**Lester L. Ward, Jr., MSW**

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**Education**

**Valdosta State University,** Valdosta, GA May 2018

Master of Social Work

* GPA: 3.51

**Middle Georgia State College,** Macon, GA

Bachelor of Science, Public Service Human Services May 2013

* GPA: 3.19

**Macon State College**,Macon, GA

Associate of Science, Business Administration August 2010

**Florida Memorial University**,Miami Gardens, FL

Studied Religion & Philosophy and Business Administration January 2006 to December 2007

**Academic Honors & Awards**

The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi

* National Engaged Leader Award with Presidential Status May 2013

INROADS Florida Region, Inc.

* Sophomore of the Year Award August 2007

Florida Memorial University

* Leadership Character and Service Award April 2006
* Most Outstanding Student Award December 2006

Korean Pastor’s Association of Greater Miami

* Awarded Academic Scholarship for $3,000 July 2006

**Computer Software Proficiency**

* Epic System
* Allscripts System
* Power Chart System
* Navihealth System
* Meditech System
* Georgia Medicaid Management Information System
* Microsoft Office
* Carelogic Information System

**Professional Accomplishments**

**Supervised hours completed towards eligibility for LCSW State of Georgia Exam: 86 of 120 hours (est. August 2023)**

**Currently eligible for LMSW State of Georgia Licensure Exam (est. December 2022)**

**Work Experience**

**Care Navigator-Acute/MSW**, Atrium Health Navicent, Macon, GA

November 2018 – November 2021; July 2023 - Present

* Provide ongoing discharge planning and care management services for patients during an acute-care admission
* Coordinate appropriate referrals for post discharge home healthcare service, continuum placement needs and durable medical equipment.
* Complete Department of Medical Assistance form and Pre-Admission Screen Resident Review (PASRR) for all patients needing inpatient rehabilitation or skilled nursing placement
* Complete acute-care needs assessments, identify and address patient barriers to goals and manage patient’s length of stay
* Maintain professional ethics and clinical documentation integrity
* Coordinate patient care with multidisciplinary team members.
* Acts as a liaison for utilization management and clinical documentation improvement.
* Participate in rounds on the patient care unit with the attending physician and other members of the health care team
* Advocate for patient’s best interest
* Communicate patient/family plan of care and make appropriate referrals to palliative team
* Coordinate with physicians to establish appropriate admission status for patients
* Brief management team during weekly meetings on patient barriers and discharge plans
* Serve as a mandated reporter to Adult Protective Services, Department of Family and Children Services and local law enforcement when necessary
* Serve as a liaison for patients needing legal assistance for court appointed guardianship and/or conservatorship between patients and the hospital attorney and provide expert testimonies in such cases before a court of law
* Complete biopsychosocial assessments and discharge planning for the Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital and Family Birth Center
* Coordinate inmate discharges with Georgia Department of Corrections Utilization Management nurse
* Coordinate inpatient psychiatric post discharge needs with hospital Psychiatrist and Crisis Workers
* Arrange transportation services for medically discharged patients

**Social Worker MSW,** Houston Healthcare, Warner Robins GA

October 2022 – March 2023

* Complete bio psychological assessments of patients.
* Develop patient care plans for post discharge services.
* Complete referrals for home health, durable medical equipment, dialysis, short-term rehabilitation, and nursing home placement.
* Serve as a resource for staff, patients, and families regarding community agencies.
* Manage adoptions and assists with special programs and education.

**Psychiatric Services Social Worker Discharge Planner,** Atrium Health Navicent, Macon GA

November 2021 – October 2022

* Complete psychosocial assessments and other necessary mental health assessments for new patient and families.
* Develop and implement treatment plans.
* Complete daily progress notes.
* Coordinate patient care with multidisciplinary team members.
* Coordinate family meetings and documents family notes as deemed necessary.
* Provide supportive counseling and crisis intervention.
* Implement individual and group counseling sessions.
* Serve as an advocate for patients and families by actively seeking appropriate benefits and services.
* Brief management team during weekly meetings on patient barriers and discharge plans.
* Respond and intervene to hospital wide behavioral issues as a member of the Behavioral Health Response Team.
* Serve as organizational resource for abuse and neglect referrals as a member of the Abuse Response Team.
* Coordinate appropriate referrals for post discharge home healthcare service, continuum placement needs and durable medical equipment.
* Complete Crisis Safety plans.
* Provide Crisis Worker coverage as needed for 1013’d ordered adolescent and adult patients needing inpatient admission for Crisis Stabilization.
* Coordinate legal supports and services with hospital attorney as needed.
* Complete Department of Medical Assistance form and Pre-Admission Screen Resident Review (PASRR) for all patients needing inpatient rehabilitation or skilled nursing placement
* Complete acute-care needs assessments, identify and address patient barriers to goals and manage patient’s length of stay
* Maintain professional ethics and clinical documentation integrity

**Case Manager,** Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, Macon, GA

May 2018 – November 2018

* Facilitate new client intakes, orientations, initial assessments and medical screenings to determine client needs
* Provide ongoing emotional support to clients as they progress through their life recovery program
* Ensure residents receive medications and oversee medication log
* Coordinate client appointments, transportation and assist with applying for public assistance programs.
* Assist clients with resume completion, job placement and provide training on interview etiquettes.
* Assist clients in obtaining photo ID, birth certificates, and any other legal documents
* Advocate client needs and act as a liaison to various service agencies and community stakeholders
* Compile monthly statistical report of service outcomes and attend weekly meetings with Directors to review case plans for all clients
* Manage the Mentor Program to include weekly documentation and pairing of all clients
* Coordinate quarterly meetings with all program graduates and conduct monthly follow-up calls

**Clinical Social Worker-Practicum Year Two,** Serenity Hospice Care, LLC, Warner Robins, GA

August 2017 to April 2018

* Assisted patients with conserving their resources by connecting them to community agencies
* Conducted initial and biopsychosocial assessments to identify physical, psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual needs of a patient/family related to the terminal illness in order to promote patient’s well-being, comfort and dignity
* Conducted bereavement assessments to determine social, spiritual and cultural factors which may impact a patient’s or families overall experience with loss, grief and death
* Provided counseling to patients and families, including addressing living wills and durable power of attorney
* Consulted with interdisciplinary groups to prepare and review a written plan of care for patients

**Clinical Social Worker-Practicum Year One**,Phoenix Health Center, Warner Robins, GA

August 2016 to April 2017

* Implemented new screening process for outpatient behavioral health services
* Conducted intake assessments to determine client needs, strengths and eligibility for outpatient behavioral health services
* Evaluated clients for potential crisis and made referrals to onsite clinicians for further assessment
* Completed daily case management notes and documentation
* Led interdisciplinary team meetings and conducted client briefings

**Support Coordinator,** Georgia Support Services, Dublin, GA

November 2016 to January 2017

* Monitored services for up to 45 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to ensure health and safety
* Conducted monthly home and day service visits to determine if providers are implementing services appropriately
* Completed monthly documentation, service plan meetings and addendum meetings

**Social Worker/Developmental Disability Professional,** Happy Hour Service Center, Inc., Warner Robins, GA

March 2014 to November 2016

* Served as primary contact for the organizations referrals and analysis of services for prospective or transferred developmentally disabled adults
* Coordinated 50 persons served care and services with family members, guardians and other service providers
* Supervised the formulation of annual Individual Service Plan (ISP) and Support Intensity Scale (SIS) meetings
* Maintained confidential records and annually complete individual’s Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH) eligibility evaluation form
* Provided counseling, emotional support and encouragement to persons served on a daily basis and conducted diagnostic, functional and educational assessments as required
* Interviewed persons served, family members, school officials, employers and attended transition meetings to gather psychosocial and economic background information of an individual prior to acceptance to organization
* Determined persons served needs and conveyed the purpose and objectives of service programs to all stakeholders
* Identified persons served having severe mental, behavioral, or physical disabilities and provided referrals to appropriate programs or professional service providers
* Briefed administration and management on social service operations during senior level meetings
* Implemented Crisis Prevention Institute program and conducted training and refresher courses quarterly for all staff

**Substance Abuse Counselor,** Health Qwest, Warner Robins, GA

August 2013 to February 2014

* Screened patients for appropriateness of treatment per State and Federal criteria for admission
* Conducted program orientations, biopsychosocial assessments, crisis interventions, treatment plans and discharge planning
* Scheduled and met with patients for individual or group counseling sessions
* Recorded daily documentation, made referrals and conveyed patient medication concerns to medical staff

**Direct Care Aid,** Happy Hour Service Center, Inc., Warner Robins, GA

April 2012 to February 2014

* Provided intellectual and developmentally disabled adults with residential supports, transportation, financial management, transfer assistance, medication administration, and community supports
* Maintained tracking logs and daily documentation for Individual Support Plans

**Job Coach/Developer**,Happy Hour Service Center, Inc., Warner Robins, GA

November 2010 to April 2012

* Provided behavior supports, on site supervision, counseling, transportation and case management to adults with developmental disabilities in conjunction with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency for a 50 person caseload
* Promoted growth in social and vocational functions for trainees by providing work adjustment training, job development, and job placement
* Consulted with families, business owners, managers, and healthcare professionals to support trainee needs
* Completed employee performance assessments, appraisals and bi-weekly time sheets

**Training & Certifications**

* First Response Safety Training CPR & First Aid Training, August 2018
* Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certified, April 2018
* AAA Driver Improvement Program, April 2018
* Carelogic Electronic Medical Records, April 2018
* Workplace Safety, April 2018
* Fire Safety, April 2018
* Corporate Compliance and Ethics for Paraprofessionals, April 2018
* Supervision of Self Administration of Medication, April 2018
* Mental Health 101, April 2018
* Information Technology, April 2018
* Suicide Prevention, April 2018
* Vehicle Operation and Maintenance, April 2018
* Abuse, Neglect and Incident Reporting for Paraprofessionals, April 2018
* Cultural Issues and Mental Health Treatment for Paraprofessionals, April 2018
* Essential Components of Documentation for Paraprofessionals, April 2018
* Addiction Recovery and Intimate Violence, April 2018
* Therapeutic Boundaries for Paraprofessionals, April 2018
* Alzheimer’s Association, Georgia Chapter, Foundations of Dementia Care Training, September 2017
* Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor Certification, June 2014 – June 2017
* Essential Substance Abuse Skills, March 2017
* Clinical Supervision Foundations, January 2017
* Overview of Bipolar for Paraprofessionals, November 2016
* Path to Recovery, November 2016
* Understanding the Addictive Process Overview for Paraprofessionals, November 2016
* Defining Serious and Persistent Mental Illness and Recovery, November 2016
* Case Management for Paraprofessionals, November 2016
* Alcohol in the Family for Paraprofessionals, November 2016
* CITI Program forSocial/Humanistic Behavioral Research with Human Subjects, September 2016
* Continuing Education Program “Telemental Health in Academic Settings” Seminar, September 2016
* Georgia Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA), August 2016
* Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Online Rater, March 2014
* “Proxy Caregiver” Medication Administration, December 2013
* “Handle With Care Behavioral Management System”, October 2011
* “Person Centered Thinking” Training for Developmental Disability Services, November 2010

**Community Service/ Volunteer Activities**

**Centerpoint Church**, Kathleen, GA

* Care Team Volunteer January 2020 - Current

**Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia**, Macon, GA

* Men’s Recovery Program Mentor March 2018 - Current
* Thrift Ministry May 2016

**Phoenix Health Center**, Warner Robins, GA

* Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc. Employee Wellness Fair April 2017
* Program Agency Recruiter at the Fort Valley State University Behavioral Health Fair April 2017

**New Hope International and Feed the City**, Fort Valley, GA

* “Thanksgiving Meals” Event November 2013

**The Methodist Home**, Macon, GA

* “Celebration Day” April 13, 2013

**Teen Challenge Middle Georgia**, Dublin, GA

* “Race for Grace” Benefit Run November 2012

**Southside Baptist Church**, Warner Robins, GA

* Baptism Ministry 2012

**Happy Hour Service Center, Inc**. Warner Robins, GA

* Warner Robins Christmas Parade December 2011

**Special Olympics**, Warner Robins, GA

* State Master’s Bowling Tournament August 2011

**Macon State College**,Macon, GA

* Student Activities Services Assistant 2009

**Florida Memorial University**,Miami Gardens, FL

* Program Assistant for the “Students Helping Students” Peer Mentoring Program 2007-2008
* Student Activities Services Assistant 2007

**Faith Community Baptist Church**, Miami, FL

* Nursing Home Ministry 2007
* Youth Ministry Leader 2007