

Angela K. Willits, MSW, LCSW

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EDUCATION

Simmons College, Boston, MA
Master of Social Work, 2005

Loras College, Dubuque, IA
Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, English Literature and Sociology, 2001
Study abroad, The University of Pretoria, South Africa, Spring 2000

EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin, School of Social Work; Madison, WI

Clinical Assistant Professor

2015-Present

Associate Lecturer; Field Faculty

2010 – 2015

- Prepare approved course syllabi consistent with the school's curriculum design and CSWE competencies to provide appropriate theoretical and practice content.
- Construct and conduct course assignments designed to enhance student learning, self-awareness and sense of professional self as a generalist social worker.
- Utilize university electronic technology to promote organization of and access to course content and online discussions of course content and assignments.
- Work with advanced practice students and field placement supervisors to foster a supportive learning environment, develop learning plans and supervisory arrangements.
- Provide supervision and consultation to students in their field unit to integrate seminar content with their practice experience.
- Maintain regular contact with students and agency supervisors, including student performance evaluations.
- Work with agencies and supervisors to cultivate future field placement opportunities.
- Work with faculty in mental health focus area on course development.
- Serve on school committees as assigned.
- Mentor students in need of support regarding professional development.

School of Social Work in the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota; St. Paul, MN

2014 – 2015

Teaching Specialist

- Developed course content and teach six-hour short course on trauma and substance use for the Certificate in Trauma Studies program
- Teach six-hour short course on reflective use of self and its application in supervision for the Supervision Series
- Constructed post-test covering material presented

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Mental Health Clinic, PTSD Clinical Team; Madison, WI

2005 - 2013

Mental Health Social Worker

- Designed and facilitated psychotherapy groups, including a skills-based educational group for veterans with PTSD and their spouses.
- Engaged in formal and informal field supervision with UW-Madison social work students and social workers in VA mental health.
- Provided evidence-based outpatient treatment including individual and group therapy and case

management.

- Acted as interim manager of mental health outpatient clinic, supervising clerks, nurses and social workers and managing incoming referrals for Veterans new to mental health.
- Utilized advanced technology in therapeutic interventions, including videoconferencing and virtual reality equipment.
- Participated in clinical research: “Randomized Clinical Equivalence Trial Comparing Videoconference and Face-to-Face Delivery of Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD.” Major Goal: To examine if Cognitive Processing Therapy is as effective in treating PTSD when delivered over videoconferencing as when delivered in traditional face-to-face sessions.
- Conducted initial assessment and diagnosis of mental health problems and worked within a multidisciplinary treatment team.
- Triage veterans with mental health concerns in the Emergency Department, including conducting risk assessments and safety planning for suicidal or homicidal ideation.
- Completed treatment plans and electronic progress notes with a recovery focus.

**Veterans Affairs Boston Medical Center, Women’s Stress Disorders Treatment Team;
Women’s Homelessness Program;** Jamaica Plain, MA 2004 - 2005

Social Work Intern

- Designed and facilitated personal financial management group for women Veterans in transitional residence.
- Provided individual therapy and case management to homeless women Veterans.
- Utilized Seeking Safety protocol to treat dual diagnosis of PTSD and substance abuse.
- Conducted home visits as needed.
- Prepared psychosocial assessments and case presentations.
- Discussed and coordinated care for clients in weekly clinical team meetings.
- Documented client contacts and clinical interventions using electronic progress notes.

Catholic Charities Adoption Program; South Boston, MA 2003 - 2004

Adoption Social Worker, Summer 2004

Social Work Intern, Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

- Conducted home study interviews and assessed pre-adoptive parents
- Completed home study reports.
- Assessed children and youth in the care of social services for adoption.
- Accompanied and supervised adoptive eligible children to regional adoption parties.
- Documented foster home visits and client and collateral contacts for case records.

Loras College Modes of Inquiry Program; Dubuque, IA Fall 2000, Fall 2001

Peer Assistant

- Counseled first-year students and acted as a role model to help with their adjustment to college.
- Worked in partnership with instructors on course subject matter and grading essays.
- Facilitated classroom discussions and tailored subject matter to issues common to first-year students.

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Willits, A. “Substance Use Disorders.” Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; December 2015.

Willits, A. “Describing Problems and Establishing Well-Formed Goals.” Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; October 2015.

Yackovich, N and Willits, A. “Clinical Supervision.” NASW Wisconsin 2015 Annual Conference;

October 2015.

Willits, A. "Use of Self in Social Work Student Supervision; Annual University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work Agency Supervisor Workshop; Madison and Eau Claire sites; September 2015.

Willits, A. Marrs, R. "Clinical Supervision from a Risk Management Perspective." NASW Wisconsin 2014 Annual Conference; October 2014.

Willits, A. "Working with Military Families." Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; April 2014.

Willits, A. "Sustaining Social Work Practice: Protecting against compassion fatigue and burnout." Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; December 2013.

Willits, A. "The Assessment and Treatment of PTSD in the Veteran Population." NASW Wisconsin 2013 Annual Conference; October 2013.

Willits, A. Angola, A. "Student Performance Evaluations: The Importance and Challenges of Providing Critical Feedback." Annual University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work Agency Supervisor Workshop; September 2013.

Willits, A. "Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Elders." Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; March 2012.

Willits, A. "Compassion Fatigue and Burnout." William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital; Madison, WI; February 2012.

Willits, A., Miler, N. "Prolonged Exposure Therapy Training Workshop." University of Wisconsin Department of Psychiatry; Madison, WI; September 2012.

Willits, A. "Experiences of Returning Veterans and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder." Guest Lecture for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work; November, 2009; May 2008.

Willits, A., Phelps, L. "Prolonged Exposure Therapy Training Workshop." William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital; Madison, WI; August 2008.

Willits, A. "Experiences of Returning Veterans and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder." Guest Lecture for the Loras College Social Work Department; Dubuque, Iowa; May 2007.

Smith, T.L., Black, L., Phelps, L., Willits, A., "CPT for PTSD in a PCT: Dissemination of Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) in a VA Outpatient PTSD Clinic (PCT)." 23rd Annual Meeting, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; Baltimore, Maryland; November 2007.

Willits, A. Knoedel, S. "Stress Reactions of OIF/OEF Veterans." Wisconsin National Guard; Madison, WI; May 2006.

CERTIFICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Recipient of the Rosemarie Carbino Fund, 2014

Certified Cognitive Processing Therapy Provider, 2006

Certified Prolonged Exposure Therapy Provider, 2008

Bishop Loras Scholarship, Loras College, 1997

