



July 15, 2018

**Annual Report to our Stakeholders and Interested Others  
Summer 2017-Winter 2018 Academic Year**

The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MCMHC) program celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of providing comprehensive education and professional training to clinical mental health counselors at a local and national level. Since our inception, 71 students have graduated from the program. MCMHC alumni continue to do well post-graduation, with a 90% NCMHCE licensure examination pass rate and 91% job placement rate of graduates actively seeking employment for the 2017-18 academic year.

Dr. Amber Pope served as the Program Chair and Clinical Coordinator for practicum and internships, Dr. Ali Wolf as the Online Coordinator for the online format, and Dr. Tom Hofmann as a full-time Professor in the MCMHC program. Dr. Mary Nuosce, Dean of the Nichols School of Professional Studies, continues to teach clinical courses in the program. We have experienced and licensed practitioners teaching classes for MCMHC program in an adjunct capacity, including Dr. Christin Pryor, Dr. Cheryl Kasprzak, Dr. Susan Blake, Dr. Erik Schmitt, and Instructor Elisa Niles.

During the 2017-18 academic year, MCMHC faculty hosted the first two residencies for our online format students. We designed and implemented our first round of residencies. Due to Hurricane Irma, we were provided a modified version for our first meeting in November 2017, with 10 students in physical attendance and 10 other students attending virtually via WebEx. In April 2018, we held our second residency with 40 students in attendance. Sessions were taught by the three core faculty as well as guest speakers. Students had the opportunity to learn and practice counseling skills, engage in role plays individually and in the group atmosphere, and interact in team-building and insight-developing experiential exercises.

Dr. Wolf continues to re-design our blended courses to offer in a fully online format, creating new assignments and synchronous WebEx sessions for students enrolled in the online format. Students achieved target levels on measurements assessing course learning outcomes, suggesting that students are meeting the standards of preparation through the current curriculum. At this point, we have collected data on targeted measures in all of the core courses, so this data can now provide a baseline score to establish trends for future assessment years.

Program faculty remain active in the community. Dr. Pope and Dr. Hofmann joined the Board of Directors for a local non-profit organization, the Center for Progress and Excellence,

Inc. (CPE), which establishes mental health services for vulnerable populations. Along with CPE and Elite DNA Therapy Services, the MCMHC faculty co-hosted the First Annual Community Mental Health Symposium at Hodges in March 2018. Approximately 150 participants attended, from a range of professions including mental health counseling, social work, K-12 education, nursing, and mental health service administration. Further, Dr. Hofmann continues to attend the Children's Network meetings and advise them on service improvement, and assisted the social workers in the LAMP Program with Lee County Schools to measure clinical outcomes for their program. Dr. Wolf continues to provide consultation work to current studies and grant projects, focusing on emergency evaluation, familial engagement in clinical referrals, and school counselor/social workers use of a suicide screening tool, that are occurring at Bradley Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Program faculty are available for speaking on a variety of topics to the community and area agencies. They have presented this year locally on topics such as motivational interviewing, family therapy, solution-focused therapy, and attachment theory at community agencies in Fort Myers and Naples, including Operation PAR, Lutheran Social Services, Children's Advocacy Center, Youth Haven, and the McGregor Clinic.

Students and alumni also remain active in professional development activities. Students are active members of multiple organizations, such as the American Counseling Association, American Psychological Association, the International Board of Holistic Therapy and Counseling, and the International Association of Trauma Professionals. Two alumni hosted poster presentation accepted for the Florida Counseling Association conference in October 2017. Students recently attend professional conferences, including the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association and Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association conferences in Orlando, FL. Moreover, students have engaged in trainings for continued professional development in topics such as Trauma Incident Reduction, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, mental health counseling for youth, and human trafficking. Students and alumni are also active in volunteering in the community, in organizations such as the Habitat for Humanity, Southwest Florida Children's Network, Collier County Youth Prevention Coalition, House for Hope, the Rainbow Pages of SWFL (a resource guide for members of LGBTQ communities), and Valerie's House of SWFL.

Dr. Pope presented on training bi-lingual counselors at the 2017 Association of Counselor Education and Supervision conference. Dr. Hofmann presented on Eriksonian hypnosis and neuro-linguistic programming at the National Association of Social Work conference. MCMHC faculty continued with the Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) data analysis to explore the experiences of bilingual counselors, utilizing data collected from interviews in an IRB-exempt study in 2017.

Dr. Pope co-authored an article published in a peer-reviewed academic journal, *The Journal of Counseling Psychology*. Dr. Pope was interviewed for an article in *Counseling Today* about supporting counselors-in-training who have experienced trauma, based on her presentation at the 2017 American Counseling Association conference.

Student information:

Students who graduated this past year: 14

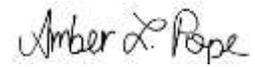
Students who completed the program within 10 semesters: 56%

NCMHCE licensure examination pass rate: 90%

Job placement rate of graduates who were actively seeking employment: 91%

Thank you for your interest in our program and this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber L. Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Amber L. Pope, PhD, LMHC

Program Chair, Clinical Mental Health Counseling