

Merceydes Morassi, M.S., BCBA, LMHC, LPCC

Pompano Beach, FL

SUMMARY

Independent, goal oriented, bold, creative leader. Educator and member of the academic community. Owner of a successful small business. Advocate for special needs children and mental health awareness in adolescence. Solution focused, empathic therapist that uses data to inform clinical decisions. Animal rescuer and health-conscious individual with a desire to effect positive change.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

BCBA CERTIFICATION COURSE SEQUENCE

Florida Institute of Technology

Non-Degree Seeking Certification Program

December 2013

Online

MASTER IN SCIENCE

Florida International University

Degree: Psychology

Mental Health Counseling

GPA 4.0/4.0 scale

December 2010

Miami, FL

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Florida International University

Major: Psychology

Minor: Criminal Justice

GPA 3.5/4.0 scale

December 2006

Miami, FL

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR of PSYCHOLOGY

Florida International University

May. 2018- Present & Aug. 2011- Jan. 2013

Miami, FL

The only graduate from my class that was offered a position as an instructor. Currently, I teach approximately 10 courses per year with 30-90 students in each class. I'm also one of the first to be certified as a hybrid instructor by the provost. My responsibilities include educating and stimulating the minds of future generations through thoughtful dialogue on controversial topics, as well as the analysis and application of research to real life and the facilitation of critical thinking skills. Courses taught include: Psychology of Adolescence, Psychotherapy, Psychology Career Development, Psychology of Health and Illness, Personality Disorders and Psychopathology, which is a class devoted to covering the most prevalent psychological disorders in the DSM such as depression, OCD, schizophrenia, ADHD, and gender dysphoria etc.

CLINICAL DIRECTOR/OWNER

Kids Life Solutions

Sept. 2017- Sept. 2021

North Miami, FL

Independently established a community-based ABA agency that serviced more than 50 families in Miami-Dade and Broward County. As the owner of the agency, I oversaw all critical day to day operational aspects including administrative and financial aspects. As clinical director, my responsibilities included overseeing the therapeutic services provide by approximately 30 employees as well as the coordinating of care for our clients with their schools, teachers, insurance providers and other service providers like Occupational Therapists & Speech and Language Pathologists. KLS provided ABA (applied behavior analysis) services to children ages 2-18 with various diagnoses including ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder. As the clinical director, my goal was to insure KLS provide the highest quality care by delivering ABA therapy as intended, with strict

adherence to ethical guidelines and the constant measurement and interpretation of data in order to make informed treatment decisions that were data driven. The clients serviced by KLS generally presented with problem behaviors that posed a risk to themselves or others such as head-banging, elopement, physical aggression (biting, kicking, punching), verbal aggression, tantrums and defiance. Most clients also presented with difficulties in emotional regulation, attentiveness, social skills and language delays. KLS staff were trained in crisis management techniques, preventative and reactive strategies for dealing with problem behaviors and were effective in modeling the techniques for caregivers as well.

LEAD BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Positive Behavior Supports

Mar. 2016- Nov. 2017

Miami, FL

As a lead behavior analyst (BCBA) it was my responsibility to analyze the problematic behaviors that the clients (ages 2-25) were presenting with and determine the function/cause of their behavior as well as establishing an in-depth treatment plan to address all the variables that perpetuate the problem behaviors. The treatment plans that were developed also included critically important replacement skills that would ensure that the client would be successful in navigating their everyday life by providing them with alternative ways of getting their needs met. I was responsible for implementing these treatment goals and teaching other members of the treatment team, parents, and teachers, the strategies and tools to address problem behaviors and support the child's success. All of the treatment interventions were developed based on behavior analytic principles that have been well documented and supported by research and the treatment plans were evaluated for efficacy on a weekly basis based on data collected every session and then graphed accordingly.

CLINICAL COORDINATOR

Proof Positive ABA Therapies

Mar. 2014- Feb. 2016

Costa Mesa, CA

One of 5 clinical coordinators responsible for overseeing regional supervisors and their implementation of programs, data collection procedures and the appropriateness of techniques being used and recommended. I was also the primary trainer of all new hires to the company. As the only Spanish speaking clinical coordinator, I oversaw my own caseload of about 15 clients and served as a liaison to the very large Central American Immigrant population in Southern California, helping them in dealing with our agency, the regional centers that managed benefits and social services, and insurance companies as well. I had the distinct opportunity of joining a newly formed ABA company that quickly became one of the largest providers of ABA in the region, servicing more than 800 families in Southern California.

PARENT CONSULTANT/BEH.INTERVENTIONIST

Love2Learn, LLC

March. 2013- Oct 2013

Huntington Beach, CA

My responsibilities as a behavior interventionist included the implementation of techniques and strategies as modeled and explained by the behavior analyst that was overseeing each case. With this company, I had the opportunity to shadow various professionals in the clinical setting as they conducted functional assessments and developed treatment plans. Due to my background in counseling, I was also given the role of parent consultant where I was able to communicate with parents whose children were newly diagnosed with Autism or other developmental disabilities. My role was to provide comfort and compassion to the parents as they tried to navigate the needs of their child and come to terms with the understanding of these diagnoses and establish expectations for treatment. They were also provided with research and information about typical childhood developmental milestones, and how to address their child's problematic behavior through modeling and role-playing of techniques.

SUPERVISOR CHILD PSYCH DEPT.*D&D Psych., Inc.*

Feb. 2011- Feb. 2013

Doral, FL

As one of two supervisors in the children's department of a community mental health center, my responsibilities included overseeing over 300 cases that were referred to us by DCF and other community agencies. As a supervisor in the department, my duties included following up with insurance agencies and referrals, training other supervisors and evaluating clinical documentation. I also maintained an active caseload of about 10 of my own clients within the department, whom I provided with therapeutic services in the form of mental health counseling to children aged 3-18, and family counseling. Therapy was provided to address a variety of concerns including: child reunification cases, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, suicidal ideation, exposure to domestic violence and substance use, as well as the more typical concerns of adolescence such as anxiety and depression.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ PRIMARY THERAPIST*Here's Help, Inc. Residential Treatment Facility*

Jan. 2010- Feb. 2011

Opa Locka, FL

I served as the primary therapist for approximately 20 male clients ages 13-25 that were living at an inpatient treatment facility for substance abuse. The majority of these clients were court ordered and presented with other conditions (comorbidities) such as criminal activity, depression, anxiety, trauma and personality disorders. I led dynamic group sessions and provided weekly sessions of individual therapy to the clients as well as participated in a number of community-based activities intended to reintroduce the clients to the community and teach them how to engage with others in a prosocial way. I also communicated very closely with probation officers, lawyers, parents and case workers from drug-court.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS/ABILITIES

- Qualified supervisor for LMHC and BCBA
- Professional Crisis Management Certified from 2018-2021
- Member of FABAA- the professional association for behavior analysts that has repeatedly challenged AHCA and their attempts to cut funding from programs that serve special needs children
- Bilingual: English, Spanish