

## **Anna Ferris, MSW, LSW**

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### **EDUCATION**

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| <b>University of Pennsylvania</b><br><b>School of Social Policy and Practice</b><br>PhD in Social Welfare<br>Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ram Cnaan, PhD                                       | August 2021-                    |
| <b>University of Pennsylvania</b><br><b>School of Social Policy and Practice</b><br>Master of Social Work (MSW)<br>Concentration: Clinical social work with an international emphasis. | August 2016<br>Philadelphia, PA |
| <b>University of North Carolina at Wilmington</b><br>Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)<br>Chancellor/Dean's List<br>Summa Cum Laude  | May 2014<br>Wilmington, NC      |

### **SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

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| <b>United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia</b><br><i>Community Schools Specialist</i>  | November 2020- August 2021<br>Philadelphia, PA    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worked directly with Community Schools served by United Communities - Southwark Elementary School and South Philadelphia High School in the Act 138 program (truancy case management services). Assisted the Community Schools with implementing and developing effective truancy prevention services at the school level. Collaborated with school staff and community partners to address barriers to school attendance and other needs for youth and families.</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>SEAMAAC, Inc.</b><br><b>(Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition)</b><br><i>Lead Case Manager</i>   | September 2016- November 2019<br>Philadelphia, PA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided case management services to children and families referred (including home visits and school visits). Assessed the strengths and supports of clients and their families and communities and secured linkages to needed resources/services. Attended court hearings to represent clients at Southwest Regional Truancy Court and Family Court. Collaborated with the program leadership to develop onboarding and training for newly hired Truancy Case Managers. Partnered with newly hired Truancy Case Managers to</li></ul> |   |

become familiar with the case files, court paperwork, assessments, and social summaries. Scheduled new hires to observe home visits, school visits, and court hearings. Provided training and education on trauma-informed care. Coordinated and led wellness activities for TCM staff.

*Co-coordination for Refugee Continuum of Care Program* November 2018-March 2019

- Conducted quality assurance checks for outreach workers in the Continuum of Care Program. Prepared and updated the case management resource database to support clients with post-resettlement needs. Case management for walk-in clients who needed language line.

### **HIAS Pennsylvania**

**(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)**

July 2015-May 2016

*Refugee Case Manager- MSW Field Placement*

Philadelphia, PA

- Provided case management services to newly arrived refugees in the Reception and Placement program. Served as the primary case manager for families from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Bhutan. Connected clients to community-based organizations for post-resettlement services and/or the Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience for clients who were survivors of torture. Facilitated cultural orientation presentations for refugee clients on various topics including health, financial literacy, transportation, security, community adjustment, U.S. laws, refugees' legal rights, and education. Worked collectively with the Civic Engagement Coordinator on matching refugee clients with Philly Neighbor volunteers.

### **Office of U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre**

August 2013-May 2014

*Veterans Constituent Services Intern- BSW Field Placement*

Leland, NC

- Assessed the immediate needs of veteran clients and their family members and referred veterans to community resources while their cases were pending at the Veterans Administration including housing, medical clinics, and mental health. Advocated on behalf of veteran clients who needed assistance accessing government benefits, medical reimbursements, and widows' benefits by calling federal agencies and requested up-to-date information on pending cases. Assisted the Economic Development Director with drafting grant proposal letters, advocating on behalf of nonprofits and government organizations in need of financial support.

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant- September 2019- January 2020**

*Philadelphia, PA/Jerusalem*

*Course: SWK: 749 Civil Society Addressing Conflict in Israel/Palestine*

*Faculty: Ram Cnaan, PhD*

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**Project Hope Palestine**

January 2020- March 2020

*Youth Programs Volunteer/Arabic Student*

Nablus, Palestine

- Led trauma-informed yoga classes for women and children at the Project Hope main office and Askar Refugee Camp. Co-facilitated a weekly group with youth from Balata and Askar Refugee Camp. Taught English classes to youth from the refugee camps and nearby villages at the Project Hope main office and a school run by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency). Learned the Palestinian dialect of Arabic.

**SEAMAAC, Inc. Refugee Health and Social Services**

March 2017- November 2019

*Trauma-Informed Yoga Teacher*

Philadelphia, PA

- Taught bi-weekly, trauma-informed yoga classes for refugee women enrolled in the Safe Families Program. Assisted the outreach worker with coordinating yoga classes at the refugee outreach office.

**Interfaith Refugee Ministry**

January 2013- June 2015

*Community Neighbor Volunteer/ESL Instructor*

Wilmington, NC

- Mentored agency's clients from Burma, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Cuba on various cultural and community orientation topics. Provided ESL tutoring to Colombian refugee youth and adults and after-school homework help for Colombian refugee youth. Assisted with case management services for newly arrived refugee clients; health appointments, apartment set-ups, and airport arrivals.

**LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- *President*, UNC-Wilmington Student Social Work Organization (2012- 2014)
- *Community Outreach Committee Member*, Interfaith Refugee Ministry. Wilmington, NC (2014- 2015)
- *Member*, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration Justice Council (2019-present)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

- Pennsylvania Social Work License (LSW)
- Phi Alpha Eta Omega International Social Work Honor Society (member)
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) (member)
- Studio 34 Healing Arts: Yoga Teacher Training (YTT) Certification (200 hours)
- Certificate in Trauma from Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research

**OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS**

- Trauma-informed yoga teacher. Have taught yoga classes for refugee communities and with children.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Publisher.

- Languages: English: Native language. Arabic: Intermediate working proficiency in Syrian/Lebanese/Palestinian dialects.