



Michelle L. Shewmake

www.BlueFeatherCounselor.com

18695 Pony Express #785, Parker, CO. 80138 ♦ 720-383-0754 ♦ MichelleShewmake2019@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain a position providing quality forensic social work and mitigation services to justice involved individuals, particularly to those with serious mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, and who have experienced trauma.

EDUCATION:

Master of Social Work (Licensed Social Worker, Addiction Counselor Candidate and Colorado Dept of Education Endorsed School Social Worker)
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Graduation: December 2019

Master of Science, Human Services, Specialization: Criminal Justice
Capella University, Minneapolis, MN
Graduation: June 2008

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO
Graduation: May 2003

EXPERIENCE:

Forensic Social Worker-Independent Contractor, Blue Feather Counseling & Mitigation Services, Inc./Office of the Alternative Defense Counsel, Denver, Colorado, CO, December 2019-Present

♦ An experienced, skilled, culturally competent social worker who contracts with Office of Alternate Defense Counsel and with private criminal defense attorneys. Strong understanding of the criminal justice system and involved stakeholders. Identifies and collects mitigation with goal to obtain the best legal outcome. Conducts thorough biopsychosocial history to present to defense team, experts, district attorneys, courts and/or juries. Helps to identify major mental illness, intellectual delays / developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorders, individual and transgenerational trauma, and neurological issues. Collects, reviews, and consolidates all relevant legal, medical, educational, and institutional records pertinent to mitigation. Coordinates experts for defense team. Provides formal mitigation reports and assists in plea negotiations. Provides advocacy at sentencing hearings. Simultaneously provides case management services by identifying targeted, evidence-based interventions and resources to support client success. Identifies various quality resources and programs to ensure best fit and successful outcomes to address issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, mental health as well as works diligently and cooperatively with community providers to build strong relationships.

Parenting Time Supervisor/Psychotherapist, The Center for Positive Transitions, LLC, Parker, CO, December 2018-March 2020

♦ Facilitated court ordered supervised parenting time between parents and children. Registered psychotherapist.

School Social Work Intern, Elizabeth School District, Elizabeth, CO, August 2019-December 2019

♦ Shadowed school social worker who covered 5 schools (K-12) and provided specialized social-emotional supportive services to children on IEP's.



Clinical Social Work Intern, Parenting Center, LLC, Colorado Springs, CO, February 2018- December 2018

◆ Shadowing Licensed Clinical Social Worker in her duties including learning psychotherapy techniques, observing parenting classes, supervised visitations, and social work advocacy.

Clinical Social Work Intern, Highlands Behavioral Health, Highlands Ranch, CO, August 2017 - December 2017

◆ Interned at inpatient psychiatric hospital. Primary assignment included working with both adolescents and adults in the partial hospitalization unit (PHP). Aided lead social worker/clinician in daily activities, including facilitating groups and activities to address mental health needs.

Legal Advocate, The Crisis Center, Castle Rock, CO, February 2017- July 2018

◆ Provided legal advocacy services, information and referrals to domestic violence victims concerning custody, restraining orders, divorce, child support and related topics. Assisted individuals in understanding the legal process (Criminal and Civil). Assists clients in filling out and filing legal paperwork. Attends court hearings with clients. Assist in training and supervising volunteers to help provide legal services. Provided outreach within under-served communities with the goal of developing accessible services. Documented all client information and contacts, completes client files. Assists clients who are referred to the agency through local law enforcement as part of the Lethality Assistance Program (LAP). Completed on-call for Crisis Line.

Community Justice Services Officer, Douglas County Pretrial Services, Castle Rock, CO, Feb 2007- May 2009

~and~ April 2015-March 2016

◆ Conducted pretrial interviews with felony and misdemeanor defendants for the purpose of establishing and verifying residence, family ties, employment, and past criminal history to assist the district/county courts in setting appropriate bail bonds. Gathered information from CBI, LexisNexis, and Denver County Court records regarding to the defendant's criminal history and failure to appear, which was presented in the report submitted to the judge for review. Assisted with supervising of defendants under pretrial release supervision to ensure appearance for all scheduled court hearings and compliance with all court ordered conditions of bond, including GPS monitoring. Conducted home visits. Sworn in bond commissioner.

Probation Officer, State of Colorado: Denver Adult District Probation, Denver, CO, February 2011 – April 2015

◆ Last Assignment: Pre-sentence Investigation Unit. Investigated, prepared PSI reports per week. Interviewed offenders in office and various metro area jails. Gathered any relevant information, conducted substance abuse assessments, risk assessment (LSI) and formulated written reports for District Court Judges to review, typically at sentencing. Completed alcohol evaluations and mental health referrals/screenings. Previous Assignments: Managed large, diverse caseload by supervising probationers while providing support and intervention by motivating "at-risk" probationers to make positive life changes; provided referrals to community resources for education, treatment, identification, employment, and any other needs identified. Held probationers accountable for their actions, provides coaching to meet success and set clear boundaries. Formulated case plans with the offender, with the goal of establishing pro-social behaviors and repairing the harm caused to the community and victim(s). Motivated and managed the offenders' probation period using a continuum of sanctions and incentives. When appropriate, recommended extension or termination of probation. Conducted investigations and provided recommendations for sentencing to the court. Presented information verbally and in writing before the court. Maintained current and accurate records. Conducted required assessments to determine risk and needs. Conducted field/home contacts at the probationers' residence. Communicated with other entities in the criminal justice system, as well as family members, counselors, and Human Services. Assisted with teaching various classes including life skills, job readiness and cognitive thinking. Member of the department's advisory committee and co-chair of the wellness committee.

Community Re-Entry Specialist, Colorado Department of Corrections, Denver, CO, May 2009 – February 2011

◆ Provided case management re-entry services, such as housing and transportation assistance to sex offenders on parole. Enhanced public safety through providing interventions. Continually set up various vendors (through RFP's) and worked with community partners, including various faith based and community-based organizations. Taught various classes at The Re-Entry Center, including Employment, GED, and Computer Basics. Worked closely with Community Parole Officers, CDOC staff and governmental entities.



Case Manager/Lead Case Manager, Intervention Community Corrections, Lakewood, CO, Nov 2005-Feb 2007

◆ Managed a caseload of approximately 40 diversion-felony offenders who have transitioned out of the halfway house. Determined compliance with agency. Meet weekly to discuss progress. Monitored clients' participation in community corrections program including all aspects of conditions of placement, including treatment, monitored sobriety, and finances. Referred clients to appropriate community resources. Monitored clients on GPS. Collected fees.

Case Manager I, Community Alternatives, Inc., Aurora, CO, Nov 2004 – Sept 2005

◆ Supervised a caseload of approximately 430 Alcohol Cases. Monitored clients who were sentenced to probation. Met with clients to monitor client's progress in treatment classes, community service, paying court costs and restitution, sobriety, and any other court orders. Requested summons' and warrants when necessary. Testify in Court and monitored sobriety.

In-Home Detention Specialist and DUI Case Manager, BI/Intervention, Golden, CO, August 2003 – Oct 2004

◆ Supervised and hooked up clients on In-Home Detention monitoring Met with clients weekly to discuss progress and verify their whereabouts. Collected fees, tracked collection. Supervised a caseload of DUI/general probationers.

RESEARCH:

Arredondo, Y., Brigham, B., Cohee, M. Mines, J. and Shewmake, M. (2019). Professional background and practices involving intimate partner violence. Capstone Project: Colorado State University, Department of Social Work.

TRAININGS:

2021:

Pending: Certified Child and Adolescent Trauma Professional-International Association of Trauma Professionals

2020:

Strengthening & Refining Your Written Advocacy-Alternate Defense Counsel

2019:

Passed Colorado Jurisprudence & Registered as Psychotherapist with Colorado DORA

2018:

Intro to Immigration Law (18 Hours)

2017:

Victim/Legal Advocacy Training through LINC (8 Hours)

COVA Training (2 Hours)

CCDAV Victim Advocate Training (8 Hours)

2016:

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Facilitators Training (21 Hours)

**2015:**

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) (40 Hrs)
Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) Level D Certification
Sworn in Bond Commissioner-Douglas County
Marijuana and Officer Safety Hazard Training (1 Hr)

2014:

Standardized Offender Assessment (SOA-R)-Roll Out (14 Hrs)
Handcuff and Search and Seizure Training (8 Hrs)
Putting the Pieces Together (4 Hrs)

2013:

Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) Level D Certification (12/2013)
BI Exacutrack/GPS/Passive Tracker Training
Cultural Competency Training (7 Hrs)
Treatment Management System (TMS)
Security Awareness Training
Search and Seizure Training (8 Hrs)
Motivational Interviewing 101 (12 Hrs)
Substance Abuse Management (14 Hrs)
Handcuff Training (4 Hrs)

2012:

Brain Train (7 Hrs)
Drug Recognition Training (3.5 Hrs)
Sanctions (4 Hrs)
Safety Refresher Training (8 Hrs)
Time Management & Organizational Skills
Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) Level D Certification (12/2011)
Offenderlink (2 Hrs)

2011:

Drug Lab Awareness (7 Hrs)
Alcohol & Drug Driving Safety Evaluator Training (14 Hrs)
Code of Conduct (3.5 Hrs)
Anti-Harassment (3.5 Hrs)
Games Offenders Play
Ethics and Shield of Professionalism
Vicarious Trauma (3 Hrs)
State Probation Academy (75 Hrs)
Handcuff Workshop (4 Hrs)
Safety Refresher (8 Hrs)

2010:

Colorado Association of Sex Crimes Investigators Conference
Training for Trainers



Colorado Department of Corrections Training Academy Completion (296 Hrs)

2007:

Sworn in Douglas County Court Bond Commissioner
Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) Level D Certification

2006:

Basic Course-Standardized Offender Assessments-Revised (14 Hrs)
Standardized Offender Assessment-Advanced Course (7 Hrs)
DVSI/SARA-Division of Probation Services (7 Hrs)
Teambuilding (2 Hrs)
Sex Offender Registration Training (2.25 Hrs)
Denver Regional Social Security Administration Training (2 Hrs)
Victims' Rights Amendments Training (3 Hrs)
Dealing with Difficult People (.6 Ed Credits)

2005:

Dealing with Difficult People (2 Hrs)

2004:

Substance Abuse-Advanced (1.5 Hrs)
Addiction/Offender Counseling/Case Management and Professional Ethics (3 Hrs)
ICON Training (7 Hrs)
ICON Refresher Training (1 Hr)
Dealing with Teens (3 Hrs)
Self-Defense Training (6 Hrs)

2003:

Gang Training (2003)
New Employee Training BI/Intervention (36 Hrs)

Recognitions/Awards/Accomplishments/Memberships:

Wellness Committee Chairperson-Denver District Probation, 2013-2015
Advisory Committee-Denver District Probation, 2012-2013
Judicial Excellence Award Winner: 2011 Outstanding Team-Domestic Violence Probation Officers
Employee of the Month-December 2009
Child Advocacy Resource & Education (100 volunteer hours)
Member of Psi Chi, National Honor Society
National Association Social Workers 2018
American Family Conciliation Courts 2018