

HEATHER HEUMAN SWEENEY, M.S.W., M.A.  
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## **SOCIAL WORK AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Mitigation Specialist**, Sentencing Advocacy Group of Evanston, Evanston, August 2015 – Present

- Conduct multi-generational life histories that include: medical history; mental health history; education and employment history; health information; military experience; substance abuse history; trauma history; correctional history; multi-generational family history of genetic disorders and trauma; religious, racial, ethnic, sexual and gender orientation identities; and historical, socio-economic, and political factors.
- Interview persons relevant to case in a culturally sensitive manner to produce relevant and reliable information.
- Gather documentation including education, medical, employment, and military to support, provide further insights, and build upon information from interviews.
- Outreach to community organizations who provide reentry services.
- Draft reports and memorandum for legal teams on research and investigation findings.
- Know and keep abreast of changes to relevant laws, policies, and procedures.

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

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

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

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

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

- Provided case management and home visits across the south side and south suburbs of Chicago.
- Interviewed, trained and supervised respite workers.
- Provided in home and in office therapy for children, foster families and biological families.

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

- 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.

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

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

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

- 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.

## EDUCATION

National Defender Training Project, Sentencing Advocacy Program, Ohio, March, 2016

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Federal Death Penalty Strategy Session, Florida, October, 2015

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