

# Barry University

Ellen Whiteside McDonnell | **School of Social Work**  
Miami, FL

**Annual Report** | 2018



## Center for Human Rights and Social Justice

Funded by the Ware Foundation

## Our Mission

To foster social and intellectual transformation from oppression through leadership, research, teaching, and informed action that advances fundamental freedoms, justice, and the belief in the resilience of the human spirit.

## Five Pillars

- Preventing Sexual Victimization
- Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities
- Advancing Trauma-Informed Research, Education, and Practice
- Promoting Wellness in Marginalized Communities
- Combatting Human Trafficking

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# Welcome

Dear Friends,

It has been another incredibly productive and impactful year for the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (CHRSJ). I am proud to share the 2017-2018 Annual Report, which highlights the efforts and accomplishments of faculty, students, and community partners committed to the CHRSJ's key initiatives. We continued our mission to bring meaningful change to our local and global communities through the provision of diverse and meaningful social justice oriented educational offerings, collaborative community-based service, and advocacy oriented research and scholarship.

Drawing on the diverse intellectual, clinical, and cultural strengths of Barry University and the South Florida community, the CHRSJ engaged the university and local community in meaningful opportunities to learn, reflect, and serve. We were thrilled to launch our Human Trafficking Certificate Program, the first of its kind designed to train clinical practitioners in best practices for assessment and intervention with survivors of sex trafficking. We facilitated timely dialogues on race, gender, and sexual orientation to Barry students, staff, and faculty, as well as Liberty City teens through our TRACKS program. Our cross campus collaborations aimed at raising awareness about sexual assault created safe spaces for students, faculty, and advocates to share their stories of victimization, foster healing, and transform attitudes, beliefs, and culture on the Barry campus and beyond. The CHRSJ continued to center the lives of transgender individuals locally and globally by hosting trans-focused community events such as the Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience and TransCon, as well as engaging in transgender affirmative research and scholarship.

Finally, the CHRSJ commitment to advancing social justice through sustainable partnerships that benefit the community materialized through the creation of the CHRSJ's ACCOPE Program. ACCOPE evolved from a long-standing partnership between the Barry University School of Social Work and the Liberty City community, in particular, Miami Children's Initiative and Charles R. Drew K-8 Center. Through ACCOPE, CHRSJ affiliates delivered trainings and workshops that included yoga, experiential art, mindfulness, play therapy, trauma-informed care, prejudice reduction, and human trafficking prevention to youth, educators, and care providers within Liberty City. These efforts exemplify the CHRSJ's deep-rooted commitment to fostering change through meaningful, collaborative community-based partnerships.

This year we also welcomed our first program coordinator, Carolina Rios, whose passion for social justice oriented change, compassionate spirit, and boundless energy fueled our many successes. It has been a tremendous privilege to work alongside Carolina, as well as the many other fierce social justice leaders in the School of Social Work, across the Barry University campus, and throughout the South Florida community. I am exceedingly grateful to our benefactor, the Ware Foundation – in particular Executive Director Morgan Ware, whose financial and intellectual contributions ensure the CHRSJ's success in fulfilling its vital mission. I extend the deepest gratitude to all those who supported us this year and look forward to your continued support as the CHRSJ advances powerful community change.

In community,

**Ashley Austin, PhD**

Associate Professor and Director  
Center for Human Rights and Social Justice





# Building Community Partnerships in Liberty City



*Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.  
— Helen Keller*

## **ACCOPE's Primary Goals**

- Advance social justice through mutually transformative partnerships
- Promote well-being among children and families in Liberty City through the delivery of trauma-informed services
- Identify and build the capacities of children, families, MCI staff and the Liberty City Community

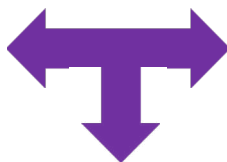
The Advanced Clinical & Community Practice and Education (ACCOPE) program is dedicated to promoting well-being among children and families through the delivery of trauma-informed services at all levels.



The CHRSJ is committed to advancing social justice oriented change in multiple ways, including impacting communities through micro- and macro-level change efforts, creating sustainable partnerships that benefit the community, and providing targeted, trauma-informed education to future generations of social workers dedicated to advancing human rights and social justice in marginalized communities. This commitment materialized through the creation of the CHRSJ's ACCOPE Program. ACCOPE evolved from a long-standing partnership between Barry University School of Social Work and the Liberty City community, in particular, Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) and Charles R. Drew K-8 Center. It exemplifies the CHRSJ's deep-rooted commitment to fostering change through community-based partnerships.

#### Program Overview

Trauma-Informed  
Direct Clinical  
Social Work  
Practice



Trauma-Informed  
Organizational and  
Community Social  
Work Practice

Improved well-being for children and families

#### Trauma-Informed Direct Clinical Social Work Practice

ACCOPE offered an internship site staffed by Barry University bachelor's and master's level social work interns who provided a range of social work services such as trauma-informed individual, group, and family therapy, case management, and advocacy to children and families in the Liberty City community. In 2017-18, the ACCOPE program office was housed at Charles R. Drew K-8 Center, where student interns collaborated with school personnel as well as members of MCI to best serve the children and families of this community.



#### Trauma-Informed Organizational and Community Social Work Practice

Another key component of ACCOPE was to create sustainable organizational and community level change that included advancing trauma-informed practices at all levels. Community trainings and workshops were coordinated by the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, and delivered by Barry University Social Work faculty as well as other professionals in the field. They focused on advancing community and clinical practice associated with trauma-informed practice. In the past academic year, the CHRSJ led trainings and workshops that included yoga, experiential art, mindfulness, play therapy, trauma-informed care theory and practices, prejudice reduction dialogues, and human trafficking prevention.



# Providing Diverse Educational Programming to Our Community



*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

*— Nelson Mandela*

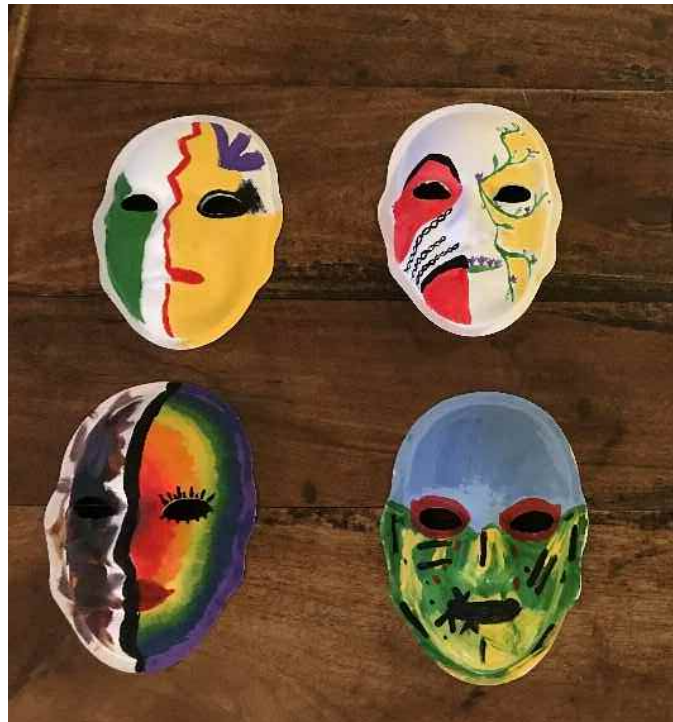
In an effort to create meaningful change, the CHRSJ offered diverse educational opportunities to students, faculty, and the South Florida community. Multiple topics associated with each of the CHRSJ's pillars were addressed. Educational objectives ranged from raising awareness about sexual assault among first-year university students to developing a cadre of advanced clinical practitioners capable of working effectively with survivors of human trafficking. In addition to Barry University's own students, faculty, administrators, and staff, our educational events targeted diverse community stakeholders including public school teachers, leaders of nonprofit organizations, mental health providers, activists, parents, and youth. In each case, our events had the express aim of mobilizing positive change through knowledge and education.

#### **Trauma-Informed LGBTQ+ Affirmative Practice Workshop**

In response to the Pulse Tragedy on June 12, 2016, the Central Florida Foundation committed efforts and resources to create a more affirming and inclusive Orlando. As part of this initiative, Dr. Ashley Austin received a grant to provide a two-day Trauma-Informed LGBTQ+ Affirmative Practice workshop. The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of mental health and social service providers to deliver trauma-informed services to racially, culturally, and religiously diverse LGBTQ+ clients within the context of an LGBTQ+ affirmative practice framework.

The workshop, which included psychoeducational, direct practice and experiential art components, was delivered to nearly 50 social workers, psychologists, and mental health practitioners from the Central Florida community. Participants were actively engaged in each component of the training, helping to co-create a transformational experience. Participants developed critical skills for supporting LGBTQ+ individuals both in the wake of the Pulse tragedy, but also within the context of a social and cultural world that continues to marginalize and minimize the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ youth

and adults. The workshop helped participants recognize ways in which other intersecting identities (e.g., cultural, religious, racial) play a role in experiences of risk and resilience of LGBTQ+ individuals in the greater Orlando community. The following photos offer examples of the masks created during the "healing trauma through mask making" activity.



#### **My Miami Story: Conversations to Spark Change**

Last year, Dr. Tisa McGhee hosted a My Miami Story conversation at the Barry University School of Social Work as part of an initiative created by The Miami Foundation. Dr. McGhee facilitated student discourse focused on the year's main topic: taking ownership of issues students care about (e.g., education, finding a safe, affordable housing, or landing a job close to home).





### Pride Week

In October 2017, the CHRSJ hosted the third annual PRIDE week on the Barry University campus. This week of fun and educational events seeks to create a safer and more inclusive campus community for sexual and gender diverse students, faculty, staff, and community members. Events included a mentorship and networking event for students that featured insight and guidance from local and national LGBTQ community members and allies. Daily tabling in the Landon Student Union sought to raise awareness of and support for LGBTQ issues on campus. The week also included an AMP and Karaoke Night to give voice to the lives and experiences of diverse LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff.

### Healthy Relationships: A Conversation about Domestic Violence Awareness

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month, the CHRSJ partnered with the Department of Housing and Residence Life to host Healthy Relationships: A Conversation about Domestic Violence Awareness. This facilitated conversation with students was led by Dr. Sheila McMahon, one of the CHRSJ's leading scholars in the area of preventing and effectively addressing sexual violence on college campuses. The event focused on raising awareness among college students about sexual assault, as well as building the key skills associated with interpersonal assertiveness and healthy relationships.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience

Demonstrating the CHRSJ's ongoing commitment to trans visibility and creating safe and inclusive communities for transgender and gender diverse individuals, the CHRSJ hosted the fifth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience on the Barry campus. Co-led by Dr. Ashley Austin and a team of transgender community leaders, Aiden Collazo, Jack Jordan, Arianna Lint, Logan Meza, and Landon Woolston, the event aimed to raise awareness about the pervasive interpersonal, physical, and systemic violence that impacts the lives and safety of trans people locally and globally. The event brought together over 120 transgender community members and allies from across campus and the community to honor the many lives lost each year to anti-transgender violence, and suicide, as well as to make visible the resilience and courage evidenced by transgender individuals on a daily basis across the globe. This year the CHRSJ was honored to be awarded external funding from The Miami Foundation's LGBT Community Fund to support the event, including the keynote address delivered by Holiday Simmons, MSW, a Black, Cherokee, trans masculine, two-spirit activist and healer from Atlanta.



### Human Trafficking Street Outreach: Identifying and Reporting Suspected Sex Trafficking in Our Community

In November 2017, the CHRSJ joined forces with the Life of Freedom Center and Ark of Freedom to protect children from sex trafficking by spreading awareness to local businesses on how to identify and report suspected sex trafficking. Led by Professor Sambra Zaoui, this half-day street outreach gave students tools to identify and report suspected sex trafficking in their communities. The Human Trafficking



Street Outreach programs are four-hour opportunities for students to engage with street youth and young adults at risk of human trafficking, exploitation, and violence. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to identify and report suspected sex trafficking in their communities. They also gained first-hand experience and a glimpse of the challenges faced by marginalized youth while walking through youth-populated areas of Miami-Dade and Broward counties.



### **Stronger Than Barbed Wire: Helga's Story of Life Before and After the Holocaust**

In March 2018, the CHRSJ hosted Holocaust survivor Helga Melmed for a follow up discussion to the previous year's campus wide event. Through an honest and thought-provoking interview conducted by her niece and social work professor Dr. Heidi LaPorte, Mrs. Melmed shared her story of trauma, resiliency, faith, and hope through her own experiences of survival as a child during World War II. Barry students, faculty, and staff as well as community members from across South Florida attended this inspirational event.

### **Foster Shock Documentary Screening**

The CHRSJ sponsored the moving and disturbing documentary "Foster Shock," created and directed by Mari Frankel, a former guardian ad litem. The film examines Florida's foster care system through the eyes of traumatized children. A panel comprised of Frankel, Brian Bayerl, the film's editor/cinematographer, Kenisha Anthony, one of the former foster youth portrayed in the film, and Robert Latham, associate director of the Children and Youth Law Clinic at the University of

Miami, answered questions from the audience following the film. Barry School of Social Work faculty member Dr. Ed Tucker moderated a thought-provoking panel discussion.

### **CHRSJ Leads University-Wide Initiatives to Prevent Sexual Assault**

The CHRSJ partnered with Campus Ministry, the Mission Integration Council, Student Affairs, Sociology, and Human Resources to launch a multi-month campaign of events focused on preventing sexual violence. The collaborative campaign, which included the events and initiatives listed below began in February and culminated with April's with Sexual Assault and Awareness Month campaign.

#### ***College Brides Walk***

South Florida students united on February 13, 2018, to participate in the fifth annual College Brides Walk. Students took a stand against domestic and dating violence on and off college campuses. While many Barry University students marched to Johnson & Wales University in bridal dresses or all white, some decided to partake in other activities. The CHRSJ provided financial sponsorship to this event for the second year in a row.

Dr. Sheila McMahon, assistant professor of social work and CHRSJ affiliate, led students in a creative art project to showcase group ideals regarding issues of power-based personal violence. In the first sequence, students discussed and drew what relates to their views about domestic and dating violence within their communities. The second sequence included an idealistic view of what a world free from violence would look like. Groups shared their thoughts and dreams of peace, hope, and love before connecting the two ideas with a final drawing and discussion on what steps they, their schools, and communities can do to move closer to their visions of peace.

The large drawing was displayed around campus as a testament and plea to end domestic and dating violence. The drawings were a great starting point for students and community members to start a conversation not only about how they identified domestic and dating violence in their surrounding areas, but also as a call to action. Those visions of hope, love, and peace were created with the understanding that they are a real possibility if all individuals — men and women alike — actively stand against violence when they see it.



### ***“Untouchable,” a Provocative Documentary about the Far-Reaching Effects of Sexual Abuse***

In March 2018 the CHRSJ hosted a film screening of “Untouchable,” a provocative documentary about the far-reaching effects of sexual abuse. A Q&A panel discussion about sexual violence prevention and sex offender management policies followed. The distinguished interdisciplinary panel included Miami-Dade Deputy Mayor Maurice Kemp, Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez, ACLU attorney Jeanne Baker, Barry social work professor Dr. Jill Levenson, and Dr. Ruthlyn Webster, programs director at Kristi House Child Advocacy Center. The screening was well attended by community members as well as Barry students and faculty. The film and discussion prompted a critical dialogue about sexual abuse prevention and the complex social justice issues for both victims and perpetrators.

### ***Mission Town Hall – Preventing Sexual Assault: What Do We All Stand to Gain as a Community by Addressing This Issue?***

Sponsored by the Office of Mission Engagement, the Barry University Mission Town Hall “Preventing Sexual Assault: What Do We All Stand to Gain as a Community by Addressing This Issue?” featured Dr. Sheila McMahon and Barry University Counseling Services staff member Sandra Barros. They spoke to students, faculty, and staff about the definitions, prevalence rates, and impact of sexual violence on U.S. college students. After providing this context, McMahon and Barros invited community members who attended to discuss the root causes of sexual assault, the need for systemic equality, and social change.

They posed the following questions for small group discussion:

- Now that we’ve had this introductory presentation, what more do you want to know? What did you learn? What questions do you have now?
- In your opinion, why is sexual assault an issue of concern at this time?
- Do you hear about this issue in the news? On social media? From friends?
- Is awareness of this issue affecting conversations you are having with friends/family/colleagues at Barry?
- Now that you know more facts about sexual assault on campuses, what do we need to do here at Barry to address this issue? What are we already doing that is important to emphasize?

To close the event, McMahon and Barros led a large group discussion about these questions.

### ***Care Packages for Human Trafficking Victims***

Ark of Freedom Alliance is a survivor-led, human rights nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent and combat the trafficking of vulnerable young adults through community education and mobilization, and to provide male and transgender-specific outreach, housing, and empowerment programming. In collaboration with the CHRSJ, students came together to prepare outreach kits that were donated to the organization. Each kit contained items such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a notebook, pen, and an inspirational note. These kits were available to anyone in need who stopped by the organization’s office.

### ***Survivors Speak Out About #MeToo***

Dr. Jill Levenson and survivor-scholar Alissa Ackerman led a Sexual Assault Awareness Month panel discussion to raise awareness about sexual assault, current challenges to the system, and the power of advocacy, agency, and visibility. We welcomed Dr. Alissa Ackerman, a sex crimes researcher at California State University at Fullerton, and a survivor herself, who shared her inspiring story of post-traumatic growth and recovery. About 20 social work students attended this powerful event, some of them survivors who shared their own personal stories. Attendees also learned about what survivors need from social workers to promote healing and empowerment.



### Expressive Arts Workshop at Miami Gardens High School

The CHRSJ recently collaborated with Miami Gardens High School students in an experiential arts workshop.

Barry MSW students Johanna Rodriguez, Shirley Roseman, and Becky Flowers joined faculty member Dr. Heidi LaPorte and Student Services Coordinator Yvonne Alonso and Laura Bello to work with students on the value of expressive art. Students created abstract paintings in a group context, sharing a joyful, creative experience of self-expression.

In each group, students carefully selected and poured a variety of premixed acrylic paints into individual cups. They chose colors that resonated with their own strengths. There was a powerful, unspoken invitation to join in collective experience and previous conflicts were washed away during this creative encounter. The result was a stunning “self-portrait of the soul.” Images of strength, resilience, and passion emerged in every painting. Students not only loved their own “self-portraits” they also admired one another’s work and found community in a new way. Each student took their painting home as a memory of the collective experience.

Miami Gardens High School is a tuition-free charter school collaborating with Academic Learning Solutions to assist non-traditional high school students between

the ages of 16 through 21 to obtain a high school diploma rather than earning a General Equivalency Diploma. The school provides a structured academic environment with individualized online instruction. Teachers provided students with the support they need to gain the credits necessary to complete high school.

### TransCon

In March 2018, the CHRSJ partnered with Aqua Foundation for the fourth consecutive year to host the TransCon conference on the Barry University campus. TransCon 2018 welcomed over 300 transgender and nonbinary individuals, as well as allies to the transgender community, to participate in a job fair followed by a conference on March 3. Conference workshops were aimed at providing education, healing, and community building.

This year’s keynote speaker was award-winning writer, educator and storyteller S. Bear Bergman, the author of six books as well as the founder of Flamingo Rampant, a children’s press focused on feminist, LGBTQ-positive, racially-diverse children’s books. Noemi Marquez, a student in Barry’s social work PhD program, facilitated a gender diversity expressive arts workshop for kids and families, along with her colleagues Joel Mendez, LCSW, and Daniella Dellisant. Other notable workshops included “The Trans Health Panel,” “Rights and Privileges of Trans and Gender Nonconforming Students in MDCPS, BCPS & PBCPS,” and “Stand Up and Fight Back: Why 2018 Is Our Year For LGBT Rights.” Dr. Ashley Austin served on the TransCon Planning Committee for the third year and volunteered at the conference. The CHRSJ was honored to help support this important event that targets the specific needs and experiences of trans people in our community.





# Prejudice Reduction and Violence Prevention Dialogues



*We call upon all communities to be tolerant, to reject prejudice...We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.*

*— Malala*

## **TRACKS by the Numbers**

- 15** Barry University employees assisted the three-day series
- 5** Faculty members trained as TRACKS facilitators
- 3** Barry University students trained as TRACKS facilitators
- 8** High school students from Miami Northwestern High School in Liberty City assisted the three-day series

Since 2014, the CHRSJ has implemented the Prejudice Reduction and Awareness Dialogue Series: TRACKS. The TRACKS Program, which follows University of Michigan's Intergroup Dialogue Model, has trained dozens of Barry University students across different majors and academic disciplines in the tenets of engaging in critical dialogue of complex topics in an effort to increase mutual understanding and reduce prejudice and discrimination. This year the CHRSJ expanded the TRACKS series to include Barry University faculty, staff and high school students in the Liberty City community.

### **TRACKS Faculty and Staff Workshops**

The CHRSJ, in collaboration with Barry's Human Resource Department, launched the first TRACKS series for faculty and Staff. Professor of social work Dr. Mitch Rosenwald, Patricia Ramlow, director of training and development, and Carolina Rios, CHRSJ coordinator, facilitated dialogues series on gender and race for Barry University faculty and staff, reaching multiple employees from across campus. Four employees participated in a "train the trainer" model to become qualified TRACKS facilitators. The overall response was positive. The CHRSJ is committed to further extending TRACKS workshops to faculty and staff in the upcoming year.

### **TRACKS Liberty City Workshops**

The TRACKS program proudly collaborated with the Promising Futures Leadership Academy from Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) in Liberty City to engage area high school students in a timely dialogue about race and racism. Students convened on the Barry University Campus for three consecutive days to examine their racial and social identities, engage one another in important discussions about privilege, oppression and stereotype awareness, and identify effective strategies for handling prejudice in their daily lives. Bringing this program to inner-city students of color is important given the increasing awareness of the prevalence of interpersonal and structural racism, as well as state and police violence impacting the lives of black and brown youth across the country. Students benefitted greatly and

expressed a desire to become trainers, participate in further dialogues in their high schools, and engage in a series of TRACKS dialogues with students of other races and from other cultural communities. The CHRSJ is committed to working with Liberty City to expand the TRACKS program during the 2018-2019 year.



### **What Students Had to Say**

*"I'm the type of person that likes asking the question 'why?' I liked that this was an open space where I could explore a question not necessarily looking for an answer, but looking for another question."*

— Tyler James

*"I love participating in Tracks. ... Every discussion has been beneficial to my personal growth."*

— Stacia Ming

*"I've learned we all live very distinct lives. Not one person has experienced life the way that I have, and while that's a phenomenal thing, it's also complex. We can learn a lot by simply speaking to each other about what life has like for us."*

— Aliyah Price-Perr

# Creating a Trauma-Informed, Resiliency Focused Community



*We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit  
the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.*

*— Maya Angelou*



The CHRSJ is committed to advancing trauma-informed research, education and practice. In addition to our School's trauma-informed social work curriculum, our focus is to provide organizations with interdisciplinary training and tools in this area. During the past year, we provided a range of trauma-informed education and training opportunities through a variety of venues. Our trauma-informed training initiative aims to raise awareness about trauma and its consequences, as well as garner support among organizations and service delivery systems for trauma responsive practice, policies, and protocols that avoid re-traumatization and promote healing.



### Human Trafficking Certificate

This past spring, Professor Samba Zaoui pioneered the first ever Advanced Trauma-Informed Clinical Practice Certification with Survivors of Sex Trafficking for social work and mental health practitioners. Clinical practitioners from a range of disciplines including social work, psychology, mental health counseling, and marriage and family therapy were in attendance as they voiced a shared need for enhancing their expertise in working with survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation using from a trauma-informed interventive stance. For this reason, professor This certificate program was developed using ***“the most innovative, cutting edge research on complex trauma and its impact on***



***our neurobiology, mind, emotions and body. — Utilizing the latest research on survivors of sexual trauma and trafficking, and thoroughly integrating the voices and expertise of survivor leaders who have experienced trafficking, Professor Zaoui developed a curriculum that guides the therapeutic community in the work that needs to be accomplished.”*** Ms. an active seasoned practitioner, trauma professional, and EMDR certified therapist, as well as having had the privilege of being trained and inspired by the most reputable trauma professionals of her time, such as, Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, Dr. Peter Levine, and Dr. Pat O’gden, Mrs. Zaoui threaded her expertise, and created a curriculum that serves to equip Master level professionals with indispensable core knowledge relevant to working with this population.



# Translating Trauma-Informed Care Concepts into Social Work Practice Workshop

by **Dr. Jill Levenson**

## **“Translating Trauma-Informed Care Concepts into Social Work Practice” Workshop at Barry University**

The three-hour workshop by Dr. Jill Levenson, was targeted to social workers, mental health counselors, psychologists, victim advocates, addiction specialists, correctional programs, school personnel and other child welfare staff.

The workshop summarized research describing the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences. Participants were also introduced to SAMHSA's principles of trauma-informed care (TIC), which conceptualizes trauma as a set of experiences that profoundly influence a person's identity. The presentation focused on two main skill sets: (1) case conceptualization through the trauma lens and (2) trauma-informed responding. It described how early traumagenic environments contribute to the development of delinquent behavior, addiction, self-regulation challenges, maladaptive cognitive schema and dysfunctional interaction patterns. Participants learned to view and respond to clients within the context of their collective experiences and apply TIC principles to service delivery across a variety of professional social work roles. Through trauma-informed practices, the CHRSJ hopes to help agencies deliver services that promote healing for wounded and troubled clients and their families, improve their psychosocial functioning, and disrupt the intergenerational cycle of unrealized potential.







### **Paper Tigers Film Screening and Q&A**

The CHRSJ provided training on Trauma-informed Care for Miami-Dade County School principals and staff, Social Workers and the staff of Miami Children's Initiative, in addition to BUSSW students. The training featured a screening of the film, Paper Tigers, a revolutionary documentary focused on transforming the educational culture of an alternative school using Trauma-informed Care Principles and strategies. A thought provoking discussion and call to action for our local schools was facilitated by Dr. Jill Levenson.

### **Building a Trauma-Informed Workforce Online Webinar**

In order to increase community access to current best practices from a trauma-informed perspective, the CHRSJ developed a 1-hour webinar: "Building a Trauma-informed Workforce." The webinar was distributed via mass email to all community partners and field agencies, free of charge. This webinar offers an overview of SAMHSA's core TIC components, the prevalence and impact of trauma across the lifespan, as well as specific steps to be taken by organizations interested in further developing their trauma-informed practices and policies. This indispensable resource can be easily accessed by organizations and individuals through our website's community resources page.



# Building a Trauma-Informed Workforce Webinar

by Dr. Jill Levenson



# Student Engagement and Advocacy Work



*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*

*— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

### Student Advocacy Award Winners

This year, the CHRSJ, awarded the Student Advocate Award to Paola Montenegro and Paris Razor.

Their passion and commitment to activism focused on a range of critical social justice issues serve as an inspiration to students across the Barry University Campus. As active student leaders involved in consciousness raising, as well as, social and political activism, they have helped instigate community and state level change. Their efforts align with the mission of the CHRSJ and our commitment promote wellness in marginalized communities locally and globally.



#### About the Awardees:

Paris Razor is a third year English major specializing in literature and professional writing. A Barry Service Corps Fellow, she works with the Student/Farmworker Alliance as a steering committee member to advocate the rights of farmworkers. Dedicated to human rights and social justice, she has made it a priority in her life to be active in her community.

Paola Montenegro's most significant accomplishment as a civically engaged student leader is her contribution to the development of community service programs and projects, including: (1) the growth of collaborative and long-term community partnerships; (2) student recruitment and financial support of students' participation in service programs; and (3)

community and campus education efforts focused on human and environmental rights. Her leadership in the Alternative Breaks Executive Board led to the creation of two new programs with deep community partnerships dedicated to long-term social change: the Port-de-Paix, Haiti Solidarity Partnership; and the McAllen, Texas Border Encounter.

### Doctoral Fellowship Award

The CHRSJ awarded doctoral student, Ms. Maria Tapia, with the 2018 Doctoral Fellowship Award. Her proposed research titled, "Understanding School Mental Health Perspectives Toward LGBT Populations," is a promising step toward creating safer and more inclusive schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) youth in South Florida. Moreover, findings from her proposed study have the potential to extend existing knowledge and research in this area.



### Professional Clothing Drive for the Broward County State Attorney's Office

School of Social Work Master's Student Rhoda Mauclair-St Louis in partnership with the Broward County State Attorney's Office led a collection to support survivors of sexual violence. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Ms. Mauclair-St Louis implemented a collection focusing business and business-casual clothing and shoes for women and men to wear to their court dates. The drive also included books or toys for children to play with and entertain themselves with while they are at the court house with their parents. With the help of the Center's GA Johanna Rodriguez and the support of the CHRSJ Ms. Mauclair-St Louis was able to set up boxes in various departments around Barry University's Main Campus. The collection drive was a success with boxes full of clothing donations.

### On-Campus Outreach

Ms. Johanna Rodriguez set up a weekly table in Landon Student Union to connect students with information from the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (CHRSJ). Distributing flyers and talking with students about events and initiatives like TRACKS Intergroup Dialogue, Preventing Sexual Assault Initiative: It's on Us, National Coming Out Day, Puerto Rico Direct Relief, Pridelines: Homeless Thanksgiving Drive, and much more. Informing students about events that relate to the CHRSJ core values gives them the opportunity to participate and be a part of something bigger than themselves.



### Advocating for policy-changes for marginalized communities

The CHRSJ sent student Johanna Rodriguez to attend two advocacy-related trips this past semester. Ms. Rodriguez traveled to Tallahassee for the Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD Day) and Washington for The Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP) 4th Annual Social Work Day on the Hill, to speak for and learn the process of advocating for marginalized communities on a macro level. On these trips, she was able to sit in meetings with local state legislators and on larger general assemblies. She also got the opportunity to connect with other social work students and social justice professionals to discuss policy and politics before meeting with state representatives. The trips were very successful in immersing her with a different side of social work advocacy.



### School of Social Work Joins Disaster Relief Efforts to Help Hurricane Victims

During the month of October, social work students, faculty and staff joined forces to help those affected by the recent natural disasters. Together, with the Puerto Rico Committee Fund, the School of Social Work assisted in relief efforts for Puerto Rico and others affected by Hurricane Irma and Maria by donating items and helping to sort and package items.



### Thanksgiving Food Drive Benefiting Pridelines

This year, the School of Social Work and CHRSJ led a university-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive benefiting Pridelines, an organization whose mission is to support, educate and empower South Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and the community-at-large in safe and diverse environments through affirming programs and services to promote dialogue, wellness and foster social change.





### **Social Work Students Volunteer with Food For the Poor**

In April, more than 550 South Florida volunteers gathered to pack meals for starving children in Guatemala. Over a two-day period, the volunteers – including a good number from Barry's School of Social Work – packed 150, meals. As a result, 411 children could receive food every day for a year.

Wearing hairnets and circled around tables that functioned as assembly lines, volunteers packaged and loaded individual meals with cups of white rice and soy pellets, scoops of freeze-dried vegetables and vitamins that provide critical nutrition for malnourished children. Cheers erupted after every box was filled during each two-hour packing session.

Food For The Poor, the international relief and development organization, organized the food-packing event in partnership with Feed My Starving Children, a Christian nonprofit organization that sends prepackaged meals to more than 70 countries.

Food For The Poor Executive Director Angel Aloma thanked volunteers and sponsors for the loving service provided to families in Guatemala through the charity and Feed My Starving Children.

"When you come here to pack, it is not just a matter of doing good. It is a matter of saving lives," Aloma said. "It is a matter of saving mothers the heartache of seeing their children stunted in growth, both mentally and physically, because they don't have enough food to eat."

### **Palm Beach Students Raise their Voices at the Families Belong Together March**

Recently, Barry University School of Social Work students had the opportunity to participate in a march and took to the streets on Saturday, June 30th, 2018 to say "Families Belong Together" after the Trump administration implemented its "Zero Tolerance" policy toward undocumented immigrants, prompting the separation of thousands of children from their parents. Students at the march called for the immediate reunification of migrant families and an end to family detentions and separations. The students called for separated migrant families to be reunited immediately, and that the Trump administration end family detentions and also put to an end to the government's zero tolerance policy. Saturday's protests drew people from both sides of the aisle. Our Barry students braved the summer heat and marched and contributed to a resounding message that we all have an obligation as social workers to uphold and safeguard our





commitment to those who do not have a voice, in light of the current political climate created by the Trump administration. Many attendees at the march carried signs, some demanding a change to the administration's policy, others celebrating the contributions that many immigrants have made to our country.

More than 2,500 undocumented children were separated from their parents in the weeks since the zero-tolerance policy took effect. Under the policy initiated by the Trump administration, any adult and or undocumented child caught crossing the border illegally faced prosecution, and children would be subsequently sent to a federal shelter all over the United States. The indignation over the separations has been at a fever pitch for many weeks. The anger hasn't abated either, even after President Trump signed an executive order June 20 reversing the family separation policy.

The days that followed after the order was signed, saw only that a small number of children had been reunited with their parents, meaning that more than 2,000 children were still in an indeterminate state, feeding the furor and raising questions about whether the government actually had a plan to reunify families.

Every single sensational sound bite and polarizing press release showcasing President Trump's racist, homophobic, xenophobic or sexist remark highlights how important our role as social workers and agents of change embodies the core of who we are and the important role that we all play and are charged with in meeting our social work perspective for change.





As our students participated and represented our university and joined the ranks of over 650,000 students and activist across the nation, it's important that we reflect deeply about the enormous responsibilities that comes with being recognized as a social worker and our continual obligation to social justice that our profession epitomizes. It's important that social workers remember their pledge to always combat racism, homophobia, xenophobia and sexism no matter where it shows up, especially now and more than ever.

**Johanna Rodriguez and Dr. Sheila McMahon attend the Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses Conference**

MSW Student Johanna Rodriguez Herrera along with assistant professor Dr. Sheila McMahon attended a training offered by the Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses at Chestnut Hill College located in Philadelphia this past June.

*"Being trained on Restorative Justice opened my eyes to how effective (and kind) integrative approaches can be in supporting the development of individuals. It fits perfectly with Barry University School of Social Work's Trauma-Focused approach to social work. I am excited to see where this takes me professionally, as well as how it plays a role in my personal life journey."* Johanna, MSW '18

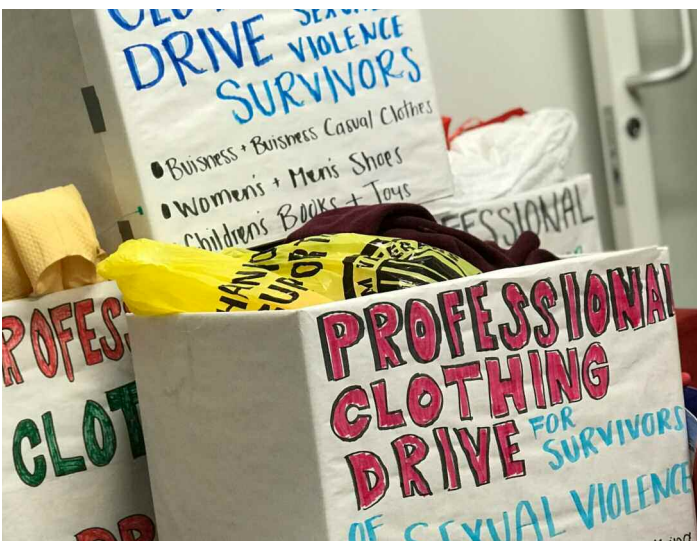




## A Year in Review









## Research and Scholarship

The CHRSJ demonstrates a strong commitment to rigorous, meaningful research and scholarship that is consistent with the values of the social work profession as well as the mission and core commitments of Barry University. CHRSJ affiliates engage in research aimed at developing knowledge that can be used to advocate for social justice on behalf of individuals and communities experiencing oppression, marginalization, as well as interpersonal, social, cultural, or political barriers to health and well-being. As demonstrated below the collective research and scholarship endeavors of CHRSJ faculty and students address the CHRSJ's 5 pillars through innovative, clinically relevant, empirically sound research that is rooted in the needs and experiences of the communities we serve.

### DR. ASHLEY AUSTIN

This year Dr. Austin focused her research in two primary directions: (1) Building knowledge to improve the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and (2) Disseminating knowledge about transgender affirmative practice. Dr. Austin co-authored 5 peer reviewed articles, one book chapter, and 10 national and international presentations. Examples of her research include an article co-published with Dr. Revital Goodman in 2018 entitled, "Perceptions of transition related health and mental health services among transgender adults" published in the *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, a sole authored article entitled "Transgender and gender diverse children: Considerations for affirmative social work practice" published in the *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, and a presentation entitled "Transgender affirmative cognitive behavioral group therapy: Preliminary efficacy and acceptability" co-presented with Dr. Shelley Craig at the Society for Psychotherapy Research in Amsterdam, Netherlands in June, 2018. In 2017 Dr. Austin joined the international research collaborative *INQYR* (P.I. Dr. Shelley Craig, University of Toronto) aimed at engaging in research aimed enhancing understanding of risk and resilience among LGBTQ+ youth in online and offline contexts across the globe. Dr. Austin was appointed as Research Chair for *INQYR*'s United States Network and will lead the project's first year project: A photo elicitation exploring experiences of intersectionality among diverse LGBTQ+ youth.

### DR. SARAH LEWIS AND DR. HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE

The Center of Human Rights and Social Justice is pleased to report that two faculty members from Barry University's School of Social Work, Drs. Sarah Lewis and Heidi Heft LaPorte, are the evaluators of the Palm Beach County's Enhanced Collaborative Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force is co-led by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO), Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach (CCDPB) as well as other lead agencies that play integral, supportive and lead roles, including the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security, the State Attorney's Office, the Statewide Attorney's Office, Palm Beach County Victim Services, the Department of Children and Families. In 2017, the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) recognized the Task Force as Task Force of the year, recognizing its many accomplishments.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach are active participants in the community in different areas from crime prevention and enforcement, to case management and wrap-around social service provision. In their roles as community leaders they participate on many task forces and as a result, have witnessed both the strengths and gaps in service provision. The active community participation of the co-leaders has given them a vast network that includes law enforcement and service providers from victim services, medical/health, substance abuse/detox, housing, domestic violence, advocacy and legal assistance and crisis intervention. Using both existing research and prior knowledge from service provision, point people at the PBSO and CCDPB began to create the ideal composition of the task force. They leveraged their networks in order to find individuals within local, state, and federal agencies that would be best suited for the HTTF.

The Palm Beach County's Enhanced Collaborative Human Trafficking Taskforce is comprised of men and women that are truly passionate about the issue of Human Trafficking. In the spirit of collaboration, the law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and victim service provider agencies have found a way to bring the strengths of their agencies together and have dropped the silo mentality that often cripples investigations and victim service delivery. In telling their stories, all have agreed that this collaboration has been nothing but successful. There are protocols

that still need to be developed; however, working together in the field has allowed them to see the benefits and pitfalls of joint investigation and through that effort, data is being garnered that will inform codification.

The collaboration between social service agencies that provide services for victims has been remarkable. The victim-centric approach is the central focus of the task force. Through a trauma-informed lens, the social worker at CCDPB works side by side with law enforcement in order to usher victims out of harm's way and into necessary services in order to escape life as a trafficking victim.

### DR. JILL LEVENSON

Dr. Levenson is the lead coordinator for the Center's Trauma-informed Training Initiative. In this capacity, she created a Trauma-informed Care (TIC) webinar for the CHRSJ's website, and conducted several half-day introductory trainings for partner agencies across the South Florida region: "Translating trauma-informed principles into social work practice." She presented this training at NASW's state conference in June. As well, Dr. Levenson has published two co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles, and two book chapters applying trauma-informed care to client populations such as children of incarcerated parents, and youth and adults in correctional systems. Dr. Levenson developed a 3-day trauma-informed practice certificate program, which will be offered at Barry in the upcoming academic year. She continues to actively seek out opportunities for grants that will enable the Center to provide trainings throughout our service community. Within the pillar of sexual assault prevention, Dr. Levenson co-authored (with Dr. Alissa Ackerman of California State University at Fullerton) a book about restorative justice in sexual assault cases, to be published later this year by Safer Society Press. Dr. Levenson also completed a one-year study funded by a Raliance Grant sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The study utilized an online survey to investigate the mental health needs and obstacles to treatment for minor-attracted persons, laying the groundwork for prevention through provision of proactive, competent, ethical, compassionate social work services for those at risk to abuse. Two publications from that study are in press. <http://www.raliance.org/grant-program/grant/understanding-obstacles-help-seeking-minor-attracted-persons>



**DR. SHEILA MCMAHON**

Dr. McMahon's research on the primary prevention of sexual violence on college campuses has resulted in two recent publications: "'Stand Up and Do Something': Exploring Students' Perspectives on Bystander Intervention" in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* and "Addressing individual and community needs in the aftermath of campus sexual misconduct: restorative justice as a way forward in the re-entry process" in the *Journal of Sexual Aggression*. The latter article, which Dr. McMahon wrote with Skidmore College restorative justice expert Dr. David Karp, is a byproduct of Dr. McMahon's interest in the application of restorative justice (RJ) practices in the context of campus-based sexual assault prevention and response efforts. Along with Dr. Karp and three other colleagues, she trained over 30 campus administrators from Catholic colleges this summer in RJ circles and conferencing for use on their respective campuses. This training was part of the ongoing work of the Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses (RJNCC; <https://www.skidmore.edu/campus/rj/rjncc.php>), a network designed to connect Catholic campuses, Catholic social teaching, and restorative justice practices.

**DR. EVA NOWAKOWSKI**

Eva Nowakowski was the Principal Investigator on project aimed using evidence to develop trauma-informed intervention strategies for youth and families impacted by child-to-parent violence. This study "Developing a Trauma-Informed Intervention for Child-to-Parent Violence: A participatory study" which aligns with the CHRSJ's Advancing Trauma-informed Research Education and Practice initiative was supported by a CHRSJ research incentive grant. Dr. Nowakowski presented study findings at 63rd Annual Program Meeting for Council for Social Work Education in Dallas, TX and at the Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Conference in Washington DC. During the summer of 2018, Dr. Nowakowski traveled to Dublin, Ireland to present her research on child to parent violence at the International Social Work, Education, and Social Development Conference. Dr. Nowakowski is currently in the second phase of her project which involves utilizing qualitative research findings from families to inform the development of her trauma-informed treatment model.

**DR. MITCH ROSENWALD**

Dr. Rosenwald served as the Faculty Lead for the TRACKS Intergroup Dialogue

training. The training focuses on addressing historical trauma and privilege and finding strategies to reduce prejudice and foster intergroup understanding. During the 2017-2018 Academic Year, TRACKS expanded at the university level with trainings with faculty/staff and new partnerships with Housing & Residence Life and Human Resources. TRACKS programming also focused on community collaboration and involved over a dozen Northwest High Schools students in the training. Dr. Rosenwald continued to serve as an evaluator on the trauma-informed Housing First program among child-welfare involved families. The study is a U.S. Children's Bureau-funded randomized control trial to assess the efficacy of Housing First on stabilizing housing and reducing reliance on formal child welfare and homelessness services. He received a \$22,938 award from the Florida Institute of Child Welfare to conduct a developmental evaluation of the Florida Department of Children and Family's Results-Oriented Accountability Program. The focus of the research was to assess the structure and processes the Department employed to ensure that child welfare indicators and outcomes are measured and used to the most rigorous and efficient standard. Ultimately, this evaluation will improve services to vulnerable children and families in Florida. Dr. Rosenwald and doctoral student Jennifer Baird co-authored a technical report and presented the findings to the Department in Tallahassee. Finally, Dr. Rosenwald presented on "A Trauma-Informed, Mutual Aid Model of Group Work" at the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter conference in June 2018. He published a revised chapter on group work with LGBT individuals and co-authored (with Dr. Mabel Rodriguez) an annotated bibliography on social work practice with LGBT individuals.

**PROFESSOR SAMBRA ZAOU**

Professor Sambra Zaoui developed and delivered the first ever evidence-informed *Trauma-informed Human Trafficking Certificate Program* specifically designed to train clinical practitioners in best practices for working with survivors of sex trafficking. The outcome was successful as all participants found the curriculum innovative, relevant and practical. In keeping with her passion and focus, Mrs. Zaoui's chapter on the importance of: Humanizing sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation through a trauma-informed person-in-environment lens for social work practitioners was recently published in the *Gender, Sexuality and Peace Education: Issues and Perspectives in Higher Education*.

Because of her expertise in this area, Shared Hope International (a global anti-trafficking organization) has invited Mrs. Zaoui to present on *The Consequential Relationship: Childhood Sexual Abuse, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation* at the next 2018 Just Conference in San Diego, California.

**MS. MARIA TAPIA**

With support received as part of a Doctoral Fellowship through The Center for Human Rights & Social Justice (CHRSJ), the Ware Foundation and Barry University School of Social Work, Ms. Tapia, a Ph.D. student at Barry University School of Social Work, implemented a study titled: "Understanding School Mental Health Personnel Attitudes towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Students".

Her research aims to understand school mental health personnel attitudes in applying LGBT-affirmative counseling behaviors when working with LGBT students and their families in a public school setting. To date, 111 surveys have been administered to social workers, psychologists and other mental health professionals in one of the largest, multicultural school district in the country. We are in the process of analyzing the data with the goal of understanding how best support school mental health professionals in addressing the unique needs of young LGBT students and advance the field of social work.

Mrs. Tapia is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience as a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. She has dedicated her career to the prevention and treatment of adolescent substance use, behavioral problems and HIV prevention. In her role as a senior clinical trainer and supervisor of evidence-based practices, she has trained and supervised agencies and therapists in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe. She has participated in groundbreaking, NIH-funded behavioral health clinical trials, and has authored several articles and book chapters in the area of minority HIV and drug abuse prevention related to the cultural context and functioning of the family. Currently, she is Doctoral student of Social Work at Barry University School of Social Work and is the recipient of a Fellowship from The Center of Human Rights & Social Justice (DHRSJ), to conduct research with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population.

## Staff Leadership

### Dr. Ashley Austin

#### *Distinguished Professor*

Dr. Austin is an Associate Professor of social work with a longstanding commitment to social justice and human rights. As a social justice oriented educator, scholar, and practitioner, Dr. Austin is committed to engaging in research, training and advocacy that reduces stigma and promotes the well-being of marginalized populations. Dr. Austin's research has increasingly revolved around creating safe and inclusive communities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) populations. She is the first author of multiple publications, as well as, local, national, and international presentations aimed at advancing affirmative approaches to mental health care and education for transgender children, youth, and adults. Dr. Austin is actively engaged in research projects aimed at elucidating the needs and experiences of transgender youth and adults locally and globally. She works collaboratively with the transgender community to ensure projects are rooted in the lived experiences of transgender people and adequately give voice to these realities. These projects advance understanding of contemporary trans lives and experiences, fostering more affirmative attitudes, behaviors, policies, and practices. In partnership with Dr. Shelley Craig at the University of Toronto, **AFFIRM**, an evidence informed, adapted, affirmative version of CBT for LGBT youth was developed and empirically tested. **AFFIRM** the first intervention of its kind for LGBT youth is now being delivered in multiple sites across the US and Canada. Dr. Austin is also actively involved in helping to build a communities inclusive of the full range of LGBTQ+ identities. She partners with local community members and stakeholders to support events such as Pride Week, Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience, Transgender Week of Awareness, and TransCon on the Barry campus. She also serves as a consultant on transgender issues across a variety of contexts including mental health agencies, educational settings, foster care agencies, medical settings, and corporations. Finally, as a licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Austin embraces a developmentally informed, affirmative approach to clinical practice with gender diverse youth and adults and their loved as they navigate their unique journeys toward fully authentic and connected lives.

### Carolina Rios M.A

#### *Program Coordinator*

Carolina Rios is originally from Colombia, but has lived in the US for more than half her life, so she considers Miami her home. She studied Communications and Marketing at FIU and worked for international corporations for many years. Because Carolina always had a desire to help others and is passionate about social justice, she pursued her Master's Degree in International Studies and Development from the University of Miami and shifted her career focus. Carolina has worked in to implement and market social programs and initiatives in top tier universities. Carolina began working at Barry University in 2014 and accepted the Coordinator position in the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice in November, 2017. Carolina has expertise in strategic planning, as well as the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of change-oriented social programs. She is an advocate for women's rights and prejudice reduction initiatives. Carolina lives in Miami Shores with her toddler, husband and dog. She is an animal and nature lover, musician and spiritual seeker. She loves to travel and does so often. In her free time she enjoys the ocean and outdoor activities, swimming yoga, and being a mom.

### Johanna Rodriguez

#### *Graduate Assistant*

Johanna Rodriguez's life mission is happiness. She strives to achieve this by dedicating her life to helping her global communities through service and empowerment. She is a double major in Social Work and Spanish, with a minor in Psychology. She is currently working at the School of Social Work's Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, and interning at the Victim Response: The Lodge, a domestic violence shelter. In May 18', she started her Master's in Social Work.

### Yvonne Alonso

#### *Administrative Assistant*

## As We Move Forward

As I reflect on my first year serving as Coordinator for the CHRSJ, I am proud of our incredible and important efforts to transform the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. I am grateful for the CHRSJ's committed faculty, staff, and student affiliates. With their support this past year, the CHRSJ was able to highlight the importance of social justice as the foundation of the social work profession.

In these divisive times, -now, more than ever-, the CHRSJ's work, aligned with the University's core commitments to "accept social responsibility, foster peace and non-violence, strive for equality...and engage in meaningful efforts towards social change..." are of outmost significance.

We are committed to continuing our work to build resilient communities using interdisciplinary approaches, intentional partnerships, and collaboration. We will focus on to building community capacity to target society change, and take action to raise awareness regarding the most urgent social justice issues facing our community and a nation. Through the new Community Advocates Leadership Program, we will expand student leadership and engagement, mobilizing social justice and human rights oriented change within our Barry students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

As we move forward, the CHRSJ will continue to establish itself as a visible and committed ally in the essential fight for social justice and human rights through education, research, and collaborative service.

In Gratitude,

**Carolina Rios, M.A**

Coordinator Center for Human Rights and Social Justice



## Faculty Affiliates









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# Barry University

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