

Esther Ayers, LMSW

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University

PhD Chicano/Latino Studies

East Lansing, MI

Expected May 2023

- Research interests: experiential education, Latinx youth mental health, community agency work, culturally adaptive interventions

University of Michigan School of Social Work

Masters in Interpersonal Practice (Minor: Social Policy & Evaluation)

Ann Arbor, MI

December 2014

- Child Welfare Certificate
- Child Welfare Scholarship Recipient
- School of Social Work Dean's Scholarship Recipient
- Organization of Latino Association for Social Workers Michigan Chapter Award

Eastern Michigan University

Bachelor of Social Work

Ypsilanti, MI

April 2013

- NASW BSW Student of the Year
- Summa Cum Laude
- Honors College

Washtenaw Community College

Liberal Arts Degree with Macro Stamp

Ann Arbor, MI

December 2003

PUBLICATIONS & EDITORIALS

“Op-Ed: Consistent Inclusivity Needed-Op Ed.” *The Michigan Daily*. January 2017. With the Organizational and Community Multicultural Praxis Lab.

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/opinion/audrey-pallmeyer-increase-inclusivity-campus>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Culturally Adaptive Interventions for Latino Populations with Anxiety or Depression.” Accepted oral presentation at 24th *Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)*, Washington, DC. January 2020. Presented by Abbie Nelson, co-author Esther Ayers

“Addressing Trauma in the Family: A Comprehensive Family Treatment Using Play/Adventure-Based Therapeutic Strategies.” Conference Presentation. *American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children*. New Orleans, LA. June 2016. Presented with Mary Ortega and Leah Elliot.

“Strengthening Latino Voices within Washtenaw County.” Conference Presentation. *University of Michigan School of Social Work Alumni Conference*. Ann Arbor, MI. May 2016.

“PI Project: Program Evaluation of the Latin@ Experience at the University of Michigan.” Poster Presentation. *Latino Social Work Organization*. Chicago, IL. October 2014.

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, & INVITED TALKS

“Experiential Education Facilitation” August 25, 2019, Camp De Sales, ALMA Latinx UM Students, Jackson Michigan

“Experiential Education Retreat” May 10, 2019, Monroe Community College, Monroe County Intermediate School District (ISD), Monroe, MI.

“Experiential Education Workshop” April 19, 2019, Michigan State University Chicano Latino Studies (CLS). East Lansing, MI.

“Día de la Mujer: Navigating White Spaces as Women of Color in Academia.” Panelist with Bustos, T.E., Rojas, C., Saucedo, J., Bilbao, M.I. April 6, 2019. Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions (OCAT). MSU. East Lansing, MI.

“Understanding the Emotional Well Being of Latinx.” March 13, 2019. Michigan State University College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). East Lansing, MI.

SW 420: Social Work and Social Policy II. Guest Lecturer. October 24, 2018. MSU. East Lansing, MI.

SW 200 Social Justice and Human Diversity. Guest Lecturer. November 11, 2015. Eastern Michigan University. Ypsilanti, MI.

SW 739 Integrated Seminar and Child Welfare. Guest Lecturer. November 30, 2015. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.

“Latino population Issues in the United States.” Guest Speaker. August 7, 2013. Eastern Michigan School of Social Work. Ypsilanti, MI.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Amplified Colectivo

Bilingual therapist

Ann Arbor, MI
September 2017 - Present

- Conduct biopsychosocial assessments
- Develop cultural adaptive interventions and treatment plans
- Provide therapy services in English and Spanish
- Utilize EBP such as SFT, Task Centered Therapy, Behavior Modifications and MI.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Bilingual Therapist,

Ann Arbor, MI
June 2015 – July 2018

- Created culturally adaptive intervention and treatment plans
- Established therapeutic relationships quickly with diverse populations.
- Utilized EBP that include SFT, TF-CBT, Grief Therapy, CBT, Person Centered, MI and play therapy
- Conducted psychotherapy in English and Spanish
- Wrote grant for fundraising money for client transportation (won)

Family Assessment Clinic

Social Work Intern and Clinic Coordinator, Catholic Social Services

Ann Arbor, MI
January 2014 - December 2015

- Participated in comprehensive child maltreatment assessments.
- Utilized EBP for children, youth and families using psychotherapy and multiple theoretical models, including CBT, TF-CBT, SFT, Behavior Modification, Adventure Based Therapy, and play therapy
- Worked with multicultural, and racial and ethnic minority families
- Conducted collateral interviews for forensic assessment of child welfare cases
- Attended multidisciplinary meetings
- Attended Statewide Child Abuse Conferences

University of Michigan Social Work

Ann Arbor, MI

Group Facilitator for Office of Student Services

March 2014 to December 2014

- Assisted new and transfer student in the transition to UM MSW program through orientation programming for 400+ people
- Worked with diverse group of students
- Participated in various recruitment and orientation activities including public speaking
- Led and participated in various clubs at UM to develop programs and activities
- Mentored 13 incoming students to promote academic excellence

University of Michigan Health System

Ann Arbor, MI

Research Coordinator for Office of Health Equity and Inclusion

April 2014 to August 2014

- Assisted with data collection
- Coded data entries in Qualtrics
- Analyzed data

Washtenaw County Health Department

Ypsilanti, MI

Independent Contractor for Washtenaw Health Plan

September 2013 to December 2013

- Provided Spanish translating services
- Assisted with client enrollment and re-enrollment of Washtenaw Health Plan
- Provided program education as needed, arrange for appointments, and direct to appropriate services (i.e., Medicaid),
- Connected eligible clients to community resources

Washtenaw County Health Department

Ypsilanti, MI

Social Work Intern

September 2012 to December 2013

- Scheduled client appointments and conduct home visits for human service and health care needs and provide community referrals
- Assisted with insurance enrollment for Medicaid, MOMS, MICHild, and WHP; subsidy and food assistance
- Provided Spanish translation and interpretation assistance
- Participated in community outreach meetings that give a macro perspective of social work such as Washtenaw Health Initiative, Buenos Vecinos Projects, and a restorative dental hygiene pilot program

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

Bilingual Outreach Specialist, Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools

April 2004 to December 2011

- Provided medical translation for families, students and medical staff in School Based Clinics
- Assisted with case management services.
- Built community partnerships with vision providers to help cover costs of eye exams and glasses for families in need
- Facilitated patient tracking for grant writing purposes

- Developed and facilitated diversity and cultural sensitivity workshops for staff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE

Annual Latinx Welcome Celebration

Chicano/Latino Studies Representative

September 6, 2019

- Recruited incoming Latino students about CLS major, programmatic features, and classes

Día de la Familia

Chicano/Latino Studies Representative

March 23, 2019

- Recruited incoming Latino students about CLS major, programmatic features, and classes

University of Michigan

Field Instructor

September 2017

- Provided clinical supervision for limited licensed intern social workers
- Assisted with developing an education agreement
- Regularly supervised meetings with MSW intern
- Participated in formal evaluation process

University of Michigan Community

Advisory Board Member

March 2016 - 2018

- Consulted and advised with the school on current curricular content and new curricular initiatives
- Assist with developing new and innovative field opportunities.
- Collaborated with others on research plans

Washtenaw Health Plan

Advisory Board Committee Member

December 2015-2018

- Regularly attended brainstorming and planning meetings
- Advocated for clients' needs through resource management and accessing health needs

Spanish Healthcare Outreach Collaborative

Member

May 2009-2018

- Attended bi-monthly meetings, collaborated with other community agencies about safe, reliable resources for Spanish-speaking populations
- Collaborated with community agencies monthly to advocate for client needs

Barrier Busters

Member

May 2009-2018

- Regularly attended brainstorming and planning meetings
- Collaborated with community agencies for resources within the county
- Researched community resources and learned about upcoming agencies useful for population

Young Men's Christian Academy (YMCA)

Outreach Board Member

December 2010 - January 2012

- Attended quarterly meetings
- Participated in community events for recruitment
- Assisted families with membership applications

Scarlett Middle School

Mentor

September 2009 - April 2010

- Mentored teen girls group on self-awareness and self-affirmations for young women
- Facilitated the group by using self-empowerment principles from the book by Iyanla Vanzant, *Don't Give it Away*

St. Andrew Church

August 2003 to 2018

Director of Migrant Ministry and Member

- Advocated for allocation of church budget for outreach ministries through Christian service committee
- Facilitated annual meetings and organized donations and fundraisers
- Collaborated with farm owners, migrant workers, priests and parishioners to facilitate the ministry

CERTIFICATIONS

State of Michigan Clinical License in Social Work (Full License 6801097660)

University of Michigan Health System Medical Interpreter Certificate, May 2009 – present

MEMBERSHIPS

Latinx Therapy member May 2019-present

Journal of Experiential Education December 2018 - present

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children April 2016 -present

Child Welfare Student Association, November 2013 - 2014

Latino Social Work Coalition, October 2013 – December 2014

National Association of Social Workers, May 2013 - 2015

SKILLS & TRAINING

- Fluent in English and Spanish
- Certified Medical Translator (University of Michigan Medical Hospital)
- Trained in Culturally Adaptive Evidence-Based Practices: SFT, Task Centered Therapy, Behavior Modifications, and MI