

Laura Hernandez Gold, LCSW-S  
(512) 466-4107 (cell)  
laurahgold@gmail.com

### **Education:**

Clinical Social Work Supervisor, 2011

Clinical Social Work License, 2005

**Master of Social Work**, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, May 1997

License #30829

**Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Cum Laude**, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, May 1991

### **Work Experience:**

#### **School Suicide Prevention Lead (Social Science/Humanities Research Associate V) (Dec. '24 – Present)**

*The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health*

- Oversees the development of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention training resources for the Texas Center for Student Supports to train regional staff within the K-12 education system as trainers.
- Leads the development of multiple training curricula and resources to enhance the skills and competence of school staff, including school counselors and mental health providers.
- Coordinates and conducts the provision of training activities, such as workshops and webinars, to the identified audience.
- Provides subject matter expertise on youth suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- Contributes to the development of resources for school-based interventions and supports to address student non-academic needs.
- Supports collaboration with project partners and regional staff by establishing and maintaining strong, positive relationships.
- Certified as a Master Trainer for Hope Squad, Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor, AS+K? About Suicide to Save a Life (AS+K?) Instructor, Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Instructor, Safety Planning Intervention (SPI) Instructor, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Talk Saves Lives Instructor and It's Real: Teens and Mental Health for Middle and High School Students Instructor.

#### **Project AWARE & Suicide Prevention Specialist (Program Specialist VI) (Mar. '24 – Dec. '24)**

*Texas Health & Human Services, Office of Mental Health Coordination*

- Collaborated with the following three local community project coordinators at Serving Children and Adults in Need (SCAN), Communities in Schools of San Antonio (CIS-SA), and the Harris County Resources for Children and Adults (HCRCA) to implement their Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE) grant project plan approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and facilitates community collaboration with the local mental health authorities to provide mental health services in schools.
- Proposed strategies for state and local collaboration between the school-based mental health specialists, schools, Education Service Centers (ESCs), and the community mental health agencies to include coordination on referrals, assessment, treatment services, and follow-up that improves local coordination, access, and service delivery outcomes.
- Assisted the State Suicide Prevention Coordinator to plan, develop, and implement suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention services.
- Provided technical assistance to program staff, local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs), governmental agencies, stakeholders, clients, and families, as well as the general public.
- Provided input toward policy development on school mental health and suicide prevention best practices.
- Coordinated with the University of Texas' Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (UT-TIEMH) to provide training and technical assistance for counseling and clinical school staff and ESCs on screening students for suicide, implementing safety planning intervention, and assisting in transitioning students back to school after a mental health crisis or psychiatric hospitalization, to include support or follow-up needs of students referred to the local mental health authorities for assessment and treatment.
- Certified as a Master Trainer for Hope Squad, Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor, AS+K? About Suicide to Save a Life (AS+K?) Instructor, Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Instructor, Safety Planning Intervention (SPI) Instructor, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Talk Saves Lives Instructor.

#### **Suicide Prevention & Project AWARE Co-Coordinator (Program Specialist VI) (Oct. '19 – Mar. '24)**

*Texas Health & Human Services, Office of Mental Health Coordination*

- Collaborated with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) project coordinator to implement the AWARE grant project plan approved by SAMHSA and facilitated community collaboration with the local mental health authorities to provide mental health services in schools.
- Proposed strategies for state and local collaboration between the school-based mental health specialists, schools, ESCs, and the community mental health agencies to include coordination on referrals, assessment, treatment services, and follow-up that improves local coordination, access, and service delivery outcomes.
- Assisted the State Suicide Prevention Coordinator to plan, develop, and implement suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention services.
- Provided technical assistance to program staff, LMHAs, LBHAs, governmental agencies, stakeholders, clients, and families, as well as the general public.
- Provided targeted technical assistance to LMHAs and LBHAs to develop comprehensive prevention, intervention, and postvention services.
- Provided input toward policy development on school mental health and suicide prevention best practices.
- Ensured that the Texas System of Care actively supports AWARE Texas through training in culturally and linguistically appropriate services standards, facilitation of community collaboration with the local mental health authorities and strengthening referral networks.
- Coordinated with UT-TIEMH and TEA on developing protocols for sharing confidential information regarding mental health service outcomes, progress, and support or follow-up needs of students referred to the local mental health authorities for assessment and treatment.
- Certified as a Master Trainer for Hope Squad, Adult and Youth MHFA Instructor, AS+K? Instructor, CALM Instructor, SPI Instructor, and AFSP's Talk Saves Lives Instructor.

### **Suicide Safe Care Coordinator (Program Specialist VI) (Jan. '19 – Oct. '19)**

*Texas Health & Human Services, Office of Mental Health Coordination*

- Provided oversight and supervision of implementation and programming in the state's Suicide Care Initiative.
- Responsible for maintaining the necessary partnerships and activities related to meeting the goals set forth in the state's Suicide Care Initiative.
- Responsible for leading the state's effort to collaborate with local mental health authorities and community stakeholders in the enhancement of LMHA's and LBHA's Hotline service delivery and capacity with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the improvement of LMHA's and LBHA's Suicide Care via the Zero Suicide framework, and the establishment of Regional Suicide Care Support Centers so that continuous improvement can be made to the delivery system.
- Participated in emergency/disaster and/or suicide postvention response activities organized and operated by HHSC and other health and human services agencies.
- Worked with disaster behavioral health to respond to crises/disaster situations.
- Represented Texas HHS when working with local, state, and national organizations to provide input into policy and systems development in the area of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- Certified as a Master Trainer for Hope Squad, Adult and Youth MHFA Instructor, AS+K? Instructor, and CALM Instructor.

### **Prevention Services Program Manager (Mar. '14 – Jan. '19)**

*Integral Care (formerly Austin Travis County Integral Care)*

- Collaborated with high profile city, county, state, and national organizations to provide input into policy and systems development in the areas of disaster planning, MHFA, and suicide prevention.
- Experienced running multiple programs and managing partnerships in MHFA, suicide prevention, and disaster preparedness across the city, county, and state.
- Procured over \$800,000 in federal and state grants to provide funding for MHFA training throughout Travis, Williamson, and Bastrop Counties.
- Managed and oversaw the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) MHFA grant, the SAMHSA "Now is the Time" Project AWARE-Community Grant (NITT-AWARE-C), the SAMHSA Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) Grant for Service Providers & Families of Armed Service Personnel & Veterans, the Allergan Foundation's Community MHFA Grant, and the St. David's Foundation Healthy Minds MHFA Grant.
- Collaborated with numerous nonprofit community stakeholders in the data collection and analysis of death by suicide so as to continuously improve upon the delivery of suicide prevention/assessment, intervention, and postvention.
- Served as co-facilitator for the Austin Central Texas Suicide Prevention Coalition, to provide solutions that support victims of abuse and neglect in order to prevent future deaths by suicide.
- Worked with Integral Care's psychiatric emergency services and mobile crisis outreach teams as well as with city and county law enforcement and first responders.
- Assisted with city and county stakeholders to devise and implement an effective city and county disaster preparedness strategy and behavioral response.

- Certified in Incident Command Systems (ICS) and provide training to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteers on Disaster Psychology.
- Liaison with the City of Austin's Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Team, and the state's Disaster Behavioral Health Services and Health and Human Services teams.
- Certified as a Youth and Adult MHFA Instructor and AS+K? Instructor.

### **Bilingual School to Community Liaison/Social Service Specialist (Aug. '05 – Mar. '14)**

#### *Austin Independent School District*

- Served as an integral member of eleven campuses' multidisciplinary teams to assess and provide needed crisis management services to students and families experiencing trauma, abuse, mental illness and substance use.
- Provided intensive crisis interventions for youth identified at high risk of not graduating due to abuse and neglect.
- Collaborated with Communities in Schools (CIS) to identify high-risk students and provide critically needed services to improve family functioning.
- Connected families to multiple non-profit agencies providing various community services.
- Coordinated with campuses to provide in-school trainings on laws governing child abuse and neglect and suicide prevention gatekeeper training.
- Collaborated with community non-profit agencies for individual and family counseling (ATCIC, ACGC, Lifeworks), developmental and ADHD assessments (People's Community Clinic's GOALS Program, specific pediatricians/pediatric specialists) and wrap-around services (CPC - Community Partner's for Children).
- Served as a member of the AISD Critical Response Team and responded to all district crises specifically related to deaths by suicide.

### **Social Worker (Mar. '04 – Jul. '05)**

#### *Dallas Independent School District*

- Oversaw and managed the Truancy Early Intervention Program for all students in the Dallas school district.
- Facilitated weekly Parent Information Forum on community non-profits providing multiple family services.
- Coordinated truancy process with district's alternative schools.
- Collaborated with Community Truancy and District Attendance Liaisons and parents and provided community referrals to students and their families.
- Developed documentation of compulsory attendance laws and truancy initiatives and provided campus-based training.

### **Clinical Care Manager (Jul. '03 – Feb. '04)**

#### *MHN, Health Net, Inc., Dallas, TX*

- Performed clinical assessments, triage, and appropriate level of care referrals over the telephone.
- Provided crisis intervention for members presenting risk of danger to self and others.
- Authorized outpatient mental health treatment.

### **Dropout Prevention/Attendance Intervention Specialist (Oct. '02 – May '03)**

#### *Austin Independent School District*

- Developed documentation of compulsory attendance laws and truancy initiatives.
- Provided campus-based training and collaborated with attendance clerks, Dropout Specialists, and IMPACT teams.
- Worked on initiatives including AISD's Dropout and High School Completion Task Force, Truancy Reduction Campaign, Truancy Court Pilot Project, Public Relations Campaign, Truancy Sweeps and Attendance Reward Program.
- Collaborated with judges and school administrators to streamline truancy filings.

### **Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Coordinator (Feb. '02 – Sept. '02)**

#### *Austin Independent School District*

- Served as an integral member of a campus multidisciplinary team.
- Identified evidence-based prevention programs focused on youth drug use and violence.
- Initiated development of bully prevention program through Safe Place, and an empowerment girl's group through GENaustin at O. Henry Middle School.

### **Admissions Coordinator (Jan. '00 – Feb. '02)**

#### *Phoenix Academy, Austin, TX*

- Conducted all client admissions into residential, day treatment and intensive outpatient programs.
- Prepared and provided all statistical management reports.
- Performed crisis intervention with newly admitted clients as needed.
- Developed client-information tracking system used to coordinate treatment and bill appropriate agencies.

### **Program Therapist (Mar. '98 – Dec. '99)**

### *Mission Vista Behavioral Health System, San Antonio, TX*

- Provided therapeutic services (group, individual, family) to patients on Adult and Geriatric Psychiatric Unit.
- Maintained patient statistics for outcome studies.
- Provided case management to patients and parent/guardian(s) regarding care, potential placement and patient advocacy.

### **Home Interventionist (Sept. '91 – Aug. '94)**

#### *The Center for Health Care Services, Children's Outpatient & Adolescent's Day Treatment Units, San Antonio, TX*

- Conducted home visits and provided psychoeducational training and support for parents of children with emotional and behavioral issues.
- Worked one-on-one with clinicians in development of individual clinical treatment plans.
- Coordinated access to all social services available to families.
- Designed, developed, and facilitated parent education skills group in unit and out in the community on a contracted basis.
- Functioned as a liaison with child psychiatrists, teachers, and parents.

### **Publications:**

Co-authored article, "How to Spot a Mental Health Crisis," ATPE (Association of Texas Professional Educators) News, Fall 2016, Volume 37, Number 1

Authored article, "Talking to Your Teens About Mental Health and Suicide Prevention," GetParentingTips.com, September 2021

### **Presentations:**

Co-presented "Mental Health First Aid" webinar for CSWE (Council on Social Work Education), Learning Academy Homelessness in Social Work Education Program, November 2016

Presented 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference, 2017, "Assessing For and Preventing Suicide"

Presented 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Conference, 2017, "Assessing For and Preventing Suicide – What You Need to Know to Save a Life"

Co-presented Texas Partners in Prevention Conference, 2020, "Suicide Prevention"

Co-presented All Texas Access Conference, 2020, "School Mental Health: Helping Students Access the Right Services at the Right Time"

Co-presented Texas Emergency Management Conference, 2022, "Suicide Safe Care: Understanding Suicide's Impact and How to Help"

Co-presented Texas School Safety Conference, 2022, "Texas Advancing Suicide Safer Schools Roadmap: Comprehensive Suicide Care"

Co-presented The Institute Conference, 2022, "Suicide Care in Texas"

Co-presented The Texas Primary Care Consortium Summit, 2022, "Screening Children and Youth for Suicide: A Collaborative Imperative"

Co-presented Texas Partners in Prevention Conference, 2022, "Screening Children and Youth for Suicide: A Collaborative Imperative"

Presented 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference, 2023, "Suicide Care in Schools"

Co-presented 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional School Counselor Conference, 2023, "Suicide Care in Texas"

Co-presented 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Adolescent Symposium of Texas, 2023, "Screening Children and Youth for Suicide: A Collaborative Imperative"

Co-presented Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium 2023, "Safety Planning for Schools," and "Responding to Mental Health Crises in Rural Districts: Prevention, Preparedness, and Protocol"

Co-presented Texas School Safety Conference, 2023, "A Collaborative Approach to Suicide Screening and Safety Planning with Youth"

### **Awards:**

Texas Health and Human Service Commission, Intellectual and Developmental Disability Behavioral Health Services 2020 Rising Star Award

Completed the Spring 2021 HACE (Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement) Women's Leadership Program

### **Certifications/Trainings:**

Hope Squad Master Trainer

Youth and Adult MHFA Instructor

AS+K? Instructor

CALM Instructor  
SPI Instructor  
Suicide Prevention in Schools Workshop  
Talk Saves Lives  
It's Real: Teens and Mental Health  
More Than Sad

**Volunteer Activities:**

Board President, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Central Texas Chapter, 2020-2024  
Ethics Committee Chair, National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Texas Chapter, 2021-present  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Member, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas Chapter, 2021-2023

**Language and Office Skills:**

Proficient in Spanish  
Well-versed in all Microsoft Office and Google Forms applications and Outlook and Teams platforms