



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

**Phyllis and Harvey Sandler  
School of Social Work**  
College of Social Work  
and Criminal Justice



**DSW CANDIDATES**  
**2023-24**

Dear Colleagues,

It is our distinct honor to introduce you to our 2023-24 Doctor of Social Work candidates of the Phyllis & Harvey Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University.

Florida Atlantic is proud to have introduced the first DSW program in the state of Florida, and we look forward to graduating this stellar group of scholarly clinicians. The DSW program prepares practice-oriented clinical leaders and critical thinkers for leadership roles in academia, clinical practice, and administration.

Please find contact information enclosed for each candidate. We encourage you to connect directly with candidates of interest. If you would like to discuss our program details, please do not hesitate to contact any of us below.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature of Danielle Groton, Ph.D.

**Danielle Groton, Ph.D.**  
DSW Coordinator  
Associate Professor  
[dgroton@fau.edu](mailto:dgroton@fau.edu)

A handwritten signature of Heather Thompson, Ph.D., LCSW.

**Heather Thompson, Ph.D., LCSW**  
School Director  
Associate Professor  
[hthompson@fau.edu](mailto:hthompson@fau.edu)

A handwritten signature of Naelys Luna, Ph.D., MSW.

**Naelys Luna, Ph.D., MSW**  
Dean, Social Work & Criminal Justice  
Professor  
[ndiaz10@fau.edu](mailto:ndiaz10@fau.edu)

### **Phyllis & Harvey Sandler School of Social Work**

College of Social Work & Criminal Justice

777 Glades Road, Social Science Bldg. 44, Suite 308, Boca Raton, FL 33431

(561) 297-6494 | [fau.edu/ssw](http://fau.edu/ssw)

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## CONTACT

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 yehudah@actustherapygroup.com

 250 46th Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33431

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

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*An Examination of Therapists'  
Discomfort in the Treatment of  
Problematic Pornography Use*

### Committee

Dr. Manny Gonzalez (Chair)  
Dr. Heather Howard  
Dr. Tina Vitolo

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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- Treatment of substance abuse, trauma, sexual addiction, and gambling disorder
- Certified Sex Addiction Therapist (CSAT)
- Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)

## RESEARCH FOCUS

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Impact of countertransference on  
outcomes of psychotherapy

# YEHUDAH ALCABES

LCSW, CSAT, EMDR, QS

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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I am trained in the treatment of substance abuse, Trauma, Sexual addiction, and gambling disorder. I am a certified Sex addiction therapist (CSAT) through the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals. Additionally, I am trained in EMDR for treatment of trauma. My research area focuses on the impact of countertransference on outcome of psychotherapy.

## EDUCATION

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Florida Atlantic University

**Doctor of Social Work**

**2024 - Anticipated**

EMDR Institute, Miami, FL

**EMDR Trained**

**2018**

IITAP, Glendale, AZ

**Certified Sexual Addiction Therapist**

**2016**

Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY

**Master of Social Work**

**2013**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Actus Therapy Group

**Psychotherapist/Owner**

**2017-Current**

- Providing individual and group psychotherapy for mental health and addictions
- Utilizing EMDR for the treatment of trauma

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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FAU Sandler School of Social Work

**Adjunct Professor**

**2017-Current**

- Teaching MSW- and BSW-level courses in Social Work Practice
- Developing new course curriculum for Social Work Practice
- Developing e-course material for asynchronous instruction

Jewish Counseling Association of Florida (JCAF)

**Founder/Director**

**2017-Current**

- Connecting Jewish Mental health professionals in South Florida
- Hosting networking and training events for JCAF members

Lifeskills South Florida

**Primary Therapist**

**2017-2019**

- Providing treatment for individuals with Substance Abuse and acute mental illness
- Providing clinical supervision for BSW and MSW student interns

Sunspire Health

**Primary Therapist**

**2016-2017**

- Providing treatment for individuals with Substance Abuse
- Facilitating group therapy focused on relapse prevention and emotional regulation

The SAFE Foundation

**Primary Therapist**

**2014-2016**

- Facilitating individual and group therapy for substance abuse and gambling disorder

Madraigos Community Services

**Director of Adolescent Programming**

**2013-2015**

- Creating curriculum for mental health workshops for High School students
- Supervising a drop-in center and facilitating process groups for at-risk adolescents



## CONTACT

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 (305) 968-6862

 chelleepstein1@gmail.com

 6873 SW 89 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33156

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

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*The Relationship between Skepticism and Knowledge and Accurate Diagnosis of Dissociative Identity Disorder by Licensed Clinical Social Workers*

### Committee

Dr. Manny Gonzalez (Chair)  
Dr. Heather Howard  
Dr. Christine Spadola

## PRACTICE EXPERTISE

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- Affective disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Dissociative disorders

## RESEARCH FOCUS

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### Dissociative Identity Disorder:

The relationship of skepticism & knowledge to accurate diagnosis; the state of education about the disorder in higher education; treatment & outcome

# ROCHELLE EPSTEIN

LCSW

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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I work with persons who contend with anxiety, depression, interpersonal problems, histories of abuse. My research interests revolve around dissociative disorders, especially dissociative identity disorder (DID). I am interested in what MSW students believe and know about DID, and how accurately they can diagnose DID.

## EDUCATION

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Florida Atlantic University

**Doctor of Social Work**

**2023 - Anticipated**

Florida International University

**Master of Social Work**

**2001**

Florida International University

**Masters in Diagnostic Teaching, Emotional Handicaps**

**1990**

- Phi Delta Kappa

Florida International University

**Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre**

**1985**

### ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

- **American Society of Clinical Hypnosis:** beginning and intermediate courses
- **Florida Society of Clinical Hypnosis:** advanced courses in ego state therapy & pain management
- **International Society for the Study of Trauma & Dissociation:** diagnosis and treatment of dissociative disorders Parts I and II
- **EMDR Institute:** basic training I and II

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Rochelle Epstein, LCSW

**Psychotherapist in Private Practice**

**2016-Present**

Trauma informed, attachment based and psychodynamic foundations. Therapeutic interventions: play, experiential, art, behavioral, cognitive, cognitive-behavioral, clinical hypnosis, EMDR

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**School Social Worker**

**2014-2021**

Professional development presentations: Diversity issues, mindfulness, and suicide prevention, team-building, Hospital/Homebound Procedures

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**Secondary School Counselor**

**2012-2013**

Institute for Child & Family Health

**Psychotherapist**

**2003-2013**

Treatment planning, reviews, and evaluations, Risk assessment/crisis intervention, Psychiatric referrals

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**Secondary Program Specialist, Special Education**

**2011-2012**

Professional Development presentations: Writing Individualized Educational Plans, Writing Functional Analyses of Behavior and Behavior Intervention Plans, Suicide Prevention

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**Secondary Teacher, Emotional & Behavioral Disorder**

**1986-2011**

Linking Forces Conference Presentations – Combatting Homophobia in the Classroom (2X), School Refusal. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. Mentor to new educators: student engagement, and teaching strategies. Professional Development presentation: Behavior Management using Point/Level systems, Adventure-based education/counseling

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & ASSOCIATIONS**

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- DOH Qualified Supervisor for RCSW Interns
- Diagnosis/treatment of a variety of issues: anxiety, depression, trauma, dissociation, affect dysregulation, interpersonal conflicts
- Risk assessment
- Crisis management/intervention
- Baker Act
- Clinical Hypnosis
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Florida Society of Clinical Hypnosis: Board member, immediate past president (2015-Present)
- International Society for the Study of Trauma & Dissociation (2015-Present)
- National Association of Social Workers (2001-Present)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS**

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**Experience**

- Psychopathology, Master of Social Work level (Spring 2022)
- Adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders (1986 – 2011)
- Professional Development workshops: Combatting Homophobia in the Classroom, School Refusal
- Behavior Management using Point/Level systems, Adventure-based education/counseling

- Mentor: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification, new educators: student engagement, and teaching strategies

**Interests**

- Psychopathology
- Psychodynamic theory & application
- Trauma focused therapy
- Trauma related & dissociative disorders



## CONTACT

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 6171 Hook Lane  
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

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*The Relationship Between  
Spirituality and Severity of Conduct  
Disorder in Male Juvenile Offenders*

### Committee

Dr. Morgan Cooley (Chair)  
Dr. Keith Platt  
Dr. Kimberly Hardy

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- CPR/First Aid
- Professional Crisis Management
- Aggression Replacement Therapy
- Thinking for a Change
- Impact of Crime

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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Spirituality & Its Effect  
on Mental Illness

# KATINA HILL-THOMPSON

MSW, LCSW

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 20 years of experience. My practice focus has been with adolescents, women and couples. My current research focus is spirituality and the severity of Conduct Disorder among male adolescent juvenile offenders.

## EDUCATION

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Florida Atlantic University	
<b>Doctor of Social Work</b>	<b>2023 - Anticipated</b>
Barry University	
<b>Master of Social Work</b>	<b>2004</b>
Pace University	
<b>Bachelor of Arts, Human Services</b>	<b>2000</b>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Thompson Therapeutic & Transition Services- Boynton Beach, FL	
<b>Owner/Licensed Clinical Social Worker</b>	<b>2023-</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver individual, family, and couple counseling sessions to patients with co-occurring diagnoses</li><li>• Provide premarital counseling and clinical supervision</li><li>• Responsible for day-to-day operation of the business, including assessments, treatment notes, and working with insurance companies</li></ul>	

Comprehensive Wellness Center- Lantana, FL	
<b>Clinical Director</b>	<b>2022 -2023-</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide oversight and supervision for two departments within the agency</li><li>• Directly supervise clinical staff</li><li>• Provide oversight for all clinical interventions delivered to 90 adults such as individual, group, and family counseling sessions for patients with co-occurring diagnoses.</li></ul>	

JFK Medical Center North Campus - W. Palm Beach, FL

**2021-2022**

**Behavioral Health Clinical Services Manager**

- Provide oversight and supervision for 3 departments within the agency: Outpatient Services: Partial Hospitalization Program, Intensive Outpatient Program, In-patient Crisis Stabilization and Recreation Therapy
- Provided oversight for all clinical interventions
- Responsible for ensuring the safe discharge and warm hand off of all patients

Palm Beach Youth Academy - WPB, FL

**2014-2021**

**Clinical Dir./Designated Mental Health Authority**

- Provide oversight and supervision for three departments within the agency
- Provide oversight for all clinical interventions
- Accountable for assessing all potential patients for admission into the Correctional Facility

West Palm Hospital - WPB, FL

**2012-2014**

**Program Coordinator**

- Deliver individual, group and family counseling sessions to patients with co-occurring diagnosis
- Responsible for day to day operation of the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program
- Accountable for assessing all potential patients for admission into the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program

Christine G. Smith Community Mental Health - Plantation, FL

**2009-2012**

**Program Manager**

- Provided day to day clinical intervention services to children and families utilizing crisis stabilization skills. Responsible for day to day operation of afterschool and summer camp programming for special needs children
- Effectively supervised site budget in compliance with Children Services Council of Broward County standards
- Provided community advocacy and marketing through outreach to families, schools, treatment providers, and parents/foster parents

Palm Beach County Division of Senior Services - WPB, FL

**2008-2009**

**Program Manager**

- Performed client intake, completed assessments and developed service plans. Provided case management and determined eligibility for client base
- Delivered individual and group counseling sessions for seniors citizens with drug, alcohol or medication abuse

Home Safe - Lake Worth, FL

**2006-2008**

**Program Director (Promotion)**

- Program development, supervision, and implementation of policies and procedures for program operations, social work services, and clinical services
- Supervised youth development professionals, assistant manager, and managed therapist who was responsible for the care of abused and neglected children

Home Safe - Lake Worth, FL

**2005-2006**

**Clinical Therapist**

- Evaluated and assessed children/youth on a regular basis with appropriate documentation and assessment tools.
- Created and implemented treatment plans. Provided individual, group, and family therapy to each client on a weekly basis

- Conducted child safety assessments to ensure safe living environments and developed service plan
- Coordinated the delivery of services, referrals and networked clients and families to needed services
- Developed and maintained case and program documentation in accordance with contractual and CHS standards (assessments, treatment/service plans, progress notes, termination summaries, etc.)
- Prepared case/status reports and made recommendations/testified in court regarding reunification, termination of parental rights and/or other permanency plans

ACS State and Local Solutions - Riviera Beach, FL

**Outreach & Recruitment Specialist/Account Executive**

**2001-2003**

- Recruited eligible Welfare-to-Work customers through coordination and presentations to community based organizations
- Served clients from diverse cultural backgrounds
- counseled clients on career choices and adequate training to further career advancements

Department of Children & Families - WPB, FL

**Family Service Counselor**

**2000-2001**

- Investigated child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse on children
- Conducted home assessments to determine the appropriateness and safe environment for children
- Provided in-home support services to stabilize families

PLUS Group Homes, Inc. - Westbury, NY

**Program Manager**

**1997-2000**

- Supervised a workforce of thirty resident advisors who were responsible for the care of ten developmentally disabled adults
- Prepared annuals, semi-annuals, and quarterly reports for residents living in the residential treatment facility
- Conducted and prepared appropriate goal assessments for clients living in the group home
- Facilitated interdisciplinary meetings with parents and clinical staff to inform them on progress and care of clients

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS**

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Barry University - Palm Beach Gardens, FL

**Adjunct Professor**

**2014-2014**

Teach courses in the Social Work graduate programs in accordance with assigned teaching workload. Participates in curriculum development activities. Assists in drafting course syllabi and assignments and selection of required recommended texts and other readings. Participates in professional development activities designed to enhance teaching capability. Performs community service and speaking engagements in the professional community and addresses students in seminar and workshop settings.

# OUR MISSION

We are committed to maximizing human potential, alleviating human suffering, enhancing the vitality and caring capacity of communities, and promoting the ideals of a humane and just society. We strive to fulfill this mission through education, research, and community engagement.



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A large, stylized, metallic blue logo that reads "FACU". The "F" and "A" are on top, and the "C" and "U" are on the bottom, all in a bold, blocky font.

**COLLEGE OF  
SOCIAL WORK &  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**