

Brittany S. Couch

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EDUCATION

University of Central Oklahoma, 3.71 GPA
Masters of Art, Experimental Psychology,
Defending Fall 2009

Spelman College, Atlanta, GA
Bachelor of Art, Psychology, May 2003

HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association, member 2000-present
Graduated successfully from undergraduate institution in three years, 2003
International Baccalaureate diploma recipient, 2000

Youth Advocacy, Research, Legislative Affairs and Administration

Youth Involvement Content Specialist, The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
The Technical Assistance Partnership for Children and Family Mental Health

Virtual Employment August 2009- Present

- Assigned to provide Technical Assistance in the area of Youth Involvement and general assistance to various Systems of Care grantee communities across the United States.
- Assist and participate in general Technical Assistance Partnership Activities such as but not limited to, Monthly Youth Coordination Calls, Webinars, National Conferences- Youth Tracks and Community Calls.
- Temporary Youth Resource Specialist, Virtual Employment January 2009- July 2009.

Freelance Youth Resource Specialist Consulting, Sole Proprietor & Avant-Garde Solutions Corp

Home based Employment October 2008-Present

- Participated in the organization and planning of the 2008 Systems of Care Youth Coordinator's Meeting. Hosted the opening session of the meeting as well as presented one workshop on involving Youth in Policy Advocacy.
- Participated in the organization and planning of the Youth Leadership Track of the 2009 National Systems of Care Conference. Responsibilities include: hosting and facilitating meetings, organizing committee members, selecting and refining workshops and assisting the National Youth Coordinator with pre-conference and on site logistics.
- Working with the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy to create a statewide social marketing campaign to increase awareness and education of the Annie E. Casey Foundation online CLICKS Program (also known as the *AE Data Center*).

State Youth Coordinator & Social Marketing Coordinator, Oklahoma Systems of Care, The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

Oklahoma City, OK April 2006-October 2008

- *Community Collaboration*: Serve as a state liaison for Technical Assistance and Support to three rural local Systems of Care Communities. Provide outreach, liaison and serve as board member to various national, state and local community agencies and organizations. Network and collaborate with boards, coalitions, councils and other youth serving agencies across the state and nation.
- Develop, organize and conduct technical assistance and training for youth and adult sponsors/organizations based on program needs and requests. Participate in federal and state agency Request for Proposal (RFP) guideline development, review panels and grant committees. Provide youth related resources and tools to various national, state and local youth serving organizations.
- *Youth Coordination*: Plan and implement annual Statewide Children's Behavioral Health Conference- Youth Track, Annual Statewide Youth Retreat, and the Annual Statewide Youth Listening Conference. Serve as a Statewide Youth Advocate, Mentor and Lead Sponsor for The Revolution, State Youth Organization.
- Recruit and retain youth involvement through Systems of Care on state and local levels, reaching out to youth involved in many systems such as mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice and special education. Develop, enhance, support and implement ongoing Systems of Care youth programs for ongoing and emerging Systems of Care sites.
- Participate in and provide feedback for youth policy development nationally and locally. Provide training on youth involvement, youth-adult partnerships, youth policy and other challenges facing youth and youth serving organizations. Develop and train youth leaders as board members, facilitators and presenters through the framework of positive youth development.
- Locate youth leaders to participate in various statewide and national activities such as state agency conferences, Kids Count Leadership, and the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) Fall Forum (on children's policy). Serve as Co-Program manager for Teenline Reaching Out, which is a phone based mentoring program created with partnership of Teenline Oklahoma. Assist the National Guard Youth Coordinator in statewide deployment and re-integration youth activities.
- *Social Marketing/Communications*: Implement, review and revised a multipronged state social marketing/communication plan. Develop public service announcements (PSAs), press releases and other media related tools for communities. Conduct outreach to college/universities, state organizations and schools through educational presentations and panel participation.
- Assist local Systems of Care communities on local marketing strategies. Maintain and update the Systems of Care website. Provide direct supervision and guidance to office interns working on youth issues.

Executive Fellow, The Carl Albert Public Internship Program, The Oklahoma Office of the Governor

Oklahoma City, OK May 2005-April 2006

- Assist on staff assignments through state level administrative placement at the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, under the auspices of the Secretary of Health Terry Cline, Ph.D.
- *Systems of Care & the Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health*: Researched and drafted comprehensive reports of key issues confronting development of Systems of Care. Assisted in building collaborative relationships between the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, state agencies, family organizations and treatment providers. Liaison between state level administration and local system of care sites to conduct site evaluations. Prepared written reports that drive data based decision making.
- *Co-Occurring Integrated Services Initiative*: Assisted in research and evaluation pertinent to program development. Analyzed and presents findings to the executive committee. Collaborated in the development of statewide workforce training outlines, manuals, and curriculum for mental health and substance abuse professionals and providers. Conducted and assists in training facilitation for the participating grant sites.
- *Oklahoma Teen Suicide Prevention Council*: Partnered with state agency, community and school representatives to implement state strategies to boost awareness and reduce suicide rates in Oklahoma. Created policy recommendations to improve suicide prevention statewide. Developed strategic suicide prevention plans for communities and school districts to implement. Supported on-going technical assistance and suicide prevention training across the state.

Kids Count Leader Alumni, Kids Count Leadership Class XII, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oklahoma City, OK, August 2005-May 2006

- Participated in leadership training geared toward providing and connecting Oklahoma citizens with valuable tools and resources interested in creating positive change for children and youth. Taught specific skills on how to raise community awareness on issues affecting children and youth. Developed local leadership that can provide policy makers with key information needed to positively affect legislation related to children and youth.

Congressional Intern, United States House of Representatives, District 5

Oklahoma City, OK August 2005-January 2006

- Worked under the guidance of the Constituent Affairs Aid, in matters relating to citizen's concerns in the Oklahoma City Office of the Honorable Ernest J. Istook, Jr. Supported daily staff administration duties and tasks relating to constituent services within Oklahoma City and the surrounding district areas. Researched information pertinent to current legislation pending in Congress.

Legislative Intern, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oklahoma City, OK January 2005-May 2005

- Served as the Executive Director's legislative assistant for the State of Oklahoma's 2005 Legislative Session. Gathered research on specific legislation and policy related to children. Attended and recorded vital legislative information in sessions and committee meetings at the capitol on various child focused legislation. Developed a novel statewide questionnaire assessing the needs of the Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. Lead in the preparation of a novel advocacy tool kit specifically created for citizen advocates for the Institute's website. Advocated to various state legislators on legislation aimed at improving child care subsidies and the state of childhood obesity in Oklahoma.

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma City, OK, June 2004-July 2005

- Conducted research involving environmental tobacco smoke reduction in parents of intensive care infants. Interviewed and screened numerous families on smoking and lifestyle habits.

Graduate, 2004 Interdisciplinary Training Program on Child Abuse and Neglect

Oklahoma City, OK, August 2004-May 2005

- Rigorously trained to understand the value of treatment and prevention in child abuse and neglect. Obtained didactic and practical experiences with a variety of academic and practicing professionals in the field of child maltreatment. Received specialized training in the administration clinical practice, policy formation, advocacy, prevention, and research of child maltreatment.

Research Intern, Department of Pediatrics Child Study Center

Oklahoma City, OK, June 2004-August 2004

- Assisted in Dr. Susan Schmidt's SAFTEYFirst program for children of domestic violence and developed evaluation reports for the program participants.

Research Assistant, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Oklahoma City, OK, June 2002-August 2002

- Assisted in research studying posttraumatic stress disorder in children of the 1998 Nairobi Embassy bombing.

**Research Assistant, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Oklahoma City, OK, June 2001-August 2001**

- Located, retrieved, and organized journal articles, performed data entry and proofread prospective grants.

**Research Assistant, Morehouse Family Practice Center, Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA, March 2002-May 2002**

- Screened outpatients for depression and scored depression instruments. Scheduled appointments for outpatients, organized, and maintained system files.

**Data Entry, Department of Epidemiology Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
Atlanta, GA, October 2001-December 2001**

- Participated in research involving Atlanta metropolitan high school students in a local college bridging health careers program. Created database, performed data entry, and aided in article writing identifying student success in the program.

**Laboratory Assistant, Molecular Immunogenetics Laboratory, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Oklahoma City, OK May 2000-August 2000**

- Assisted in research on the localization of the gene RP5 in antibody production. Conducted experiments using electrophoresis gels, mini and maxi preps, blots, and tissue cultures.

Teaching

Graduate Assistant, Psychology Department, The University of Central Oklahoma

- Edmond, OK August 2004-December 2004

Eagle Ridge Institute, Area Prevention Resource Center

Life Skills Development

- **Chess Supervisor and Life Skills Facilitator, Eagles Wings**
Oklahoma City, OK July 2003-May 2005

Assisted in the life skills development and chess training of at-risk youth. Created and ran an additional chess site located within Millwood Middle School and Elementary School after school Linkages Program. Participated in numerous youth functions organized and orchestrated by Eagle Ridge Institute. Fostered and created bonds with the parents and siblings of various youth involved in the program.

- **Life Skills and Leadership Development Facilitator, Youth Build Program**
Oklahoma City, OK October 2003-June 2004
- **Program Coordinator and Supervisor, Eagles Wings Summer Program**
Oklahoma City, OK July 2003-August 2003

Case Management and QA

- **Quality Assurance and Case Management, Therapeutic Foster Care**
Oklahoma City, OK August 2003-May 2005

Assisted in the reorganization of the agency database and in bringing foster parent noncompliant files into compliance for agency audits. Maintained contact with foster parents, organized and maintained foster parent files with current information. Assisted in the maintenance of the agency's therapeutic foster care kid files. Periodically assisted in the facilitation of the children's group rehabilitation and individual inventories.

Grant writing

- **Grant Writing Assistant, Grant writing, Human Resources and Administration**
Oklahoma City, OK July 2003-September 2003

Community Involvement

- **Victory Christian Center Children's Ministry, Toddler's Class Lead Teacher**
Oklahoma City, OK March 2005-present
- **Heartline, (Formerly Contact Crisis Helpline), Crisis Phone Line & Media Spokesperson Volunteer**
Oklahoma City, OK January 2005- November 2007
Serve as a media relations liaison between Heartline and the public educating the community about the organization, the community services provided and recruitment efforts.