




Foundational Competencies in Older Adult Mental Health Learner Bios

 <p style="text-align: center;">Chrystal Agnor, PhD chrysagnor@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chrystal Agnor works in Vancouver, WA. She started her career as an active duty military psychologist and served for 11 years. When she left the service in 2019, she transitioned to working with older adults in rehab, long term care and assisted living facilities. She greatly enjoys the opportunity to treat a population that is underserved and has dedicated herself to learning more about how to be an effective geropsychologist.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Stacy Agosto, LCSW sagosto@gmail.com</p>	<p>Stacy Agosto is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor. She has spent the last decade working in Federally Qualified Health Centers with underserved populations, most recently as Director of Behavioral Health in a rural community. She has built programs to support those hit hardest by the opioid epidemic and worked extensively with the LGBTQ community. Stacy is now working at a healthcare start-up focused on primary care, where she builds programs to support older adults.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Benjamin Aguilar, PhD aguilarb6@uthscsa.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Benjamin Aguilar is an Assistant Professor/Clinical at UT Health San Antonio where he serves as a Behavioral Health Consultant in the Primary Care Center. He is a licensed clinical psychologist with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health settings including outpatient, inpatient, residential, detention, and military. His training was grounded in lifespan development and evidence-based clinical practice. His clinical work has focused on helping children, families, and adults cope with chronic and acute life stress, as well as facilitating the development of adaptive coping skills and healthy behavior change.</p>



Yasmin Asvat, PhD
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Yasmin Asvat, PhD, specializes in the psychological care of cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers. She is bilingual and committed to improving equity in access to psychosocial support by providing services in Spanish to patients at Rush Cancer Center. She is collaborating on an effort to establish Rush Cancer Center as part of Rush’s Age-Friendly Health System. Dr. Asvat’s research examines quality of life and resilience in cancer patients and survivors. Additionally, her work evaluates interventions that aim to improve physical and psychological well-being in oncology and includes mindfulness-based and technology-facilitated interventions.



Katherine Beckwith, PhD
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Katie Beckwith is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist working at a group private practice based in Northern California. At the practice, Katie serves as the Director of the Cognitive Rehabilitation and Intervention clinic. She specializes in neuropsychological assessment, intervention, and cognitive rehabilitation for adults with a wide variety of neurological, medical, and mental health concerns.



Cheryl Belcher, RN, MSN, NP
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Cheryl Belcher has been a family nurse practitioner for 25 years and a nurse educator in an ADN and RN to BSN program for 33 years. She works at an addiction treatment recovery home and a rural clinic. She believes this intensive certificate program will provide the education to enhance her clinical work with older adults and allow her to expand her curriculum as an educator.



Maryann Bens, PsyD
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Maryann Kruse Bens, PsyD is a clinical psychologist in San Leandro, California. In her private practice, she works with older adults in psychotherapy and conducts cognitive and decisional capacity evaluations. She holds a part-time position as a Behavioral Medicine Consultant in primary care at Kaiser Permanente, where she provides brief interventions and cognitive screenings to a diverse population of patients.



Gail Bourassa, LMHC, COTA
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Gail Bourassa is the director of the unique Blackstone Valley Elder Mental Health Outreach Team in Bellingham, MA. Prior to this role, she worked with clients as a COTA and LMHC in an emergency room, acute care hospital, VNA, outpatient clinic, and state hospital. After 30 years of experience, she remains excited and honored to help older adults improve the quality of their life.



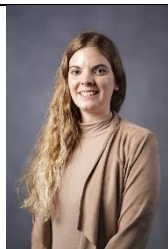
Tiffany Chen, MD
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Tiffany Chen is a geriatrics fellow at the University of Washington. Prior to this, she completed a family medicine residency at the Sutter Family Medicine Residency Program in Sacramento. She is originally from Massachusetts and will be headed back east next year for a palliative care fellowship at Brown University. She looks forward to learning how to better take care of the mental health of older adults.



Yvonne Daniels, LCSW
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Yvonne Daniels is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Clinical Behavioral Health Director at Shawnee Health Service. The majority of her 12+ years of experience has been working at Shawnee Health. She has a special interest in working with the LGBTQ+ population and the 60 years and older population. Currently, she provides individual counseling to patients while working on developing and managing program growth at her organization.



Daltynn Haskins, LMHC, CADC
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Daltynn Haskins, LMHC, CADC, is a clinical supervisor and therapist practicing in Southwest Iowa. She has a deep passion for serving underserved populations. Through DBT, MRT, Sandtray, and Solution Focused modalities she provides her clients a safe and supportive environment to process mental health and substance use concerns. She has worked at Heartland Family Service since the beginning of her career.



Courtney Johnson, LICSW
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Courtney Johnson is a clinical social worker with 7 years of experience working with older adults with behavioral health challenges. She currently works in two grant funded programs at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, the Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT) and the Behavioral Innovation Grant- Restart Program (BHIG Restart). In these roles, she provides clinical case management and therapeutic support in English and Spanish.



April Lamanno, PhD
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Dr. April Lamanno is a licensed psychologist who specializes in mood disorders, including depression and anxiety, as well as adjustment disorders. Dr. Lamanno received her PhD at Pennsylvania State University and her MA from Western Carolina University. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her family, cycling, hiking, reading, trying new recipes and traveling.



Dominique Lemire-Ross, MS OTR L,
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Dominique Lemire-Ross is a licensed occupational therapist and master's level music therapist with clinical experience in evaluation, treatment planning and intervention for patients with neurological, neuromuscular, orthopedic, brain injury, psychiatric diagnoses and substance abuse disorders. She's also an educator and coach with demonstrated ability to motivate people to achieve their best potential.



Tessa Lundquist, PhD
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Dr. Tessa Lundquist is a staff Psychologist in Geriatric Mental Health at VA Boston Healthcare System (VABHS) and collaborates within the New England Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center on research. She holds an academic appointment as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Lundquist's research focuses on attitudes among older adults about aging and Alzheimer's disease, including anxiety and knowledge about, and willingness to screen for, memory disorders.



Demeatraus Minter, MA, LPC, LCDC
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Demeatraus (Demi) Minter, LPC, LCDC holds an LPC-S license from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and NCC from the National Board of Certified Counselors and an LCDC from the Texas Department of State Health Services. She is the Behavioral Health Clinical Director of her department. She chose to maintain a caseload providing individual therapy and managing the Intensive Outpatient Program for adults and adolescents.



Diane Pagan, APN
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Diane Pagan has been a nurse practitioner for twenty-five years caring for the aging population with multiple, complex comorbidities. She is currently Executive VP for Curis Medical in Westchester, NY where she manages a team of forty Advanced Practice Providers who provide care to seniors in their homes throughout the five boroughs of NY.



Judith Perloff, MSW, LCSW
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Judith Perloff (she/her/hers) has served as the Chief Program Officer at Chicago House and Social Service Agency for the last 23 years. She designs, oversees and evaluates programs that support the health and well-being of people impacted by HIV. She leads and manages housing, health, and employment departments that provide services to 2500 clients served each year. She serves as the Co-Principle Investigator on HRSA and CDC grants, and is responsible for creating new and innovative initiatives that are specifically aimed at supporting transgender individuals and older adults living with HIV.



Erin Piechocinski, PsyD
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Dr. Erin Piechocinski is a licensed psychologist in North Carolina working for the Durham VA Healthcare System in home based primary care and the community living center with older Veterans. She has specific interest in working with the aging population as well as serious mental illness and behavior issues related to dementia. She has worked in state psychiatric hospitals (working with acute care, long-term care, forensics, and geriatric populations), with active duty military, and currently works with the Veteran population.



Melinda Randall, MD
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Melinda Randall, MD is an outpatient psychiatrist at the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. She completed residency at Yale in 2003 and a Fellowship in Community Psychiatry and Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery at the Connecticut VA in 2004.



Benjamin Triplett, MDiv, MSOT,
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Ben Triplett is an occupational therapist whose interests revolve around exploring and expanding upon OT's role in mental health. Ben has previously worked in inpatient mental health focusing on evaluation and treatment for crisis stabilization, maternal mental health, and psychotic disorders, as well as in the community with veterans facing housing instability. Ben currently works at the Durham VA in inpatient mental health and is Director of the Geriatric Mental Health Occupational Therapy Fellowship.







Molly Tschopp, PhD, HSPP, CRC
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Molly Tschopp, PhD, HSPP, CRC is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology & Counseling at Ball State University. She is a licensed rehabilitation psychologist, teaches graduate courses, and conducts research in rehabilitation counseling and psychosocial aspects of disability. In addition, she provides clinical supervision for graduate students training in diverse healthcare settings and serves on the BSU College of Health Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Committee.



Daniela Vela, PhD
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Daniela Vela, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Vela provides psychotherapy to older adults with depression, anxiety, and neurocognitive disorders, and their family caregivers in the Geriatric and Neuropsychiatry Clinical Program. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of North Texas. Dr. Vela then received advanced training in clinical psychology and geropsychology through a fellowship at the VA North Texas Health Care System.

 <p>Hillary Warrington Hernandez, MS, LPC, NCC hillaryjw9891@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hillary Warrington Hernandez is a Behavioral Health Provider for InnovAge, a PACE company. Her heart for geriatrics is evident through her research, her pro-bono work, and her commitment to best practices. She has worked in the field of psychology for eight years and is working on a PhD with a focus on geriatric science. She enjoys spending time with her family in Colorado and is training for the Chicago marathon.</p>
 <p>Meghan Wilde, PsyD meghanr79@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Dr. Meghan Wilde is a licensed clinical psychologist is currently part of a private practice group who specialize in health psychology. Dr. Wilde works with adults across the lifespan and has a specific interest in working with the older adult population. Additionally, Dr. Wilde has training and experience in working with individuals who present with severe and persistent mental health concerns.</p>
 <p>Aaron Williams, PsyD awilliams@barbourhealth.org</p>	<p>Aaron Williams is currently employed as Chief Behavioral Health Officer for Barbour Community Health Association, a rural FQHC in central WV, where he also functions as a licensed clinical psychologist. For the majority of his career, he has focused on psychological assessment. Over the last several years he has shifted to include administrative, therapeutic, and consultative duties as active components of his practice.</p>
 <p>Laura Williams, MSW, LCSW laura.williams7@va.gov</p>	<p>Laura Williams holds a BA degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama and an MSW degree from Clark Atlanta University. She worked in various mental health settings in the Atlanta, GA area prior to joining the Atlanta VAMC 15 years ago. She currently provides individual and group treatment to older veterans at the Atlanta VAMC Geropsychiatry Clinic.</p>
<p>Alice Zhou, MD alice.zhou2@va.gov</p>	<p>Alice Zhou is a psychiatrist at the Providence VA Medical Center. She completed medical school at Saint Louis University and a psychiatric residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her academic interests include psychosomatic medicine, psychopharmacology, and geropsychiatry.</p>