

CURRICULUM VITAE
LEQUITA BROOKS, LCSW, MSW

Social Work Education Online Adjunct Instructor and Aspiring Online Field Education Director

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EDUCATION

M.S.W., Master of Social Work
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
December 2010

Bachelor of Science, Psychology
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
August 2003

LICENSE & CERTIFICATION

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Jacksonville, FL

Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Jacksonville, FL
June 2015

Guardian Ad Litem, Tallahassee, FL
January 2010

AREAS OF FOCUS

Social Work Career Mapping
Social Entrepreneurship
Field Education Coordination & Instruction
Experiential Learning

Veterans & Homeless Veterans
Hospice
8-Domains of Wellness
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
Solution-focused Strategist

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Spring 2024, **Off-site Field Instructor**. Fairleigh Dickinson University.

- Student advisement and mentoring that incorporates my "Social Work Career Mapping" curriculum.
- Able to vet, approve, and provide oversight of practicum/internship agencies and supervisors, coordinate placement of students in agencies and manage the field placement application process for students.
- Monitor assigned field placements and communicate with Program Director regarding any disruptions or issues.
- Act as a mediator when problems arise in the field requiring intervention.
- Prepare students in social work field education to have meaningful careers as a social work professional post-graduation.

Fall 2023, **Social Work Practice I Adjunct Instructor**. Fairleigh Dickinson University.

- Contributed to the course development for a fully online course as part of the MSW program.
- Familiar with CSWE core competencies and accreditation standards.
- Participated in departmental activities as necessary, and participation in a variety of other professional activities based upon skill set and interests.
- Taught online clinical course for the fall semester.
- Collaborated with academic advisors and instructors to address academic issues as they relate to field placement.

Spring & Fall 2023, **MSW Site Supervisor**. Capella University.

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) based out of Florida with thirteen years of post-MSW clinical experience.
- Developed field education manuals, policies, orientations, and assessment tools for student.
- Provided field education training and led field education student orientation.
- Created an environment for intern to practice through the building of theoretical, practical and ethical knowledge that is essential for work with diverse client populations.
- Customized intern's learning through rich, well-matched experiences that is best suited to their areas of interest and growth as professionals.

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION & CAREER PRESENTATIONS

- Brooks, L. (2023, November). *Virtual Q&A Session: Social Work Career Mapping*. Southeastern University. Zoom.
- Brooks, L. (2023, November). *Virtual Q&A Session: The Business of Social Work*. Southeastern University. Zoom.
- Brooks, L. (2023, November). *Lunch & Life: The Practical Application of Solution-focused Brief Therapy*. Fairleigh Dickinson University. Zoom.
- Brooks, L. (2023, October). *Lunch & Life: The Business & Practice of Social Work*. Fairleigh Dickinson University. Zoom.
- Brooks, L. (2023, February). *Behind the Smile: Depression & Suicide Amongst African Americans*. Emcee for the Northeast Unit of NASW Florida in partnership with the National Association of Black Social Workers, Jacksonville, FL and Virtual.
- Brooks, L. (2023, February). *Social Work Side Hustles*. Panelist for the Northeast Unit of NASW Florida, Jacksonville, FL and Virtual.
- Brooks, L. (2022, November). *Career Readiness and Training for BIPOC Scholars in BIPOC Communities*. Panelist for the Minority Fellowship Program at the Council on Social Work Education 68th Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, CA.
- Brooks, L. (2022, October). *The Surprising Truth About Social Work... You Can Actually Make Money & Make a Difference*. Practice-Directed Seminar at Barry University. Zoom.
- Brooks, L. (2022, September). *Life-Fulfillment: Owning Your Purpose, Power, and Profits!* Northeast Unit of NASW Florida, Jacksonville, FL and Virtual.

- Brooks, L. (2022, May). *How To Land a Job in Hospice After Graduating?* Dr. Rebecca Clark's MSW "Social Work in the Healthcare Setting" class at Troy University, Phenix City campus. Online Microsoft Teams.

SOCIAL WORK COLUMNIST

- Brooks, L. (2024, January 3). *It's On You In The New Year!* Jacksonville Free Press. <https://jacksonvillefreepress.com/its-on-you-in-the-new-year/>
- Brooks, L. (2023, November 13). *Is College Worth It?* Jacksonville Free Press. <https://jacksonvillefreepress.com/is-college-worth-it/>
- Brooks, L. (2023, October 26). *From Social Rhetoric to the Renaissance of Social Workers: Transforming People, Policies, and Communities.* Jacksonville Free Press. <https://jacksonvillefreepress.com/from-social-rhetoric-to-the-renaissance-of-social-workers-transforming-people-policies-and-communities/>

SOCIAL WORK BOOK & CURRICULUM

- Brooks, L. (2022). *Social Work Career Mapping: Make Money & Make a Difference [8 Steps to Map Out Your Social Work Career Path to Get Hired Fast]*.
- Brooks, L. (2016). *Poetry Therapy In Practice: A 7-Week Growth Treatment Group Model for Women in Underserved Communities that Motivate Behavior Changes.* Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2010). *Social Work Graduate Field Education Training Manual* (1st ed.). Augusta, GA: Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center's Social Work Graduate Field Education Training Program.

LIVE PRESENTATIONS & WEBINARS

- Brooks, L. (Executive Producer). (2024 – present). *#thesocialworkmovement*. Social Impact Sundays at 6. YouTube. https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgcFM-bgu4RGTPqCb_pDfyY8qAsuVmYO0
- Brooks, L. (2022, June). *Use The Expertise That You Got, To Make The Money You Want?*. Black Women Digital Nomad Entrepreneurs. Online Live Webinar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQipnyddwfo>
- Brooks, L. (Executive Producer). (2021 – present). *Single M.O.M.S. Brunch Podcast* [Audio podcast]. Lequita Brooks. <https://singlemomsbrunch.buzzsprout.com/>
- Brooks, L. (2020, August). *Wellness Strategies for Navigating Uncertain Times, High Emotions & Stress.* Center for Women's Leadership at the Forbes School of Business & Technology. Online Live Webinar. <https://youtu.be/ZfWQh5vqNGg>
- Brooks, L. (2020, June). *COVID-19 Thrive: Workplace Wellness Solutions with Lequita Brooks.* Walker's Legacy. Online Live Webinar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpOYzvbT4EA>
- Brooks, L. (2020, May). *Workplace Mental Wellness Solutions.* Global Healthcare Resources. Online Webinar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jx3YdgyPkeA>

- Brooks, L. (2020, May). *How to Navigate Through COVID-19*. American Business Women Association Orange Park Charter Chapter. Virtual Presentation.
- Brooks, L. (2020, April). *Control What You Can: A Mindset Shift to Adapt to Change*. The Jacksonville Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. Online Live Webinar, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2019, December). *You are about to be an Adult. What's next?* Jean Ribault High School Initiative. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2019, November). *Self-Care Tips for a Stress-Free Holiday*. American Business Women Association Orange Park Charter Chapter. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2019, November). *Who Is Really Down For You?* Jean Ribault High School Initiative. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2019, October). *Where are you at? Self-Care Check-In*. Jean Ribault High School Initiative. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2018, November). *Strategize with intention in the career planning process*. Fresh Futures Youth Program. Lecture, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2017, April). *Reduce Juvenile Recidivism Utilizing Poetry Therapy Strategies and Career Planning*. Paper presented at the National Association of Black Social Workers 49th Annual National Conference, Washington, DC.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPER & TRAINER

- Brooks, L. (2018). *Mastering Entrepreneurial Culture: Preparing Young Adults to be Competitive in Business and the Workplace*. Edward Waters College. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2014 – 2016). *D.R.E.A.M. B.I.G. Workshops: Identifying and Applying Strengths for Career Exploration & Development*. William M. Raines High School. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.
- Brooks, L. (2014, February). *D.R.E.A.M. B.I.G. Workshops: Identifying and Applying Spiritual Gifts for Career Exploration and Career Development*. Celebration Church. Presentation, Jacksonville, FL.

NEWS & WEBSITE FEATURES

- Livingston, A. (2020, August 25). *How to Handle the Stress of Working From Home* (FCL August 25). Retrieved August 03, 2020, from <https://youtu.be/6VYzBM0dG08>
- Seeds, D. (2020, June 12). Lequita Brooks of TherapyTopia: "Five Ways To Develop Serenity During Anxious Times". Retrieved August 02, 2020, from <https://medium.com/authority-magazine/lequita-brooks-of-therapytopia-five-ways-to-develop-serenity-during-anxious-times-e661e169f7f4>
- Malacoff, J. (2020, June 10) *How to Get the Most Out Of Online Therapy*. Retrieved August 02, 2020, from <https://www.instyle.com/beauty/health-fitness/online-therapy-tips>

- Verno, L. (2020, May 27). Jacksonville social worker and entrepreneur wants to help one million people who lost their jobs to Covid-19. Retrieved August 03, 2020, from <https://www.news4jax.com/video/video/2020/05/27/jacksonville-social-worker-and-entrepreneur-wants-to-help-one-million-people-who-lost-their-jobs-to-covid-19/>
- Rupe, S. (2020, May 21). *What To Expect When You're Emerging From The Quarantine*. Retrieved August 03, 2020, from https://issuu.com/innm/docs/innm_0620
- Majors, T. (2020, May 20). *Managing social anxiety and fear of getting out the house, as counties begin to reopen*. Retrieved August 02, 2020, from <https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/coronavirus/managing-social-anxiety-and-fear-of-getting-out-the-house-as-counties-begin-to-reopen>
- Livingston, A. (2019, October 31). *How to make sure the holidays are stress-free* (FCL October 31st). Retrieved August 03, 2020, from <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/first-coast-living/stressfreeholidays/77-97ad1a55-9b98-4e19-b2b6-75374e926b0b>
- Johnson, S. (2019, September 24). Black Woman Creates TherapyTopia To Help Professionals Deal With Stress. Retrieved August 03, 2020, from <https://www.blackenterprise.com/black-woman-therapy-topia-stress>
- Craig, C. (2019, August 31). *Be Careful: Self-Care for Busy Professionals*. Retrieved August 02, 2020, from https://issuu.com/jacksonvillemagazine/docs/yourhealth_jaxmag_2019_4fall_issuu/18
- Livingston, A. (2019, August 16). Learn more about the services at Therapy Topia (FCL August 16th). Retrieved August 03, 2020, from <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/video/news/local/first-coast-living/learn-more-about-the-services-at-therapy-topia-fcl-august-16th/77-833a6ff1-ef20-4920-8d9b-ecd91b9b628e?jwsourc=cl>

ARTICLES

- Brooks, L. (2015). *Warm Hand-Off: Coordinating Care for Homeless Veterans in Crisis*. Jacksonville, FL: VISN 8 Conversation Café.
- Brooks, L. (2015). *Learning. Integrated. Veteran-centered. Endeavors (L.I.V.E.): A Culturally Holistic Approach in Patient-Centered Care to Improve the Health and Well-Being of HUD VASH participants*. Jacksonville, FL: VISN 8 Transformational Innovation Grant.
- Brooks, L. (2013). *Best Practices*. Jacksonville, FL: HUD VASH.
- Brooks, L. (2010). PTSD: An Intern's Perspective. *Social Work Informant*.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & AFFILIATIONS

- #thesocialworkmovement to change the global narrative of the bitter, broke, and burn-out social worker for social workers to be valued, respected, and well-compensated.
- Jacksonville Florida Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers' Initiatives:

- Jean Ribault High School Initiative, Young Entrepreneur Program (YEP), Senior Citizen Drive, Mental Health In the Black Community
- New Town Success Zone (NTSZ) Initiatives: Young Men's & Women's Leadership Academy's:
 - Young Men's & Women's Leadership Academy's Lunch & Learn Series, NTSZ Youth Impact Workgroup, Black Families Read initiative, Success Takers' Young Men & Women Vision Board Event, Vision Keeper of New Town Member, NTSZ Economic Growth Member
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):
 - St. Augustine Stand Down Coordinator, Continuum of Care Member in St. Augustine and Northeast Florida, 100,000 Homes Campaign 100 Homes Jacksonville Team
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Attendee
- American Business Women Association Member
- National Association of Social Workers Member
- National Association of Black Social Workers Member
- Jax Chamber:
 - Impact Biz Jax

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2012 – present, **Social Worker**, TherapyTopia, 11111 San Jose Blvd., Suite 56-1106, Jacksonville, FL 32223

- Diversity and Inclusion and Work Debrief Pilot Program Consultant with ProtoCall services.
- Identify responsive strategies to systemically intervene in ways that address social justice issues in organizations.
- Provide leadership, direction, and management in the areas of social work, workforce development, business development, and career development.
- Provide solution-focused, brief therapy to Employee Assistance Programs' (EAP) clients to assist them with identifying and resolving personal concerns, including health, marital, family, financial, alcohol, drug, legal, emotional, stress, or other personal issues that may affect job performance.
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with standard mental health ethical guidelines and the professional code of ethics for Social Workers and EAP Consultants.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the state laws governing mental health issues and clinical practice for the population served related to clients in other states (i.e., telephonic or on-line screening, assessment, consultation and referral; back-up for remote locations; case-management, etc.).
- Respond quickly to emergency situations utilizing crisis intervention techniques.
- Coordinate care with managed care in-network providers/therapists and EAP company.
- Facilitate wellness training and groups.

October 2019 – September 2023, **Licensed Clinical Social Worker** funded through a grant with the Department of Veterans Affairs, TherapyTopia, 11111 San Jose Blvd., Suite 56-1106, Jacksonville, FL 32223

- Provided necessary social work interventions to clients.
- Counseled individuals and families in crisis and help with issues such as poverty, loss and illness, career, housing, recovery, etc.
- Assessed client's psychosocial needs, plans for, evaluates and modifies interventions to meet the established client housing retention goals.
- Collaborated with all disciplines to plan and evaluate each client's goals.
- Facilitated client and family referrals to community agencies when appropriate.
- Provided financial counseling and budgets when necessary to achieve the treatment and housing retention goals established by the multi-disciplinary team.
- Worked with government agencies to help clients apply for Medicare and Medicaid when appropriate.
- Arranged home visits to evaluate client's health, home environment, family interaction, and social supports.
- Assisted client in planning for present and future psychosocial needs.
- Assessed and continued to provide ongoing engagement with community agencies.
- Observed and reported client progress and/or changes in client's status to the VA grant liaison.

November 2012 – February 2019, **Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach Social Worker**, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1601 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608

- Social Work practitioner with fourteen years of post-MSW collective social work practice experience with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- Developed and facilitated educational and informational presentations about HCHV services to MSW students, social service agencies, and community-based organizations.
- Maintained and cultivated relationships with the Veteran Service Officers, Veteran Benefits Administration, Changing Homelessness, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Grantees and Sub-grantees and Continuum of Care Member Agencies; Sulzbacher Center, Mission House, St. Francis House, Career Source, City Rescue Mission, Trinity Rescue Mission, Mission House, and the Clara White Mission.
- Managed workflow, priorities, and productivity to adhere to timeframes by inputting sensitive information in veteran's medical records and maintaining confidentiality.
- Independently assessed the psychosocial functioning and needs of veterans by conducting initial assessments that identify the veterans' problems, strengths, weaknesses, coping skills and assistance needed to formulate treatment plans while adhering to the policies and organizational guidelines.

May 2012 – November 2012, **Psychosocial Specialist**, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32257

- Assessed patient/family needs independently and provided a written assessment of patient's psychosocial needs, including history, current financial, spiritual/emotional status, need/eligibility for financial program and completion of volunteer and/or chaplain referral.
- Engaged in weekly Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT) meetings and contributed to the development of care plans of patients on assigned caseload by addressing psychosocial needs.
- Counseled patients and families experiencing grief.
- Arranged/coordinated long term care placement as appropriate in conjunction with the long-term care team and Psychosocial Social Generalist on transfer plans from the inpatient unit.
- Advocated for patient/families right to self-determination.

April 2011 – May 2012, **Medical Social Worker**, Alliance Hospice, 3685 River Watch Parkway, Unit 145, Augusta, Georgia 30907

- Worked independently and provided clinical psychosocial and case management services for thirty-five patients on a weekly basis at an independent practice level to hospice patients and their family members in a home setting, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes to address biological, psychological, social and environmental needs.
- Assisted Community Liaisons with outreach activities in the Augusta, Georgia and surrounding areas within a 100-mile radius at least one time per week.
- Referred patients to community resources; i.e., VA Medical Center, community health or mental health providers, and agencies that serve vulnerable populations.
- Coordinated care with the VA Medical Center's homeless programs, residential and community care programs, and domiciliary programs to ensure coordination activities and the continuum of services.
- Mentored, supported, and educated social work interns and medical students about hospice philosophy and the role of social workers on an interdisciplinary team.

August 2010 – December 2010, **Social Work Graduate Trainee**, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, 950 15th Street, Augusta, Georgia 30904

- Interviewed and assessed high-risk veterans on the locked-inpatient units in a hospital setting.
- Facilitated Decision Making and Problem-Solving Group for eight weeks with six veterans diagnosed with PTSD.
- Coordinated care for nineteen veterans diagnosed with PTSD in collaboration with the Trauma Recovery Clinic's (formerly PTSD Clinic) interdisciplinary team that consisted of Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Nurses, Social Workers, and a Psychology Technician.
- Facilitated PTSD Recreational Therapy group in the Trauma Recovery Clinic in the absence of the Recreational Therapist.
- Independently counseled and provided psychoeducation to nineteen veterans and their families experiencing a variety of psychiatric, medical, and social problems.

August 2009 – December 2009, **Social Work Graduate Intern**, PACE Center for Girls, 311 East Jennings Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

- Completed Psychosocial Assessments in the Six Developmental Domains (Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual, Relational, Sexual, and Physical) using the ETO Software System and prioritized needs summary for treatment.
- Managed caseload of six young ladies from various socioeconomic, educational, and ethnic backgrounds. Two students received grade-level promotions because of advocacy efforts.
- Conducted mediations amongst students, staff, and parents using crisis intervention strategies to reduce tension and increase positive communication.
- Provided case management and referral services for students and families during program enrollment and transition services.
- Coordinated family conferences and served as a liaison to the families and students on caseload.

STRENGTHSFINDER 2.0 TALENTS: Strategic, Futuristic, Relator, Focus, Significance