

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

TRAINING

Continue Education Units (CEUs) (A sample of trainings – not a complete list)

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

Mo/Yr Hrs. Name of Training

01/2025	4	Domestic Violence Update Training <i>Sacramento Valley Child Custody Mediators</i>
11/2024	8	Navigating Complexities in Conflicted Families <i>AFCC</i>
09/2024	8	Helping Kids Win! Exploring Non-Court Interventions for All <i>AFCC</i>
01/2024	20	Domestic Violence: Everything You Should Know and Understand <i>AFCC</i>
10/2023	3	Working with Suicidal and Dangerous Patients <i>CAMFT</i>
10/2023	8	Helping Kids Win! Exploring Non-Court Interventions for All <i>AFCC</i>
09/2023	20	Complex Issues in Child Custody Evaluations <i>AFCC</i>
01/2023	2	Supporting Children Through Divorce <i>SimplePractice</i>
01/2023	4	Domestic Violence Update Training <i>Sacramento Valley Child Custody Mediators</i>
10/2022	8	Annual Custody Seminar: Using New Information to Rethink Established Ideas <i>AFCC</i>
01/2022	4	Domestic Violence Update Training <i>Sacramento Valley Child Custody Mediators</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>

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Mo/Yr Hrs. Name of Training

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 & Wasznicky</i>
05/2019	40	Child Custody Evaluation Training <i>AFCC / Bartholomew & 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	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 <i>Winternitz & Sanchez Frankel Group</i>
09/2018	6	Tackling the Hidden Crisis: Immigrant Anxiety and Trauma <i>IPRM</i>
08/2018	6	Trauma-Informed Practices <i>UC Davis</i>
07/2018	6	Alcohol and Drug Services <i>Sacramento County</i>
06/2018	1	Child Abuse and Neglect: Issues and Reporting <i>Sacramento County</i>
05/2018	6	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).

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.

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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.

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

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFC 35077)