

ALLISON H. LOWE-FOTOS, MSW, LCSW, I-ECMHC

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Infant Mental Health Credential Illinois Association of Infant Mental Health	September 2018
Licensed Clinical Social Worker State of Illinois	August 2011
Loyola University Chicago Masters of Social Work	Dec 2008
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill B.S., Psychology	May 2003

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Manager, Illinois Policy Team

- Start Early Chicago, IL September 2014-present
- Develop and implement advocacy agendas and strategies to expand, enhance, and reform programs and services at the state level for early care and education systems.
 - Collaborate with high-level leaders and staff in state agencies/government and other advocacy partners to pursue program & policy changes affecting children and families prenatal to age five.
 - Lead and/or support various statewide committees related to early care and education, such as the Mental Health Consultation Initiative, the Illinois Early Childhood Court Team, the Statewide Pyramid Model Leadership Team, the Early Learning Council, the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, the Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, and the Women's Justice Task Force.
 - Conduct outreach to targeted groups and individuals to encourage them to participate and support Ounce advocacy agendas.
 - Supervise Policy Analyst, Policy Specialist, and interns.

Associate Director, Teen Parenting Program

- Christopher House Chicago, IL March 2012-Sept 2014
- Administrated a home visiting program for pregnant and parenting teenagers.
 - Supervised a staff of Parent Educators, Groups Services Manager, Doulas, and Van Driver.
 - Managed fiscal reporting, data reporting to funders, and assisted in grant application processes.
 - Conducted outreach and recruiting and made presentations at partnering organizations.

Bilingual Social Worker

- Christopher House Chicago, IL July 2010-March 2012
- Provided mental health consultation to teachers, doulas, and parent educator staff.
 - Conducted mental health observations of classrooms and individual children aged 0-5.
 - Provided individual and group counseling with children, teens, and families.
 - Facilitated and led trainings and workshops for families and staff.

Family Support Specialist

- Carole Robertson Center for Learning Chicago, IL Jan 2009-June 2010
- Managed a caseload of 35 English and Spanish-speaking families with infants and toddlers.
 - Made assessments of families, helped set goals, and promoted positive parenting skills.
 - Conducted observations of children and consulted with parents about developmental screenings.
 - Made referrals for families, completed home visits, and conducted crisis intervention as needed.

Senior Eligibility Specialist

Carole Robertson Center for Learning Chicago, IL Feb 2007-Dec 2008
- Monitored and reviewed eligibility for three sites of 250 families for the Child Care Assistance Program, working with IDHS, FSS, and DCFS to track payments and billing for contracts.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Erikson Institute Chicago, IL Summer 2020, 2021
Masters of Social Work Program
-Taught graduate level courses *Collective Action and Social Justice* and *Social Policy and Advocacy*

Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience Task Force
Council on Social Work Education/Erikson Institute National Feb 2020 – March 2022
- Developed specialized practice curricular guide for I/ECMH for Higher Education Social Work programs.

Emerging Leaders Forum – Cohort II
Christopher House Chicago, IL Feb 2013-Sept 2014
- Designed and presented two-year plan to Leadership Team about infusing Core Values into the agency and assisted in implementation throughout agency.

From the Ground Up: Building Civil Society Organizations to Succeed
Heartland International/US State Department Chicago, IL & Turkey Jan 2010-Sept 2012
- Designed, implemented, and coordinated the Kopru Pen Pal Project, a joint community-based project in Chicago and Turkey.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health (2014-present); Board member (2015-present);
Chair, Advocacy and Policy Committee (2015-present)
Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (2014-present); Advocacy Committee member,
Early Childhood Committee member, Leadership Team
Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition (2014-present); Workforce Development Subcommittee
Young Women's Leadership Council, Chicago Foundation for Women (2008-2014); Steering
Committee Co-Chair (October 2010-June 2012); Grant-making Committee (2011, 2012)
PRAXIS, Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work Journal, Board of Editors (2007-10)

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & SEMINARS

Seizing the Moment: Using Policy to Leverage Funding to Advance I/ECMHC, Presentation:
Center of Excellence I/ECMHC Conference, virtual, March 21, 2022
Defining and Understanding I/ECMH, Presentation: 2021 Evidence Based Practices Virtual
Conference Series, Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health,
virtual, August 24, 2021
Silver, H. C., Zinsser, K. M., Zulauf-McCurdy, C. A., Lowe-Fotos, A., Orr, L., & Estlund, M.
(2021). Transforming early childhood discipline policy through collaborative research
and evaluation. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*. Advance online
publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000279>
*Unrestricted permission to love your child: reaching families experiencing the criminal justice
system beyond incarceration*, Presentation: 17th World Conference of the World
Association for Infant Mental Health, virtual, June 2021
Ending Early Childhood Expulsion in the US: One State's Efforts through Advocacy, Legislation,

and Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC), Presentation: 17th World Conference of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, virtual, June 2021
Working with Justice-Involved Dyads: Lessons and Recommendations from the Field and Research, Presentation: National Home Visiting Summit, virtual, February 25, 2021
Ending Early Childhood Expulsion in Illinois through Collaborative Legislation, Implementation, and Intervention Approaches, Presentations:
 Every Student Succeeds Act Annual Conference, Chicago, IL February 11, 2020
 Society for Community Research in Action, 2019 Biennial, Chicago, IL, June 26, 2019
Expanding Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation in Illinois, Poster Presentation, Zero to Three Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, October 4, 2019
Advancing Racial Equity in Early Childhood Education through Mental Health Consultation, Presentation, Zero to Three Conference, Denver, CO, October 5, 2018
Innovative State Strategies to Advance an Early Childhood Agenda, Panel Intensive Presentation, Zero to Three Conference, San Diego, CA, November 30, 2017
Suspending Early Childhood Expulsion and Suspension, Workshop Presentation:
 Sharing a Vision Conference, Peoria, IL, October 26, 2017
 Infant-Toddler Conference, Des Plaines, IL, March 4, 2017
 ESSA Conference, Chicago, IL, February 14, 2017
 Opening Minds Conference, Chicago, IL, January 26 & 27, 2017
 Education Law & Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago, October 26, 2016
Early Childhood Development: Supporting the Needs of Young Children Involved in the Child Welfare System, Workshop and Panel Presentation, DCFS Child Welfare Transformation Summit, Itasca, IL, October 18, 2016
Innovative Goal Setting with Teen Parents, Workshop Presentation, Parents As Teachers Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 9, 2014
Migracion del Otro Lado, Poster presentation, 5th International Conference on Migration, Guatemala City, Guatemala, November 8-9, 2008
The Other Side of Migration, Poster presentation, National Refugee and Immigrant Conference, Chicago, IL, September 25-26, 2008
Human Trafficking: A Global Problem with Solutions that Begin at Home, PRAXIS: Where Reflection & Practice Meet, Loyola School of Social Work Journal, Fall 2007
 Delegate for *ABA/Proyecto Contra la Trata de Personas Student Conference on Human Trafficking* in Guayaquil, Ecuador, November 2006

SKILLS

- Advanced Spanish and beginning Mandarin language abilities
- Program Development, Systems and Policy, Program Evaluation & Quality Improvement, Reflective Supervision, Mental Health, Research, Public Speaking, Community Outreach, Budgets, Fundraising, Grant Applications