

ALICIA ZIEMIAK-OVERGAARD, M.S.W., R.S.W.

IRC Manager, AXIS Family Mediation Inc.

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

Master of Social Work • September 2013 – April 2016

- The Master of Social Work for Working Professionals via The University of Windsor's Centre for Executive and Professional Education is based on the principles of the ecological perspective in social work practice.
- The primary objective of the MSW program is to promote the development of skills and knowledge in the provision of social work practice with vulnerable populations.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts(Hons.)English & Women's Studies • September 2003 – April 2007

- Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that critically examines women's lives by placing women's experiences at the centre in order to expose, critique, and change systems which subordinate women in all areas of life; family, work, sexuality, spirituality, etc.
- Women's Studies uses an anti-oppressive framework in an attempt to transform discriminatory laws, practices and customs by studying women in a multiplicity of settings and divergences of races, classes, sexual orientations, and abilities.

WORK EXPERIENCE

AXIS FAMILY MEDIATION INC.

(on contract with the Ministry of the Attorney General to provide information, referral, & family mediation services at the Family Courts in Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph, Brantford, Simcoe, & Cayuga)

IRC Manager • April 2008 – Present

- Provide clients with information on issues related to separation, divorce and child protection matters including alternative dispute resolution options and community resources.
- Help clients to determine their needs and make referrals to parent information sessions and community programs and services, where appropriate.
- Maintain a current list of publications and audio-visual materials in the Family Law Information Centre (FLIC) at the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court in Hamilton.
- Promote awareness of the FLIC and its services to community agencies and organizations through presentations, tradeshow, and resource fairs.

- Obtain and maintain information about local services through outreach and liaison with community agencies and organizations.
- Promote the use of on and off-site family mediation for cases that appear to be appropriate.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of resources, programs and services that are available in the community to assist clients in the process of separation and divorce.
- Interview, hire, and oversee other Information & Referral Coordinators performing the above roles at each of our service locations.
- Interview, hire, and oversee volunteers, practicum students, cooperative education students, and interns from high school to post-degree levels.
- Perform administrative duties including office administration, data collection and input, statistical collection (tallying and totaling for the purposes of submission to the Ministry of the Attorney General), respond to new client inquiries and oversee referral management.
- Facilitate monthly staff meetings, create agendas, and take minutes.

GOODLIFE FITNESS

Group Exercise Fitness Instructor • February 2012 – Present

- *Les Mills* certified – *BODYCOMBAT™* (fitness cardio workout inspired by mixed martial arts, drawing from Karate, Boxing, Taekwondo, Tai Chi and Muay Thai).
- *Canadian Fitness Professionals* certified – *Fitness Instructor Specialist* (qualified to lead groups in various formats of cardiovascular conditioning, muscle strength, endurance training, stretching, relaxation, and cool-down).
- CPR certified – Level C.
- Promote health and wellness by example.

KATHLEEN BAKER, BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

Legal Assistant • June 2004 – March 2008

- Legal assistant for a busy family law practice specializing in separation, divorce, and child protection matters.
- Certified Commissioner for Taking Affidavits.
- Perform multifaceted general office support including sending and receiving mail, faxes and email, photocopying and collating documents, and managing client files.
- Draft and file Family Court documents.
- Respond to new client inquiries and schedule appointments.
- Prepare correspondence (using word processing).
- Research and identify community resources for clients.
- Liaise with community agencies, organizations, and family law lawyers (e.g. Supervised Access Centres, court staff, Legal Aid, and Duty Counsel).

McMASTER UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant for Women's Studies 1AA3 • January 2007 – April 2007

- Prepare lesson plans and hold office hours.
 - Oversee tutorials and facilitate discussions of term material.
 - Engage with students to promote critical thinking skills.
 - Mark essays, presentations, and assignments.
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COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP/SERVICES

MANDATORY INFORMATION PROGRAMS (MIPs)

Implementation Committee Member/Facilitator/Presenter • April 2011 – Present

- Member of the Implementation Committee that organized and implemented the Ministry of the Attorney General's Mandatory Information Program at the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court in Hamilton.
- Facilitate MIPs on a weekly basis which includes set up and take down, admitting participants, moderating and answering questions, certifying certificates of completion, monitoring PowerPoint slides, and rescheduling dates.
- Co-present the MIP on topics including the impact of separation and divorce on adults and children, children's needs at various stages of development, benefits of creating a parenting plan, alternative dispute resolution options, and impact of complicating factors including domestic violence on families.

MOTION TO CHANGE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Co-facilitator • November 2010 – Present

- Promote awareness of the FLIC and its services to those considering bringing a Motion to Change a final Family Court order.
- Provide information about and promote the use of family mediation as an alternative dispute resolution option.
- Facilitated with the Supervisory Duty Counsel including set up and clean up, moderating and answering questions, and certifying certificates of completion.

FAMILY COURT COMMUNITY RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Resource Fair Subcommittee Member • September 2008 – Present

- Plan, organize, set up, and clean up the resource fair (which includes approximately 30 social service agencies).
- Create and distribute invitations and organize and manage RSVPs.
- Order refreshments and snacks.

Secretary • September 2008 – December 2015

- Meet quarterly to discuss best practices and identify areas to develop links between the Family Court and social service agencies in the community.
- Prepare/circulate agendas for quarterly meetings; record/prepare/circulate minutes

HAMILTON HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Training & Education Resource Working Group Member • 2012

- A community group of lawyers and social workers working towards compiling a list of available resources and services in the community with the intention of accessible distribution for those involved in the Family Court.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE OF HAMILTON & AREA (SACHA)

Take Back the Night Committee/Lead Marshal • September 2006 – Present

- Help organize the annual march to raise awareness of violence against women.
- Train new volunteer marshals about the history, logistics and safety precautions of the event.
- Lead volunteer marshals to ensure a safe march for participants.

Crisis/Support Line Volunteer Trainer • September 2008 – September 2012

- Co-facilitate training of new volunteers who are learning how to provide crisis support, information, and referrals to callers who are survivors of sexual abuse including simulation calls (minimum of 3 hours/week).

Crisis/Support Line Volunteer • September 2006 – September 2012

- Provide crisis support, information and referrals to callers who are survivors of sexual abuse (minimum of 8 hours/week).

McMASTER WOMEN'S STUDIES SOCIETY

Executive Member • September 2005 – June 2007

- Organize community events at McMaster University to raise awareness of societal issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, and the intersection of same.
- Promote the importance and benefits of a degree in Women's Studies in an attempt to recruit students into the program.
- Liaise with similar clubs/organizations regarding the above listed societal issues.

ANTI-VIOLENCE NETWORK (McMASTER UNIVERSITY)

Student Member • September 2005 – April 2007

- Panel member for "Living with Diversity" discussion.
- Member of the organizing committee for and participant of the annual December 6th Commemorative Ceremony for the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

PUBLICATIONS

EMANCIPATE YOURSELF! ZINE • March 2004

Co-creator/Co-Editor/Co-Publisher

- A women's zine focusing on the experiences and political expressions of women-identified authors and artists in our community.

AWARDS

MAX ROTMAN HUMANITARIAN AWARD • 2001

Recipient

- Awarded to young people who volunteer their time and service for the benefit of others, maintain dedication to serve the needs of others, and who show potential leadership within their community in the future.