



TEISHA SANDERS

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Service-focused individual with a strong commitment to serving the needs of underrepresented individuals, families and communities. Motivated collaborator focused on identifying and addressing systemic barriers impacting justice system involved individuals and families. High performing, compassionate and strategic thinker and planner. Skilled in problem solving, organizational development, and building trust and rapport with individuals and organizational entities.

EDUCATION

Master of Social Work (MSW) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2016
Bachelor of Arts (Communications), minor in Sociology University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2006

SKILLS & CORE STRENGTHS

- ◆ Project and Team Management
- ◆ Program development and implementation
- ◆ Critical thinking and decision making
- ◆ Quantitative and Qualitative Data Collection
- ◆ IRB protocol development
- ◆ Compassionate leadership
- ◆ Coaching & Team building
- ◆ Legal proceedings and court practices

EMPLOYMENT

Wellbeing and Equity Innovations (WEI) & Justice System Partners (JSP) Collaboration, August 2022 - Present

Director of Equity and Cultural Advancement Projects, WEI, July 2023 – Present

- ◆ Lead projects that promote equity and wellbeing and the strategic improvement and advancement of policies and practices impacting justice-involved individuals and communities.

Senior Associate, JSP, August 2022 – June 2023

- ◆ Provided technical assistance to local and state jurisdictions seeking to implement data-driven criminal justice policy and practice reforms.
- ◆ Collaborated with partners and stakeholders to develop and implement evidence-based policy solutions.

Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) – Florida State University, March 2018 – August 2022

Provided leadership and direction; contributed innovative solutions to complex problems for a nationally recognized research institute. Projects in which I have been involved include:

Transforming Health Equity Research in Integrated Primary Care: Anti-racism as a Disruptive Innovation:

Project Director, December 2021 - Present

- ◆ Responsible for overall project management activities and communications between and across project stakeholders and subgroups, as part of innovative research aimed at developing new strategies to eliminate racial disparities and improve health outcomes.

5-Key Model for Reentry Research Study:

Project Director, February 2019 - December 2021

- ◆ Responsible for oversight of research study implementation in 3-7 states across the country, comprised of up to 40 field staff, with direct supervision of 3-7 program managers. Collaborated and engaged with key stakeholders and community partners and cultivated relationships with local, state, and national entities to advance research, practice and policy to improve criminal justice system outcomes.

Reentry Project Manager – Texas, June 2018 – February 2019

- ◆ Supervised State-based research and practice team to ensure team is carrying out all phases of study protocol as designed.
- ◆ Collaborated with corrections staff and other service providers in the delivery of participant services.

Clinical Research Associate, March 2018 – June 2018

- ◆ Monitored the use of evidence-driven interventions to incarcerated populations through implementation of the 5 Key Model for Reentry Program, and to ensure implementation of services occur as designed.
- ◆ Reviewed assessment and treatment plans.
- ◆ Assessed the coordination and integration of study participants' clinical services from pre-to-post release.

Denton County MHMR Center, Denton, TX, July 2016 – March 2018

Mental Health/Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) Court Liaison

- ◆ Served as liaison between agency and Mental Health Court system by coordinating services between Denton County MHMR and the Denton Probate Court regarding involuntary inpatient commitments and clients at risk of suicide.
- ◆ Provided face to face Risk of Harm Assessments at Mental Health Court as needed.
- ◆ Provided testimony at Mental Health Court hearings with recommendation of client's current risk of harm and appropriate level of care.
- ◆ Completed all follow up calls for clients admitted to contract hospitals following emergency screening and inpatient recommendation.
- ◆ Coordinated discharge planning and aftercare appointments for continuity of care.
- ◆ Completed aftercare appointments on individuals released from contract hospitals, and link those clients to appropriate center resources.

JusticePoint, Inc. (formerly Justice 2000), Milwaukee, WI, 2012 – 2016

Community Supervision Case Manager, 2013 - 2016

- ◆ Provided case management services to clients involved in the criminal justice system that have been released from custody on bail.
- ◆ Supervised and monitor clients released from custody on bail to ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions.
- ◆ Assist clients with identifying services in the community as it relates to housing, employment, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment, as needed.
- ◆ Coordinated community resources with multidisciplinary teams to assist clients in achieving vocational, educational, and recreational goals.
- ◆ Managed caseload of 80+ diverse clients diagnosed with chronic mental illness, dual diagnosis, mood and anxiety disorders.

Pretrial Investigator, 2012 – 2013

- ◆ Interviewed individuals booked into the Milwaukee County Jail.

- ◆ Conducted pretrial risk assessments to determine community needs.
- ◆ Submitted bail recommendation reports to assist the Courts with setting bail.

Rypel & Yasin Law Office, LLP, Milwaukee, WI, 2009 –2011

Ritter, Rypel & Yasin, LLP, Milwaukee, WI, 2006 –2008

Paralegal/Office Manager

- ◆ Prepared and drafted numerous negotiation letters to District Attorney’s Office resulting in successful case resolutions.
- ◆ Examined and analyzed police evidence and audio statements.
- ◆ Assisted in development of trial strategies, prepared exhibits used during trial.
- ◆ Observed and analyzed witness testimony during trials to identify possible consistencies.
- ◆ Assisted clients with locating social service needs, including but not limited to: drug/alcohol abuse treatment, parenting classes, AODA assessments, etc.
- ◆ Created and designed employee/intern manual as a guide through various office procedures and etiquette.

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Social Work Intern

United Community Center (UCC), Human Services Department, Milwaukee, WI, October 2015 – May 2016

- ◆ Conducted initial assessments including psychosocial evaluation and individualized treatment plans.
- ◆ Provided individual and group psychotherapy services to culturally-diverse adults diagnosed with affective and substance use disorders.
- ◆ Facilitated weekly therapy groups to outpatient AODA clients using multi-modal approaches: cognitive therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, psycho-educational, and expressive arts.
- ◆ Participated in treatment team meetings and consultations to assist in and make recommendations for development of the individual treatment plan.
- ◆ Supervised patients housed in 15-bed residential AODA recovery house; used engagement and crisis intervention skills; responsible for administering psychotropic medications.

Social Work Intern

Servant Manor Group Home, Milwaukee, WI, October 2014 – May 2015

- ◆ Monitored at-risk youth ages 14-17 in 8-bed residential youth group home.
- ◆ Conducted strength-based assessments and psychosocial evaluations to assess client needs.
- ◆ Participated in program development and activity planning to engage youth in positive community services.
- ◆ Provided crisis intervention to youth resulting in behavior modification.

NOTABLES

- 2019 - Panelist - National Diversity Council's 15th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference - Dallas, Texas
Presented on the power of second chance hiring and the 5-Key Model Research. Joined keynote speakers President Barack Obama, Colin Powell and actress America Ferrera.
- 2019 Panelist - Alabama Pro-Growth Policy Conference –
Presented on the transformative power of second chance hiring and how to change policy to support Alabamians as they release from prison and search for employment in their communities.
- 2019 Published Blog Post: <https://blog.shrm.org/blog/second-chance-hiring-how-employment-can-change-someones-life>;
Source: Society for Human Resource Management.