

# VERONICA H, KNOWLES, LCSW

295 Bowen Hall, 456 Hardy Rd, PO Box C, MS State, MS 39762 | 662-325-1232 | [vknowles@socialwork.msstate.edu](mailto:vknowles@socialwork.msstate.edu)

## EDUCATION

University of Alabama <b>Master of Social Work</b> Emphasis: Children Youth and Families Advanced Standing, Outstanding Graduate Student Recognition	2004
University of Mississippi <b>Bachelor of Social Work</b>	2002

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Mississippi State University</b> <b>Instructor II</b>	<b>Aug 2017-Current</b>
---	-------------------------

Instruct undergraduate students interested in Social Work or related studies. Provide advice to students to help them successfully matriculate through CSWE (Council on Social Work Education) accredited BSW program. Offer insight into the field of Social Work to students and serve as a resource to practice opportunities for students seeking experiences outside of the classroom. Monitor students' success by creating and administering measurement tools that capture information presented in class. Developed a course for Distance Education.

## COURSES

- SW 2303 Social Welfare Policy I, 3 hrs.
- SW 3003 Social Work with At-Risk Populations, 3 hrs.
- SW 3013 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I, 3hrs.
- SW 3023 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II, 3hrs.
- SW 3033 Seminar in Resilience, 3hrs.
- SW 3043 Military Social Work, 3hrs.
- SW 3513 Social Work Practice I, 3hrs.
- SW 3523 Social Work Practice I, 3hrs.
- SW 4000 Directed Individual Study, 1-6hrs.
- SW 4533 Substance Abuse and Addictions in Social Work Services, 3hrs.
- SW 4613 Child Welfare Services, 3hrs.
- SW 4633 Social Work in Healthcare, 3hrs.
- SW 4713 Senior Seminar, 3hrs.
- GA 4710 Study Abroad: Kenya-People, Planet, and Profit, 3hrs.

### Adjunct Lecturer- Social Work Program, Mississippi State University

2014-2017

Served as an instructor for this 3-hour course.; focused on helping undergraduate students identify populations at risk and establish a professional approach to working with identified populations as determined by CSWE, developed course materials and syllabus, evaluated student performance, and provided timely grade reports to the department.

### Lecturer- The Allied Health Approach Stepping Stones Career College

2013

Collaborated on curriculum and professional development of students. Served as night lecturer throughout the program, instructing on the distinct roles of the healthcare team and best practice methodologies for a professional setting.

### Field Instructor- University of Southern Mississippi

2012

Served as a preceptor for MSW students and incorporated theories identified in the traditional classroom setting with field practice.

### Trainer- THRIVE

2011

Taught future trainers to train healthcare personnel how to engage in patient self-care. Educated the community and family members of patients diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease on risk factors, prevention strategies, and the importance of early screening.

**Health Educator- Good Choices- Healthy Lifestyles****2003**

Facilitated curriculum with students in 10 county areas. Educated children in grades K-12 about the advantages of choosing healthy behaviors. Served as a community liaison to promote healthy behaviors and reduce risk factors that led to unhealthy behaviors/habits.

**Instructor- Sexually Transmitted Disease****2002**

Implemented curriculum developed by MS Dept. of Health to reduce the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Received certificate to train or educate on STDs throughout the state of Mississippi.

**WORK EXPERIENCE****Rush Health Systems*****April 2018 –Current*****PRN Therapist/Clinical Supervisor**

Provided group therapy to senior citizens and worked very closely with psychiatrists to develop treatment plans for patients served.

**Ellisville State School*****June 2015-Aug 2017*****Bureau Director**

Served as director and operating administrator of Columbus Community Programs, including Community Respite, Waiver Services, Work Activity Center, Prevocational Skills Training, Targeted Case Management, IDD Community Home, and Supported Living. Managed the finances established through the operating budget set by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. Wrote grants and managed the resources. Oversee all operating programs and serve as the chief liaison between professional staff and MDH. Established and maintained excellent customer service with stakeholders.

**Neshoba County DHS*****Jan 2015- June 2015*****Area Social Work Supervisor**

Provided supervision for frontline social workers in the Department of Family and Children Services. Provide support for workers in the field and offer best practice model coaching according to the family-centered model. Collaborate with community stakeholders for the best interest of children and youth in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

**Montfort Jones Memorial Hospital*****Dec 2013 –April 2014*****Program Director**

Served as the manager and supervisor of the geropsychiatric program/department. Managed a staff of more than 20 professionals which included nurses and other mental health professionals. Provided group therapy to senior citizens and worked very closely with psychiatrists to develop treatment plans for patients served. Participated in hospital administration to represent the best interest of the hospital with financial decisions. Collaborated with community liaisons to promote a greater awareness of the importance of strong mental health for people living in the community.

**Pioneer Health Services*****Sept 2012- Nov 2014*****Therapist**

Provided comprehensive individual and group therapy to individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness. Developed a master treatment plan for services to be rendered on the unit. Worked with other agencies in the community to promote awareness of signs and symptoms of mental illness along with services available for individuals identified as having a mental illness. Offered community education and free screenings for linkage to services to treat mental illness and substance abuse.

**Fresenius Medical Care*****April 2008 – Sep 2012*****Nephrology Social Worker**

Provided education and counseling to patients and their families affected by End Stage Renal Disease. Worked as a part of a multidisciplinary team to provide comprehensive services to patients receiving dialysis at the largest dialysis company in the world. Collaborated with Mississippi Kidney Foundation to provide services to people at risk of developing kidney disease such as free screenings, education, prevention, and awareness. Traveled throughout the country being educated and educating others on the latest best practices and research approaches identified in the field of Nephrology. Completed psychosocial assessments and provided linkage to community resources.

**Community Counseling Services*****July 2005 – April 2008***

**Outpatient Therapist**

Provided comprehensive counseling for children diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances. Served as Program Director for four successful day treatment programs. Facilitated daily peer group counseling sessions. Completed initial psychosocial assessments and offered an initial DSM diagnosis. Completed individual treatment plans and provided quarterly updates. Implemented the Adolescent Offenders Program in Winston County. Served on multiple task forces that worked to address emotional support for children with mental illnesses.

**Morgan County Department of Human Resources****May 2004 – July 2005****Senior Social Worker**

Completed child abuse and neglect investigations throughout Morgan County, Alabama. Worked closely with youth court judges and law enforcement to ensure that children were being protected against abuse and neglect. Participated in the foster care system to train and recruit potential foster parents. Participated in trainings that addressed professional development, dangers of drugs and alcohol, state licensure, and family reunification.

**Crestwood Medical Center, Behavioral Health****Nov 2004 – July 2005****Therapist/Screeners**

Responded to on-call alerts from the busy Emergency Department in the hospital. Screened patients for the level of crisis and collaborated with psychiatrists on call to determine if hospitalization was necessary. Provided individual and group therapy to patients admitted to the behavior health division. Completed integrated treatment plan and made recommendations for appropriate discharge plans. Provided linkage to community resources and follow-up care. Facilitated the 12-step program for recovery for individuals addicted to a substance such as drugs or alcohol.

**Tuscaloosa County Department of Human Resources****Jan 2004 – May 2004****MSW Student Intern**

Worked closely with Senior Social Workers in the foster care and protective services division. Completed monthly home visits to children in foster care assigned by field education. Worked to improve relationships with children in foster care and their birth parents. Served on multiple task forces that worked to address the emotional support for children within the foster care system.

**Family Crisis Services of Northwest Mississippi****June 2001 – May 2003****Volunteer Coordinator/Health Specialist**

Coordinated community events to enhance awareness of agency programs that included: case management, health promotion, child advocacy, and assistance to victims of sexual abuse/assault. Organized regular volunteer recruitment efforts and provided the agency with over 100 volunteers from 20 volunteers. Scheduled and participated in multiple health fairs throughout 10 county radius and educated children and adults about the importance of Good Choices and Healthy Lifestyles. Supervised and managed a 24-hour crisis hotline. Organized fundraising events throughout the year to match contributions provided by various supporters including United Way.

**PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION****National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Fellowship****2012 – 2013**

Each year the NKF awards fellowships for outstanding professionals in Nephrology. The recipient is invited to attend the National Kidney Foundation's Spring Clinical Meeting and submit a review of a course presented at the national conference to the Journal of Nephrology. Attended the 2012 Spring Clinical in Las Vegas, Nevada, and submitted an article about the Burnout of Social Workers in Nephrology Social Work.

**Alabama Children Youth and Family Fellowship****2003 – 2004**

Received stipend each month to commit to Family and Children Services work with the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Worked in Morgan County, Alabama, after completing a successful internship at Tuscaloosa County DHR.

**Volunteer of the Year****2002 – 2003**

Donated more than 2000 hours (about 2 and a half months) to a nonprofit agency that addressed the awareness of sexual assault and aided in the support efforts to assist victims of sexual assault.

## PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

### ***“Student Success 101***

NASW- MS Annual Social Work Conference, Jackson, MS **2020**

### ***“Grand Families”***

Mississippi Conference on Aging, Southaven, MS **2019**

### ***“Professionalism in the Workplace”***

Presentation at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle **2012**

### ***“The Power to Thrive and Not Survive with ESRD”***

Presentation at Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Health Center **2011**

### ***“Social Workers in Health Care”***

Presentation for Neshoba County Allied Health Classes **2011**

## LICENSURES

LCSW- Mississippi C-7465, Board Approved Clinical Supervisor

LMSW

CMHT

## SERVICE

2025-ASWB, Friends of ASWB, Regulatory Research Committee

2025-Interstate Compact Commissioner-Mississippi Representative

2023-Current-Mississippi State University-Arts & Sciences Scholarship Committee

2023-Current-Mississippi Board of Examiners Social Work/Marriage & Family Therapist-Vice Chair, MS Delegate

2022- ASWB, Practice Analysis Taskforce Member (National)

2022- CSWE Minority Fellow Mentor (National)

2022-Current NASW-MS Conference Facilitator

2020-2023- NASW-MS Board Member, Northern Rep, Program Committee, Conference Facilitator

2020- NASW-MS Board Member, Northern Rep, Program Committee, Conference Facilitator

2019 NASW- MS Membership Chair

2018-2019 Mississippi State University – B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Mentor

2017-Current Mississippi State University – Social Work Program Admissions Committee

2017 -Current Mississippi State University – Social Work Program Awards Committee

2017-Current Mississippi State University – Social Work Program Curriculum Committee

2017-Current Mississippi State University – Social Work Program Scholarship Committee

## MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Social Work Board

Council on Social Work Education

Baccalaureate Program Director

Mississippi Board of Social Work and Marriage & Family Therapists- Board Approved Supervisor

NAACP

National Association of Social Workers

## AWARDS

College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award in Social & Behavioral Sciences **2022**

MS Chapter NASW Service Award **2021**