

Kelsey Decker

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER



719-930-0148



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www.linkedin.com/in/kelseydecker

PROFILE

Licensed Social Worker (LSW) with a clinical focus and expertise in trauma-informed care, biopsychosocial assessments, and evidence-based interventions. Experienced in DSM-5 diagnostics, culturally responsive care, and family systems approaches. Committed to empowering individuals, families, and communities through client-centered, ethical, and collaborative clinical practice. Equipped to excel in diverse clinical environments and driven to advocate for equitable mental health access.

EDUCATION

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Master of Social Work

2021 - 2024

Clinical Concentration

Relevant Coursework:

Adv. Integrative Clinical Practice | DSM-5 for SW | Couples & Family Therapy | Experiential Practice | HBSE | Legal Issues in SW Practice | Adv. SW Policy & Advocacy | Groups, Teams & Leadership

Colorado State University

2008 - 2012

Bachelor of Science in Human Development & Family Studies

Double Minors in International Development and Sociology

Relevant Coursework: Parenting Across the Lifespan | Infant & Child Dev. | Adolescent/Early Adult Dev. | Community Dynamics & Dev. | Individual & Family Dev. | Marriage & Family Relationships

CERTIFICATIONS

- LSW Credential (State of Colorado, 2024)
- SWC Credential (State of Colorado, 2024)
- Mandatory Reporting of Child, Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse & Neglect
- Psychological First Aid
- First Aid, CPR & AED
- 150-hour TEFL/TESOL

WORK EXPERIENCE

Public Benefit Coordinator

Denver, CO

May 2019-Oct. 2022

International Rescue Committee

- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Delivered public benefit services to refugee populations, including children and adolescents with trauma histories. Tailored interventions using trauma-informed care and creative problem-solving to address unique client needs.
- **Collaboration & Cross-Cultural Competence:** Enhanced communication with clients from diverse backgrounds using culturally responsive techniques. Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team, employing motivational interviewing to promote client self-sufficiency.
- **Team Leadership & Integrity:** Led a team focused on economic empowerment, fostering a positive and inclusive work environment. Ensured all actions aligned with ethical social work standards and prioritized client well-being.
- **Advocacy & Innovative Service Delivery:** Advocated for refugee clients' rights, developed strength-based and culturally sensitive service plans, empowering clients to achieve resilience and independence.
- **Resource Connection & Community Engagement:** Connected clients with community resources, leveraging creative approaches to enhance resilience and independence. Built partnerships with local organizations to support client needs.
- **Ethical Case Management:** Maintained high standards of case management in accordance with IRC, state, and HIPAA guidelines. Collaborated with colleagues to ensure ethical and thorough documentation practices.
- **Professional Development:** Engaged in continuous learning through policy-focused meetings and trainings, enhancing service quality and adapting best practices for multicultural populations.

Senior Matching Grant Case Manager

Portland, OR

Jan. 2017 - Oct. 2018

Catholic Charities of Oregon, Refugee Services

- **Strength-Based Case Management:** Administered strength-based case management and employment services, empowering clients to achieve self-sufficiency by navigating local and national grant requirements.
- **Resilience-Oriented Framework:** Developed and implemented a resilience-oriented framework to guide clients in setting personalized goals, addressing resettlement barriers, and fostering cultural adaptation.
- **Multidisciplinary Collaboration:** Partnered with multidisciplinary teams, including caseworkers and employment specialists, to optimize client outcomes through tailored employment training and benefits programs.
- **Leadership & Staff Development:** Led training and supervision of staff and volunteers, fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the team.
- **Exceptional Performance:** Received the highest evaluation during the 2018 Matching Grant Audit for outstanding performance and commitment to client empowerment.

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MSW RESEARCH & PROJECTS

2021 - 2024

- **Assessments & Evidence-Based Interventions:** Completed biopsychosocial/spiritual assessments, DSM-5 diagnostics, and person-centered treatment plans. Applied Structural Family Therapy and CBT to address trauma, mood disorders, and systemic barriers, emphasizing ethical and culturally responsive care.
- **Women's Psychoeducational Support Group:** Developed a trauma-informed, culturally competent support group for Afghan women. Used CBT and group development theory to address trauma, build emotional resilience and promote community integration.
- **Family Therapy: Addressing Acculturation Conflicts in Immigrant Households:** Applied Family Systems Theory to address acculturation conflicts and promote resilience within multigenerational immigrant families.
- **Trauma-Informed Interventions for Refugees:** Designed trauma-informed experiential interventions using music to alleviate PTSD symptoms, foster emotional regulation, and promote community in refugees.
- **Policy Analysis of Afghan Resettlement Program:** Evaluated program's effectiveness in refugee resettlement, proposing policy enhancements for mental health services and community integration.
- **Children & Youth Mental Health Treatment Act (CYMHTA):** Analyzed CYMHTA's impact on mental health service delivery, recommending improvements for culturally competent care.

COMPETENCIES & INTERESTS

Therapeutic Modalities & Frameworks:

CBT; DBT; Play Therapy & Experiential Practice; Structural Family Therapy; Internal Family Systems; Trauma-Informed Care; Strength-Based & Resiliency Frameworks

Clinical Specialties:

Childhood Trauma/PTSD; Anxiety & Depression; Family & Group Dynamics; Crisis Intervention & Management; Cross-Cultural Communication; Ethical Decision-Making

Additional Skills:

Multidisciplinary Collaboration; Community Outreach & Engagement; Advocacy & Case Management; Mental Health Assessment & Diagnosis

WORK EXPERIENCE

Reception & Placement Case Manager

Catholic Charities of Oregon, Refugee Services

Portland, OR

Nov. 2016 - Oct. 2018

- **Case Management & Service Provision:** Managed initial resettlement cases per State Department contract, ensuring timely delivery of comprehensive services, including housing, medical care, employment, and language support.
- **Collaborative Community Partnerships:** Fostered partnerships with local and state non-profits, enhancing community networks and improving refugee access to essential services.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Applied trauma-informed care principles to address cultural adjustment challenges, culture shock, and past trauma, supporting clients' emotional well-being and social adaptation.
- **Crisis Intervention & Therapeutic Communication:** Demonstrated effective crisis intervention and therapeutic communication skills to support clients in overcoming acclimation challenges.

Refugee Case Benefit Eligibility Worker

Catholic Charities of Oregon, Refugee Services

Portland, OR

Mar. 2016 - Oct. 2017

- **Needs Assessment & Eligibility Determination:** Conducted thorough assessments of clients' needs and capacities to determine eligibility for various public benefit programs, supporting clients in accessing essential services.
- **Client Advocacy:** Advocated for clients during county interviews and benefit applications, ensuring they understood the process and were empowered to secure their entitlements.
- **Professional Development:** Actively engaged in professional development, including DHS focus meetings and trainings, to ensure service delivery aligned with evolving policies and best practices.

Workforce Specialist Intern

Catholic Charities of Oregon, Housing Transitions

Portland, OR

Aug, 2015 - Mar. 2016

- **Career Development:** Provided career development services to low-income and refugee residents, enhancing skills and resilience through budgeting education, resume-building, and mock interviews.
- **Client Advocacy & Resource Coordination:** Collaborated with community resources to advocate for clients' needs and rights, facilitating integration and promoting independence.

Youth Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

American Red Cross / AmeriCorps State & National

Portland, OR

Sep. 2014 - Aug. 2015

- **AmeriCorps Service:** Completed 1700+ hours of service, contributing to community resilience through emergency preparedness education.
- **Youth Education:** Delivered 350+ emergency preparedness classes to children and youth, enhancing community readiness.
- **Volunteer Leadership:** Recruited, trained, and managed 250+ volunteers, expanding program reach and effectiveness.

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CONTRIBUTIONS & LEADERSHIP

2020-2022

Member, IRC Denver Racial Equity Collective

Advocated for racial equity by proposing anti-racist policies and promoting equity training. Focused on addressing racial disparities in organizational policies and practices.

2016 - 2018

Member, Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee

Enhanced cross-cultural sensitivity and ethnically competent services for refugee children and communities. Provided CPS caseworkers with cultural knowledge to ensure appropriate services for refugee families.

2016 - 2018

Multicultural Emergency Preparedness Grant

Secured funding and developed a sustainable emergency preparedness program for vulnerable minority and refugee communities in partnership with local organizations (Multnomah County, The American Red Cross, SE Uplift, and Catholic Charities Oregon, etc.)

2011 - 2012

Latina Mother's Grant at CSU Behavioral Sciences

Developed and managed a support program for young pregnant Latina women, including budgeting, grant writing, and the implementation of educational activities.

2011

Undergrad Research Assistant at SAVA (Sexual Assault Victim Advocate) Center

Conducted qualitative research and data analysis on sexual assault terminology, supporting research efforts through interviews and survey administration.

2011 - 2012

Service Learning Project at La Familia/Family Center

Facilitated enrichment activities for children from low-income, Spanish-speaking families, focusing on art, literacy, science, and health.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Head English Teacher

Busan, South Korea

Jul. 2012 - Aug. 2013

YBM ECC English Academy

- Adaptive Teaching & Curriculum Development:** Employed adaptive teaching methods in a multicultural setting, developing and implementing tailored curriculum in reading, writing, speech, and debate for students in grades 1-12.
- Student Achievement:** Led a period of significant growth, achieving doubled enrollment rates and top-ranked student test scores among 37 YBM ECC branches.
- Leadership & Program Growth:** Promoted to Head Teacher for successfully developing a transformative learning environment, recognized for leadership in driving educational success.

Primary Education Teacher

Ft. Collins, CO

Apr. 2014 - Sep. 2014;

Teaching Tree Early Childhood Center

Apr. 2011 - Jul. 2012

- Culturally Responsive Education:** Developed and implemented lesson plans that promoted multicultural understanding, tolerance, and social-emotional development for children from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds.
- Family Engagement:** Worked effectively with families from various economic and cultural backgrounds, fostering strong relationships and promoting inclusive educational practices.

Intern Teacher's Assistant

Ft. Collins, CO

Early Childhood Center

Aug. 2010 - Aug. 2011

- Multicultural Education:** Created and facilitated lesson plans that emphasized multicultural understanding and tolerance for children ages 2 to 3 years old from diverse cultural backgrounds, including Libya, South Korea, Vietnam, China, France, and Serbia.
- Language & Artistic Development:** Designed and conducted activities that focused on language development, communication skills, and artistic creativity, supporting the holistic development of young children.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Shoshoni Ashram**, Work Study Student & Volunteer, Rollinsville, CO 2018
- Refugee Adjustment Day (RAD)**, Event Coordinator, Portland, OR 2015-2018
- Portland Meet Portland**, Naturalization Instructor, Portland, OR 2015-2016
- Tibetan Refugee School**, ESL Teacher, Marpa, Nepal 2013-2014
- Sauraha Orphanage**, ESL Teacher, Chitwan, Nepal 2014
- Big Brother Mouse**, ESL Teacher, Luang Prabang, Laos 2014
- Learning and Ideas for Tibetans (LIT)**, Advocate, Dharamsala, India 2014
- Catholic Orphanage**, ESL Teacher, Busan, South Korea 2013
- Africa Bags**, Vice President, Ft. Collins, CO 2008-2012
- Students for a Free Tibet: CSU Chapter**, Co-Founder and Vice President, Ft. Collins, CO 2008-2012