

## **Christina M. DeNard**

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### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices within Public Child Welfare Agencies, Child Welfare Reform, Child Welfare Policy and Practice

### **EDUCATION**

#### **University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**

Ph.D. Social Welfare, Expected 2017

#### **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work**

Master of Social Work, May 2010

Concentration: Children and Families with Child Welfare Specialization

#### **University of Maryland, College Park**

Bachelor of Arts, May 2008

Government and Politics (major), Psychology (major)

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### **Research Fellow, *Wordsworth and Turning Points for Children, Philadelphia, PA, 9/15-Present***

Provided consultation on the implementation of an evidence-based parenting program within the child welfare agency. Adapted quantitative measures and research protocols for collecting data from clients and agency staff. Created a data management system to support the evaluation of an evidence-base parenting program.

#### **Research Assistant, *University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, Philadelphia, PA, 9/13-Present***

Completed literature searches and reviews on mental health disparities within the child welfare system. Completed analyses on national child welfare administrative dataset regarding racial disparities in mental health service use. Assisted with focus groups with community agencies providing child welfare services to families and collaborated on the subsequent data analysis rooted in ground theory. Completed interviews with evidence-based treatment developers to gain expertise in lessons learned in implementing evidence-based treatments for children and families of color involved in the child welfare system.

**Research Assistant**, *Better Beginnings Research Project, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 8/08-5/09*

Completed literature searches and reviews on perinatal pregnancy in adolescent minority mothers. Compiled and entered data into data analysis systems. Transcribed engagement interviews and therapy sessions for analysis.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Co-Instructor**, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, Social Work Department, Spring 2016: *Policies for Children and Their Families*

Developed syllabus and assignments related to analysis of federal child welfare policies and policy solutions. Provided lectures on child welfare practice, evidence-driven policy, racial disproportionality, seminal child welfare legislation, related fiscal policies and child welfare reform.

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, Social Work Department, Fall 2015: *Clinical and Macro Child Welfare Practice*

Developed and provided lectures on Signs of Safety assessment philosophies and tools, motivational interviewing, and definitions and frameworks of child well-being in the child welfare context. Evaluated students' performance on comprehensive case conceptualizations, and policy assignments.

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Psychology, Spring 2007: *Psychology of Women*

Developed and co-instructed lesson plan to encourage discussion on race, ethnicity, and oppression. Administered assignments and exams to enhance creative thought. Evaluated students' performance on assignments and exams.

## PUBLICATIONS

Garcia, A. R., Kim, M., & DeNard, C. (2016). Context matters: the state of racial disparities in mental health services among youth reported to child welfare in 1999 and 2009. *Children and youth services review, 66*, 101-108.

Garcia, A. R., Greeson, J. K., Kim, M., Thompson, A. E., & **DeNard, C.** (2015). From placement to prison revisited: do mental health services disrupt the delinquency pipeline among Latino, African American and Caucasian youth in the child welfare system?. *Journal of Adolescence, 45*, 263-273.

Garcia, A., Circo, E., **DeNard, C.**, & Hernandez, N. (2015). Barriers and facilitators to delivering effective mental health practice strategies for youth and families served by the child welfare system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 52, 110-122

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

**DeNard, C.**, Garcia, A., & Circo, E. (Under Review). *A discursive analysis: Caseworker perspectives on mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority youth in child welfare.*

**DeNard, C.**, Skriner, L., Rubin, R., Evans, A., Garcia, A., Kim, M., Beidas, R. (Under Review). *The relationship between supervisor determinants, therapist determinants, and implementation outcomes in a large public behavioral health system.*

## FELLOWSHIPS

**Fellow**, Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Wellbeing (2016-Present)

**Doctoral Fellowship**, University of Pennsylvania (2013-Present)

**Fontaine Society Doctoral Fellowship**, University of Pennsylvania (2013-Present)

**Summer Research Fellowship**, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice (2014)

## PRESENTATIONS

Garcia, A. & **DeNard, C.** (2016, January). Naming Racial/Ethnic Gaps in Mental Health Service Delivery Among Youth and Families in the Child Welfare System. Oral Presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Garcia, A., Circo, E., & **DeNard, C.** (2015, June). Barriers and facilitators to delivering effective mental health practice strategies for youth and families served by the child welfare system. Oral Presentation, One Child, Many Hands Field Center Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare, Philadelphia, PA.

**DeNard, C.**, Garcia, A. & Circo, E. (2015, March). A Discursive Analysis: Caseworker Perspectives on Mental Health Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Youth in Child Welfare. Oral Presentation, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Mental Health Conference, Tampa, FL.

Garcia, A., Kim, M., **DeNard, C.** & Hernandez, M. (2015, January). Predictors of Service Use Among African American, Caucasian, and Latino Youth Referred to the Child Welfare System. Oral Presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Bledsoe, S.E., Sommer, A.R., Warrick, M., **Denard, C.** & Bowditch-Gough, N. (2009, April). Intervention for adolescent perinatal depression: Results from a systematic review and metaanalysis of existing intervention studies. Symposium, Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Conference, Denver, CO.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**General Assembly Member**, *Graduate and Professional Student Association, 9/14-8/15*

Served as representative for the School of Social Policy and Practice on the Research Council. Reviewed and scored travel grants and Provost awards for PhD students across disciplines. Served on the finance subcommittee for the Select Committee, providing resource information for underrepresented student graduate groups at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Success Coach Social Worker**, *Catawba County Dept. of Social Services, Hickory, NC, 6/10-8/13*

Provided ongoing therapeutic and supportive services for families and children who previously experienced child maltreatment and are leaving foster care for a permanent placement. Facilitated foster/adoptive parent preparatory groups, parenting classes, and groups for non-offending caregivers of children who have been sexually abused. Facilitated a workgroup to determine and implement best practices on engaging fathers within child welfare.

**Resident Advisor**, *UNC Horizons Residential Treatment Center, Chapel Hill, NC, 5/09-4/10*

Provided supportive counseling and life skills training to women and children in substance abuse recovery. Applied interventions designed by treatment staff to enhance clients' well-being and recovery process. Provided transportation, medical administration, urine collection, and childcare services to clients.

**Social Work Intern**, *Chatham County Dept. of Social Services, Pittsboro, NC, 8/09-4/10*

Interviewed prospective adoptive families and completed home studies for adoptive placements. Provided coordination of therapeutic, childcare, and other related services for children in legal-risk adoptive placements. Coordinated and facilitated treatment team meetings. Drafted court reports and presented cases in court hearings. Maintained foster care records and completed all state-mandated documentation tools.

**Social Work Intern, Wake County Human Services, Raleigh, NC, 9/08- 4/09**

Collaborated with Assessment Workers to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect, which included interviewing caretakers, children, and community sources. Worked to provide housing and food resources to families in need. Documented and completed structured decision-making tools for closed cases and cases transferred to in-home services.

**Freedom Schools Servant Leader Intern, Oak Hill Youth Academy, Laurel, MD, 5/08-7/08**

Taught high school level youth reading and critical thinking skills. Created lesson plans and facilitated the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools curriculum. Mentored youth on life skills and college preparatory skills.

**Weekend Miracles Intern, Kidsave, International, Washington, D.C., 5/07-8/07**

Planned weekend events to give children in DC Foster Care exposure to potential adoptive families. Developed marketing strategies to make adoption appealing to the African- American community using hair salons and barbershops. Updated and maintained Raiser's Edge database for non-profit organizations.

## **HONORS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Armfield Reeves Innovation Fund, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009
- NC Child Welfare Collaborative Scholar, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008-2010
- UNC Merit Assistantship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008-2009
- Banneker/Key Scholarship, University of Maryland College Park, 2004-2008
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, University of Maryland College Park, 2008
- Honors Humanities Citation, University of Maryland College Park, 2008

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

**Family Selection Committee Member, Habitat for Humanity Catawba Valley, Hickory, NC 9/12-7/13**

Conducted home visits on potential applicants. Discussed potential applicants and approved families for the Habitat program. Created and implemented policies for family selection and deselection from the program.

