



Alex Pillion, MSW, LSW
Advocate / School Social Worker

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

M.S.W., *Clinical Social Work Track*, School of Social Work, Rutgers University

B.A., Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

New Jersey Licensed Social Worker #44SL06390700

NJDOE Approved Evaluation Provider: Social Worker

NJDOE Certified School Social Worker

TRAININGS/CERTIFICATIONS

PDA North America Level 1 Training, 2024

Continuing Education Course: The Bisexual Client: Trauma-Focused Care, 2022

Continuing Education Course: Promoting the Health of Gender and Sexual Minorities, 2020

Continuing Education Course: Fundamentals of Trauma Processing, 2020

Motivational Interviewing Training, 2014

EXPERIENCE

Advocate & Evaluator, AdvocacyNJ, Kingston NJ, 2023-Present

Advocate:

Team member of AdvocacyNJ's advocacy team providing guidance navigating the special education process and providing coaching to childrens, teens, and adults.

Evaluator:

Team member of AdvocacyNJ's NJDOE-approved evaluation center providing comprehensive evaluations on an individualized basis with meaningful recommendations.

Therapist, Mindful and Multicultural Counseling, Ewing, NJ, 2024

Provided individual therapy to adolescents and adults using a holistic, mind-body-spirit approach who were experiencing depression, anxiety, self-harm, trauma, and/or difficulties related to sexuality and gender identities.

Team Leader, Somerset County Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program, Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center, Bridgewater, NJ, 2020-2022

Successfully designed outreach roadmap and supervised service delivery for two FEMA/SAMHSA grant-funded crisis counseling programs. NJ-statewide support for 10,000+

community members recovering from social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 (11/2020-12/2021) and Hurricane Ida (2/2022-10/2022). Outreach was primarily dedicated to marginalized and at-risk populations.

Operations Manager, Princeton Center for Yoga and Health, Skillman, NJ, 2019-2020

Managed daily center operations including: training and management of volunteers, oversaw finances, ensured maintenance/organization of building, represented center in the community, and collaborated with community partners to support local organizations.

Social Worker, Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic, Belle Mead, NJ, 2018-2019

Managed caseload and supported clients from intake to discharge including: intake assessments, individual and group therapy, facilitated family meetings, provision of discharge referrals, expert consultative support to other staff regarding working with LGBTQIA+ patients and assisted other staff in the creation of the hospital's first Transgender-Inclusive care policy.

Social Work Intern, Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic, Belle Mead, NJ, 2017-2018

Managed caseload and worked with clients from intake to discharge, assisted with researching LGBTQIA+-inclusive hospital policies.

Social Work Intern, GLSEN Central NJ, Hightstown, NJ, 2016-2017

Project coordinator for GLSEN campaign, "No Name-Calling Week" and committee member and planner for the 3rd annual Trans Youth Forum in May 2017.

Graduate Research Assistant, School of Social Work, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2015 - 2018

Provided ongoing consultancy to research professor of Estonian language/culture for use in researching the emerging LGBTQIA+ community in post-Soviet Estonia, compiled scholarly articles, composed annotated bibliographies, and assisted with grant writing for research opportunities.

Student Administrative Assistant, School of Social Work, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2015-2018

Assisted doctoral students with tech support on G Suite, Microsoft Office, and SmartBoard, including the development of more efficient methodology for distributing documents to each cohort, and successfully created student surveys on Qualtrics, whose results were then created into monthly reports that were distributed to department heads.

Assistant Clinical Coordinator, Earth House, Somerset, NJ, 2014-2015

Managed daily tasks/schedules for 10-member direct care worker team in a residential setting for chronic and persistent mental illness. Provided case management for residents, facilitation of family meetings, and crisis intervention support.

Case Manager, Community Resource Center, Brick, NJ, 2013-2014

Managed caseload of 25+ clients in a psychiatric partial hospitalization program for individuals with chronic and persistent mental illness. Provided assistance with obtaining social services to support individual needs. Facilitated daily psychoeducation/support groups on topics such as medication management, anger management, creative expression, anxiety, depression, and Wellness Recovery Action Planning.

Residential Counselor, Preferred Behavioral Health, Brick, NJ, 2013-2013

Provided direct care to clients diagnosed with severe mental illness, assisted clients in learning and applying life skills, crisis intervention, and conflict resolution.

Intern, Social Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Fall 2012

Research project assistant who provided assistance in preparing and debriefing participants in a study related to biases in the workplace.

Intern, The Pride Center of NJ, Highland Park, NJ, Summer 2012

Facilitated self-designed group, "Under the Rainbow", a support/social group for LGBTQIA+ young adults struggling with stigma surrounding their identities.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

[Unprecedented: A Disaster Recovery Workbook](#)

Authored and published disaster recovery workbook for individuals healing from traumatic stress related to natural, pandemic, and other disasters. Recognized by the Disaster and Terrorism Branch of the NJ Department of Human Services and distributed to thousands of community members impacted by COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida. Presented work to NJ Department of Human Services Disaster and Terrorism Branch, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Penelope the Powerful Parrot by Brett Peppe, LPC

Facilitated numerous live and virtual readings and performed music to children affected by the social-emotional effects of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida in New Jersey.

The Effects of Bullying on LGBTQIA+ Youth

Presented during GLSEN's "No Name Calling Week". Presented to educators about the nuanced effects of bullying directed at youth who identify as LGBTQIA+. Included exercises designed to provide participants with deeper understanding of the dangers of bullying for LGBTQIA+ youth both short and long-term, including increased risk of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, self-harm, and suicide attempts or completion.