

Ryan Papciak, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW-QS

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
- Qualified State Supervisor, SunServe, Wilton Manors, FL
- Telehealth Therapist, Private Practice, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Adjunct Faculty, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL

EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D., Social Work Department, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL,
Graduation - December 2024
- 2017 MSW, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
- 2016 BSW, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

LICENSURE

- 2022 Qualified Supervisor (QS-FL)
- 2019 LCSW (FL #16931)

RESEARCH POSITIONS HELD

Keywords/Research Interests: *gender affirmation, transgender, gender dysphoria*

- 2020-2023 Project Director, Barry University
Center of Human Rights and Social Justice
Trans Perspectives Project
Advisor: Ashley Austin, PhD
- Mentor MSW-level graduate research assistants with transcription, qualitative coding and photo-elicitation interviewing for Trans Perspectives research projects
 - Assist with writing and editing manuscripts for journal articles on gender dysphoria and gender affirmation through gender euphoria

- 2020-2022 Research Assistant, International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR) Project
International Student Training Network

Snapshot Project (U.S. Region) Advisor:
Shelley Craig, PhD

- Participated in monthly virtual calls with research scholars from U.S. region, U.K. region, Canada, Mexico, and Australia to collaborate on current projects that further the INQYR mission of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and resilience
- Assisted in transcription of virtual interviews and qualitative coding with photo-elicitation interviews as well as utilizing NVIVO software for U.S. region INQYR projects

2020-2022 Research Assistant, QIC Project

University of Maryland LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity SAMHSA Grant
Advisor: Elizabeth Greeno, PhD

- Assisted in recruitment of AFFIRM Caregiver participants, conducted virtual interviews, and provided transcription of interviews

PUBLICATIONS

Timbers, V., Gandy, M.E., **Papciak, R.**, & Hopwood, R.A. (2023). Faithful foundations: Positive experiences of transgender and gender expansive individuals in faith communities. *Mental Health, Religion, & Culture*, 26(5), 470-486.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2023.2245351>

Austin, A., **Papciak, R.**, & Lovins, L. (2022). Gender euphoria: A grounded theory exploration of experiencing gender affirmation. *Psychology & Sexuality*, *In Press*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2022.2049632>

Austin, A., & **Papciak, R.** (2022). Practice with transgender and gender diverse clients. In M.P. Dentato (Ed.), *Social work practice with the LGBTQ+ community: The intersection of history, health, mental health, and policy factors* (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Karnoski, R., **Papciak, R.**, & Waller, L. (2022). Trans and gender expansive youth: Emerging models of identity development. In J. Shelton & G. P. Mallon (Eds.), *Social work practice with transgender and gender expansive youth* (3rd Ed., pp.98-115). Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Spira, M., Smith, S.M., Gilman, A., & **Papciak, R.** (2022). Aging within the LGBTQ+ community: An exploration of resilience and courage. In M. P. Dentato (Ed.), *Social work practice with the LGBTQ+ community: The intersection of history, health, mental health, and policy factors* (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Austin, A., **Papciak, R.**, & Perry, M. (2022). Eating disorders in LGBTQ+ populations infographic. <https://lgbtquequity.org/resources/>

Austin, A., Holzworth, J., & **Papciak, R.** (2021). Beyond diagnosis: “Gender dysphoria feels like a living hell, a nightmare one cannot ever wake up from”. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 9(1), 12-20. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000460>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty

Direct Practice Skills in Social Work I (SW 546). Barry University, Summer Session 1- 2022.

Models of Intervention in Clinical Social Work Practice (SW 417). Barry University, Spring 2022.

Human Development Across the Lifespan (SW 355). Barry University, Fall 2021 & Spring 2025.

Direct Practice Skills in Social Work II (SW 547). Barry University, Summer 2025.

Advanced Clinical Practice with Groups (SW 677). Barry University, Fall 2025.

Co-Teaching & Teaching Assistant

Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy Practice (SW 687). Barry University, Spring 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

2025 Papciak, R., & Nowakowski-Sims, E. Oral Presentation on Gender Dysphoria and Trauma-Informed Weightlifting on College Campuses for TNB Students. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), Seattle, WA.

2023 Papciak, R., Austin, A., & Timbers, V. Oral Presentation on Gender Euphoria Research at the WPATH- USPATH Conference, Westminster, CO.

Papciak, R., & Austin, A. Oral Presentation on Mindful Self-Compassion and Expressive Arts in Clinical Work with the Transgender Population at the WPATH-USPATH Conference, Westminster, CO.

2022 Papciak, R., Austin, A., & Perry, M. Panel Presentation on Disordered Eating within Transgender Populations. Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (Virtual).

2021 Papciak, R., Dentato, M., & Bryant, L. Panel Presentation on Substance Use Disorders Impacting the LGBTQ+ Community. Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (Virtual).

Papciak, R., Austin, A., Bellonci, C. Panel Presentation on Supporting the Mental Health of Trans & Gender Diverse Youth amid Anti-Transgender Legislation. Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (Virtual).

Gandy, M., Timbers, V. & Papciak, R. Faithful foundations: Transgender and Gender Diverse Experiences in Faith Communities at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Conference, Orlando, FL.

Austin, A., & Papciak, R. Gender Dysphoria: Beyond Diagnosis and Toward Experiences of Affirmation and Gender Euphoria at the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (U.S.P.A.T.H.) Conference, Virtual.

Austin, A., & Papciak, R. Gender Dysphoria: Beyond Diagnosis and Toward Experiences of Affirmation and Gender Euphoria at the American Psychological Association (APA) Conference, Virtual.

Papciak, R., Austin, A., Bellonci, C., & Larson, J. Panel Discussion on Ask Our Experts: Gender Dysphoria Diagnosis & Clinical Considerations for Children, Youth & Adults. Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (Virtual).

Austin, A., & Papciak, R. Gender Dysphoria in Adults: Moving Beyond DSM Diagnosis and Toward Affirmative Practice. Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (Virtual).

- 2018 Papciak, R. Building Relationships with Community Stakeholders Lecture. AMIkids Mental Health Symposium, Safety Harbor, FL.

Papciak, R. Cultural Competency Lecture. AMIkids Mental Health Symposium, Safety Harbor, FL.

- 2017 Papciak, R. Transgender Perspective in Interfaith Community Lecture to all Faculty and Students. Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC.

Papciak, R. Gender Dysphoria in the DSM 5 Lecture in Psychology Class. Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory, NC.

Papciak, R. Intersectionality of Transgender Experiences and the Legal System Lecture in Political Science Class. Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory, NC.

Papciak, R. Transgender 101 Lecture in Mezzo/Working with Groups Class. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Austin, A., Papciak, R., & Rios, C. Working with the TGD BIPOC Community: The Need for Trauma-Informed and Affirmative Practices Presentation. Barry University, Our Fund Project (Virtual).

- 2021 Papciak, R. Cultural Competency with On-Campus Residents Presentation for Barry University Student/Residence Life Staff. Barry University, Miami Shores, FL.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2018-Present National Association of Social Workers

2021-Present Council on Social Work Education

2021-Present American Psychological Association

2021-Present World Professional Association for Transgender Health

OTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2021 Research Talk & UNC: Odem Institute for Research in Social Science. Qualitative Research Summer Intensive. 52 Course Hours. Courses Taken:

- Fundamentals of Qualitative Research
- Ten Tips for Publishing Qualitative Research
- Designing a Qualitative Inquiry Project
- Coding and Analyzing Qualitative Data
- Styles of Qualitative Writing and Reporting

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2022-2024 Clinical Director, SunServe- Wilton Manors, FL

- Developed strategic planning for LGBTQ+ Mental Health programming for Youth and Family Services, Substance Use Department, Adult Services, and Senior Services
- Managed quality assurance and clinical oversight for four mental health grants over \$300,000
- Supervised 6 State Registered Interns for their LCSW licensure

2018-2019 Western NC Site Supervisor, AMikids NC Family Services-Morganton, NC

- Supervised team of 3 therapists to cover over 20 counties in Western, NC
- Provided Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to caseload of 3-5 families with youth on juvenile probation
- Developed and maintained relationships with DJJ Western District chiefs, court counselor supervisors, and community partners

2017-2018 Functional Family Therapist, AMikids NC Family Services-Morganton, NC

- Provided Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to caseload of 10-12 families with youth on juvenile probation
- Developed and maintained relationships with juvenile court counselors, intake court counselors, and supervisors
- Scheduled and managed workload to include community meetings, sessions with families, and documentation
- Attended weekly staff meetings with case presentation, and provided feedback and support to team members

2016-2017 MSW Intern, Outright Youth of the Catawba Valley-Hickory, NC

- Facilitated weekly LGBTQ+ discussion support groups, monthly adult and youth transgender support groups, and monthly LGBTQ+ young adult support group
- Coordinated with Catawba Valley guidance counselors and school administrators to implement new and support current Gender-Sexuality Alliance Clubs
- Facilitated community outreach informational programming on a variety of LGBTQ+ topics

- 2016-2017 MSW Intern, Southmountain Children and Family Services-Morganton, NC
- Assisted supervisor with assessments and implementation of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) intervention with children and their families
- 2016 BSW Intern, Office on Children and Youth-Harrisonburg, VA
- Assisted in writing and review of the United Way grant and the City Development Block Grant for Office on Children and Youth teen programming
 - Co-facilitated the Wyman's Teen Outreach Program curriculum to 10 middle school aged children and 25 high school aged youth each week
 - Composed a 20-page research paper on the importance of LGBTQ+ Inclusive Sex Education for youth in Harrisonburg, VA