

# Tara Ryan-DeDominicis, DSW, LCSW

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Optimus Health Care**

*MSW Intern Field Coordinator*

Bridgeport, CT  
June 2021- Present

- Supervise interns in their fieldwork, overseeing the entire range of field experience.
  - Ensure interns' activities are meeting field education objectives.
  - Maintain regular contact with the intern and other agency supervisors involved in the internship.
  - Formally meet with each intern at least one hour a week.
  - Be familiar with each college's office of Field Education Policies and Procedures.
- Provide administrative and programmatic oversight to OHC MSW Internship Program as outlined above.
- In collaboration with the Social Services Clinical Leader, will actively participate in the recruitment, screening and onboarding of interns.
- Function as a member of a multidisciplinary team, in collaboration with other clinical and administrative staff at multiple OHC sites to ensure a continuum of care in meeting patient needs and advance the model of integrated care throughout the organization.

### **Nourish.NJ**

*Director of Programs and Services*

Morristown, NJ  
January 2016 – June 2021

- Create, implement and supervise Outreach Center programs and services including: Music therapy, Art therapy, English as a Second Language, Legal consultation, Employment consulting, Memoir writing, Mental Health referrals, Housing support, etc.
- Provide clinical interventions in individual and group sessions
- Advocate for over 300 clients annually to non-profit and government agencies
- Provide ongoing training, supervision and support to social work staff and outreach staff
- Support BSW and MSW candidates in their learning and development throughout their field placement experience
- Work on a daily basis with several populations such as: veterans, individuals who were incarcerated, individuals and families without citizenship documents, individuals struggling with substance use, single parents, geriatric persons, people without stable housing or no housing, persons with various mental health disorders, etc.
- Manage a ten-thousand dollar grant for employment and education for the guests of nourish.NJ
- Design clinical and outreach programs based on the specific needs of nine community access points including local HUD housing, low income senior centers, schools and houses of worship.

## EDUCATION

**Rutgers University School of Social Work,  
Doctorate of Social Work**

New Brunswick, NJ  
May 2021

*Relevant Coursework:* Critical Race Theory, Queer Theory, Feminist Theory, Spirituality, Qualitative Research, Loss, Teaching Social Work Practice, Teaching Touchy Topics, Teaching and Administration  
*Doctoral Project :* Unlocking Homelessness in the Classroom  
*Advisor:* Erica Goldblatt Hyatt, DSW, LCSW, MBE

**Columbia University School of Social Work,**  
**Master of Science in Social Work,**  
Advanced Clinical Practice, GPA 3.8  
Specialization: Advanced Clinical Practice with Health, Mental Health and Disability

New York, NY  
May 2015

**Sacred Heart University,**  
**Bachelor of Art in Social Work, Minor: Italian**  
Magna Cum Laude, Major GPA 3.9  
Dean's List: 2010- 2014

Fairfield, CT  
May 2014

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Sacred Heart University**  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

Fall 2019 - Present

- Generalist Practice II - MSW program
- Human Diversity and Social Justice - MSW program
- Generalist Practicum and Seminar I

**Ramapo College of New Jersey**  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

Fall 2020 - Present

- Human Behavior and the Social Environment I- MSW program
- Human Behavior and the Social Environment II- MSW program

## PUBLICATIONS

- Ryan-DeDominicis, T. A Case Study Using Shame Resilience Theory: Walking Each Other Home. *Clin Soc Work J* (2020) doi:10.1007/s10615-019-00745-9
- Ryan-DeDominicis, T. (2020, May 13 2020). Being a social worker in a time of social distancing [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://nationalcenterforexcellenceinhomelesservices.wordpress.com/blog/>
- O'Brien, K., & Ryan-DeDominicis, T. (2020). Looking past parking lots: Socially just interventions for our homeless neighbors during COVID-19. *The New Social Worker*. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/practice/looking-past-parking-lots-socially-just-interventions-homeless-covid19/>

## PRESENTATIONS

- “Closing the education gap around working with persons experiencing homelessness” November 2020  
Accepted to co-present an interactive workshop, Social, Economic, & Environmental Justice Track, Council on Social Work Education Conference, Virtual Platform

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Mount Sinai Hospital – HIV/AIDS Downtown Clinic**  
**Columbia University - MSW Social Work Intern**

New York, NY  
October 2014- May 2015

- Individual therapy with HIV positive patients with mental and other medical diagnoses
- Co-facilitated a HIV positive women's group using Seeking Safety modality focusing on PTSD and substance use disorders
- Case management for HIV positive patients between the ages of 18 to 25, specifically around housing and legal concerns
- Outreach for HIV education and testing through informational events and bathhouse testing

**Bridgeport Housing Authority - Stable Families Program**  
**Sacred Heart University- BSW Social Work Intern**

Bridgeport, CT  
September 2013- May 2014

- Case management for families with children who are living with the threat of eviction
- Represented clients in danger of eviction to community and legal supports
- Co-facilitated focus groups to create a new child learning center for the community
- Completed training for SAMHSA-endorsed evidence based practices including, motivational interviewing and critical time interventions.

**International Institute of Connecticut**  
**Sacred Heart University - BSW Social Work Intern**

Bridgeport, CT  
January 2013- May 2013

- Case management for refugee and asylum-seeking clients
- Advocated for clients in local agencies such as the Social Security office and WIC
- Provided clients with local resources for food, clothing, and language classes
- Conducted various tasks for the agency, including intake interviews

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**El Salvador Delegation**  
**Team Member**

Tierra Blanca, El Salvador  
March 2013

- Conducted interviews with survivors of the genocide about their experiences and healing process
- Lived with and assisted the local population with everyday life in the rural village of Tierra Blanca
- Visited massacre sites and homes of those affected by the genocide

## LICENSURE

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker, New Jersey March 2019
- Licensed Social Worker, New Jersey June 2015

## CERTIFICATES

- Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) - Columbia University 2020
- Anti- Racism Teaching Across the Curriculum - Rutgers University 2020
- Clinical Supervision 2018
- NASW- NJ- Leadership Development Certificate Program 2017
- Wiley Online Facilitator Course 2020

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

- Morris County Chamber of Commerce- Not for Profit Innovative Program Award 2018
- National Honors Society of Social Work – Connecticut Chapter Inducted 2013
- National Foreign Language Honors Society Italian – Phi Alpha Inducted 2013
- Girl Scouts of America Bronze Award, Silver Award, Gold Award 2004 -2010

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- College of St. Elizabeth BSW Advisory Board 2017-Present
  - Assisted in achieving CSWE accreditation
- Sacred Heart University MSW Advisory Board - Community Partner Co-chair 2016-Present
- North Jersey Health Collaborative - Behavioral Health Sub- Committee 2016-2018
- Jersey Battered Women’s Services - Adult Services Subcommittee 2016-2020
- National Association of Social Workers 2016-Present
- Girl Scouts of America Lifetime member Inducted 2010
- Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity Inducted 2011