

Teresa A. DeCrescenzo

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Non-Profit Management – Executive director and founder of GLASS (Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services), the first milieu-based residential treatment program for gay and lesbian teens in the country. GLASS has an annual budget in excess of eight million dollars, with a staff of almost 150, and a nearly seamless service delivery system for GLBTQ youth and their families.

Clinician – Graduate of USC School of Social Work (MSW, 1978), which honored her with its Most Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991; maintains a private psychotherapy practice, including individual, family and group therapy; provides clinical supervision to Marriage, Family and Child Counselor Interns and Social Work Associates; consultation and staff training to other youth-serving agencies, including the Departments of Children’s Services in Los Angeles and Riverside counties; Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney and Public Defender offices.

Educator/Author –Lecturer in the Policy and Behavior sequences in the Social Work Department at California State University, Long Beach; lecturer in the Sociology Department at California State University, Northridge; edited two books on GLBT issues, and co-authored (with Gerald Mallon) a monograph published by the Child Welfare League of America, on adolescent transgender issues and child welfare.

Community Leader – Frequently sought after keynote speaker and trainer for conferences throughout the country, to both public and private child welfare and mental health agencies. As the former Chair of the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences, lead the effort to require social work and MFT licensees to take required training in child abuse reporting and alcoholism; currently serves on the Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council, as well as the West Hollywood Human Services Commission and several other advisory boards and task forces.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, GLASS (Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services)

1985 – present

Responsible for managing an \$8 million budget; also responsible for oversight of fundraising, grant writing, recruiting, hiring and training staff to: provide milieu-based residential treatment services to high-risk youth with a particular emphasis on self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender minors, as well as HIV infected teens; provide outpatient mental health services to high-risk children and youth, as well as their families; provide mobile street outreach services to homeless youth throughout Los Angeles County, including case management and primary health care services; provide day treatment services to fifty severely emotionally disturbed adolescents

on a daily basis; deliver remedial education for special needs youth through a non-public school; train older adolescents to be job-ready when they age out of the foster care system; deliver a panoply of services to youth still in, or recently out of, the foster care system, now living in transitional apartments; facilitate the placement of abandoned, abused, and neglected children into protective foster homes. The operationalizing of these duties includes the following:

- Supervise the operation of five licensed group homes
- Oversee the operation of a licensed foster family agency, placing children of all ages, including newborns, in foster care.
- Manage a non-public school, designed to meet the educational needs of GLBT youth, whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) determined the need for a special school program structured to meet the needs of academically and behaviorally challenged students who are unable to remain in a mainstream classroom.
- Operate a unique mobile medical outreach unit called “The MoHOP Stop”, initially funded by grants from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Blue Cross Foundation, and QueensCare Foundation, among others. This medical unit provides case management and primary health care services to youth on the streets of Hollywood, West Hollywood, and the Leimert Park area. MoHop’s Intensive Case Management Program provides necessary linkages to medical and other services needed by youth, ages 12 to 21, who are at high risk for HIV-infection, or who are already infected, or at risk for/infected with Hepatitis C.
- Direct an intensive Day Care program for teens in need of structure, case management, psychiatric intervention, as well as mental health counseling services, including specialized groups (incest survivors, substance abusers, etc.).

**Director of Training – Los Angeles County Probation Department – Juvenile
1970 - 1985**

Oversaw all training for juvenile deputy probation officers assigned to the Dorothy F. Kirby Center, including assuring that all POST training requirements were met. Prior to that assignment, supervised a treatment team comprised of six Group Supervisors (GSO’s) and four deputy probations officers (DPOs) for eight years. Immediately prior to that assignment, maintained a caseload of 45 – 50 minors in under Suitable Placement Order, made court appearances, provided case management and family therapy.

Instructor, 2003 –

California State University, Northridge, Sociology Department

Instructor, 1993 - 2003

California State University at Long Beach, Graduate School of Social Work

Lecturer, 1984 - 1985

University of Southern California, Graduate School of Social Work

Private Psychotherapist, 1979 - present

Individuals, couples, families and groups

Consultant, 1990 –

Consulted in the areas of program development and evaluation, management training and fundraising for non-profits, child custody evaluations, curriculum development, team building and conflict resolution; has offered industrial training to corporate groups in the areas of “the troubled employee,” drug and alcohol abuse problems, Employee Assistance Programs; and has provided continuing education workshops in “Preparing for Professional Practice,” and the “Psychosexual Development and Treatment of Adolescents,” among others.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles/Chapters

“Group Work With Gay Adolescents,” *Social Work with Groups*, Spring, 1979

“Homophobia Among Mental Health Professionals,” *Social Work and Human Sexuality*, Spring, 1984

“The Brave New World of Gay and Lesbian Youth,” *Positively Gay*, Celestial Arts, Third Edition, Betty Berzon, (Ed) 2001

“Demand for Social Workers in California”, *Center for California Studies, Sacramento*, (original research conducted with Eileen Pasztor and Michelle Saint-Germain), 2002

“Pedophile Priests: A Social Work Challenge”, *National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter News, Forum*, June 2002

“Demand for Social Workers in California”, *The Child Welfare Forum, NASW California News*, September 2002

“Childhood Trauma: Proceedings from a Think Tank”, *J. of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, Haworth Press, New Jersey (in press), 2003

Books

Helping Gay and Lesbian Youth: New Policies, New Programs, New Practice (Harrington Park Press, New Jersey, 1994)

Gay and Lesbian Professionals in The Closet: Who’s In, Who’s Out, and Why (Harrington Park Press, New Jersey, 1998)

The Needs of Transgender Youth: A Social Welfare Response (CWLA Press, Washington, D.C., co-authored with Gerald Mallon) 2002

KEYNOTES (partial listing)

- 1st Annual Gay and Lesbian Health Conference, San Luis Obispo, 1992
- UCLA Social Work Appreciation Month, 1995
- Helping GLBT Youth 2nd Annual Conference, Penn State U., 1999
- National Association of Social Work, Social Work Awards, April, 2003

PRESENTATIONS (partial listing)

- American Orthopsychiatric Association, 65th Annual Meeting (1988)

- National Association of Social Workers (2003, 2002, 2001, 1997, 1995, 1993)
- Child Welfare League of America (2002, 1992)
- Grand Rounds Presenter, Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, April 1986
- Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (1992)
- Family Service Council of Southern California, Conference on Contemporary Sexual Dilemmas, October 1987
- Family Medicine Residents Training Program, UCLA Medical Center (1987)
- All Saints Episcopal Church, "Making Relationships Work" (2000)
- Metropolitan Community Church Annual Conference, Dallas (2002)
- Los Angeles County Probation Chief and Bureau Chiefs Annual Meeting (2003)
- Children's Institute International, 2003 National Forum, "Children and Trauma: Coping in the Aftermath" (2003)
- California Juvenile Law Institute 2003, Ca. Center for Judicial Education and Research, Los Angeles

IN-SERVICE TRAININGS (partial listing)

- Teen-Warm Line, Thaliens Community Mental Health Center (1989 – 1999)
- Hathaway Children's Village (1997)
- Optimist Boys Homes (2001)
- Jewish Family Services (1998)
- Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services, Probation and Adoptions (ongoing since 1991 -)
- Ventura County Department of Mental Health (2001)
- Covenant House (2000)
- Mi Casa Su Casa (2002)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Daniel E. Koshland Award, Outstanding Administrator, NASW 1995
- Humanitarian of the Year, Valley Business Alliance, 1990
- Distinguished Alumnus, University of California, School of Social Work, 1989
- Social Worker of the Year, National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, 1988
- Koshland Distinguished Service Award, nominee, 1987, National Association of Social Workers California Chapter
- Appointed by Governors Brown and Deukmejian to Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, State of California, 1981, served as Chairperson 1983-1984

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member, National LGBTQ Advisory Network for Fostering Transitions, a joint initiative of the Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Foundation, to support LGBTQ youth and adults involved with the Child Welfare System, 2002 -

Member, Advisory Committee, The Model Standards Project, a collaboration of Legal Services for Children and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, 2003 –
Participant, Think Tank on Children and Trauma, Children’s Institute International, 2003
Member, Task Force to End Homophobia in Los Angeles County Child Welfare and Probation Systems, 2000 –
Member, Los Angeles Police Department GLBT Roundtable, 2000 -
Member, Crystal Meth Task Force, City of West Hollywood, 2000 - 2001
Member, Executive Planning Board, ICAN (Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect), 1998 -
Commissioner, City of West Hollywood, Human Services, 1996 –
Chair, Human Services Commission, City of West Hollywood, 2000 - 2001
Member, Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council, 1996 –
Member, Los Angeles County HIV Health Services Planning Council, 1994-1995
Member, NASW National Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, (NCOLGI), 1993-1996
Member, Board of Behavioral Science Examiners (BBSE) 1981-1984 (Chairperson, 1983-1984).
Member, Advisory Committee on home-based HIV testing kit, Direct Access Diagnostics, a division of Johnson & Johnson (1987-88)
Member, Board of Directors, Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, 1976-1984; elected President and served from 1981-1984
Member, Los Angeles County Commission on the Status of Women, Subcommittee on Privacy, 1980
Member, Board of Directors, National Gay and Lesbian Academic Union, 1976-1980 (Secretary, 1978-1980)
Co-founder, Southern California Women for Understanding, 1976

CERTIFICATION, LICENSURE

Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), California License #8227
Marriage, Family, Child Therapist (MFT) California License #MN13848
Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW)
NASW Diplomate in Social Work

AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Graduate School of Social Work, 1978

Pepperdine University, Los Angeles Campus, Graduate School of Urban Planning, 1976

