



JESSICA C. HANDELMAN, LCSW-BCD
Board Certified Licensed Clinical Social Worker
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CURRICULUM VITAE

LICENSURE & CREDENTIALS

American Board of Clinical Social Work (ABCSW): Board Certified Diplomate - Clinical Social Work #61409 (Active)
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA): Licensed Clinical Social Worker #09925215 (Active)
Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work (FBCSW): Licensed Clinical Social Worker #23532 (Active)
Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (BSWE): Licensed Clinical Social Worker #113851 (Active)
State of Colorado Board of Education: Licensed Special Service Provider #121410 (Inactive)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Child & Family Investigator - 1st/2nd/17th/18th/20th Colo. Judicial Districts (Certified 2016, 2019, 2022, 2023)
- Parental Responsibilities Evaluator - 1st/2nd/17th/18th/20th Colorado Judicial Districts
- Advanced Complex Trauma Certification level II - Arielle Schwartz, PhD, CCTPII (2023)
- Advanced Forensic Social Work - National Organization of Forensic Social Workers (2022)
- Intensive Trauma Treatment Certification: EMDR/CBT/Somatic Interventions - Arielle Schwartz, PhD. (2023)
- C-DBT: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy - Adults, Children, & Adolescents - Jean Eich, PsyD, (2022)
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) - Denver, CO (2021)
- Family Centered Treatment, certified practitioner - Miami, FL (2010)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) - Miami, FL/Denver, CO (Certification, 2010, 2022)

SPECIALIZED CLINICAL TRAININGS

- Cognitive Processing Therapy: An Evidence-Based Treatment for PTSD/CPTSD - Dr. Kathleen Chard (2024)
- Evaluating Complex Trauma & Dissociative Behavior in Play Therapy - CO Play Therapy Institute (2023)
- Culturally Responsive Assessment Using Narrative Therapy - University of Denver (2022)
- Therapeutic Treatment of Grief and Attachment-Related Loss - University of Denver (2021)
- DC: 0-5 Infant Mental Health Diagnostics & Clinical Training - Zero to Three Org. (2016, 2018, 2020, 2021)
- Parent-Child Interactional Therapy for Traumatized Children - UC Davis CAARE Center (2018)
- DC: 0-3R Infant Mental Health Diagnostics & Clinical Training - Zero to Three Org. (2011)

EDUCATION

2006 - 2008 University of Denver
Denver, CO *Master of Social Work*
 - Certification: Trauma Response & Recovery

2007 - 2007 China Youth University
Beijing, China - Certification: International & Multicultural Social Work Practice

2002 - 2006 University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO *Bachelor of Arts: Sociology*

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2017 - Present Colorado Forensic Family Advocacy / JCH Clinical Services & Consulting, LLC. — *Owner*
Statewide Clinical consultation, agency trainings, evaluations, and therapeutic services in dependency and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and domestic relations cases. Parent-Child Interactional evaluations, Capacity to Transition assessments, Adoption Trauma Assessments, case reviews/analyses, and child-focused trauma evaluations. Contextual-relational assessments of complex family dynamics through evaluation, consultation, and clinical services, specializing in resist-and-refuse patterns/behaviors, parental estrangement, and reintegration/reunification. Services include therapeutic out-of home

placement transitions, change-of-placement therapy, and qualified expert witness testimony in various areas of expertise. Independent case contracts with the Department of Human Services in Adams, El Paso, Las Animas, Lincoln, Pueblo, and Weld counties; Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel, Office of the Child's Representative, and Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel.

- 2016 - Present
CO JDs Office of the State Court Administrator - Child & Family Investigator/Parental Responsibilities Evaluator
Investigate, report, and make recommendations to the Court as directed in the order of appointment regarding the best interests of children under C.R.S. §14-10-116.5, C.R.S. §14-10-124, and C.R.S. §14-10-127. Rostered in the 1st, 2nd, 17th, 18th, and 20th Colorado Judicial Districts. Investigations and evaluations comport with the standards of CFI and PRE requirements pursuant to 14-10-127 with respect to allocation of parental responsibilities, and may include evaluation of domestic violence, child abuse, and child sexual abuse issues, as well as the traumatic effects on children, adults, and families. PREs may further include evaluation of appropriate parenting techniques; child development, including cognitive, personality, emotional, and psychological development; and child and adult psychopathology. Qualified expert in the areas of coercive control, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse, and the traumatic effects of child sexual abuse.
- 2016 - 2019
Denver, CO Office of the Child's Representative (Child Advocates of Colorado) - Clinical Consultant
Provided clinical consultation to Guardians ad Litem as part of a multidisciplinary approach to advocating for the best interest of children in Dependency & Neglect, Juvenile Delinquency, and Unaccompanied Refugee Minor cases. Areas of clinical consultation: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Child Development, Attachment, Parent-Child Visitation, Treatment Planning, Transition Planning.
- 2014 - 2019
Denver, CO Private Practice - Child & Family Therapist
Provided culturally respectful therapeutic services to children and families, specializing in Dependency and Neglect cases, family preservation, attachment and bonding, family reintegration, and children with complex trauma and social-emotional maladjustment. Provided services to adults and couples seeking therapeutic relational support.
- 2015 - 2017
Denver, CO Griffith Centers for Children - Outpatient Individual & Family Therapist
Assessed, diagnosed and treated children and families with diverse backgrounds to address mental health, attachment, substance abuse, and parenting concerns in paternity and dependency & neglect cases. Provided therapeutic recommendations to the court as to the best interest of children regarding permanency considerations, visitation, and attachment related issues.
- 2013 - 2015
Denver, CO Denver Public Schools - Special Service Provider (SSP) / School Social Worker
Brief therapeutic intervention/support services for children ages 11-18. Served on the district's Crisis Intervention Team and assisted with district-wide crisis prevention/intervention programs. Conducted social-emotional testing to evaluate/qualify children for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Provided special education services to children with Emotional Disturbances/Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD). Facilitated group sessions focusing on anger management, self-harm, suicide prevention and parent support groups. Supervised masters level social work interns.
- 2012 - 2012
Denver, CO Adams County Department of Human Services - Child Protection Social Caseworker
Conducted initial assessments and investigations for abuse and neglect referrals. Developed appropriate service/treatment plans as applicable and conducted intake-based duties.
- 2010 - 2012
Miami, FL PsychSolutions, Inc. - Therapeutic Behavioral On-site Therapist
Provided intensive in-home and community based family preservation services to children and families in the child welfare system specializing in attachment and bonding, mental health, out of home placement, reunification, and parenting children with complex trauma. Developed individualized treatment plans that defined culturally appropriate services and interventions for treatment. Provided expert testimony and therapeutic recommendations to the court.
- 2009 - 2010
Miami, FL The Institute for Family Centered Services - Family Centered Specialist
Certification and implementation of Family Centered Treatment (FCT) evidence-based practice. Assessed, diagnosed and treated clients involved in the child welfare system in an outpatient setting to

focus on family preservation through restructuring and repairing parent-child attachments utilizing the FCT model.

2006 - 2008 Denver Department of Human Services - Sex Abuse Intake Social Caseworker, Intern
Denver, CO Conducted initial assessments and investigations for sex abuse referrals. Developed appropriate service/treatment plans as applicable.

ADVANCED TEACHING POSITIONS

2019 - 2022 University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work - Guest Lecturer
Denver, CO Social Work and the Law; Clinical Skills in Mental Health Therapy

2012 - 2015 Metropolitan State University, Graduate School of Social Work - Adjunct Professor
Denver, CO Professor of graduate courses: Human Behavior and the Social Environment (courses I & II); and Direct Interventions in Child Welfare Practice.

PUBLICATIONS & SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Peer Reviewer, Ad Hoc: Journal of Forensic Social Work, published by the National Organization of Forensic Social Work. Specific focus on empirical research, conceptual analysis, and evidence-based practice submissions.

Brown, J., Prentzel, O., & Najmabadi, S. (2022). Colorado's Failed Adoptions, Part 4: Colorado's mental health system ill-equipped to handle adopted children with severe trauma. *Colorado Sun*, (np).

Handelman, J. & Jihad, M. (2022). The Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare: Part 1 - Attachment. *National Association of Counsel for Children: The Guardian*, 44(03), 1-9.

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Reimagining Attachment in Dependency Cases: Fostering Fairness and Equity [Upcoming Conference Presentation] (2024). Kempe Center's 2024 International Conference - A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare.

Attachment Theory in Child Welfare [Conference Presentation] (2023). The 46th NACC National Child Welfare Law Conference: *From Learning to Action: Shared Accountability for Disrupting Harm and Promoting Healing*. National Association of Counsel for Children - Minneapolis, MN.

Conflict Free Adoptions [Conference Presentation] (2022). Kempe Center's 2022 International Conference - A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare.

STATEWIDE & REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS

Attachment Theory and Permanency Outcomes Training (2023) [Presenter/Trainer]. La Plata County Department of Human Services.

Fighting Back Against the Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare, Part 1: Attachment & PCIs (2023) [Training Presentation]. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Training.

Fighting Back Against the Weaponization of Whiteness in Child Welfare, Part 2: Beyond Implicit Bias (2023) [Training Presentation]. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Training.

Trial by Expertise: Case Examples in Dependency and Neglect Proceedings (2023) [Conference Presentation]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel 2023 Conference, Breckenridge, CO.

Misconceptions of Attachment Theory in Dependency and Neglect Cases (2022) [Conference Presentation]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel 2022 Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.

Attachment Theory & Parent Child Interactional Evaluations (2020) [Expert panel member]. Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel Training Series.

QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS SCHEDULE
(2010 - Present)

County/State	Qualified Areas of Expertise
Adams County, CO	• Attachment and Bonding/Infant Mental Health/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations/Therapeutic Out-of-Home Placement Transitions/Social Work/Child Development/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health/Childhood Trauma/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Mental and Emotional impact of Placement Outcomes
Alamosa County, CO	• Social Work/ Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Dependent and Neglected Children and Attachment/Out-of-Home Placement Transitions
Arapahoe County, CO	• Attachment and Bonding/Social Work/Child Protection/Child Development/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Dependent and Neglected Children and Attachment/Childhood Trauma/Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes
Boulder County, CO	• Social Work/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Dependent and Neglected Children/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations with an emphasis in Attachment and Bonding/Out of Home Placement Transitions/Childhood Trauma/Therapeutic Out-of-Home Placement Transitions/Transition Planning/Post-Transition Family Therapy
Broward County, FL	• Child Development/Infant Mental Health/Childhood Trauma
Clear Creek County, CO	• Parent-Child Attachments/Social Work/Attachment and Bonding/Childhood Trauma/Child Development
Costilla County, CO	• Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Dependent and Neglected Children and Attachment/Out-of-Home Placement Transitions
Denver County, CO	• Dependent & Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Child Development/Attachment and Bonding/Social Work/Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health/Therapeutic Out of Home Placement Transitions/Child Abuse/Child Sexual Abuse/Domestic Violence and its Effects on Children, Adults, and Families
Douglas County, CO	• Social Work with an emphasis in Mental Health/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in Childhood Trauma/Parent Child Interactional Evaluations/Attachment and Bonding/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
El Paso County, CO	• Attachment and Bonding/Social Work with an emphasis in Mental Health and Family Therapy/Child's Best Interests/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health/Childhood Trauma/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Adoption-Related Loss/Parent-Child Relational Attachments/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Adoption and Traumatic Loss/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations/Therapeutic Out-of-Home Placement Transitions/Multicultural Social Work Practice
Huerfano County, CO	• Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an Emphasis in Attachment and Bonding/Forensic Social Work
Jefferson County, CO	• Attachment and Bonding/Child Development with an emphasis in Infant Mental Health/Transition Planning/Complex Trauma with an emphasis in Trauma Assessments/Mental Health Therapy
Larimer County, CO	• Child Development/Childhood Trauma/Attachment and Bonding/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations/Child's Best Interests/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Dependent and Neglected Children and Attachment/Therapeutic Out-of-Home Placement Transitions/Mental & Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes on Dependent and Neglected Children/Mental Health
Las Animas County, CO	• Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in Childhood Trauma/Out-of-Home Placement Transitions
Mesa County, CO	• Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Attachment/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Adoption-Related Loss/Out of Home Placement Transitions/Childhood Trauma
Miami-Dade County, FL	• Child Development
Montrose County, CO	• Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Attachment and Bonding/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in Adoption Related Loss

- Otero County, CO • Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Attachment/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in Child Therapy and the Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations/and Out-of-Home Placement Transitions.
- Rio Grande County, CO • Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with an emphasis in Attachment/Dependent and Neglected Children with an emphasis in the Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Parent-Child Interactions and Interventions/Childhood Trauma
- Summit County, CO • Child Sexual Abuse/Physical Abuse/Emotional Abuse/Coercive Control/Implicit and Explicit Bias, including Biases relating to Parties with Disabilities/Trauma/Long and Short-term impacts of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse on Children/Victim and Perpetrator Behavioral Patterns and Relationship Dynamics within the Cycle of Violence/Interviewing and Forensic Report Writing
- Weld County, CO • Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health with emphasis in Attachment/Dependent Neglected Children with emphasis in Mental and Emotional Impact of Permanency Outcomes/Parent-Child Interactional Evaluations/Therapeutic Out-of-Home Placement Transitions/Childhood Trauma with an emphasis in Adoption-Related Loss

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY IN BEST PRACTICE

- Peer reviewer for scholarly articles submitted for publication to the Journal of Forensic Social Work
- Participation in ongoing monthly supervision and clinical consultation staffing group for complex cases
- Provide clinical supervision to masters level clinicians seeking state licensure
- Engagement in monthly trainings offered via AFCC, MDIC, Zero to Three Org, NCTSN, CoAIMH, etc.
- Quarterly subscription to the Zero to Three Journal
- Quarterly subscription to the National Association of Counsel For Children's law journal: The Guardian
- Ongoing case consultation with CFIs to staff high conflict cases

SELECT TRAININGS & CONFERENCES (Last five years)

- Advanced Seminar in IPV/DV: Evidence-Based & Forensic Evaluations - CO School for Family Therapy (2024)
- National Counsel for Adoption Fall Conference - National Counsel for Adoption (2024)
- Explaining Adoption Stories at Different Ages - National Council for Adoption (2024)
- 46th National Child Welfare Law Conferences (on-site and virtual) - NACC (2023)
- Advocating & Planning Transitions of Young Children in Foster Care - CPP webinar by Charles Zeanah (2023)
- Adoption Competence for Mental Health Professionals in Child Welfare - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Assessments of Adult Attachment and Parenting Styles - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Child Abuse & Culture, DE&I interactive training - AFCC (2023)
- Clinical Trauma Training: Advances & Techniques - Janina Fisher, Ph.D. (2023)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2023)
- Committing to a Culture of Antiracism in the Workplace - NACC (2023)
- Direct File & Transfer Training - OCR/OADC/SOPD (2023)
- Group to Individual Inference in Scientific Testimony - AFCC (2023)
- Guiding Principles for Practice in IECMH - Zero to Three Org. (2023)
- Intergenerational Effects of Trauma Exposure - International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (2023)
- Systems Involvement & Children's Disabilities/Education Discrimination/Implicit Bias/Trauma - NACC (2023)
- Maintaining and Strengthening Birth Family Relationships Post-Adoption - NAFC (2023)
- Polyvagal informed EMDR: A Neuro-informed Approach to Healing - University of Denver (2023)
- Preserving Adoption for Children with Challenging Behaviors - National Council for Adoption (2023)
- Reunification Therapy: Foundations for Success - Keira Olivas, Foundations Counseling LLC (2023)
- The Importance of Race & Culture in Adoption and Permanency Decisions - AdoptUSKids (2023)
- The Social and Emotional Well-being of Infants and Toddlers - Zero to Three Org. (2023)
- An Anti-Racist Blueprint for Child Welfare Prevention - CrossSites/Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- Colorado Convening on Children, Youth, and Families - Colorado Judicial Branch (2022)
- Considering Intimate Partner Violence and Coercive Control - National Infant-Toddler Court Program (2022)
- Cultural Humility & Integrating Trauma-Informed Practices in IECMH - Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- Foundations and Theoretical Perspectives in IECMH - Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- How Trauma affects Autism - University of Denver (2022)
- Importance of Family Preservation for Black Children in Foster Care - NACC (2022)

- Neurorelational Development in IECMH - Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- Strengthening Families and Bonding Evaluations in Child Welfare - CrossSites/Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- Trans-generational Caregiving in Child Welfare - Zero to Three Org. (2022)
- A Clinical Perspective on Infant Mental Health Assessment and Treatment - Zero to Three (2021)
- ACES: Adverse Childhood Experiences & Trauma Training - Joint Initiatives for Youth & Families (2021)
- Addressing Domestic Violence in D&N Cases - Project Safeguard (2021)
- Benevolent Childhood Experiences (BCEs) as a counterpart to ACES - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Considering Culture When Assessing and Diagnosing Young Children - Zero to Three (2021)
- DV/Intimate Partner Violence & The Impact on Children - MDIC (2021)
- Emotions, Behaviors, & Treatment of Trauma-Exposed Children - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Infant Mental Health Approach to Trauma Treatment Across Generations with Alicia Lieberman - Newborn Behavior International (2021)
- Medical and Emotional Considerations of Child Maltreatment - MDIC (2021)
- Moving from Trauma Informed to Trauma Responsive - Zero to Three (2021)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome & Monitoring Child Development - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Trauma-Focused Conversations with Young Children - Early Childhood Investigations (2021)
- Trauma, Addiction, Health, and Treatment - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Trauma, Substance Exposure, & Sensory/Language Development - CU Anschutz Campus (2021)
- Advancing Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Policy Series (4 trainings) - Zero to Three (2020-2021)
- Sexual Abuse Evaluations for Children in the Court System - MDIC (2021)
- Anti-Racism and your Practice - CSCSW (2020)
- Attachment theory & Practical Applications - CSCSW (2020)
- Child Welfare Permanency Planning - OCR (2020)
- Manifestation of White Supremacy in the Institution of Child Welfare - American Bar Assoc. (2020)
- Reunification Therapy in High Conflict Cases - MDIC (2020)
- Parents and Caregivers: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Strengthening Families - ABA (2020)
- Working with Survivors: Ethics & Skills for Serving Traumatized Clients - MDIC (2020)
- A Dynamic & Underused Intervention: Parent Child Interactional Assessments - MDIC (2019)
- ACES: Resilience Building Interventions & Protective Factors - Zero to Three (2019)
- Family Law through Developmental Lens: Assessing & Including Child's Voice - COAFCC Conference (2019)
- Addressing Transition Issues for Young Foster Children - NCTSN (2019)
- Traumatic Separation in the Child Welfare and Kinship Care Systems - NCTSN (2019)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (2016 - 2023)
- American Mental Health Counselors Association (2024)
- Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health (2020 - Present)
- Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work (2019 - Present)
- Metro Denver Interdisciplinary Committee (2016 - Present)
- National Association of Counsel For Children (2021 - Present)
- National Association of Social Workers (2008 - Present)
- National Organization of Forensic Social Work (2022 - Present)
- SEAK National Expert Witness Directory (2024 - Present)
- Zero to Three Organization (2011- Present)