Katie Benson, MSW, LISW		Saint Paul, MN 55101 320.309.3102 katie.benson@mnmitigationservices.com	
PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY	MSW graduate with a concentration in mental health and a specialization in management. Experience with program management, clinical mental health, case management, research, grant writing and community organizing.		
EDUCATION	George Warren Brown Scho	SHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS orge Warren Brown School of Social Work - St. Louis, MO – Masters of Social Work – May 2015	
	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN Madison, WI – Bachelor of A	Arts in Social Welfare – May 2013	
CURRENT POSITION	<b>OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b> (FEBRUARY 2017-PRESENT) Prepared pre-trial case plans and sentencing mitigation reports for indigent criminal defendants – consulted with defense teams regarding competency – coordinated with forensic experts to arrange for evaluations related to general mental health, competency, juvenile certification, psychosexual risk assessments – provided written and oral advocacy in court regarding issues of conditional release, sentencing disposition, juvenile certification, and competency concerns – served as the dispositional advisor team lead responsible for assigning cases, tracking outcome data, generating annual reports, hiring and training new staff, and developing curriculum for undergraduate and graduate level interns – represented our agency in communications with justice partners including juvenile and adult probation, court administration, and community providers – provided leadership on initiatives including the Ramsey County Warrant Resolution Day 2019 and the Pretrial Release Services Oversight Committee – developed of contracts with community mental health and chemical dependency practitioners to provide services for our clients while they are incarcerated – created and facilitated comprehensive training for attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and dispositional advisors surrounding mental health treatment, sentencing mitigation, competency, and civil commitment- authored grant for new social services position in office		

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CLINICAL AND SOCIAL WORKER, STEARNS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES (JULY 2015-FEBRUARY 2017)

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CASE Managed a large case load of court-involved child protection cases including establishing out-of-home MANAGEMENT placements for children who have experienced abuse and neglect, arranging for all aspects of care and **EXPERIENCE** well-being of children in out-of-home care, and working with parents toward reunification with their children - Emphasis in cases involving clients with severe and persistent mental illness and chemical use

PRACTICUM STUDENT, ST. LOUIS PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION CENTER (JANUARY 2014-JULY 2014)

Worked with an interdisciplinary team in the Transitional Rehabilitation Program (TRP) to prepare forensic clients to re-enter the community – Conducted a weekly Illness Management Recovery and Goal Setting group with clients with severe and persistent mental illness and criminal histories - Conducted weekly individual counseling sessions – Assisted with discharge planning for clients – Created a database and training manual for employees of SLPRC regarding discharge options

## **INTERN, OFF THE SQUARE CLUB** (SEPTEMBER 2011-MAY 2013)

Developed a database of resources in Dane County of interest to members - Conducted interviews with members to assess service eligibility - Assisted members in completing applications for services and benefits – Completed intake process for new members – Facilitated various activities including a weekly group to discuss challenges related to housing insecurity and homelessness

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS (JUNE 2013-AUGUST 2013) RESEARCH

Established a database of exiting faculty, centers, initiatives, sources of data, and other resources within Washington University that could support data-driven efforts to improve educational outcomes though health interventions - Developed quantitative assessments that allowed schools to report and evaluate their current health data collection systems and procedures - Participated in partnership meetings to

develop strategies to develop models of health and education and to align university resources with the strengths and needs of other partners SUMMER INTERN, HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER (JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011) COMMUNITY ORGANIZING Coordinated activities related to various community programs, events, and projects - Facilitated regular EXPERIENCE gatherings of the Women's Health Group, Community Garden, Bike Library, and Business Entrepreneur Program – Created a welcoming and friendly environment for community members – Kept participants informed and connected, largely through the development and administration of a community newsletter and events calendar – Contributed to Hope's ongoing organizational learning and evaluation process – Conducted research on specific issues and opportunities related to program goals GRANT WRITING **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, MISSOURI INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH** (APRIL 2015-MAY 2015) EXPERIENCE Contracted to complete the Project AWARE Community Grant from SAMSHA on behalf of Mental Health First Aid – Developed a collaborative network of grant partners – Completed a Needs Assessment to determine the most appropriate catchment area for the proposed services – Delineated a proposed approach, training plan, budget, and data collection method – Successfully awarded the full grant request of \$125,000 to train new Mental Health First Aiders in the greater St. Louis area PRACTICUM STUDENT, MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID OF MISSOURI (AUGUST 2014-MAY 2015) PROGRAM Conducted a process evaluation of non-compliant instructors to determine issues with fulfilling program MANAGEMENT requirements - Created and maintained a social media campaign to increase interaction with potential EXPERIENCE program participants – Provided mentoring and monitoring for instructors throughout the state to ensure fidelity to the evidence-based curriculum - Coordinated with the Department of Mental Health and the Missouri Governor's Office to establish and promote Mental Health First Aid Awareness Day – Completed grant research and writing to obtain funding for new programming – Analyzed evidence-based research to prepare webinars for instructors TEACHING **MITIGATION SPECIALIST: NOT JUST FOR SENTENCING (MAY 2, 2018)** EXPERIENCE MoreLaw Minneapolis and Millios Law WARRIOR WELLNESS: TRAUMA, BURNOUT, AND SELF CARE (JULY 13, 2018) Office of the Public Defender, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District SENTENCING ADVOCACY (MARCH 5-8, 2019) MN Board of Public Defense EVALUATION OF COMPETENCE, CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND CIVIL COMMITMENT: BASES FOR **REFERRALS AND OPINIONS (MARCH 22, 2019)** Regional Psychological Services & Office of the Public Defender, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District LICENSURE AND MN BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK (LICENSE NUMBER 24353) PROFESSIONAL Licensed Graduate Social Worker since 2015, Licensed Independent Social Worker since 2018 NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENTENCING ADVOCATES AND MITIGATION SPECIALISTS MEMBERSHIPS Member since 2017 ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS Professional Membership since 2019 CONTINUING 0 CROSSOVER YOUTH TRAINING (SEPTEMBER 17, 2015) - Stearns County Human Services and **EDUCATION Community Corrections** • THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN: BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS (SEPTEMBER 18, 2015) - Central MN Inside Out Connections CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION TRAINING (NOVEMBER 2015) – MN Department of Human Services SIGNS OF SAFETY (NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2015) – MN Department of Human Services SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS AND SELF-CARE (OCTOBER 17, 2016) – Stearns Benton CP Team FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AND ADDICTION TREATMENT (APRIL 25, 2016) – MN Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome SENTENCING ADVOCACY Brainerd, MN (MARCH 8-10, 2017) – MN Board of Public Defense

- NLADA/NASAMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE BALTIMORE, MD (JUNE 7-9, 2017) National Legal Aide and Defender's Association
- ETHICS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS (FEBURARY 28, 2017) The Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office
- SENTENCING ADVOCACY (APRIL 25-26, 2017) MN Board of Public Defense
- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: IMPLICATIONS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS (MAY 19, 2017) – The American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies
- o **OVERVIEW OF DOC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES** (APRIL 26, 2017)-MN Department of Corrections
- o LEGACY OF TRAUMA- Eagan, MN (APRIL 26, 2017) Brandon Jones
- o SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER REFORM- Bemidji, MN (July 19, 2017) MN Board of Public Defense
- O **PUBLIC DEFENDER'S ANNUAL TRAINING (OCTOBER 13-15, 2017) MN Board of Public Defense**
- WHY DOES MY CLIENT HAVE A CRIMINAL HISTORY POINT? (DECEMBER 13, 2017) MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission
- **COMPETENCY, RULE 20.01, AND THE 48 HOUR RULE** (JANUARY 25, 2018) Department of Human Services and the Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disability
- PROBATION REVOCATIONS FROM ALL SIDES: PROBATION, PROSECUTION, AND DEFENSE CONSIDERATIONS (MARCH 14, 2018) Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- INVESTIGATOR AND SOCIAL WORKERS/SENTENCING ADVOCATES CONFERENCE DENVER, CO (MARCH 26-29, 2018) – National Association of Public Defense
- o MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING Eagan, MN (APRIL 17, 2018) Sue EckMaahs & Associates-
- o RACE AND THE LAW Eagan, MN (APRIL 18, 2018) Valerie Jensen, JD- Azon Consulting
- ADVANCED ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS (APRIL 27, 2018) The American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies
- o SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER REFORM (JULY 10, 2018) MN Department of Human Services
- CHALLENGING RULE 20S (JULY 11, 2018) Jacki Buffington, PhD, LP 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Consultant
- **REPORT WRITING: THE STORY THAT WAS NEVER TOLD** (SEPTEMBER 21, 2018) National Association of Public Defense
- MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING: AN ADVANCED OVERVIEW WITH APPLICATIONS FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE, FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEMS (SEPTEMBER 28, 2018) The American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies
- RISK ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION (OCTOBER 12, 2018) MN Department of Corrections
- LGBTQ FOR DISPOSITIONAL ADVISORS Brainerd, MN (OCTOBER 12, 2018) Nancy Holmblod, Dispositional Advisor Quarterly Meeting- MN Board of Public Defense
- o PUBLIC DEFENDER'S ANNUAL TRAINING (OCTOBER 12-14, 2018) MN Board of Public Defense
- WORKING WITH TRAUMA AND TRAUMA FOCUSED COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (OCTOBER 24, 2018) Forest Ridge Sequel Programs
- POLICY WORK AND SYSTEM ISSUES AFFECTING OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN CLIENTS Minneapolis, MN (JANUARY 15, 2019): Justin Terrell- Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
- MENTAL HEALTH AND THE LAW (FEBRUARY 8, 2019) PESI Behavioral Health Continuing Education
- MNATSA ANNUAL CONFERNCE (APRIL 10-12, 2019) MN Association for the Treatment of Sex Offenders
- o PSYCHOSEXUAL EVALUATIONS (AUGUST 13, 2019) Skipped Parts
- WE ARE ALL CRIMINALS (SEPTEMBER 20, 2019) Hamline University Center for Justice and Law
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND COGNITIVE DISORDERS (OCTOBER 2, 2019) Vinland National Center
- CHALLENGE INCARCERATION PROGRAM- Brainerd, MN (October 11, 2010) MN Department of Corrections
- WELLNESS FOR THE DEFENSE TEAM- Brainerd, MN (October 11, 2019) Caroline Durham- Warrior Wellness