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## **INTRODUCTION**

Over the course of the last two decades, I have been committed to the field of Child Welfare and supporting families where children resist contact with a parent or caregiver, utilizing my skills in understanding and treating the family system. I am a skilled clinician in terms of the assessment of risk, diagnosis and the development of treatment plans for children and their families. As an expert in the field of child and family forensics and adoption issues, I consult to many facing adversities.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **May 1996 to Present Court Investigator – Guardian Ad Litem – Parenting Coordinator-Evaluator Expert *PATRICIA BRADY & ASSOCIATES-MEDFORD, MA***

- Conduct independent interviews with all parties and professionals involved with children and families brought to the attention of the court;
- Observe and assess parent/child contact and provide reunification therapy where necessary
- Review records, mental health reports, psychological assessments;
- Evaluate high conflict family systems where issues of custody, access, and safety are at issue;
- Prepare a comprehensive report on the findings in a timely manner, including a summary and recommendations for the court's consideration;
- Testify as an expert witness in child custody hearings/trials;
- Coordinate parenting plans in high conflict divorce and custody actions;
- Provide written explanations on decisions rendered in a timely manner; and
- Intervene where disputes exist and mediate a resolution driven by the principle "in the best interests of the child/children."

### **JANUARY 2017 TO PRESENT Founder – Program Director *THE CENTER FOR ACHIEVING BALANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES***

- Facilitate healthy relationships for children and families overcoming adversities and building resilience;
- Interface with family members, professionals, and key supports in order to insure effective treatment planning;
- Mediate with parties in a manner designed to assist them in navigating life changes
- Oversee supervised parent program;
- Parent Coaching with families where relationships have been strained

### **July 2007 to September 2017 Forensic Evaluator-Consultant *Massachusetts General Hospital Law and Psychiatry Program – Boston, MA***

- Conduct forensic evaluations in child welfare cases involving issues related to parental fitness, where children have been alleged to be victims of severe abuse and/or neglect or subject to a high conflict custody disputes;
- Interview family members and collaterals in an effort to gather all perspectives
- Examine records from a variety of disciplines;
- Integrate data gathered and psychological testing in formulating a clinical opinion/recommendations and prepare a report bringing together all of the data collected; and
- Appear in court as a witness in child custody proceedings.

**December 2009 to July 2013**

***CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM – BOSTON, MA***

**Senior Mental Health Consultant Supervisor**

- Provided training to early care professionals on mental health for young children using training modules while integrating the Brazelton Touchpoints Approach;
- Promoted resilience in children, families, and providers involved in early care for children;
- Consulted with early care providers, children, and their families where there is crisis using touch point strategies;
- Supervised Mental Health Consultant in Community Based Early Care and Education Programs in the city of Boston

**February 2005 to April, 2010**

***MSPCC – ACT OF LOVE ADOPTIONS and AFT Adoptive Families Together-BOSTON, MA***

**Clinical Director**

- Supervised social work staff related to clinical work in a domestic infant adoption program;
- Developed programs for the purpose expanding clinical adoption services with the goal being to prevent the disruption of the adoption in accordance with the mission of the agency;
- Directed clinical staff in the completion of child adoption assessments, home studies, and post adoption clinical intervention;
- Approved adoption plans to allow for finalization of the adoption for the identified children;
- Oversaw the Program budget in a fiscally responsible manner;
- Ensured compliance with the Office for Child Care Services and Good Case Practice;
- Provided training to staff and prospective adoptive families on clinical issues related to adoption; and
- Advocated for advancement in child welfare programs and mental health services for children.

**September 2005 to April, 2010**

***BOSTON COLLEGE – BOSTON, MA***

**Field Supervisor – Graduate School of Social Work**

- Supervised graduate students in the Second Year MSW Program on a clinical track;
- Developed learning contract ensuring that the internship fulfills requirements of the curriculum of the Boston College School of Social Work;
- Provided current research data in the field of child welfare;
- Integrated and applied theory to the caseloads assigned; and
- Evaluated student's clinical practice and capacity to utilize theory in the work they perform with case load assigned.

**October 1997 to January 2005**

***MSPCC – ACT OF LOVE ADOPTIONS-BOSTON, MA***

**Adoption Consultant**

- Interviewed prospective adoptive parents with regard to their desire and aspirations for adoption and parenting;
- Conducted home studies in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Child Care Services;
- Prepared reports for the courts with regard to the recommendations for the finalization of the adoption after evaluating the attachment relationship and parenting capacity of the pre-adoptive parents;
- Facilitated workshops for professionals and families, including parents and children involved in the adoption experience; and
- Assessed complex family situations where adoption disruption has or could occur.

**May 1996 to January 1998**

***MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – MEDFORD, MA***

**Family Resource Specialist**

- Educated parents of children between the ages of zero to six on developmental issues and effective parenting techniques;
- Consulted in crisis situations to educational professionals servicing children and families;
- Provided training to educators and clinicians on issues related to child development, family systems, child abuse and neglect and intervention strategies.

**May 1996 to January 1999**

***DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – STATEWIDE - Consultant***

- Conducted foster care reviews related to the placement of children in substitute care; and
- Provided training to department personnel related to child development, family systems, trauma, risk assessment and service planning.

**September 1990 to May 1996**

***DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – CAMBRIDGE AREA OFFICE***

**Supervisor/On Call-Supervisor**

- Supervised and provided training and clinical support to ongoing protective service social workers related to their specific caseload;
- Evaluated personnel and administered progressive disciplinary procedures when necessary;
- Facilitated services for cases with HIV related issues, as well as other life threatening illness issues, in the capacity of Area Aids Monitor;
- Influenced the careers of Undergraduate and Graduate Interns as their mentor and supervisor;
- Established/coordinated treatment plans with collaterals and families across the Commonwealth regarding the safety and well-being of children in emergency situations; and
- Problem solved issues on an emergency basis in accordance with department policy and appropriate case work practice.

**April 1986 to August 1990**

***COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE –***

***BOSTON, MA Social Worker***

- Initiated referrals for support services in an effort to improve the quality of life for the children, adults and the family unit;
- Established and implemented service plans for the purpose of strengthening the family;
- Proposed legal action for the purpose of alleviating serious risk to children and for the purpose of providing permanency to children in substitute care;
- Maintained written documentation of all occurrences in relationship to the respective cases assigned; and
- Analyzed the level of risk to children, by conducting a comprehensive risk assessment relative to allegations of physical, emotional and sexual abuse/neglect.

**October 1983 to January 1988**

***MEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE – MEDFORD, MA***

**School Committee Member Re-elect Two Terms – Vice Chairperson/Secretary**

- Directed the operation of the Medford Public Schools;
- Designed academic programs and curriculum in cooperation with the Superintendent, reflective of the ever changing needs of the school community;
- Established policies which promoted improvement in educational standards;
- Implemented formal and interactive tools to evaluate personnel;
- Identified, addressed, and maintained educational constituency; and
- Participated in conferences as a representative of the Committee as a Whole

**April 1985 to April 1986**

**INTERNATIONAL HOMEMAKERS, INC. – BROOKLINE, MA - Service Coordinator**

- Served as a liaison between case managers and family members;
- Evaluated needs and implemented services in accordance with the needs of the clients;
- Supervised 80 homemakers through home visits and a review of reports;
- Maintained written documentation matters related to the family serviced; and
- Educated homemakers on the subjects related to the clients whom they served

**October 1984 to March 1985**

**EMARC– STONEHAM, MA**

**Vocational Adjustment Counselor**

- Assessed client's physical and emotional ability;
- Established goals for clients in the form of their individual Service Plans; and Advocated for clients on appropriate work habits, daily living skills, and attitudes

**EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS IN TRIALS ON ISSUES INCLUDING**

Adoption and Attachment Disorder - Placement and Permanency Planning

Child Welfare and Child Custody Evaluations

Trauma - Sexual Abuse - Risk Assessment –

Family Systems -Parental Alienation - Factitious Disorder By Proxy

**EDUCATION**

**May 1984 LESLEY COLLEGE – CAMBRIDGE, MA**

Bachelor of Science – Human Services – Major Psychology – Minor

**September 1990 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – BOSTON, MA**

Master of Science Human Services – Clinical Services – Major

**William James College - Center of Excellence for Children, Families, and the Law  
Newton, MA**

**April 5, 2014 Certificate in Child and Family Forensics –William James College**

February to March 31, 2013 MSPP – Divorce Custody Evaluation

September to October 5, 2013 MSPP – Child Maltreatment

November to November 16, 2013 MSPP –Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

March 3, 2014 to April 5, 2014 MSPP – Parent Coordination

October 2016 to November 2016 – Intimate Partner Violence

November 2016 to January 13, 2017 – Advanced Parent Coordination Training

**January 9 -12, 2017 MCLE**

Family Law Mediation

**February 2007 THE AMERICAN PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION – SPRINGFIELD, MO**

Board Certified in Professional Counseling – ID#7989

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE**

September 1990 to Present

Marriage and Family Therapist – License # 533

Mental Health Counselor – License # 1399

## **MEMBERSHIPS/HONORS**

January 15, 2021 APSAC Task Force on Munchausen By Proxy

July 22, 2019 Melrose Alliance Against Violence Board Member

AFCC 2017-2018 Past President and Board Member 2010 to Present Massachusetts Chapter

Massachusetts Association for Guardian Ad Litem Board Member 2017 to June 2020

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
American Psychological Association  
Published in Madison's Who's Who

## **ADDITIONAL HUMAN SERVICE TRAINING**

Somerville District Court Intern Probation officer – Adult/Juvenile  
Brigham and Women's Hospital - Intern Neonatal Technician  
Medford School System St. Francis School – Tutor

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING**

- October 1992 MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION  
Court Investigator Training
- November 1997 COMMUNITY PROGRAM INNOVATIONS  
Trauma Reactive Children & Adolescents
- November 1997 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
THERAPY AND ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL &  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Divorce: In Whose Best Interests
- November 1997 MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER NASW  
For Kids' Sake: Building Collaboration Among Child Welfare  
Professionals
- December 1997 COMMUNITY PROGRAM INNOVATIONS  
Loss In the Magic Kingdom: Helping Children & Adolescents Cope  
With Grief & Loss Obsessive Compulsive Disorder-Munchausen  
Syndrome By Proxy: Diagnosis/Treatment
- January 1999 MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTION RESOURCES  
Clinical Issues In Adoption
- April 1999 COMMUNITY PROGRAM INNOVATIONS  
Youth With Conduct Disorders & Oppositional & Defiant Behaviors
- January 2002 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL  
Guardian Ad Litem Practice
- October 2002 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES INC. Domestic Violence in the  
Lives of Children

- November 2002 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM,  
INC THE DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
Miles Apart: The Relocation Dilemma for Divided Families
- July 2003 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES, INC.  
Trauma and Recovery - Attachment Disorders
- April 2003 MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION  
Domestic Relations or Custody/Visitation/Adoption
- November 2003 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND BOSTON  
MEDICAL CENTER CHILD WITNESS TO VIOLENCE PROJECT  
Domestic Violence Training
- May 2004 MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY & THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT, JUDICIAL INSTITUTE  
Issues in Juvenile Forensic Mental Health: A Best Practices Conference for Legal  
and Mental Health Professionals
- Nov. to Dec 2004 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL/THE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL  
PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER FOR STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND  
DIVORCE Understanding the Psychological Aspects of Divorce
- December 2, 2004 MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION  
Guardian Ad Litem Training – Understanding the New Standards
- June 3-4, 2005 THE TRAUMA CENTER AND BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE Psychological Trauma: Attachment, Neuroscience & Body Experience
- June 10, 2005 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM, INC.  
Sexual Abuse Issues in GAL Evaluations for the Family Court
- November 4-5 2005 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM INC.  
Attachment Theory: Implications for Probate and Juvenile Courts
- December 29, 2005 MASSACHUSETTS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS ASSOC.  
Managing Anger
- April 7, 2006 ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS  
Six and Under: The Magic Years With Divorcing and Never Married Parents
- October 11, 2006 MCLE - GAL Training: Part II Advanced
- Nov. 3 & 4, 2006 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM, INC.  
Parental Alienation: What It Is & What To Do About It
- Nov. 9 & 10 2007 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM, INC.  
In The Best Interest of the Child Series: Whose House Is It Anyway?  
Parenting Plans Revisited
- January 2008 APSAC Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

- May 9, 2008 MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM, INC.  
Attachment Issues in Parenting Evaluations for the Probate and Family Court
- March 1, 2, and  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 BRAZELTON TOUCHPOINTS ILT Boston, MA
- October 29 and  
30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 AFCC 9<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations
- March 27 –  
April 1, 2011 BRAZELTON TOUCHPOINTS Community Level Training  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
- May 4, 2012 AFCC <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Annual Conference in Weston, MA: On Truth, Memory, and Distortion in  
Family Law Cases.
- April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 AFCC Behind the Scenes: Mental Health Consultation in Child Custody  
Cases <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Keynote Speaker: Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> to May  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 AFCC National Conference. Los Angeles California  
*Institute – Listening to Children in Divorce – Joan Kelly*  
*Children Resisting Contact with a Parent Post Separation: A 3-Day Intensive In-  
Home Family Intervention*  
*Parent Coordination – Show Down At the PC Coral*  
*Therapeutic Reunification*  
*Systematic Intervention Planning*  
*The Nexus of Psychological Testing and Parenting*
- May 27, 2015 to  
May 30, 2015 AFCC National Conference New Orleans, Louisiana  
Children in the Court System: Different Doors, Different Responses, Different  
Outcomes
- December 1, 2015  
to December 5, 2015 Overcoming Barriers, *Immersion Therapy Training Dallas, Texas*
- June 1-4, 2016 AFCC National Conference. Seattle, Washington  
Modern Families: New Challenges, New Solutions
- November 2-5, 2016 AFCC 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Atlanta, Georgia  
Abuse, Alienation, and Gatekeeping Critical Issues for Family Court  
Professionals
- May 2017 Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony
- September 14, 16, 2017 Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement
- November 2-4, 2017 Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families
- November 2017 to  
December 2017 Overcoming Barriers, *Immersion Therapy Training William James College*

## PRESENTATIONS

- May 27, 2020 Live Zoom – Goldstein & Bilodeau P.C. COVID-19 and Possible Options for Resolution Outside of Court. Panel – Retired Judge Spencer Kagan and Attorney Mary Ferriter – Moderated by Attorney David Bilodeau
- April 6, 2018 Regis College AFCC Annual Conference Many Shades of Grey: The Assessment and Impact of Psychological Abuse in Family Law Cases”
- November 10, 2018 Regis College – MAGAL Annual Conference High Conflict and Parenting: Science, Practice and Implications for GALs and PCs
- March 15-17 2018 Chicago Psychological Practice – Reunification Therapy in the Outpatient Setting
- March, 2017
- February 2018 Becker College – Guest Lecturer of Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling
- December 13, 2013 Boston Bar Association – Holiday Parenting Plans – Panel Member
- May 3, 2013 Brazelton Touchpoints – Annual Forum – Family Connections Touchpoints Blend
- June 4, 2013 MCLE – Guardian Ad Litem – Category E and F Mandatory Training
- June 10, 2013 Norfolk Juvenile Court – CAFL Training The Role of the Expert
- April 25, 2012 Edco – Munchausen By Proxy –Identification, Assessment and Impact in the Public Schools
- April 18 -20, 2012 National Head Start Conference – Nashville, Tennessee  
*Mapping – Building Relationships*  
*Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience in Families and Children*
- March 14-15, 2012 Region X National Head Start Leadership Conference – Seattle Washington  
*Mapping – Building Relationships*  
*Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience in Families and Children*
- October 3-5, 2011 Office of Head Start 1st National Birth to Five Leadership Institute  
Leading the Way for Children, Families and Communities  
Working With Families Facing Adversity and Building Resilience  
Family Wellness
- May 2011 MCLE - GAL Training Interviewing Children – in GAL Investigations and Evaluations
- April 6, 2011 38th Annual Head Start Conference, Kansas City, Missouri -  
Working With Families Facing Adversity and Building Resilience
- February 23, 2011 Early Care and Education Training, Boston, MA  
Successful Mental Health Consultation
- October 28, 2010 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Birth to Three Institute, Washington, D.C.  
“From the Ground Up Successful Infant Mental Health (IMH) Consultation”

- October 2, 2010 New England Foster Care Association Conference  
Talking to Children About Adoption
- June 23, 2009, Handikids – Mandated Reporting – Risk Factors to Consider in the Identification  
of Child Abuse
- March 20, 2009 Chicopee Public Schools – Munchausen By Proxy –Identification, Assessment and  
Impact Schools - Co-presented with: Dr. Catherine Ayoub and Children and the  
Law Massachusetts General Hospital
- February 23, 2009 ACTION – Center for Family Connections International Adoption Conference –  
Talking to Children About Adoption – Developmental Implications
- April 5, 2008 and  
March 28, 2009 Adoption Community of New England - Talking to Children About Adoption  
Across Development
- June 26-28, 2007 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference International Association of Forensic Mental Health  
Services  
Working Together: Interdisciplinary in Forensic Mental Health-Forensic  
Assessment: Exaggeration, Fabrication, Inducement-How Children Are Affected
- June 4, 2007 Medford Public Schools – Early Childhood/K- 2 Educators  
Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect In Massachusetts
- May 26-27, 2005 Bringing Two Worlds Closer Together 6th National Child Welfare  
Symposium Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare – University of Montreal  
The Role of the GAL in Safety Planning
- September 15, 2005 The Role of the Guardian Ad Litem – Panel Presentation  
Middlesex Juvenile Court – Cambridge Session
- June 10, 2006/  
Ongoing Protecting God’s Children – Trainer Archdiocese of Boston
- February 2004 Resolve – Issues to Consider In Adoption  
February 2007 Children’s Hospital Boston at Waltham
- Sept. 22, 2006  
October 20, 2006 Parenting Evaluations Training MSPCC – Worcester

REFERENCES: Available on Request