

## **Karen Giordano-Brenghause, MS, LMFT**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist No. 35077

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

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### 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***

**Mo/Yr   Hrs   Name of Training**

01/2024   20   Domestic Violence: Everything You Should Know and Understand AFCC

10/2023   20   Complex Issues in Custody Evaluations, AFCC / Our Family Wizard

01/2023   4   Annual Domestic Violence Training *Sac Valley Child Custody Mediators*

10/2022   8   Using New Information to Rethink Established Ideas: Helping Children in Chronically Conflicted Families AFCC & *Bartholomew & Wasznicky*

06/2022   6   Finding Fit in Dysfunctional Families *Frankel Group*

06/2022   2   Keeping Kids Out of the Middle *Frankel Group*

06/2022   5   Custody Evaluations 101: Managing Value Disputes Dr. Love *Frankel Group*

06/2022   12   Trauma Conference: The Body Keeps Score *Vessel van der Kolk / Pesi*

06/2022   5   Expressive Arts as Healing Engagement *Malchiodi / Pesi*

06/2022   1   Enduring Neurobiological Effects of Abuse & Neglect *Teicher / Pesi*

06/2022   1   Trust & Meaning Making in Parent-Child Interactions *Tronick / Pesi*

01/2022   4   Annual Domestic Violence Training *Sac Valley Child Custody Mediators*

09/2021   16   Shared Parenting Support Program *Carol Greenfield*

10/2021   6   I Dare You to Parent Me *Bartholomew & Wasznicky*

09/2021   1   Private CCRC: Attorney Involvement *SCBA*

06/2021   2   Implementing ACE Screenings *DHCS*

06/2021   9   Attachment-Focused EMDR: Healing Developmental Deficits and Adults Abused as Children *Parnell / Pesi*

06/2021   2   Conducting A Child Custody Evaluation Virtually *Frankel Group*

06/2021   4   Conducting 'Reunification' Therapies: Responding to Systemic Resist/Refuse Dynamics *Benjamin Garber, PhD Frankel Group*

06/2021   5   Custody Evaluations 101: Tying it All Together *Dr. Love Frankel Group*

06/2021   2   Dynamics, not Diagnosis: Understanding and Responding to the Needs of the Polarized Child *Benjamin Garber, PhD Frankel Group*

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

<b><u>Mo/Yr</u></b>	<b><u>Hrs</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Training</u></b>
06/2021	6	Forensic Family Assessment & Treatment: Legal & Ethical Updates <i>Robin Deutsch PhD Frankel Group</i>
06/2021	3	PTSD & Hyperimmune Disorders: Implications for EMDR <i>Frankel Group</i>
06/2021	3	The Ten Pillars Underlying a Developmentally Informed Parenting Plan <i>Benjamin Garber, PhD Frankel Group.</i>
06/2021	1	Resist or Refuse Dynamic in High Conflict Custody Cases <i>ACFLS</i>
01/2021	16	The Fundamentals of Conducting Child Custody Evaluations <i>AFCC</i>
07/2020	8	2020 Child Custody Evaluation Annual Update Philip Stahl <i>Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	2	Refugee Mental Health <i>CDPH</i>
06/2020	1	Domestic Violence Law and Social Science in 2020: A Year in Review <i>AFCC</i>
06/2020	4	Domestic Violence Update Training <i>Sac Valley Child Custody Mediator</i>
06/2020	4	Intimate Partner Violence <i>Dr. Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	5	Custody Evaluations 101: Standards, Guidelines & Rules <i>Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	5	Custody Evaluations 101: Challenging Issues <i>Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	5	Custody Evaluations 101: Forms, Procedures & Reports <i>Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	5	Custody Evaluations 101: Evaluating Stepfamilies <i>Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	5	Custody Evaluations 101: Allegations and Sensitivities <i>Love Frankel Group</i>
06/2020	2	Child Development: How it Relates to Custody and Visitation <i>Frankel Group</i>
05/2020	6	Virtual Assessment and Client Plan Development <i>CIBHS</i>
04/2020	1	Working with Attachment & Abandonment Issues in The Short-Term <i>WPO</i>
03/2020	1	Counseling the Culturally Different <i>Z Jaffer</i>
12/2019	3	Managing Workplace Stress <i>Sacramento County</i>
10/2019	40	Child Custody Recommending Counseling <i>AFCC / Bartholomew &amp; Wasznicky</i>
05/2019	40	Child Custody Evaluation Training <i>AFCC / Bartholomew &amp; Wasznicky</i>
09/2019	2	Workplace Violence Prevention for Supervisors <i>Sacramento County</i>
05/2019	40	Comprehensive Mediation & Conflict Resolution <i>Teresa Carey UC Berkeley</i>
11/2018	20	Evaluation for Child Custody <i>Concept Professional Training</i>
10/2018	16	Intimate Partner Abuse: Theory, Assessment & Treatment <i>J Hamel</i>
09/2018	8	High Conflict Families <i>AFCC and Bartholomew &amp; Wasznicky</i>
09/2018	1	Cultural Competence <i>Optum</i>
09/2018	2	Relocating Issues in Child Custody Evaluations <i>Philip M Stahl Frankel Group</i>
09/2018	2	Critical Elements of the Analysis and Decision-Making in a Child Custody Evaluation <i>Philip M Stahl, Frankel Group</i>
09/2018	2	Approaching Child Custody Evaluations – Winternitz & Sanchez <i>Frankel Group</i>

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#### **Mo/Yr    Hrs    Name of Training**

09/2018	8	High Conflict Families: Early Identification & Intervention and Study of Interventions Bartholomew Wasznicky / AFCC
09/2018	6	Tackling the Hidden Crisis: Immigrant Anxiety and Trauma <i>IPRM</i>
08/2018		Trauma-Informed Practices <i>UC Davis</i>
07/2018		Alcohol and Drug Services <i>Sacramento County</i>
06/2018		Child Abuse and Neglect: Issues and Reporting <i>Sacramento County</i>
05/2018		Resiliency and Motivational Interviewing <i>Sacramento County</i>
04/2018		Medication Assisted Treatment for Opiate Use Disorders <i>Gary Henschen MD</i>
04/2018		Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) <i>Magellan</i>
04/2018		Critical Incident Crisis Responder Training Sessions 1 & 2 <i>FEI</i>
02/2018		Substance Use Disorders <i>Sacramento County</i>
09/2017		The Rise of Suicide and Trauma in Adolescents <i>Meagan Houston PhD</i>
02/2017		Effective Counseling Techniques for Adolescents <i>Pesi</i>
02/2017		Overcoming Trauma-Related Shame and Self-Loathing <i>Janina Fisher PhD</i>
02/2017		Manage Challenging Workplace Behavior <i>Sacramento County</i>
07/2016		Assessing Trauma-Informed Practice: Lessons Learned <i>OCAT</i>
07/2016		Clinical Implications & Applications – Adult Attachment Interview <i>Dr. Siegel</i>
02/2016		Anger Management for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clients <i>JBSI</i>
02/2016		Building Trust, Love and Loyalty in Relationships <i>Drs. John and Julie Gottman</i>
11/2011	40	Comprehensive Mediation & Conflict Resolution <i>Teresa Carey UC Berkeley</i>
11/2008	40	Essentials of Mediation and Divorce Mediation <i>Nancy Foster NCMC</i>

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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).

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### **Human Services Program Planner – Manager**

(08/2014 – 03/2023) *Retired*

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

*Sacramento County Federally Qualified Health Center, Refugee Health Clinic*

Program Planner (02/2019 – 03/2023)

- 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 a 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.

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

*Division of Behavioral Health Services*

- Develop, negotiate, and monitor contracts for CBOs serving homeless children 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)**

*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.

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**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.

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**STRENGTHS**

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

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**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

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**LICENSURE**

*Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFC 35077)*