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Education

Current Academic and Administrative Appointments

2025-present	Chair, Non-Tenure Track Promotion & Retention Committee
2024-present	GCSW Academic Honesty Hearing Officer
	University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work
	Houston, Texas
2022-present	Clinical Associate Professor
2018-present	Director, Trauma Education Program
2013-2022	Clinical Assistant Professor
2013-2018	Director, Child Trauma Program

Previous Academic Appointments

2007-2013	Adjunct Professor
	Houston Community College, Human Services Technology Program
	Houston, Texas

Previous Administrative Appointments

2019-2022	Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Advisory Board
	Member
1997-present	Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Board
	Member, Houston, Texas
	A non-profit domestic violence advocacy organization

Professional Experience - Teaching

Teaching

2022-present	Clinical Associate Professor, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work
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MSW Courses Taught

Individuals: Advanced Clinical Practice – Theoretical overview and acquisition of practice skills focused on Person-Centered Therapy, Motivational Interviewing,

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Gestalt Therapy, and Psychodynamic Theory.
(S2024 to present)

Families: Advanced Clinical Practice - Overview of Family Life Cycle and various family therapy models, focusing on the acquisition of clinical skills in Family Systems Therapy. (F2024 to present)

Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment for Children and Adolescents – Utilizing a child developmental approach, learning is focused on working with diverse populations of children, adolescents, and adults impacted by sudden trauma and addressing the impact of generational trauma on individuals and families.
(SUM2014-present)

This course was initially taught in partnership as a research project with The National Initiative for Trauma Education and Workforce Development, Fordham University and Hunter College, in New York from (SUM2014-SUM 2016)

Core Components and Skills for Trauma-Informed Practice – Course is designed to enhance social workers empathic understanding of a traumatic experience from the client's perspective and how traumatic experiences and their aftermath can influence a family's and/or child's development and life trajectory. Course includes assessment skills, intervention skills and treatment planning. (SUM2014-present)

This course is currently taught in partnership as a research project with The National Initiative for Trauma Education and Workforce Development and the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. (SUM2024-present)

2013-2022 Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

MSW Courses Taught

Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment for Children and Adolescents – Utilizing a child developmental approach, learning is focused on working with diverse populations of children, adolescents and adults impacted by sudden trauma and addressing the impact of generational trauma on individuals and families.
SUM2014 to present).

This course was initially taught in partnership as a research project with The National Initiative for Trauma Education and Workforce Development, Fordham University and Hunter College, in New York from 2014 through 2016.

GCSW Foundations Course – Overview of basic social work education, including ethics, interventions, and advocacy.

Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (formerly Transtheoretical Cognitive Behavioral Interventions) – Overview of the theoretical perspectives and the acquisition of clinical skills in Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy techniques.

Trauma and Social Work – Overview of the impact of environmental, individual, and family trauma with diverse populations, including an emphasis on self-care for social workers.

Child Abuse and Neglect – Theoretical approaches to understanding child abuse issues and the short and long-term impacts of abuse on individuals and families.

Family Violence – Assessment of and skills development addressing family violence and an introduction to crisis intervention, long-term support services, and battering intervention services.

Assessment in Social Work - Building skill acquisition by assessing individuals, families, organizations, and communities.

Course Development

- S2025 Core Components and Skills for Trauma-Informed Practice, Online and F2F, in collaboration with the National Institute for Trauma Education and Workforce Development (NITEWD)
- F2023 Individuals: Advanced Clinical Practice
- S2023 Families: Advanced Clinical Practice
- S2020 Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- S2018 Trauma and Social Work – hybrid and online version
- F2016 Family Violence – hybrid and online version
- S2014 Transtheoretical Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- F2013 Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment of Children and Adolescents

Course Revisions

- S2024 Individuals: Advanced Clinical Practice
- F2024 Families: Advanced Clinical Practice
- F2017 Transtheoretical CBI
- F2016 Child Abuse and Neglect
- S2016 Trauma and Social Work
- F2015 Assessment in Social Work

Independent Studies

- S2026 Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, “What Does the Research Say?”
- S2026 Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, “Bringing Theory to Practice.”
- S2026 Canine-Assisted Interventions with the Houston Fire Department (PhD Candidate)
- F2025 Ethical Use of Snakes in Clinical Mental Health Practice
- S2024 Prison-based Animal-assisted Programs
- F2022 Contemporary State of Domestic Violence Services in Social Work
- F2022 Impacts of Medical Trauma on Children and Their Families
- F2020 Family Violence Perpetrators
- F2015 Bridging the Gap between Doulas and Social Workers
- F2014 Senior Living Centers and Continuity of Care

Faculty Mentorship

- S2026 PhD, LMSW, Assistant Professor, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, School of Social Work
- F2025 LMSW, Associate Director of Field Practicum, School of Social Work, Wichita State University (2025)
- F2019 CBI Course Mentor for GCSW Faculty
- F2018 LCSW, Adjunct Professor
- S2017 LCSW, Adjunct Professor
- F2017 LCSW-S, Adjunct Professor

Student Mentorship – PhD Students

- S2026 PhD Student
- F2025 PhD Student
- S2022 PhD Student
- F2020 PhD Student
- F2019 PhD Student
- F2018 PhD Student
- F2015 PhD Student

Student Mentorship-MSW Students

- S2026 MSW Student
- S2026 present Faculty Advisor-Reproductive Justice Committee
- S2024 present Students from Taiwan, Patrick Leung, PhD
- S2022 MSW Student
- S2022 MSW Student

2027 Trauma Fellows (11 Students)-Monthly Supervision (F2026, S2027)
2026 Trauma Fellows (6 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2025, S2026)
2025 Trauma Fellows (13 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2024, S2025)
2024 Trauma Fellows (6 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2023, S2024)
2023 Trauma Fellows (19 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2022, S2023)
2022 Trauma Fellows (26 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2021, S2022)
2021 Trauma Fellows (20 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2020, S2021)
2020 Trauma Fellows (21 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2019, S2020)
2019 Trauma Fellows (15 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2018, S2019)
2018 Trauma Fellows (6 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2017, S2018)
2017 Trauma Fellows (4 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2016, S2017)
2016 Trauma Fellows (9 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2015, S2016)
2015 Trauma Fellows (8 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2014, S2015)
2014 Trauma Fellows (5 Students) -Monthly Supervision (F2013, S2014)
2013 Trauma Fellows (9 Students) -Monthly Supervision (S2013)
2014 to 2019-Faculty Advisor-Clinical Leadership Society

Areas of Specialization

Clinical Social Work

2011 Certified in Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy- EAGALA
2009 Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Family Violence Program Development and Administration

2020-present Founding Board Member, Southeast Texas LINK Coalition
2003-2015 Chair, Harris County Adult Violent Death Review Team
1997-present Founding Board Member, Harris County Domestic Violence
 Coordinating Council
1997-2013 Director, Family Violence Center at Northwest Assistance
 Ministries
1997 Co-founder, Houston's PetSafe Program with the Houston SPCA
1995-1997 President, Coalition Against Domestic Abuse

Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy

2015-2020 Committee Member, EAGALA University Committee
2011-present Current practitioner of equine-assisted psychotherapy
2011 Certified EAGALA therapist

Clinical Supervision

2020-2022 Clinical Supervision: (1 LMSW)

2020-2022 Clinical Supervision: (1 LMSW)

Service

College Community Service

S2026-present Faculty Liaison, Student Organization, Reproductive Justice Committee
S2025-present NTT Promotion & Retention Committee, Chair
F2025-S2026 GCSW Faculty Search & Screen Committee
F2024-present GCSW Academic Honesty Hearing Officer
F2025-F2025 Ad Hoc GCSW Policy Committee
F2022-F2024 Reimagining Evaluation Committee
S2023 CWEP Graduation Opening Remarks
F2022-present Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
S2021-S2025 GLOBE Ambassador
S2025-S2029 GLOBE Ambassador
F2019 Panelist, Careers in Mental Health, Prof. Vujanovic, Psychology Dept., UH
F2017-S2018 Curriculum Committee
F2020-F2020 Curriculum Committee
F2017-S2018 Strategic Planning Committee
F2019-S2020 Strategic Planning Committee
F2016-S2017 Clinical Concentration Committee
S2017-F2018 Clinical Concentration Committee
F2023-F2023 Chair of Clinical Concentration Committee
F2021-F2023 Clinical Concentration Committee
F2016-S2018 Field Practicum Advisory Committee
F2015-S2016 Foundation Committee
F2014-S2016 Admissions Committee
F2013-S2016 Faculty Liaison, Student Organization, Clinical Leadership Society
S2013-present Trauma Education Program, Trauma Fellows Monthly Supervision

Professional Consultations

Catholic Charities – Trauma-Informed Practice
AVANCE – Trauma-Informed Practice
The Women’s Home – Trauma Staff Training
Change Happens! – Trauma Training Series (4 Sessions)
Reform Austin-Article on COVID and Increase in DV Cases
Houston Humane Society-Veterinary Social Work

Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
YES Prep-Trauma-Informed Practice
UTMB-Galveston Nursing College
Children's Assessment Center, Houston
After Violence Project, Austin, Texas

Community Service

- S2026 Collaboration with the Harris County High Risk Domestic Violence Team, Houston, Texas. Creating opportunities for GCSW macro social work students.
- S2024 Public Interest Think Tank-UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas
- SUM2023 Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP). Symposium Planning Committee Member for Fall 2024 *Stigma and Suicide Conference*, UTMB School of Nursing, Galveston, Texas
- S2023 Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT). Provided therapeutic support for TENT members attending the 88th Texas Legislature to testify against SB 14 (banning gender-affirming care for children) in the Texas House.
- S2023 Soldiers for Life (S4L) Equine-Assisted work with national members.
- SUM2022 Soldiers for Life (S4L) Equine-Assisted work with national members of S4L.
- SUM2022 Equine-assisted work with Houston families advocating for gun control.
[Local groups join forces to denounce gun violence | khou.com](https://www.khou.com/story/news/local/2023/05/10/local-groups-join-forces-to-denounce-gun-violence/7008537002/)
- 2021-present Southeast Texas LINK Coalition-Founding Board Member – collaboration with the Houston Humane Society, <https://setlink.org/who-are-we%3F>
- 2021-2022 Houston SPCA-Re-Imaging PetSafe Program.
- 1998 Co-founder of the Houston/Harris County PetSafe Program with the Houston SPCA, January 1998
- 2015 Community Development Project: #1800SAFE campaign.
- S2022 Board Spotlight Interview: Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- 2017-present Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Executive Board
- 2015-2016 Houston Child Trauma Consortium-Board Member and Secretary

Creative Service

- 2022-present Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) Opportunities for GCSW students interested in animal-assisted social work. Beginning in 2022, GCSW students have visited Brookside Ranch to participate in a learning opportunity in equine-assisted psychotherapy. This opportunity is also provided to Trauma Fellows, Independent Study students and GCSW faculty.
- 04/16/2022 GCSW Faculty (2)
- 05/14/2022 GCSW Students (2)
- 04/01/2012 GCSW Students/Therapist (10)

07/29/2023	GCSW Faculty (1)
04/20/2024	Theological Group (8)
08/24/2024	GCSW Students (3)
01/04/2025	GCSW Trauma Education Program Students (2)
03/01/2025	GCSW Trauma Education Program Students (3)
03/08/2025	GCSW Students (5)
05/10/2025	GCSW Students (3)
11/29/2025	GCSW Student (1)
12/13/2025	GCSW PhD Student (1)
02/14/2025	GCSW Independent Study Students (2)
02//28/2025	GCSW Students (2)
03/14/2026	GCSW Students (2)
04/11/2026	GCSW Independent Study Students (2)
2024	<i>HEAR Lab Podcast: Prison-based Animal-assisted Programs.</i> Amtsberg, D., LCSW, Kennedy, P., PhD., Virani, C., LMSW
2024	November 6, 2024. Post-Election Process Group for GCSW Students via ZOOM.
2024	October 14 & 16, 2024. GCSW Lunch & Learn. Presentation to GCSW students regarding the LINK Between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence. Co-Presenter, Alyssa Elmer, LMSW, Houston Humane Society.
2023	March 2023, GCSW Support Space, Online Discussion of Suicide GCSW Faculty Spotlight, October 2023.
2022	May 2022. Community Partner's Meeting. Collaboration between the Clinical Concentration Committee and field site supervisors to discuss the clinical curriculum
2021	January 2021. In collaboration with Marianne Yoshioka, Dean of Smith College's Social Work Program, I created an anti-racism and trauma- Informed Value Statement and Objectives. Approved by FA in April 2021.
2021	October 2021, Op-Ed linking breast cancer and domestic violence. Collaboration between Chiara Acquati, PhD, and Donna Amtsberg, LCSW-S.
2020	January 2020. Community Partner's Meeting. Collaboration between the Clinical Concentration Committee and field site supervisors to discuss the clinical curriculum.
2017	February 2017. GCSW Community Partners' Meeting. Collaboration between the Clinical Concentration Committee and field site supervisors to discuss the clinical curriculum.
2015	August 2015. On-Call Social Worker for the National Hemophilia Foundation Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
2014	April 2014. University of Houston, Subject Matter Expert, Trauma & Behavioral Therapy Panel Discussion.

Awards and Honors

2025	Commencement/Graduation Name Reader
2019	Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award/Commencement Hooding
2017	Community Organization and Change for Social Justice, Faculty
2015	Commencement/Graduation Name Reader

Professional Presentations

Internal

- 2025 *What GLOBE Students Need to Know: How to Move Theory into Practice.*
Lunch & Learn, Ethical Use of Snakes in Clinical Mental Health, Independent Study-
Dustin Larsen, GCSW Students, (3 Sessions)
Lunch & Learn, Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, GCSW Students
(2 Sessions)
Faculty Talk with GCSW Students
- 2024 *Post-Election Process Group*, GCSW Students Support Space
Lunch & Learn, LINK Between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence, GCSW Students.
(2 Sessions)
Relationship between ACEs and Moral Injury, GLOBE Students
- 2023 *Support Space, Foundation Students*
Welcome Remarks, CWEP Graduation Celebration
- 2022 *GCSW PhD Program-Self-Care and Resiliency*
Foundation Open House. Trauma Education Program Overview
Foundation SW 6201-A Shared Journey
- 2021 *Foundation Open House. Trauma Education Program Overview*
Trauma across the Lifespan. GLOBE staff.
Domestic Violence and Trauma. GLOBE staff.
- 2018 *GLOBE and UH Behavioral Health Program-Family Violence and Trauma*
GCSW PhD Program-Self-Care
Foundation Committee-Foundation Practice
Foundation SW 6201-Building a Strong Foundation
GCSW Shine Program-Intersectionality of Family Violence and Trauma
- 2017 *GCSW PhD Program-Adult Violent Death Review Team Report-2016*
GCSW PhD Program- Self-Care and Stress Management
Foundation SW 6201-Building a Strong Foundation
Foundation Committee-Foundation Practice
- 2016 *GCSW Alumni Meeting-Family Violence and Trauma*
GCSW Clinical Leadership Society-Family Violence and #1800SAFE
GCSW Alumni-Assessing Family Violence
GCSW Clinical Leadership Society-Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy
UH-Swansea Collaboration-Panel Moderator

GCSW Foundation Research Conference-Adult Violent Death Review Team Report-2016

- 2014 *El Salvadorian Symposium—Trauma and Social Work*
Child Abuse Reporting-GCSW Students Lunch & Learn

External

- 2026 **Amtsberg, D.** *TEACH-S*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas: Incorporating Trauma-Informed Care in Nurse Practitioner Education Using Interprofessional Collaborations
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas-PTSD and Me, *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas-Child Abuse
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas-5th Annual IPEP Symposium
Amtsberg, D. Lunch & Learn: How to Develop Independent Studies. University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, School of Social Work Faculty
- 2025 **Amtsberg, D.** *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas
Amtsberg, D. *Trauma-Informed Interviewing*, Civic Leadership Students, Rice University, Houston, Texas.
Amtsberg, D. *Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy*, Jewish Family Services, Brookside Ranch, Brookside Village, Texas
Amtsberg, D. *Raising Awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Using an Innovative Interprofessional Educational Approach*. UTMB Galveston, Texas
Amtsberg, D. *Engagement Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, *UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (3 Series)*
Amtsberg, D. *ACEs: What Nurses Need to Know*. Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (3 Series)
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (3 Series)
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (3 Series)
Amtsberg, D. *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (3 Series)
Amtsberg, D. *Trauma-Informed Care: How to Move Theory into Practice*, Children's Assessment Center, Houston, Texas
Amtsberg, D. *PPP3: Ethics & Professionalism 6: Legal Issues in Clinical Care, Interpersonal Violence (IPV)*. Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, University of Houston, Houston, Texas

- 2024 **Amtsberg, D.** *Saying Goodbye to Students in a Trauma-Informed Manner*, YES Prep, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma Across the Lifespan*, Public Health Symposium, UTMB, Galveston
- Amtsberg, D.** *ACEs and Child Abuse*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Engage Me Series*, Family Nurse Practitioner Students, UTMB Nursing College, Galveston, Texas (4 Series)
- Amtsberg, D.** *HEAR Lab Podcast: Prison-based Animal-assisted Programs*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.,** *PPP3: Ethics & Professionalism 6: Legal Issues in Clinical Care, Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)*. Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
- 2023 **Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma-Informed Care: What Nursing Practitioners Need to Know*. UTMB College of Nursing, Galveston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Building Hate Crime Response Capacity in CBO's Panel Discussion*, 1st Annual Disparity Conference through the Harris County Office of Justice and Safety
- Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma Across the Lifespan: What Nursing Practitioners Need to Know*. UTMB College of Nursing, Population Health Course, Galveston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Equine-Assisted Learning*. S4L Houston Veterans Resiliency Retreat, Brookside Village, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *PPP3: Ethics & Professionalism 6: Legal Issues in Clinical Care, Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)*. Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Equine-Assisted Learning*. Houston Veterans Resiliency Retreat. Brookside Village, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *S4L Prayer Breakfast and EAP Training*, Houston Veterans, Brookside, Village, Texas
- 2022 **Amtsberg, D.** *Building Hate Crime Response Capacity in Houston*. Crime Stoppers
- Amtsberg, D.** *Building Hate Crime Response Capacity in Houston*. Chief Finner at the Houston Police Department
- Amtsberg, D.** *Building Hate Crime Response Capacity in Houston*. Houston Coalition Against Hate Board Meeting, UH-GCSW
- Amtsberg, D.** *Building Hate Crime Response Capacity in Houston*. Houston Coalition Against Hate and CBO Members Meeting, UH-GCSW
- Amtsberg, D.** *Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy Demonstration*. Mom's Demand Action, Brookside Village, Texas.
- Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma-Informed Care: What Practitioners Need to Know*. Houston Area Nurse Practitioners' Annual Conference, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Secondary Trauma*. Healthy Start Staff Training, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Equine-Assisted Learning*. Houston Veterans Resiliency Retreat, Brookside Village, Texas. S4L HOUSTON VETERANS' RESILIENCY RETREAT PROVIDES

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO VETERANS BY COMBATTING THE RISE IN SUICIDE - EIN Presswire (einnews.com)

- Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma Across the Lifespan*, The Women's Home, Houston, Texas
- 2021 **Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma's Impact on Children*. Training for Advocates. Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Historical Link between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence*. Fort Bend County, 15th Annual Crime Victims Response Team (CVRT) Conference
- 2020 **Amtsberg, D.** *Trauma's Impact on Children*. Trauma Training for Advocates. Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Building Trust from Trauma*, Houston Police Academy, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *What Practitioners Need to Know about Trauma*. Four (4) Trauma Training for agency staff, ADVANCE, Houston, Texas
- 2019 **Amtsberg, D.** *Facebook Live – GCSW*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *SSWR Conference-EPoster Presentation with Dr. Borja-Intergenerational Continuity of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Female Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children*, San Francisco, California
- Amtsberg, D.** *Clinical Psychology Program-UH-Dr. Anka Vujanovic -Mental Health Careers*, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
- 2018 **Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Trauma Consortium-Family Violence and Trauma*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *UH Alumni Association-Panelist-Healing After Harvey*, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *GCSW Teach-In: Immigration Policy*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Bereavement-Informed Community Committee-Panelist-Restorative Support for Families after Traumatic Death Conference*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Conference-Trauma and The Impact on Child Development*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *MD Anderson Social Work Department-Trauma and the Impact on Child Development*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *GCSW Collaboration with Harris County DA's Office-Panelist-Breaking the Silence*, Houston, Texas
- 2017 **Amtsberg, D.** *Child Protective Services-Family Violence 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *CSWE-Family Violence Fatality Review Team, A Call to Action*, Dallas, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities – Trauma 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities – Trauma-Informed Care*, Houston, Texas
- 2016 **Amtsberg, D.** *Equine Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) Annual International Conference-University Committee Mission and Accomplishments*, Lexington, Kentucky
- Amtsberg, D.** *AVANCE-Toxic Stress and Trauma*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *AVANCE-ACE Scores and Self-Care*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Mental Health America of Greater Houston-Childhood Poverty* Houston, Texas

- Amtsberg, D.** *Upbring Foster in Texas Annual Conference-Trauma-Informed Care*, Conroe, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** Arrow Ministries-Panelist-Resilience Film by TUGG, Conroe, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Community College-Adult Violence Death Fatality Review Team Findings*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *The Simmons Foundation-Panelist-Resilience Film by TUGG*, Houston, Texas
- 2015 **Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma Treatment*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Self-Care*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *The Lovett Center-Family Violence and Trauma*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *First3Years-Food for Thought Series-Family Violence and Trauma*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities Executive Board-Trauma 101*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Organizational Readiness*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Harris County Juvenile Probation Department-Family Violence and Trauma*, Houston, Texas (10/15/2015)
- Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Matters/NPR Interview-Trauma and Self-Care*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Moment Interview-#1800SAFE*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *NASW-TX Annual Conference-Community Assessment through The Eyes of a Fatality Review Team*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Child Advocates of Ft. Bend-Keynote Speaker-The Impact of Trauma on Child Development*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Matters/NPR Interview-#1800SAFE*, PBS Station, University of Houston Campus, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma Treatment*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *FM Radio 107.5 Interview-#1800SAFE*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Catholic Charities-Trauma Treatment*, Houston, Texas
- 2014 **Amtsberg, D.** *Houston Association of Black Journalists-Domestic Violence and Spanking-Panelist*, Houston, Texas
- Amtsberg, D.** *Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council-Intimate Partner Violence: Summit on Practice and Policy*, Houston, Texas

Areas of Specialization

Clinical Social Work

- 2011 Certified in Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy- EAGALA (2011)
- 2009 Licensed Clinical Social Worker (2009)

Family Violence Program Development and Administration

- 2020-present Founding Board Member, Southeast Texas LINK Coalition

2003-2015	Chair, Harris County Adult Violent Death Review Team
1997-present	Founding Board Member, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
1997-2013	Director, Family Violence Center at Northwest Assistance Ministries
1997	Co-founder, Houston's PetSafe Program with the Houston SPCA
1995-1997	President, Coalition Against Domestic Abuse

Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy

2015-2020	Committee Member, EAGALA University Committee
2011-present	Current practitioner of equine-assisted psychotherapy
2011	Certified EAGALA therapist

Clinical Supervision

2020-2022	Clinical Supervision: (1 LMSW)
2020-2022	Clinical Supervision: (1 LMSW)

Research

2026	<i>Using Interprofessional Education and Collaboration to Teach Trauma-Informed Care to Nurse Practitioner Students-</i> Vera Gibb, DNP APRN, FNP, AQH, CCTP, Cheryl Juneau, DrPH, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, UTMG Galveston, TX, Jo McDonald, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN, CA/CP-SANE, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Ryann Danielle Ferro, PhD, RN, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.
2026	<i>Trauma-Related Mental Health and Dissociation-</i> Principal Investigator, Lisa Panisch, PhD, MSW, Wayne State University, Research Consultant.
2026	<i>Incorporating Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) in Nurse Practitioner Education Using Interprofessional Collaboration-</i> Vera Gibb, DNP, APRN, FNP, AQH, CCTP, Cheryl Juneau, DrPH, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, UTMG, Galveston, TX, Ryann Danielle Ferro, PhD, RN, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.
2024-present	Site for the <i>Core Components and Skills for Trauma-Informed Practice</i> course, in collaboration with the National Institute for Trauma Education and Workforce Development (NITEWD).
2022	<i>Building Response Capacity-</i> Principal Investigator Aabha Brown, LMSW Co-PI, Juan Barthelemy, PhD; Co-PI, Donna Amtsborg, LCSW-S. Studying The response capacity of community-based organizations to respond to victims of hate crimes in Houston, Texas.

- 2022 *Life Review Therapy* – Principal Investigator, Christina Miyawaki, PhD.
- 2018 *Bridging the Gap* – Principal Investigator Donna Amtsborg, LCSW-S. Program Evaluation for the Bridge Over Troubled Water, Inc., enhanced transitional housing program.
- 2018 *Imposter Phenomena* – Principal Investigator Holly Hutchins, PhD, studying the impact of modified CPT therapy on imposter phenomena on UH PhD-level faculty.
- 2013-2016 Research site for the *Core Concepts of Trauma Treatment for Children and Adolescents* course, in collaboration with the National Institute for Trauma Education and Workforce Development (NITEWD).
- 2007-2013 *Intergenerational Continuity of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Female Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children*. Northwest Assistance Ministries, Family Violence Center-Principal Investigator Donna Amtsborg, LCSW-S.

Publications

- 2026 Feature Article: Sessions at the Stable. Published in GCSW News Online and the 2026 INSIGHT edition. <https://gcswstories.uh.edu/insight-spring-2026/index.html>
- 2024 Amtsborg, D., Kennedy, P., PhD., Virani, C., LMSW. *GCSW HEAR Lab Podcast. Prison-based Animal-Assisted Programs*. (2024)
- 2024 Dr. Vera Gibb, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, AQH, CCTP, Dr. Safa Al-Arabi, PhD, MPH, MSN, CNL, RN, Dr. Amber High, DNP, APRN, CRNA, NC-BC, Dr. Tammy Isaac, MDiv, BCCC, CAGCS, Kelly Grace, PhD, Mark (Clay) Wade, Amtsborg, D., LCSW. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB), School of Nursing, Pastoral Care, Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice, Health Education Center, *Raising Awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Using an Innovative Interprofessional Educational Approach*. 2024 UTMB Public Health Symposium, April 3, 2024, Galveston, Texas.
- 2019 Amtsborg, D., & Borja, PhD, S. *Intergenerational Continuity of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Female Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children* – (2019). *SSWR Conference-EPooster Presentation, January 18-20, 2019, San Francisco, California*.
- 2021 Amtsborg, D., & Acquati, C. (2021). October - These Two Awareness Issues Share More Than a Month. *Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council*.

- 2020 Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor, Grant # 20700-12. 2020, Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator Course.
- 2019 CSWE Publication with Fordham University. 2019, *Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice*.
- 1997 Amtsberg, D. Texas Speech Communications Journal. 08/1997, *Cruelty to Animals ... A Communication Form in Family Violence*, August 1997

Professional Experience

Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)

March 1997 to July 2013

Director, Family Violence Center (FVC)

Director, NAM Counseling Center (NCC)

- **FVC** - Responsible for \$600K annual program budget
- Federal and State-funded grant writing and annual reporting
- Administration of federal and state-funded grants within state and federal guidelines
- Development and implementation of operating guidelines
- Recruitment, training, and supervision of staff and volunteers
- Developed collaborative relationship with Harris County Sheriff's Office to house DV and SA detectives in Family Violence Center
- Clinical work with clients in both individual and group settings
- Development, administration, and analysis of agency-wide Needs Assessment
- Directed agency-wide crisis intervention services
- Recruitment, training, and supervision of graduate social work and clinical students
- **NCC** – Responsible for \$150K annual program budget
- Clinical work with clients displaced to Houston via Hurricane Katrina
- Development and implementation of operating guidelines
- Recruitment, training, and supervision of clinical staff
- Crisis intervention contact agency-wide.

Houston Community College System (HHCS)

August 2007 to December 2013

Human Services Technology Program

Adjunct Professor

- Responsible for teaching a variety of clinical practice-related evening courses to students enrolled in the Human Services Technology Program.
- Courses supported students working toward a license in Chemical Dependency Counseling.
- Courses included Group Counseling, Practicum Site Supervision, and Individual

Counseling

Adult Violent Death Review Team (AVDRT)
Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Chair

January 2005 to December 2015

- Recruitment and training of county-wide agencies to collaborate with the AVDRT.
- Responsible for collecting case list information on family violence homicides/suicides in coordination with the Harris County DA's Office and the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services department.
- Oversaw a secure environment for confidential case files.
- Providing statistical, non-confidential information to the AVDRT team members and to other agencies, upon request
- Responsible for writing, production, and dissemination of biannual AVDRT reports to citizens of Harris County and Texas
- Consulted with Texas counties considering the development and implementation of county-wide fatality review teams across the state.
- Testified during the 81st Texas Legislature (2009) in support of upgrading strangulation in family violence cases to a third-degree felony. Effective September 1, 2009.
- Testified during the 77th Texas Legislature (2001) in support of the creation of the Adult Fatality Review and Investigation statute that provided protection for fatality review team members, including confidentiality provisions regarding meetings and records. Effective September 1, 2001.

Harris County District Attorney's Office
Case Manager, Family Criminal Law Division

January 1993 to March 1997

- Interview and assess the needs of victims of family violence, adults, and children.
- Interviewed complainants regarding family violence misdemeanors, felony charges and protective order cases.
- Prepared witnesses for testifying in protective order court.
- Instituted the data collection process for the collection and analysis of animal cruelty statistics.
- Prepared witnesses for testimony in family violence felony and misdemeanor court cases.
- Testified in Harris County criminal courts on felony family violence cases.

Foley's
Human Resources Manager

March 1988 to December 1992

Memorial City Mall, West Oaks Mall, Downtown Store/Corporate Office Location

- Responsible for staffing flagship stores in greater Houston.
- Development and implementation of operating guidelines, policies and procedures.
- Recruitment, training, and supervision of staff and management.

- Responsible for payroll processing.
- Collaborated with the Risk Management team.

EYE+TECH

Human Resources Manager

July 1984 to February 1988

- Responsible for staffing retail outlets across six states.
- Development and implementation of operating guidelines, policies, and procedures.
- Recruitment, training, and supervision of retail staff and management.
- Collaborated with Regional Managers regarding all HR policies and state-related employment issues.