, January 2017.

Multicultural Leadership Track. American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference (AMSLC) 2016 ~ Solidarity: Many Voices, One Chorus, April 2016.

Black Identities and Sexual Assault: I'm Too Strong for That". Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Annual Conference, Mind the Gap: Who is Missing from the Movement? "March 2016.

Galveston College Focus Group and Campus Evaluation, "Men of Color: From Surviving to Thriving the College Experience." December 2015.

Galveston College Presentation, "Community Colleges and Sexual Violence" November 2015.

Student Leaders Raising the Bar: The Campus Climate and Sexual Violence. Texas A&M University's Southwestern Black Leadership Conference. January 2012

Meredith College Sexual Assault Survivor Series. Keynote Speaker for Diva Dash & Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Day. March 31, 2011.

News 14 Carolina and WRAL. "Proposed cuts to state funding for the NC Victim Assistance Network and Rape Victims Assistance Program (RVAP)." May 17, 2010.

Meredith College Sexual Assault Survivor Series. Keynote Speaker for Diva Dash & Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Day. April 12, 2010.

UNC TV's Black Issues Forum. "Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the African American Community." April 9, 2010.

Independent Weekly. "Interact debuts a new model for violence prevention in Raleigh." May 6, 2009.
Interact of Wake County. Keynote Speaker for SAAM Candlelight Vigil. April 22, 2009.