

Melisha Harris

Professional Experience

Howard County Department of Social Services
Columbia, Maryland
January 2022 - Present

In Home Services Administrator

Provide programmatic leadership to staff who oversees direct service cases for Adult services and Family Preservation. Evaluate and make recommendations for program guidelines and policy. Support leadership with upholding the departments mission, process respite applications and other needs for services

Program Manager Permanency Supports

Baltimore, Maryland

November 2020-January 2022

Provide Programmatic Oversight for Units that provides supportive services to Out of Home Permanency Supports. Provide supervision to Management and Supervisory Staff. Ensure and implement guidelines for safety of youth who need placements, in OHP, in need of educational supports, youth who has complexed medical needs and mental health specialists to provide placement recommendations. Make recommendations and assist in developing policies and program outcomes. Ensure policies are being followed, collaborate with community partners, and participate in case planning meeting to provide leadership. Responsible for engaging community partners and monitoring allocated budget for services for youth who are in OHP.

Permanency Supports Unit Manager

June 2020-November 2020

Oversee the operations of the Intensive Case Management OHP Unit, Mental Health Navigators, and the Family visitation center. Assess and evaluate the needs of the Team or daily service provision practices. Provide strength base guidance and supports for case planning efforts. Evaluate the needs and make recommendations for community resources. Evaluate and implement programmatic processes for efficiency in service delivery. Promote collaboration with community providers as service delivery resources for youth and families. Evaluate data pertaining to outcome of Mental Health Navigators on placement stabilization.

Open Arms, LLC

September 2018-Present

Case Consultation, Clinical Supervision, Psychosocial Assessments, Psychotherapy

In Home Aide Services Unit Manager

August 2013-June 2020

Provide managerial leadership and guidance to Purchase of Service Program for In Home Aide and Respite Services. Required knowledge and skills for assessing services for disabled adults who qualify for Nursing

Home services who would like to remain in the community. Responsible for planning and monitoring the annual departmental budget of \$1.6 million. Aide in developing and monitoring State of Maryland IFP contract compliance, Oversee daily operations of employees in the following categories: Seven supervisory level reports; two administrative level reports; and 21 indirect reports. Evaluate and implement programmatic processes for efficiency in service delivery. Responsible for engaging Community Partners for Gap filing and collaboration, conduct on-site visits to in-home and respite patients to ensure adequate service is delivered; and Responsible for interviewing and on-boarding new supervisory and service staff.

Optimum Health Systems, Inc.

Baltimore, Maryland

April 2015 – May 2018

Clinical Therapist

Completed psychosocial and diagnostic impression assessments, provide one on one therapeutic counseling to individuals, families, and groups within a community or home-based setting, Completed treatment plans to meet the needs and goals of the clients, Provided crisis intervention to families and caregivers; and collaborated with various mental health professionals through on-going evaluations to coordinate care.

Change Health Systems, Inc.

Baltimore, Maryland

February 2013 - December 2014

Clinical Therapist

Provided one on one therapeutic counseling to individuals, families and groups within a community-based setting. Conducted psychosocial assessments and evaluation to determine the mental health needs of the client. Supported with formulating treatment plans, interventions and advocacy. Collaborated various multi-interdisciplinary team members. Provided crisis intervention techniques, and Assisted clients with building self-awareness skills.

WIN Team, LLC, Rehabilitation Specialist

Baltimore, Maryland

September 2010 - June 2012

Rehabilitation Supervisor

Provided supervision to eight Direct Service Workers. Managed a caseload of 20-30 clients. Collaborated with therapist and various community agencies to provide continuity of care to clients. Assisted clients in establishing therapeutic goals to support the clients' rehabilitative needs. Provided comprehensive written evaluations and assessments to patients admitted to the program. Submitted authorizations to insurance companies to determine eligibility for care.

Education

University of Maryland-School of Social Work Baltimore

Advanced Studies Baltimore, Maryland

Degree Earned: Masters: Clinical Social Work Minor Psychology

Distinction: Magna Cum Laude

Coppin State University - Baltimore, Maryland

Degree Earned: Bachelor of Science: Major: Social Work Minor: Psychology

Distinction: Summa Cum Laude

Honors and Awards

- Alpha Theta Rho Social Work Honor Society
- Distinguished Scholar Award
- WIN Family Services, 2011 Employee of the Year

Licenses/Certifications

- Approved Maryland Board of Social Work Supervisor
- Licensed Medication Technician
- Certified in Enriched Structural Family Therapy

Memberships

- Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Member of Theta Rho Honor Society
- Member of National Association of Social Workers