

JAMES BRANCH

545 S. Cuyler Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304
H: (708) 524-9716 • C: (708) 715-1949
branjame@my.dom.edu

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER

Professional social worker with experience in providing counseling, goalsetting, guidance and direction to clients and family members from diverse age groups, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Provide excellent communications through one-on-one and group presentations as well as accurate written goals, assessments and progress reports.

Establish client trust and maintain confidentiality in conformity with regulations and guidelines.

EDUCATION

Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, 2010

Master of Social Work (MSW)

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

Bachelor of Health and Safety Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Habilitative Systems, Inc., 415 South Kilpatrick, Chicago, Illinois, 5/2010 – Present

HSI is a multi-faceted human service agency that plays a substantial role in the articulation, development, and delivery of programs and services to improve quality of life in targeted areas.

Qualified Mental Health Practitioner (QMHP)

Team member responsible for the physical and mental health care of client patients and candidates coming from and / or placed in appropriate hospitals, medical centers, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

Responsible for PAS (pre-admission screening) and assessments of candidates to be placed in appropriate hospitals and medical facilities throughout West and South Side Chicago.

Prepare and submit detailed assessments and appropriate time-sensitive, confidential documentation.

Conduct Initial Residential Reviews / Significant Change Reviews and assessments for nursing home residents in order to determine whether they are able to live independently or need assisted living care.

Establish excellent working relationships with patients, family members, guardians and interdisciplinary staff in a collaborative team effort to achieve positive outcomes.

Lead and facilitate a substance abuse program group once per week.

Maintain strict conformity to federal, state and local regulatory standards and requirements.

Metropolitan Family Services, Blue Island, Illinois

Therapeutic Respite Worker, 1999 – Present

Team member responsible for providing services to meet the evolving and critical needs of families, including counseling, support and education to improve child and youth safety, security and stability.

Promote emotional growth and functional development as a service provider to emotionally disturbed and limited resources children.

Alleviate stress within the family system by addressing personal, phase-of-life and transitional issues and providing solutions such as crisis intervention, creating balance, improving quality of work and lifestyle.

Work closely with children and youth to improve social skills, anger management, and personal goals through positive activity-based and community-oriented experiences.

Ada S. McKinley Community Services, 100 E. 34th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Internship, 9/2008 - 4/2009

Team member responsible for providing college preparation and placement services into appropriate educational programs along with counseling and financial aid services.

Assist high school students with identifying, assessing and establishing objectives as a resource for goalsetting, guidance and direction in formulating career pathways.

Conducted presentations on issues such as peer pressure, gang violence, and other topics that impact students' current and future decisions.

Meet with teachers and build group strategies to create positive influences on student progress.

The Youth Campus, Chicago, Illinois

Case Manager, 2006 - 2008

Provided intensive case management, resource development and advocate services to all assigned clients.

Worked closely with clients, family members and staff at all levels to achieve permanency goals while supporting and meeting the function of family-based services and program goals.

Conducted client visitations, completed service plans, and attended court hearings.

Planned and participated in staff meetings, school visitations and IEPs.

Life Link Foster Care, Chicago, Illinois

Case Manager, 2001 - 2006

Team member responsible for providing caring casework services in traditional and relative programs.

Conducted assessment of service planning, provided advocacy counseling, and coordinated services on behalf of clients and families while working as an integral part of the foster care team.

Performed court appearances and made recommendations based on client progress.

Attended administrative case reviews, IEPs, clinical updates and weekly staffings.

Provided report writing and client progress reports.

Central Baptist Family Services, Chicago, Illinois

Case Worker, 1992 - 2001

As team member of the foster care and return home adoption programs, responsible for sourcing and placing clients in appropriate permanencies, including safe, stable alternative living arrangements.

Provided assessment of psychosocial problems as well as referrals and recommendations on remediation.

Performed family services including substance abuse treatment, skills classes, and psychotherapy.

Conducted school visits, participated in staffings / IEPs, wrote and developed goals and progress reports.

Ensured conformity to the Kinship Foster Care Program guidelines as mandated by DCFS.

Performed individual and family counseling, managed and implemented intervention services.

Worked closely with staff at all levels, court system personnel, clients, families and outside services in a team effort to generate positive outcomes.

CERTIFICATIONS

Child Welfare Employee License, Society for Family Health (SFH)
Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP)
Mental Health, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Child Endangerment
Trauma Treatment
Crisis Intervention

Understanding Sexual Aggression in Juveniles
DCFS Unification Training
DCFS Adoption Training

Attachment A – GNLA Board Member
Child Trauma
CPR and First Aid
DCFS Legal Screening