

Karen Giordano-Brenghause, MS, LMFT

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist No. 35077

Private Child Custody Evaluator • Private Child Custody Recommending Counselor • Therapist

FORMAL EDUCATION

Master of Science, August 1995

California State University, Stanislaus

- Major: Psychology
- Concentration: Counseling

Graduated with Distinction (4.0 GPA) and Member of *Psi Chi*

Thesis: "The Effects of Parental Cognitions, Child Temperament, and Life Stress on Security of Attachment"

Bachelor of Arts, College of Letters and Sciences, June 1990

University of California, Davis

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Education

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Forensic, Child Custody Evaluation, Mediation, and Relevant Courses

Certifications

10/19 Child Custody Recommending Counseling Training **40 Hours Certification**

05/19 Child Custody Evaluation Training *AFCC and Bartholomew & Waznicky* **40 hours Certification**

11/11 Comprehensive Mediation and Conflict Resolution *Teresa Carey, UC Berkeley* **40 hours Certification**

11/08 Essentials of Mediation and Divorce Mediation *Nancy Foster JD NCMC* **40 hours Certification (participated in this class twice, two consecutive years)**

Continuing Education Classes

04/21 Domestic Violence Law and Social Science in 2020 *AFCC*

01/21 Domestic Violence *SVCCM*

06/20 Refugee Mental Health *CDPH*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Social Capital, Developmental Ages & Stages; Role Modeling; and Empirically Based Interventions *Frankel Group*

06/20 Intimate Partner Violence *Frankel Group*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Standards, Guidelines, and Rules *Frankel Group*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Challenging Issues *Frankel Group*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Forms, Procedures, and Reports *Frankel Group*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Evaluating Stepfamilies *Frankel Group*

06/20 Custody Evaluations 101: Allegations and Sensitivities *Frankel Group*

06/20 Child Development: How it Relates to Custody and Visitation *Frankel Group*

05/20 Virtual Assessment and Client Plan Development *CIBHS*

04/20 Working with Attachment and Abandonment Issues in The Short-Term *WPO*

03/20 Counseling the Clinically Different *Z Jaffer*

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Forensic, Child Custody Evaluation, Mediation, and Relevant Courses Continued

- 12/19 Managing Workplace Stress *Sacramento County*
- 10/19 Risk Management *Sacramento County*
- 09/19 Workplace Violence Prevention for Supervisors *Sacramento County*
- 11/18 Evaluation of Child Custody *Frankel Group*
- 10/18 Intimate Partner Abuse: Theory, Assessment and Treatment *J Hamel 16 hours*
- 09/18 High Conflict Families: Early Identification in High-Conflict Shared Parenting Case: and the Study of and Intervention Options *AFCC and Bartholomew & Waznicky*
- 09/18 Cultural Competence *Optum*
- 09/18 Relocating Issues in Child Custody Evaluations *Philip M Stahl, Frankel Group*
- 09/18 Critical Elements of the Analysis and Decision-Making in a Child Custody Evaluation *Philip M Stahl, Frankel Group*
- 09/18 Forensic Assessment of Children *Philip M Stahl, Frankel Group*
- 09/18 2015 Custody Evaluators Updated *Philip M Stahl, Frankel Group*
- 09/18 Approaching Child Custody Evaluations – Winternitz and Sanchez *Frankel Group*
- 09/18 Custody Seminar: High Conflict Families: Early Identification and Intervention Options *Frankel Group*
- 09/18 Tackling the Hidden Crisis: Immigrant Anxiety and Trauma *IPRM*
- 08/18 Trauma-Informed Practices *UC Davis*
- 07/18 Alcohol and Drug Services *Sacramento County*
- 06/18 Child Abuse and Neglect: Issues and Reporting *Sacramento County*
- 05/18 Resiliency and Motivational Interviewing *Sacramento County*
- 04/18 Medication Assisted Treatment for Opiate Use Disorders *Gary Henschen MD*
- 04/18 Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) *Magellan*
- 04/18 Critical Incident Crisis Responder Training Sessions 1 & 2 *FEI*
- 02/18 Substance Use Disorders *Sacramento County*
- 09/17 The Rise of Suicide and Trauma in Adolescents *Meagan Houston PhD*
- 02/17 Effective Counseling Techniques for Adolescents *Pesi*
- 02/17 Overcoming Trauma-Related Shame and Self-Loathing *Janina Fisher PhD*
- 02/17 Manage Challenging Workplace Behavior *Sacramento County*
- 07/16 Assessing Trauma-Informed Practice: Lessons Learned *OCAT*
- 07/16 Clinical Implications & Applications – Adult Attachment Interview *D Siegel MD*
- 02/16 Anger Management for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clients *JBSI*
- 02/16 Building Trust, Love and Loyalty in Relationships *Drs. John and Julie Gottman*

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EXPERIENCE

Marriage and Family Therapist, Private Mediator, and Consultant

Private Practice, Part-time

(09/1998 – Present)

- Provide private mediation for co-parents seeking changes in parenting plans and assist parents with agreements related to children's extra-curricular activities.
- Facilitate individual, couples, and family counseling for children and adults.
- Lead co-parenting sessions with high conflict parents.
- Provide training and consultation for community-based organizations.
- For 10 years, provide safety evaluations (5150s) at Emergency Departments and coordinate paperwork for individuals transferring to inpatient care.
- For five years, provide Critical Incident and Crisis Response businesses, organizations, and banks (i.e., bank robberies, workplace violence).

Human Services Program Planner – Manager

(08/2014 – Present)

Sacramento County, Department of Health Services, Division of Primary Health,

Sacramento County Federally Qualified Health Center

Refugee Health Clinic

Program Planner (02/2019 – Present) PART-TIME

- Write grants to support County programs.
- Manage data outcomes for Refugee Health Clinic.
- Analyze data and develop semi-annual grant progress reports.

Refugee Health Clinic Manager / Behavioral Health Manager (08/2015 – 11/2019)

- Manage Refugee Health Clinic operations within budget.
- Write and submit annual grants and progress reports.
- Supervise the multidisciplinary medical team (29.0 employees).
- Write workflows, policies, and procedures.
- Provide exceptional person-centered services throughout every touch point.
- Manage behavioral health services and staff within the Health Center.

Program Planner for Deputy Director (08/2014 – 07/2015)

- Analyze data and write Division Primary Health Services Dashboard Reports
- Coordinate monthly activities for Medi-Cal Managed Care Advisory Committee and Health Center Co-Applicant Board.
- Develop training materials and resource sheets and facilitate trainings internally and externally.
- Represents Division in assigned countywide meetings and workgroups.

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Mental Health Program Coordinator – Manager (08/2006 – 08/2014)

Division of Behavioral Health Services

- Develop, negotiate, and monitor contracts for community-based organizations serving homeless children, families, and adults.
- Assess adults in locked settings targeted for step-down.
- Facilitate county-wide trainings on SSI/SSDI benefits acquisition.
- Write federal grant annually, including budgets and narratives.
- Team member in redesigning homeless services within Sacramento County.
- Provide quarterly trainings to contracted agencies staff members.

Clinical Supervisor – Manager (03/2001 – 08/2006) *PART-TIME*

Visions Unlimited, Inc.

- Supervise licensed and licensed-waived therapists.
- Manage Internal and County Utilization Review.
- Plan, organize, and conduct agency-wide trainings.
- Write and submit grants.
- Provide counseling for children and families and develop treatment plans.

Assistant Mental Health Coordinator – Leadership Team (08/1998 – 03/2001)

Head Start Child Development Council, Inc.

- Develop and conduct agency-wide trainings on mental health and education.
- Consult with community agencies regarding services and programs.
- Develop policies and procedures.
- Provide crisis intervention and counseling services to high risk families.

STRENGTHS

- Goal directed
- Strong work ethic
- Highly organized
- Eager to learn
- Skilled public speaker
- Warm interpersonal skills

SUBJECT FLUENCY

- Private CCRC/Mediation
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Severe Mental Illness
- Refugee Resettlement
- Private 3111 Evaluations
- Trauma-Focused Therapy
- Co-Occurring Conditions
- SSDI and SSI Benefits
- Co-Parenting Counseling
- Attachment in the Lifespan
- Family Systems Therapy
- Parent-Child Contact Issues

LICENSURE

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