

# Ahfiya J. Howard, DrPH, MSW

## EDUCATION

***Jackson State University-Jackson, MS***

**August 2013-December 2019**

Doctor of Public Health, May 2020

Concentration: Health Policy and Management

***Jackson State University-Jackson, MS***

**May 2006-May 2007**

Master of Social Work, May 2007

***Jackson State University-Jackson, MS***

**August 2003-May 2006**

Bachelor of Social Work, May 2006

### **Further Study:**

***Hinds Community College-Pearl, MS***

**August 2001-May 2002**

***University of Southern Mississippi-Hattiesburg, MS***

**August 1998-May 1999**

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## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Lead Professor** (2017). Jackson State University Passport to the World Program. Buenos Aires, Argentina. Areas of Study: Human Diversity and Social Legislation. University of Buenos Aires & CIEE Buenos Aires Study Center.

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## PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

***Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX***

**September 2022-Current**

College of Education and Human Services

***Assistant Professor***

School of Social Work

- Advise and mentor undergraduate and graduate students to address education and career development needs.
- Develop and teach online undergraduate and graduate Social Work courses to meet the curriculum requirements via Bright Space (D2L).
- Support the university by actively attending all required departmental and university meetings.
- Conduct scholarly work appropriate for Social Work educators such as manuscript and grant writing and submission to peer reviewed journals.
- Collaborate with other members of the School of Social Work's Diversity Committee to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and address barriers that prevent individuals from achieving such.
- Evaluate scholarships applications, along with other members of the School of Social Work's Scholarship Committee and recommend applicants who have met the requirements for funding opportunities.
- Review applications and conduct interviews for potential candidates who apply for faculty

positions in the School of Social Work, as a member of the search committee.

- Serve as an advisor for the Phi Alpha Honor Society to promote academic excellence among students.

**Courses Taught:**

- SWK 340: Global Perspectives of Human Services
- SWK 511: Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
- SWK 554: Advanced Generalist Practice Field Practicum
- SWK 350: Social Work Research Methods

***Capella University, Minneapolis, MN***

**October 2021-May 2022**

School of Public Service & Education

***MSW Part Time Faculty***

Master of Social Work Program

- Demonstrated collegiality by attending all departmental and university meetings along with completing required training and being a team player.
- Instructed online graduate master-level Social Work students according to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) competencies and departmental guidelines via Blackboard.
- Designed and led tutorials on the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to increase students' understanding and skills data analysis.
- Assessed students' assignments, research papers and exams along with providing constructive, encouraging, and corrective feedback.
- Conducted live and recorded lectures on course content related to quantitative and qualitative research methods, to increase student's knowledge on research-based practices.

**Courses Taught:**

- SWK 5015: Advance Statistics, Research and Program Evaluation

***Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS***

**August 2020-May 2022**

Division of Social Sciences

***Adjunct Instructor***

Sociology and Social Work Department

- Created and developed online undergraduate Social Work courses via Canvas.
- Reviewed and modified syllabi and other course material relevant to undergraduate course work.
- Evaluated and provided grading for students' assignments, research papers and exams while providing comprehensive feedback as needed.
- Conducted live and recorded lectures via Zoom on pertinent course content to improve student learning outcomes.

**Courses Taught:**

- SWK 314: Social Work Practice I
- SWK 315: Social Work Practice II
- SWK 115: Introduction to Social Work

***Jackson State University, Jackson, MS***

College of Health Sciences

School of Social Work

***Chair and Assistant Professor***

**July 2020-June 2021**

***Interim Chair and Visiting Assistant Professor***

**July 2015-June 2020**

***Visiting Assistant Professor and Faculty Field Liaison***

**August 2014-June 2015**

Bachelor of Social Work Program

- Managed the day-to-day operation of Bachelor of Social Work Program.
- Provided guidance in curriculum, staff, and faculty development.
- Supervised support staff, faculty, and work-study students and conducted annual employee performance evaluations.
- Created, designed, and implemented the School of Social Work's hybrid program to give students more flexibility.
- Generated, managed, and organized course schedules and offerings for the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.
- Achieved reaffirmation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 2018.
- Collaborated with staff, faculty, and students to plan and host student recruiting events throughout the year.
- Achieved high student retention rates for B.S.W. Program through rapport building and faculty-student activities.
- Developed protocols for departmental academic advisement processes to ensure efficiency.
- Collected data, conducted data analysis, and provided oral and written reports for departmental accreditation.
- Generated and prepared reports and other program documentation for use in assessing and evaluating program operations.
- Aided in the re-development of the department's handbook policies to ensure best practices.
- Facilitated and planned departmental meetings and conference calls as needed to keep staff and faculty informed of changes and current events.
- Engaged in competent teaching by adhering to CSWE's educational policies.
- Effectively managed program's budget and other resources
- Engaged in research, scholarly and creative activities by writing grant proposals and presenting at professional conferences.
- Co-founded the university's food pantry by collaborating with colleagues to address food insecurities amongst students.
- Conducted a research study to assess the needs of social work majors' well-being during COVID-19 pandemic lock down.
- Collaborated with community organizations and stakeholders to create internships and job opportunities within the metropolitan and rural areas of Mississippi.
- Implemented and created departmental protocols for students who required referral to the university counseling and mental health services.
- Designed and created a study abroad course, International Perspective, to align with the university's study abroad program.
- Led the School of Social Work's 2-week study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Argentina in conjunction with developing lesson plans, itineraries, teaching associated online courses and providing mentorship to 12 students.
- Co-chaired the university's general education and B.S.W. Program admission committees by assisting with application reviews and strategic planning.

- Chaired the SSW's assessment committee by collecting and analyzing data from comprehensive exams and course assignments.
- Actively served as a member of various departmental, college and university committees in effort to accomplish their objectives which include the accreditation, quality enhancement plan and enrollment management task forces.
- Supervised and acted as an advisor for the Social Work Student Association.
- Supervised and monitored student's progress in the field practicum (internship) each semester along with assessing their abilities to meet CSWE's competencies.
- Trained field instructors (internship supervisors) each semester on policies and procedures for the Bachelor of Social Work Program.
- Developed and taught traditional and online undergraduate Social Work courses.

#### **Courses Taught:**

- SW 210: Professional Behaviors, Ethics and Communication
- SW 225: Human Diversity and Social Justice
- SW 260: Behavior Modification: Assessment and Intervention
- SW 250: Theoretical Perspectives for Generalist Social Work
- SW 360: Social Issues in Films
- SW 421: Teenage Sexuality & Parenting
- SW 450: Social Work in Health-Related Fields
- SW 455: Research Methods for Social Workers
- SW 485: Skills in Interviewing
- SW 486: Social Work Practice II
- SW 410: Social Legislation (Study Abroad)
- SW 401: Social Work & Criminal Justice
- SW 489: Field Practicum
- SW 499: Integrative Seminar

***Hinds Community College, Jackson, MS***

**August 2012-May 2013**

Social Science Department

#### ***Adjunct Instructor***

- Sustained a positive learning environment by promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Planned and developed course criteria by updating syllabus and identifying pertinent content associated with the basic elements of Psychology.
- Maintained student's attendance records weekly by marking those present for class.
- Provided regular and timely evaluation feedback to students regarding grades, assignments and quizzes.

#### **Courses Taught:**

- PSY 214: General Psychology

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA***

**March 2023-May 2023**

Public Health Institute

***Monitoring and Evaluation Fellow*** (GS-12 Equivalent)

Global Health Fellowship Program

## Division of Global HIV & TB (DGHT)

### Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Analysis Branch (MEDAB)

- Addressed strategic information-related issues, including providing technical assistance and guidance related to monitoring and evaluation.
- Collaborated with MEDAB staff to provide technical assistance to President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) country teams in developing and refining well-executed Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs).
- Developed and refine Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plans (EPMPs) that outline monitoring and evaluation activities to be funded and are required to be completed for each CDC Cooperative Agreement (CoAg) by working across DGHT Branches and with PEPFAR countries.
- Increased the impact of PEPFAR programs on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic through standardized monitoring of the quality of PEPFAR programs, supporting the Site Improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) activities and by focusing on key program area elements.
- Assisted center-level and Office of Global AIDS coordinate interagency level development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks related to health equity, sustainability, and other activities as needed.
- Conducted analyses of the annually updated CDC Evaluation Inventory.
- Participate in the Interagency Collaborative for Program Improvement (ICPI) to support the review, analysis, and presentation of data to promote and facilitate data use across agencies.
- Evaluated the applied and contextualize usage of health equity across DGHT's programs by attending meetings, contributing to the development of logic models and other tasks associated with GHC's Health Equity Monitoring and Evaluation Workgroup.
- Collaborated with other members of the Global Health Center's Social Determinants of Health Task Force to address conditions and systems that cause negative health outcomes through community engagement, capacity building, surveillance, policy, and partnerships.
- Provided response to health threats domestically and internationally as a member of the Global Rapid Response Team, to address and assist with humanitarian crises and emergencies.

***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA***

**March 2022-March 2023**

Public Health Institute

***Epidemiology Fellow*** (GS-12 Equivalent)

Global Health Fellowship Program

Division of Bacterial Diseases (DBD)

Respiratory Diseases Branch (RDB)

- Delivered technical epidemiologic support for pan-respiratory disease surveillance to strengthen international partners' processes.
- Rendered division-level communication and updates to RDB's staff in an effort to maintain compliance and consistency across the branch.
- Monitored budgets for global activities to ensure funds were designated appropriately.
- Strategically reviewed and actively participated in the future planning of RDB's global activities by conducting a literature review on the latest research development for pneumococcus meningitis.
- Facilitated and organized bi-weekly meetings to stay current with global activities within the branch.

- Generated and maintained a Microsoft Access and Excel database to capture all active global projects which included funding mechanisms, persons of contact, pathogens, partners, and objectives.

***Mississippi Centralized Intake (MS Child Abuse Hotline), Jackson, MS***

Midtown Group, Inc.

**September 2020-March 2021**

Social Work p.r.n., Inc.

**March 2018-March 2021**

***Intake Specialist, p.r.n.***

- Responded to child abuse and neglect calls by entering applicable information into the database and contacting appropriate officials.
- Followed the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services guidelines and protocols by competently exercising best practices in the field of Social Work.
- Identified potential signs of child abuse by phone and collaborated with law enforcement, medical personnel, and other professionals to secure safe environments for victims.

***Hope Policy Institute, Jackson, MS***

**January 2015-December 2015**

***Policy Analyst Intern***

- Reviewed and compiled local, state, and national secondary data related to social determinants of health, poverty, food insecurities and health outcomes in Mississippi.
- Developed and distributed public relations materials for various health-related events associated with obesity, poverty, food deserts and nutrition.
- Collaborated with community organizations such as Help Me Mississippi Grow and Mississippi Food Network to address food deserts in rural Mississippi.
- Presented research at the Texas Health Institute Southern Obesity Summit regarding food insecurities in rural and low-income communities.
- Advocated for the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision, section of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, by contacting local and state schools and districts.
- Promoted the Community Eligibility Provision by conducting educational sessions at public schools and churches throughout the state.

***Brentwood Behavioral Healthcare, Flowood, MS***

**February 2014-September 2015**

***Mental Health Therapist, p.r.n.***

- Interviewed patients upon intake for mental health services and identified social determinants of health and directed individuals to appropriate resources.
- Conducted and completed psychosocial assessments and diagnosed mental health disorders for those seeking outpatient services.
- Developed individualized treatment plans for those suffering from mental health disorders.
- Summarized and completed clinical notes for patients who received group and individual therapy.
- Facilitated anger management, social skills, relationship-building and substance-abuse recovery groups for adolescence and adult clients.

***Family First Behavioral Health, Inc., Flora, MS***

**June 2013-August 2014**

***Mental Health Therapist, part-time***

- Identified social determinants of health clients faced through interview and linked them to resources to address barriers.
- Summarized and finalized clinical notes while developing and tailoring individual treatment

- plans.
- Conducted psychosocial assessments and diagnosed mental health disorders among children and youth in rural Mississippi.
- Led social skills and anger management groups guided by research-based practices to improve mental health outcomes.
- Counseled individuals and families met with challenges resulting from behavioral and mental health issues to improve coping and management skills.

***Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, Pearl, MS***

**January 2008-June 2013**

Wexford Health Sources, Inc.

***Lead Mental Health Therapist***

- Supervised other mental health therapists and administrative assistants within the department and evaluated staff on job performance.
- Evaluated offenders suffering from mental distress and provided referrals to psychiatrist to assist with medication needs.
- Prepared and completed clinical notes for those who sought counseling along with formulating treatment plans to meet their needs.
- Achieved a high recidivism rate among female offenders by assisting with the developed of pre-release program.
- Partnered with local community organizations to provide support and resources for the pre-release program.
- Interviewed offenders upon arrival and completed intake mental health screenings to assess any presenting or past psychological issue(s).
- Educated offenders on the importance of medication compliance and management.
- Led workshops and training to inform staff and offenders on suicide prevention, communicable diseases prevention, signs of mental health disorders and correctional health policies.
- Monitored offenders on suicide and psychological observation to prevent self-harm.
- Facilitated group counseling for individuals recovering from substance abuse, ongoing anger management issues, lacking parenting and social skills.
- Provided individual counseling for terminally ill offenders to offer emotional support.

***Region 8 Mental Health Services, Brandon, MS***

**July 2007-January 2008**

***Behavioral Specialist***

- Organized and completed clinical notes and designed treatment plans that were aligned with the clients' needs.
- Led social skills and positive self-esteem groups for children under 5 years of age with identified behavior problems.
- Created and implemented behavior modification techniques to address presenting behavior issues in children.

***Jackson County Department of Human Services, Pascagoula, MS***

**January 2007-July 2007**

Social Work p.r.n.

***Social Worker, p.r.n.***

- Investigated child and elder abuse allegations for the Mississippi Department of Child

- Protection Services and reported findings to the agency and law enforcement.
- Attended youth custody case hearings and provided evidence of abuse and promoted reunification of families.
- Gathered information to identify any social determinants of health families and children encountered, while locating resources to improve life circumstances.
- Identified secure, safe, and stable environments for abused children and elders by contacting their family members, nursing homes, local shelters, group homes and potential foster parents.

***Catholic Charities, Inc., Jackson, MS***

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program

**February 2004-January 2006**

Runaway Shelter for Homeless Teenagers

**January 2006-January 2008**

***Intern & Relief Worker***

- Mentored and supervised youths from Haiti and Sudan in a group setting
- Planned extracurricular activities for youths on the weekend such as trips to the zoo, mall, theater, etc.
- Counseled groups and individuals on topics associated with new country norms, etiquette, social skills, and peer pressure.
- Aided with case management related to health, education, and family services to meet clients' needs.
- Created treatment plans based on the youths needs noted in counseling sessions.

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**PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS, COURSES & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

- Program Evaluation Part I & II Course (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)-2022
- Respiratory Disease Branch Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer Orientation (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)-2022
- Health Equity Assessment Training (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)-2022
- Designing for Systems Innovation and Leadership Program (DSIL Global)-2022
- Advanced Student Engagement: Distance Education (Strategic Education)-2021
- Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support (National Family Support Network)-2019
- Project FORECAST (Child Advocacy Services-Trauma Informed)-2018
- Certified Site Visitor (Council on Social Work Education)-2017
- Policy Practice Certificate Course (Council on Social Work Education Learning Academy)-2017
- Program Director Academy (Council on Social Work Education)-2017
- Child Sex Trafficking (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program, Fox Valley Technical College)-2016
- System Change for Health (Directors of Health Promotion and Education)-2016
- Brief Treatment of the Tobacco Dependent Patient Certification (University of Mississippi Medical Center)-2010

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**LICENSES**

- Licensed Graduate Social Worker (State of Minnesota Board of Social Work) (**Active**)
- Licensed Master Social Worker (Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners) (**Active**)
- Licensed Master Social Worker (Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Social Workers)



and Marriage and Family Therapist) (**Active**)

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Mississippi Public Health Association (2015-Current)
- Member, American Public Health Association (2015-Current)
- Member, Council on Social Work Education (2014-Current)

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## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Howard, A.**, Loggins, J., Schroeder, J., Lee, J. and Allen, T. (October 2021). *Social Work Students' Perceptions at a HBCU of Online Learning and Self-Care during Covid-19*. Jackson State University Inauguration Research Symposium.
- **Howard, A.** & Allen, T. (March 2021). *Compassion Fatigue and Satisfaction among Mental Health Professionals: Applying Self-Care Techniques*. National Association of Social Workers-Mississippi Chapter.
- Allen, T., **Howard, A.** and McKenny, B. (January 2019). *Understanding Trauma Behavioral Responses Through Experiential Learning*. Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference.
- Allen, Trenia & **Howard, Ahfiya**. (November 2018). *Understanding Trauma in the CLASSroom*. Hinds County Resource Agency.
- Bass, Tershuna & **Howard, Ahfiya**. (March 2017). *Improving Food Access among School-Age Children in Low Income Populations*. Mississippi National Association of Social Workers Conference.
- **Howard, A.** (November 2015). *A School Based Strategy to Improve Food Access in High Poverty Communities: Mississippi's Implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision*. Texas Health Institute Southern Obesity Summit.

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## RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- **Project Team Member** (October 2020-May 2021). Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies: Using Evidence-Base Public Health Practices in African American Communities Sponsored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Social Remote Program.
- **PI** (September 2020-May 2021). Social Work Students' Perceptions of Online Learning and Self-Care during a Pandemic at an HBCU. Research Study.

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## ARTICLES/BLOGS

- Smith, J., Powell, M., Cromartie, W., Smith, S., Jones, K., Castillo, A., Shaw, J., Editone III, J., **Howard-Cunningham, A.**, Tatum Jr. R., Smith, A., Fisher, B., Booz, G.W., and Cunningham Jr., M. (August 2023). *A New Rodent Model of Preeclampsia: Pregnant IUGR Offspring from Hypertensive Placental Ischemic Moms Display a Preeclamptic Phenotype*. American Heart Association Hypertension Journal. (**Under Review**).
- **Howard, A.**, Schroeder, J. and Lee, J. (October 2022). *Social Work Students' Perceptions at a HBCU of Online Learning and Self-Care During Covid-19*. Journal of Teaching in Social Work. (**Under Review**).

- **Howard, A.** (August 2015). *Healthy Food, Healthy Children, Healthy Future*. Hope Policy Institute website <http://hopepolicy.org/category/health/>
  - **Howard, A.** (August 2015). *Poverty and Health: Inextricably Connected*. Hope Policy Institute website: <http://hopepolicy.org/category/health/>
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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Volunteer, Stewpot Community Services (2019-2021)
  - Volunteer, The Bridge Drop-In Center-Hinds Behavioral Health Services (2018-2021)
  - Member, Jackson (MS) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (2018-Current)
  - Volunteer, American Cancer Society (2015-Current)
  - Member of Strategic Planning Team, Methodist Children's Home of Mississippi (2015-2021)
  - Board Member, Golden Child Learning Center (2015-2021)
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## RECOGNITIONS

- Certificate of Appreciation (Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference)-2019
- Certificate of Appreciation (Jackson State University-Professor of the Game)-2017
- Certificate of Participation (American Planning Association)-2015
- Certificate of Appreciation (Wexford Health Sources, Inc.-Stress Management)-2012