

HEATHER HEUMAN SWEENEY, M.S.W., M.A.
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WORK EXPERIENCE

2008-Present: **Community Organizer**

- Co-conceived and implemented focus groups as first step of possible diversity and inclusion series at Nichols Middle School, Evanston.
- Led a committee that organized a four-part diversity and inclusion series for the Evanston Community. Recruited members from the community; identified trainers; brought together organizational partners from non-profits (including Youth Organizations Umbrella- Y.O.U.), city and school district; and solicited funding. Sessions were at capacity attendance and survey results indicated a high level of satisfaction (4.6 out of 5).
- Co-founded the Coalition for Racial Equity in Evanston by bringing together community members to address systems of inequity through community education, advocacy around school board elections and targeted communication about racial justice issues. Partnered with the YWCA Evanston-North Shore.
- Recruited Chicago theatres and organizations to create programming around race issues for the exhibit *Race: Are We So Different* as a member of the Exhibit Steering Committee of the YWCA Evanston-North Shore.
- Facilitated New Trier Township's Family Action Network (FAN) partnership with Evanston Schools. FAN brings leading researchers on children and family issues from across the US to the north shore.
- Co-developed and implemented a series of diversity and inclusion conversations at Washington School, Evanston as part of the Principal Advisory Committee. These conversations serve as community education and dialogue on race and other forms of diversity.
- Provided education and facilitated learning opportunities to community members on behalf of Citizens for a Better Evanston (C4BE) and school board candidates. Issues centered around creating equity in education.
- Led Washington School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in creating and implementing a year-long parent education series and new environmental initiatives.
- Served as Washington School PTA Secretary and then Treasurer. Handled all finances and tax reporting requirements.
- Initiated and implemented screening of *Race to Nowhere* film. Formed and led steering committee for planning and promotion. Over 300 people attended the screening including pre-film speaker and post-film discussion. Created forums for discussion and action on issues raised in the film.
- Led response to neighborhood crisis by reaching out to surrounding neighborhoods. Organized and facilitated community meeting for Evanston Police Department presentation with over 200 people in attendance. Significantly expanded Neighborhood Watch program. Created community listserv and organized National Night Out activities.

January 2009-October 2015: **Tax Accountant Assistant**, Judith J Jager, CPA

- Prepare tax returns for individuals and small businesses.
- Keep books and records.
- Organize and create systems for more efficient work completion.

November 2001-June 2003: **Resource/Inclusion Teacher**, Greeley School, Winnetka

- Provided resource and inclusion instruction for 1st-4th graders.
- Maintained student records, prepared necessary reports, participated in Individualized Education Plan meetings and planned for students with possible special needs.

August 2000-November 2001: **Resource/Inclusion Teacher**, G. Armstrong School, Chicago

- Taught 1st-6th grade Reading, Language Arts, Math, provided inclusion for 5th and 6th grade social science and science in economically, racially, ethnically diverse school.
- Maintained student records, prepared necessary reports and participated in Individualized Education Plan meetings.

November 1997-August 1999: **Coordinator of Foster Care Respite Program/Therapist & Case Manager**, Jewish Children's Bureau, Chicago

- Interviewed, trained and supervised respite workers.
- Provided in home and in office therapy for children, foster families and biological families.
- Provided case management and home visits across the south side and south suburbs of Chicago.
- Assessed family satisfaction and improved quality of respite programming based on feedback.

August 1995-November 1997: **Couples Program Coordinator/Case Manager**, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Chicago

- Developed, publicized and recruited for new Couples Mentoring Program.
- Interviewed and trained staff.
- Improved major aspects of the program through team membership.
- Led agency orientation sessions for parents, children and potential volunteers.
- Provided case management and home visits across the south side and south suburbs of Chicago.

August 1994-April 1995: **Mental Health Practitioner/Intern**, Family Care Services, Chicago

- Provided therapy, case management and home visit services to biological and foster families.

August 1993-August 1994: **Assistant Social Worker/Intern**, Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, Chicago

- Provided counseling for adult adoptees and birthparents seeking information and contact with their biological parent/child.
- Facilitated contact between birthparents and adoptees per openness agreements.
- Provided counseling for pregnant women who were considering adoption.

January 1990-August 1993: **Child Care Worker Supervisor**, Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana

- Interviewed, trained, supervised and evaluated staff.
- Developed staff schedule and performed scheduling responsibilities.
- Involved in the implementation of a long-term residential program.
- Provided individual and group counseling.
- Provided on-call services for behavioral crisis situations for children 5-16 years of age.
- Provided residential care for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children 5-12 years of age.
- Assisted the classroom special education teacher.

October 1990-August 1993: **Substitute Teacher and Teacher's Aide**, Urbana School District, Urbana

- Taught special needs students K-8th grade.

EDUCATION

White Privilege Conference, Louisville, KY, 2014 & Madison, WI, 2013

Pacific Educational Group, Beyond Diversity training, 2012

Oakton Community College, Financial Accounting, 2012

University of Illinois' Income Tax School, IRS Tax Preparer Course, 2012

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago: Master of Arts, 1999

Type 10 Certification

Endorsement in Learning Disabilities

Endorsement in Social/Emotional Disorders

University of Illinois, Chicago: Master of Social Work, 1995

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana: Bachelor of Science, 1991

Mental Health Worker Certification, 1991

OTHER

International Travel to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Western Europe, Mexico, and Canada

Fluent user of Excel, Word, Power Point and Quickbooks