RoseMarie Pontoriero

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Externship Policy Research • Program Evaluation • Systems Advocacy

Professional Summary

Rutgers Clinical MSW candidate (4.0 GPA) and comprehensive social worker with 13 years of experience implementing public assistance policy, assessing systemic barriers, documenting service outcomes, and advocating for low-income individuals and families. Experienced in trauma-informed practice, public-sector regulations, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement. Seeking to apply frontline systems knowledge, graduate research training, and an equity-centered approach to juvenile justice policy analysis with the Center for Improving Youth Justice.

Relevant Policy & Analytical Skills

Policy and regulatory analysis • Social work research methods • Program evaluation • Data-informed assessment • Juvenile justice policy interest • Equity and disparities analysis • Public benefits and safety-net systems • Stakeholder engagement • Community-based advocacy • Trauma-informed practice • Case documentation and reporting • Cross-agency collaboration

Professional Experience

Comprehensive Social Worker: Union County Division of Social Services, Elizabeth, NJ

July 2013 - Present

- Interpret and apply New Jersey Work First NJ and Emergency Assistance policy and eligibility regulations to complex family and individual cases; identify implementation barriers and service gaps.
- Conduct comprehensive social assessments and individualized service planning for households experiencing homelessness, poverty, employment barriers, and behavioral health concerns.
- Document case histories, interventions, outcomes, and compliance in electronic records; communicate findings through clear, accurate reports and professional recommendations.
- Coordinate with government agencies, housing providers, nonprofit organizations, and multidisciplinary partners to connect families with services and advocate for client rights.
- Provide trauma-informed crisis intervention and culturally responsive support, including referrals related to mental health, substance use, education, employment, and family stability.

K - 8 Art Teacher: Saint Michael's School, Cranford, NJ

July 2012 - July 2013

- Developed and delivered age-appropriate instruction, adapted approaches to varied learning needs, and supported student participation and development.

Education & Research Preparation

Rutgers University, School of Social Work: Master of Social Work, Clinical Concentration

Expected Completion: Spring 2027

LISTA Certificate candidate: GPA: 4.0

Relevant graduate coursework: Methods of Social Work Research; Evaluation of Social Work Practice & Programs; Social Welfare Policy & Services; Diversity & Oppression; Practice with Communities & Organizations; Social Work with Immigrants & Refugees;

Social Work with Latinos; Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis; Behavioral Health with Latinos.

Kean University: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Minor in Developmental Psychology (2002); Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Elementary Education K - 8 (2005)

Union County College: Print Media Certification (2003)

Leadership, Advocacy & Community Engagement

- CWA Local 1080 Civil Rights & Equity Committee Chair and Women's Committee Chair; support workplace equity, labor advocacy, and community concerns.
- Lambda Tau Omega National Sorority, Inc. National Community Engagement Director; chapter Secretary; support community service initiatives and outreach.
- Rutgers School of Social Work Graduate Student Association Former Blended Program Representative and executive board member; represented student concerns.
- National Association of Social Workers and Latino Mental Health Association of New Jersey Member; Union County food-distribution initiatives Volunteer.

Tools & Communication

Microsoft Office Suite • Adobe Creative Suite • Electronic case management systems • Regulatory documentation • Written reports and narrative assessments • Public-facing communication • Community education