

Kathleen M. Flinton, MAR, MSW, LICSW

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Seasoned clinical practitioner with expertise in the treatment of trauma within a social justice framework. Specializations in immigrant and refugee mental health, survivors of torture, trafficking, war and complex trauma. Skilled in the areas of clinical supervision, instruction, training, and curriculum development.

Professional Experience

Private Practice

07/2018 - present

Boston, MA

Private practice providing therapy to survivors of torture and trafficking.
Clinical supervision and consultation to practitioners in trauma treatment and refugee practice.
Consultation to program, agencies and organizations in trauma responsive service delivery and education.
Forensic psychological documentation consistent with Istanbul Protocol.
Expert witness for Federal Immigration Court.

Boston University School of Social Work

Boston, MA

Lecturer

01/2013- present

Instruction in graduate level MSW program, advising to students and application review for admissions

Courses Taught

Clinical Practice with Adult Trauma

Introduction to trauma theory and practice, modalities: CPT, STAIR/NST, Narrative Therapy

Child and Adolescent Trauma

Introduction to trauma theory and practice in developmental framework, modalities: CPP, ARC, TST, TF-CBT

Foundations in Trauma Program, Policy and Practice

Macro level trauma course focusing on structural violence and oppression, gun violence, race-based trauma, community violence, gender based violence, LGBTQIA+ trauma, decolonization.

Practice with Immigrants and Refugees

Re-developed syllabus, overview of refugee and immigrant practice from clinical to macro with special focus on development of culturally responsive practitioners and addressing client safety in current political environment.

Course Developer and Instructor

Advanced Trauma Seminar

Advanced trauma theory including polyvagal theory and structural dissociation, modalities: Narrative Therapy, IRT/Nightmare Rescripting, EMDR, SP, ITCT-A, SMART, CBT, Prolonged Exposure, NET

Director, Postgraduate Trauma Certificate Program

09/2014 – 09/2019

Course developer and Instructor for professional education certificate for current practitioners to develop expertise in trauma treatment with focus on skills development to meet the needs of trauma survivors presenting in community based settings. Includes advanced trauma theory, diagnostics, assessment and intervention with special attention to structural violence and oppression and incorporation of social justice into trauma work. Modalities: CBT, CPT, STAIR/NST, Narrative Therapy, CPP, ARC, TST, TF-CBT, IRT/Nightmare Rescripting, EMDR, SP, ITCT-A, SMART, CBT, Prolonged Exposure, NET, Seeking Safety, DBT, and Community Resilience Model.

Co-Director, Trauma Certificate Program/Trauma and Violence Specialization

09/2014-08/2019

Design curriculum and facilitate advanced integrative seminar for graduate students earning certificate in specialized knowledge in trauma practice within social justice framework. Recruitment and mentoring of adjunct faculty.

Course Developer and Instructor of Record, OnLine MSW Program

09/2014 - present

Design and develop curriculum for adult trauma course for online Master of Social Work program. Supervise section instructors in online teaching and serve as Instructor of Record.

Macy Foundation Grant for Interprofessional Education in Refugee Care

Boston University School of Medicine

Faculty

09/2017- present

Member of teaching Faculty for interprofessional course teaching integrated care of refugee patients.
Designed curriculum for interprofessional course for medical, social work and public health students.
Teaching to medical students in refugee clinic rotation in General Internal Medicine at safety-net teaching hospital.
Lead for production of academic products including manuscripts for peer reviewed publication and publication of curriculum for dissemination in medical education portals.

Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights

Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

Senior Consulting Clinician and Clinical Supervisor

07/2018 – 07/2019

Provided clinical supervision to mental health providers, staff and interns
Provided programmatic consultation on trauma informed practices, clinical systems development and best care practices.

Associate Clinical Director

01/2016 – 06/2018

Provided clinical supervision to team of mental health providers and interns.
Served as Lead on quality assurance for clinical service delivery including treatment modalities and documentation.
Developed systems for case load management and assessment of risk for even distribution across clinician case loads.
Supervised forensic practice for clinical team producing psychological documentation consistent with Istanbul Protocol.
Ensured clinical practices were consistent with current standard of practice.
Provided education to clinical staff on emerging practice in the field of trauma treatment.
Ensured trauma informed and trauma responsive perspective maintained throughout all program areas.
Served on program leadership team.

Clinical Social Worker

03/2013-06/2018

Provided therapy and counseling, psychiatric evaluations for survivors of torture, war trauma, human rights abuses, and trafficking.
Developed and maintained relationships with community resources to ensure access to services.
Served as a liaison between the resettlement agencies, BCRHHR, clinical departments at BMC, and legal community.
Provided crisis intervention, intake assessments, and evaluation of walk-in clients.
Wrote psychological affidavits for individuals seeking asylum consistent with Istanbul Protocol.

Colleges of the Fenway Clinical Training Consortium, Boston, MA

Guest Lecturer

2011 - 2013

Invited guest lecturer for graduate level mental health trainees on trauma treatment, assessment and diagnosis

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, Cambridge, MA

2007-2009

Volunteer Clinician

Provided direct clinical services including psychotherapy and psychological evaluation to survivors of war and trauma, and those seeking political asylum

International Institute of Boston, Boston, MA

Interim Clinical Director

12/2006- 4/2007

Provided administrative and programmatic oversight to social service program serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, torture and other human rights abuses.
Oversaw caseloads for all staff to ensure quality and consistency of service delivery.
Provided clinical supervision to clinical and case management staff, and graduate interns.
Maintained relationships with funders and community partners.
Responsible for service delivery reporting.

Clinical Social Worker**02/2006-04/2007**

Provided psychotherapy and integrated case management to survivors of war, trauma and human rights abuses with a focus on trauma recovery.

Provided leadership for all domestic violence related services within larger agency.

Conducted psychological evaluations for asylum and other immigration related matters consistent with Istanbul Protocol.

Provided consultation to staff and outside providers on trauma and immigrant and refugee mental health practice.

Developed linkages with a variety of service providers and community agencies.

Conducted community outreach and education.

Completed program reports to funding sources.

Served on Immigrant and Refugee Committee of the Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA***Clinical Social Worker*****2003-2006*****Emergency Department***

Provided clinical psychosocial assessment, crisis intervention, counseling and behavior management to culturally diverse patient population and their families across a broad spectrum of issues including trauma, domestic violence, sexual assault, addictions and end of life.

Assisted patients and families in adjustment to, and navigation of complex system of acute care setting and in accessing community resources and support services.

Consulted to staff around family coping, support and communication.

Provided support to department staff around secondary trauma, coping and self care.

Provided consultation within social work department on clinical issues surrounding trauma and mandated reporting.

Trained new social work staff for weekend on call coverage.

Provided clinical supervision and case consultation to on call social work clinicians.

Supervised graduate level social work interns.

Member of Emergency Department Trauma Code team and Quality Assurance Committee.

Clinical Social Worker**2003-2005*****Trauma Intensive Care Unit***

Provided clinical psychosocial assessment, short-term therapy, crisis intervention and psychosocial support to families of patients in intensive care unit following trauma.

Consulted to staff around family coping, support and communication.

Collaborated with multiple consult services including palliative care, psychiatry, legal and ethics support services.

Coordinated interdisciplinary team meetings for care of Spinal Cord Injured patients on trauma service.

Participated in Trauma Care Committee for Level I Trauma Center certification.

Provided statistical analysis of social work response to trauma service.

Clinical Social Work Intern**2002-2003*****Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery***

Provided long and short-term individual psychotherapy to trauma survivors.

Co-facilitated psychotherapy group for rape survivors.

Consulted to social work, medical, nursing, and psychiatric staff around care of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Provided on call coverage for domestic violence and rape crisis intervention programs.

Advocated for trauma survivors in areas of housing and legal assistance.

Trained medical center staff and community agencies around medical care of trauma survivors.

Collaborated with community and government agencies around greater access to government victim's compensation funds for sexual assault survivors.

The Home for Little Wanderers**Family Preservation Team, Roslindale, MA****2001-2002*****Clinical Social Work Intern***

Provided home-based, intensive family therapy focused on re-entry of a psychiatrically hospitalized child.

Worked with culturally diverse, low-income individuals and families with histories of trauma.

Advocated for families with involved government agencies and local communities.
 Organized collateral systems, working closely with other agencies to ensure collaboration of services.
 Developed outreach materials including needs assessment for community outreach project.

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Cambridge, MA

Public Education Volunteer

2000-2002

Provided training on topics of rape, sexual assault, trauma response and vicarious trauma to a broad array of audiences including area social service agencies.

Developed curriculum for faith leaders on response to and support of sexual assault survivors.

International Institute of Boston, Boston, MA

Social Service Volunteer

2000-2001

Provided counseling, needs assessment and outreach around domestic violence in the Russian and Bosnian communities in the Boston area; assisted with monthly project reporting to funding sources

Education

Simmons College, School of Social Work, MSW

2003

Certificate in Urban Leadership

Yale University, The Divinity School, MAR

1998

Concentration in feminist studies

Vassar College, BA

1994

Major in Religion

Professional Appointments, Certifications and Affiliations

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, State of Massachusetts, 113292

Peer reviewer, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2015 - present

Member, National Association of Social Workers

Member, Society of Refugee Health Providers

Member, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Certificate in Sensorimotor Psychotherapy for the Treatment of Trauma, Level 1 (2013) Level 2 (2016)

Field Instructor Boston College School of Social Work 2013-2014, 2014-2015

Field Instructor, Boston University School of Social Work 2006-2007, 2014-2019

Field Instructor, Simmons College School of Social Work 2004-2006, 2013-2014

Certificate in Maternal Mental Health, Jewish Family & Children's Services, 2012

Certificate in EMDR Therapy, Boston University, June 2008

Certificate in Advanced Clinical Supervision, NE Consortium of Social Work Schools, 2006

Awards & Recognitions

Award for Exceptional Care Without Exception, Outstanding Employee, Peer Nominated, Boston Medical Center 2019

Qualified Expert Witness on Trauma, Federal Immigration Court, Boston, MA

Publications

Piwowarczyk, L., Rous, D., Mancuso, A., **Flinton, K.**, Hastings, E., & Forbush, L. (2015) *Impact of the Boston Marathon Bombing & Its Aftermath on Refugee and Survivors of Torture*. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health.

Piwowarczyk, L., **Flinton K.**, & Ona, F. (2019) *Refugee Resilience and Spirituality: Harnessing Social and Cultural Coping Strategies* in Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Interdisciplinary and Comparative Perspectives. Berthold and Libal (eds). Santa Barbara: Praeger.

Conferences & Presentations

Department of Homeland Security Asylum Office, Boston, MA, March 2019 (scheduled)

Interviewing Traumatized Individuals; Asylum Officer training

Massachusetts General Hospital Social Work Grand Rounds, Boston, MA, January 2019 (scheduled)

Collaboration Between Law and Social Work in Supporting Immigrant Patients

Boston University School of Law, Immigration Legal Clinic, Boston , MA, November 2019 (scheduled)
Understanding Trauma in our Clients and Ourselves

Boston University Office of the Provost Annual Assessment Symposium, March 2019
Trauma Informed Social Work: Learning and Student Competencies

Boston University School of Law, Immigration Legal Clinic, Boston , MA, October 2018
Understanding Trauma in our Clients and Ourselves

Harvard Medical School Asylum Conference, Boston, MA, October 2018
Present Challenges in Forensic Documentation for Asylum Cases: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Massachusetts General Hospital Social Work Grand Rounds, Boston, MA, June 2018
Managing Cultural and Linguistic Differences in Brief Interventions.

Department of Homeland Security Asylum Office, Boston, MA, March 2018
Identifying and Managing Vicarious Trauma; Asylum Officer Training

Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, Boston, MA, March 2018
Identifying and Managing Vicarious Trauma

CISWH Immigration Panel, Boston University School of Social Work, Boston , MA, December 2017
Integrating Public Health and Social Work Approaches in Working with Immigrants and Refugees

Department of Homeland Security Asylum Office, Boston, MA, March 2018
Interviewing Traumatized Individuals; Asylum Officer training

Boston Medical Center OB/GYN Department, Boston MA, March 2017
Global Health Refugee Talk: Identifying Survivors of Torture

Tufts Medical Center Social Work Department, Boston MA, January 2016
Caring for Immigrant and Refugee Survivors of Trauma

Action for Boston Community Development, Boston MA, May 2016
Panel on Supporting Immigrant Communities

International Conference on Online Learning, Orlando FL, October 2015
Teaching Trauma Online; Balancing Student Safety and Academic Rigor

Poverty Simulation, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, March 2015
Poverty among Refugees and Asylum Seekers

International Society for Traumatic Stress Study
Impact of the Boston Marathon Bombing & Its Aftermath on Refugee and Survivors of Torture,
 Poster Presentation, Miami, FL, November 2014

Amnesty International NE Regional Conference, Boston University, October 2014
Bring Human Rights Home; Holistic Care for Survivors of Torture

Holistic Caring for Refugees and Torture Survivors Conference, Boston Medical Center, September 2013
Vicarious Traumatization; Working Protectively to Care for Ourselves

Trauma Nursing Conference, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Boston, MA April 2005
The Role of Social Work in Caring for Trauma Patients and Families

Palliative Care Conference, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Boston, MA March 2004
The Tidal Wave Called Grief; Helping Patients and Families Cope with Grief and Sudden Loss