

Whitney Cassity-Caywood Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

whitney.cassitycaywood@wku.edu

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3800-5838#:~:text=https%3A//orcid.org,0003%2D3800%2D5838>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Social Work

University of Louisville/University of Kentucky

Dissertation: The Housing Realities of Persons with Severe and Persistent
Mental Illnesses in Rural Areas

Master of Science in Social Work

University of Louisville

B.A. in Psychology, magna cum laude

Transylvania University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Pedagogical Professor, *Western Kentucky University*, 2024-present

Courses Taught

SWK 101 Foundations of Human Services
SWK 357 Case Management
SWK 375 Social Work Practice I
SWK 480 Social Work Field Practicum I
SWK 481 Social Work Field Seminar I
SWK 482 Social Work Field Practicum II
SWK 483 Social Work Field Seminar II

Assistant Professor, *Murray State University*, 2020-2024

Instructor in Social Work, *Murray State University*, 2017-2020

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *Murray State University*, 2006-2017

Courses Taught

SWK 102 Introduction to Human Services
SWK 201 Social Work and Social Welfare
SWK 305 Services for Older Americans
SWK 308 Interviewing Skills

SWK 350 Social Welfare Policies and Services
SWK 355 Perspectives on Women
SWK 365 Crisis Intervention
SWK 370 Gerontological Social Work Theory
SWK 371 Biopsychosocial Aspects of Aging
SWK 385 Social Work in Mental Health Settings
SWK 424 Case Management

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *Western Kentucky University*, 2008/2009; 2021-2024

Courses Taught

SWK 560 Foundation Field Practicum I
SWK 561 Foundation Field Practicum II
SWK 521 Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWK 620 Advanced Approaches for Rural Practice
SWK 640 Applied Social Research

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *University of Kentucky*, 2004-2005

Courses Taught

SW 450 Social Work Research
SW 750 Research Design and Implementation in Social Work Practice I
SW 751 Research Design and Implementation II

STUDENT MENTORSHIP _____

Faculty Mentor for Graduate Research Assistant Jamison Brown, Master of Arts in Counseling, 2025, *Western Kentucky University*.

- Served as faculty mentor for 2025 Student Scholar Showcase project “Telehealth Use in Victims Service Settings”
- Guided research design, data collection, and analysis resulting in
 - Student co-presenting at peer-reviewed conference, *2025 Social Work Distance Education Conference*
 - Student authorship on manuscript under review *Provider Perspectives on Telehealth: A Comparison of Licensed and Unlicensed Provider Experiences in Victim Service Settings*.

Faculty Mentor for Graduate Research Assistant Grace Asabere, Master of Social Work Student 2024-present, *Western Kentucky University*

- Supervised student in conducting literature review on applications of AI in social work education, resulting in annotated bibliography of key sources
- Mentored student in undergraduate admissions support and evaluation procedures
- Supported student into collaborative research team through LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING _____

Fostering A Culture of Belonging certification, The Association of College and University Educators and American Council on Education, December 2024

AI Beyond the Classroom, workshop, WKU CITL, October 2024

AI Integration: Finding Your Path Forward, workshop, WKU CITL, September 2024

WKU Teaching Fundamentals, September 2024

Effective Instruction certification (25-week course), The Association of College and University Educators and American Council on Education, April 2023

LEADERSHIP TRAINING _____

Program Director Academy-Summer Institute. Council on Social Work Education, 2025.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE _____

Fellow for Service-LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research, 2024-present

- Lead in the coordination, management, and promotion of the Center's service-related activities
- Collaboration and Leadership on selected projects including:
 - Unity in Action event, October 2024
 - Child Welfare Expo, April 2025
 - LCCWEAR Applied Learning Series
 - Drafted standard operating procedures for the initiative and revised with input from Center leadership
 - Drafted call for proposals for 4 curricula selected by Center leadership
 - Reviewed submitted proposals, provided individualized feedback to content creators, and collected final drafts of curricula
 - Scheduled (ongoing) presentation of curricula throughout FY 26 in collaboration with multiple academic programs and for community engagement events

Research Affiliate-LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research, 2021-2024

- Collaborated with the multidisciplinary team to conduct original research informing best practices in the field
- Mentored a graduate research assistant who participated in data analysis and manuscript preparation
- Produced two published manuscripts which included authorship by graduate research assistant

Clinical Consultant-Lotus (Sexual Violence Resource Center/Children's Advocacy Center), 2019-present

- Provide individual and group supervision and consultation to multidisciplinary clinical staff
- Consult with program administrators on clinical professional development
- Assist the agency with program evaluation and outcome data collection and analysis
- Assist clinicians with the development of trauma treatment protocols

Licensed Clinical Social Worker-private practice, 2009-present

- Provide individual, couples, and family counseling

- Apply a variety of treatment modalities tailored to clients' needs such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Psychodynamic, Internal Family Systems, Mindfulness, and Solution Focused Interventions
- Serve as a clinical supervisor and consultant for clinicians pursuing independent licensure

Bluegrass Regional MH-MR Board (New Vista), 1999-2004

- Provided case management to individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses
- Provided outpatient therapy to individuals, groups, and families
- Managed a supportive housing program for individuals with severe mental illnesses experiencing housing insecurity

PUBLICATIONS

Cassity-Caywood, W., Griffiths, A., Woodward, M., & Hatfield, (A.). (2023). The benefits and challenges of shifting to telehealth during COVID-19: Qualitative feedback from Kentucky's sexual violence resource centers and children's advocacy centers. *Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science*, 8(1), 87-99. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41347-022-00296-w>

Cassity-Caywood, W., Woodward, M., Griffiths, A., & Hatfield, A. (2022). Lessons learned from COVID-19: Provider suggestions for improving service delivery in sexual violence resource centers and children's advocacy centers in Kentucky. *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*, 14(1). <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/vol14/iss1/1/>

Cassity-Caywood, W. (2021, November). *Impacts of COVID-19 on SVRCs and CACs in Kentucky: Preliminary Report of Qualitative Findings*. Submitted to the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky.

Cassity-Caywood, W. (2019). Contemporary mental health care in rural areas: Challenges and strategies. *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*, 11(1) , Article 13. <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/vol11/iss1/13>

Cassity-Caywood, W., & Huber, R. (2004). Rural older adults at home. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* 41, (3/4), 229-245.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Cassity-Caywood, W., Woodward, M., Griffiths, A., & Brown, J. Provider Perspectives on Telehealth: A Comparison of Licensed and Unlicensed Provider Experiences in Victim Service Settings.

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Co-Investigator. *Cultures of Child Protection: Exploring State-Specific and Nationwide Child Welfare Systems*. Principal Investigator, Dr. Christa Moore, University of Virginia's College at Wise and Research Affiliate with the LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research. Data collection is ongoing. Spring 2025-present.

Research Partner. *Shaping Future Leaders in Autism Care.* Principal Investigator, Dr. Kim Link, WKU School of Nursing.

GRANTS

- **Quick Turn Around Grant (QTAG)**, WKU College for Health and Human Services, 2024
- **Teaching Development Grant**, WKU Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL), 2024

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Fonetta A. Elam Award for Exemplary Clinical Supervision for Those Working to Address Sexual Violence**, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, 2024
- **Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award**, College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University, 2023
- **Nominee for Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award**, Department of Community Leadership and Human Services, College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University, 2021, 2022, 2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Nominating Committee (international elected position)**, Association of Social Work Boards, 2024-2026
- **Social Work Cross Profession Minimum Data Set Taskforce** (invited appointment), May 2025-ongoing
- **Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee**, Association of Social Work Boards, 2024-2025
- **Regulatory Research Committee**, Association of Social Work Boards, 2023- 2025
- **Governor Appointee to the Kentucky Board of Social Work**, 2020-present
 - Served as the KBSW Chair 2022 and Vice-Chair, 2021, 2023-present
 - Serve on the KBSW Ethical Complaint Committee
 - Chair of the KBSW Finance Committee
 - Delegate Assembly of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), Delegate-2022, Alternate Delegate-2023, Alternate Delegate-2024
- **Board Member and Secretary**, Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center, 2015- 2021

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- **Bachelor of Social Work Program Director**, College of Health and Human Services, 2024-present
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**, College of Health and Human Services 2024-present
- **IDEA Committee**, Department of Social Work, 2024-present
- **Invited Panelist**, AI Faculty Perspectives, WKU AI Conference, April 4, 2025
- Curriculum Committee, Program Evaluation Committee, Student Concerns Committee, AI Committee, BSW Program, FY 2025
- Program Evaluation Committee, BSW Program, FY 2025

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Enhancing Social Work Education for a Telehealth Ready Workforce. *Social Work Distance Education 2025 Virtual Conference*.
- Developing Students' Soft Skills in Online Practice Classes. *Social Work Distance Education 2025 Virtual Conference*.
- Improving Student Access Through Engaged Distance Learning. *Social Work Distance Education 2024 Virtual Conference*.
- Continuing Our Work Through COVID: Lessons Learned. *Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs Conference for Ending Sexual Violence, 2022*.
- Trauma Treatment Via Telehealth: Benefits, Challenges, and Lessons Learned. *National Title IV-E Roundtable on Child Welfare Training and Education, 2022*.
- Applications of Polyvagal Theory in Teaching, Practice, and Self-Care and Zoom Online Teaching Tips. *Kentucky Association of Social Work Educators, 2021*.
- Helping the Helper: Self-Care Strategies for Thriving. *Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence 21st Conference for Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, 2019*.
- Providing Self-Care Psychoeducation to Underserved and Populations in Rural Areas, DBT Informed Practice in Rural Areas and The Challenges of Providing Mental Health Care in Rural Areas. *National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas, 2019*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Western KY Counseling Association, 2018, *DBT Informed Practice*

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, KY 1685

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- National Association of Social Workers
- American Association of Social Work Boards
- Council on Social Work Education
- The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

- Mental health
- Telehealth
- Rural issues
- Sexual violence
- Child maltreatment