

RICHARD N. HARRIS, MSW

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EDUCATION

Rhode Island College
Master of Social Work
Graduated with Honors - May, 1990

University of Rhode Island
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting and Drawing)
Graduated with Honors, 1979

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Association of Social Workers - Rhode Island Chapter (NASW - RI)
220 West Exchange Street, Suite 007
Providence, RI 02903 (July 2002 - Retired, 2020)

Executive Director

Responsible for all operations of the organization, including grant writing and fund development. Lobby nationally and locally on behalf of disenfranchised and indigent populations. Advocate for civil rights of people living in poverty, minorities, individuals with disabilities and other groups. Develop and implement continuing education opportunities for Social Workers living and/or working in Rhode Island. Design and directly provide workshops in civil rights, ethics, policy, case management, clinical services and many other areas. Develop and implement marketing plans to encourage membership in NASW - RI. Analyze social policies and educate members and the public concerning the impact of social policy implementation. Promote policy priorities set by the National Delegate Assembly, NASW - RI Board of Directors and membership. Respond to membership concerns and requests. Assist members in solving problems involving social work practice. Develop and publish newsletters and other publications as needed. Responsible for the fiduciary operation of the Chapter. Supervise Chapter staff, volunteers and student interns. Reports to the Board of Directors.

Rhode Island College

Adjunct Professor (9/93 - Present) - Rhode Island College, Bachelor and Master Programs - Rhode Island College School of Social Work

Teach SW110, SW 230, SW 240, SW 320, SW 530/531 & SW 612/613 as scheduled. Assist BSW/MSW students in acquiring knowledge and developing critical thinking and analytical skills, knowledge and values related to Social Work areas of practice. Assist students in developing effective advocacy skills; in understanding policy implications and effects on individual and agency Social Work practice; assist students in developing a policy framework from which to enhance their advocacy efforts on behalf of others and teach ethical administrative practices. Teach grant writing, personnel practices and leadership skills.

Adjunct Professor - Case Management Certificate Program (2004 to present) - Rhode Island College School of Social Work

Teach field seminar course. Assist students to develop case management skills as they apply in their placements and to think critically about activities within their internships. Help students to gain an understanding of networking among professionals, resource development among agencies and importance of developing effective verbal and written skills. Assist students to develop vocational skills related to Choosing, Getting and Keeping a job to use with their clients.

Salve Regina University

Adjunct Professor (2002 - Present) - Salve Regina University

Teach one credit courses on various topics related to general education requirements with emphasis in Social Work, Sociology and/or Political Science areas. Courses taught include: Professional advocacy, Grant Writing, Comparison of Presidential Candidate Platforms and Election Politics, Immigration Issues and the Historical, Cultural and Sociological Aspects of Baseball in America.

Consultant and Trainer (1983 - Present)

Provide consultation and training in vocational rehabilitation, administrative and clinical areas to agencies and organizations.

Bellingham Public Schools

80 Harpin Street, Bellingham, MA (1999 - 2002)

Director (Principal), Paul J. Primavera Educational Center (Public Alternative Jr/Senior High School)

Responsible for all educational and program services provided by the Paul J. Primavera Educational Center, a public alternative junior/senior highschool. Provide supervision to all staff. Develop new services that are designed to meet the educational and emotional needs of students with severe and persistent mental health issues who attended the Primavera Center. Provide assistance to parents/guardians of students. Assist in planning and evaluation of services provided by the Bellingham Public School system as required and/or requested. Serve on community committees and attend public meetings as needed or required. Advocate on behalf of students in meeting their educational goals. Provide clinical consultation to staff. Develop resources to improve student educational outcomes. Ensure compliance of all federal/state/local laws, policies and procedures. Perform other duties assigned by the Special Education Director and/or Superintendent.

Northern Rhode Island Community Mental Health Center, Inc.

181 Cumberland St., Woonsocket, Rhode Island (1983 - 1999)

Vice President, Community Support Services for Children and their Families (July 1996 - 1999)

Responsible for program development and evaluation of clinical and rehabilitative programs for children and their families. Oversee implementation of all Community Support Services for Children. Provide supervision of Director and Coordinators. Serve on center committees to help ensure service coordination. Develop grant proposals to secure funding and design programs to meet clinical, rehabilitation, educational, and vocational needs of clients. Design and analyze assessments to determine client needs. Advocate for client rights, provide education to the public on mental health issues. Serve on relevant statewide committees and other agency boards. Provide therapeutic services to center clients.

Responsible for the development and operations of the Viola M. Berard Alternative School, a program of NRICMHC (1983 - 1999). The Berard School is a licensed alternative, middle and high school for youth who have severe emotion disabilities which have impacted negatively on their educational experience.

Director, Rehabilitation Services (1989 - 1996)

Responsible for program development and evaluation. Oversee clinical and administrative implementation of all Rehabilitation Programs, including Vocational Services for adults and adolescents, the Community Integration Program, Youth Rehabilitation Services, and individualized rehabilitation wrap-around services. Develop grant proposals to secure funding and design programs to meet rehabilitation needs of consumers. Design and analyze need assessments to determine rehabilitation needs. Advocate for consumer rights and needs, provide education to the public on mental health issues, and provide information concerning American with Disabilities Act. Provide rehabilitation counseling to youth and adults with psychiatric disabilities.

Coordinator, Rehabilitation Services/Manager, Monday Morning Industries, Inc. (1983 - 1989)

As a member of the Community Support middle management team, responsibilities included: overseeing psychosocial rehabilitation and vocational programs; managing Monday Morning Industries, Inc. (an affirmative business for employment of persons with disabilities); supervising Rehabilitation Services and Monday Morning Industries, Inc. team leaders, staff, student placements, and volunteers. Developed rehabilitation programs per consumer needs. Worked with consumers to foster employment and advocacy opportunities. Provided direct services, facilitated rehabilitation activities, performed vocational assessments, and provided rehabilitation counseling.

Consultant and Trainer (1984 - 1999)

Develop training materials and present at numerous conferences and training programs. Member of Northern Rhode Island Community Mental Health Center's Technical Assistance and Consultation Team (TACT). As a TACT member, provided consultation to agencies and state mental health offices from Washington, Idaho, Missouri, Vermont, Connecticut and Tennessee. Independent consultant trainer for the Rhode Island Counsel of Community Mental Health Center's Certified Case Management Training Program and Office of Rehabilitation Services.

Training specialty areas include:

- Developing consumer-driven service systems.
- Consumer participation in program planning and evaluation.
- Developing vocational program options for youth and adults with psychiatric disabilities.
- Developing advocacy training programs with and for consumers.
- Developing in-community/consumer-driven independent living skills programs.
- Coalition/Network building.
- Grant writing and resource development.
- Contract development - diversification of funding sources.
- Direct provision of rehabilitation counseling services.
- Utilizing Rehabilitation and Clinical principles and approaches in development and operation of services.
- Client Centered/Consumer Driven Case Management Services.

Boston University

Faculty Advisor (9/94 - 8/96) - Boston University, Field Education Dept., School of Social Work

Faculty Field Advisor representative for Boston University. Counsel students in relation to internship activities and second year field placement. Perform on-site visits to field locations. Mediate differences between students, field placement supervisors and/or Boston University. Provide support and education to Field Instructors.

Federal Department of Education (1996 - 2003)

Peer Grant Reviewer and Grant Team Leader for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Provide peer review for federal grants administered by the Federal Department of Education. Act as a Peer Review Grant Team leader. Compose review comments and summarize team review process. Make recommendations to the merit of grant applications.

Field Instructor (1983 - 2020)

Supervise Social Work and Rehabilitation Counseling students from Rhode Island College, Boston University, Assumption College, Boston College, Wheaton College, New England University, Salve Regina University, Providence College, and Springfield College. Assist students in developing Social Work and Rehabilitation Counseling skills, learning program development and advocacy skills and developing and understanding of the relationship of large and small systems on services provided to clients. Assist students in developing a learning contract that helps integrate academic skills/knowledge with real working situations.

Kent County Mental Health Center

Warwick, Rhode Island (November 1980 - October 1983)

Case Manager

Responsible for providing client-driven/in-community case management services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Services included counseling, resource development, vocational and independent living skills training, advocacy, employment support, and medication monitoring.

Social Activities Coordinator/Rehabilitation Group Facilitator

Responsible for creating a positive environment to enhance socialization skills, creativity, and a sense of community for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Consistently aware of group dynamics which greatly contributes to the socialization process. Designed and facilitated task-oriented groups to meet the varied abilities of the clients.

St. Mary's Home for Children

North Providence, Rhode Island (October 1979 - November 1980)

Recreation Coordinator

Organized and planned all recreational programming for the entire residential facility. Assisted children in creating "environments" which allowed them to express their creativity and to learn from these experiences. Facilitated In-service Training for staff focusing on recreational philosophies. Became proficient in utilizing community resources. Effectively managed a quality program on a limited financial budget.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (Certificate Programs)

- **Certified Vocational Evaluator**
Vocational Evaluation Training, 1983
Institute for Social and Rehabilitation Services
Assumption College
- **Certified Job Placement Specialist**
Job Placement Training Program, 1987
Institute for Social and Rehabilitation Services
Assumption College
- **Certified Job Coach Trainer**
Community-Based Job Stations, 1986
Office of Continuing Professional Development Rehabilitation
University of Hartford

LICENSES

- Rhode Island Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) 1990-2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (Past and present)

- Member: Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association and the National Rehabilitation Association
President, Board of Directors - Rhode Island Chapter (1997 - 1999).
- Member: Pathways Advisory Committee 1991-1995.
Served on the Advocacy and Employment & Training Committees
(Pathways is Rhode Island's work program for AFDC parents.)
- Member: Office of Rehabilitation Service Advisory Committee (Governor Appointed) 1989 - 1999
- Member: Rhode Island Planning Committee for Supported Employment 1994 - 1999
- Member: Woonsocket Area Vocational Technical Facility Advisory Committee
Serve on the Economic Planning Sub-committee 1991 - 1997
- Member: Rhode Island College BSW Field Instructor Advisory Committee
- Member: Northern Rhode Island "CASSP" 1995 - 1999
(*Child and Adolescent Service System Program.*)
- Member: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities - National Advisory Committee for AOL/MH Organizational and Overall Program Standards, March 3-5, 1994
- Member: National Association of Social Workers
- Member: Board of Directors - Connecting for Children and their Families, Inc. 1997 - 2000
President of the Board 1999 - 2000.
- Member: DCYF Advisory Committee to the PBIS/CASSP Project. Chair, Public Relations work group. (2005 - 2007)
- Member: Rhode Island Quality Institute Advisory Committee (2006 - Present) Current Ex-Officio Status.
- Member: Healthcare Planning Advisory Committee, Rhode Island Department of Health (2006 - 2007)
- Member: Northeast Action Board of Directors (2006 - 2007)
- Member: Rhode Island Department of Education: Leadership Development Coordinating Committee (2002 - 2008)
- Member: Rhode Island Department of Education: School Counseling Project Advisory Committee (2003 - 2009)
- Member: Ocean State Action Board of Directors (2002 - 2012) Executive Board Secretary 2008 - 2012)
- Member: Health Care Organizing Project (2002 - 2010)
- Member: Rhode Island Coalition for Mental Health (1988 - 1999, 2002, Chair: 2003 - 2009)
- Member: Dorcas Place Advisory Council (No longer active)
- Member: RIC Continuing Education Committee. (Currently not active)
- Member: Numerous community coalitions and task groups. (1980 - present)
- Member: Rhode Island Public Health Association (2005 - present)
- Member: National Association of Social Workers Foundation Board of Directors - Washington, DC (2011 - Present)
- Member: National Association of Social Workers Auditing Committee -Washington, DC (2011 - Present)
- Member: NASW Leadership Group: NASW Leadership Standards Publication - Washington, DC

(2011 - 2013)

- Member: Rhode Island Human Trafficking Task Force - Supervised two of the three Committees Chairs. (2006)
- Member: Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Justice. 2002 - 2018 (Ad-Hoc)
- Member: Comprehensive Sex Education Coalition. 2003 - 2008
- Member: SOS Coalition - 2000 - 2014
- Member: Racial Profiling Coalition 2003 - 2014
- Member: High Stakes Testing Coalition Inception (Past)
- Member: Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence - Since Inception - (Ad - Hoc Member)
- Member: The Rhode Island Coalition of School Social Work Affiliates. 2002 - (Ad - Hoc Member/Consultant)

SPECIAL AWARDS

- ◆ Rhode Island Social Worker of the Year - Health/Mental Health (1993). Awarded by the Rhode Island Chapter - NASW
- ◆ Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association Special Recognition Award (1997)
- ◆ William F. Ralston Memorial Award (1999). Awarded by the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association.
- ◆ Connecting for Children and Families Award (2000).
- ◆ Certificate of Honor (2002). Presented by the Bellingham Public Schools.
- ◆ Parents for Progress Community Involvement Award (2004).

AUTHOR

Rhode Island Baseball History: The Early Years. The History Press. 2008.
Brown University Baseball: A Legacy of the Game. The History Press. 2012.
Newport Baseball History: America's Pastime in the City by the Sea. The History Press. 2014.
Pawtucket Baseball: A Brief History. Self-Published. 2013.
The Rhode Island Baseball Project: A Series of Five Self - Published Books. 1996 - 2005.
Meet My Friends: Character and Cartoon Drawings from 1972 - 2018. Self - Published. 2019.
Samantha's Counting Book - Self Published. 2022.
Samantha's Alphabet Book - Self Published 2022.
History of Community Bands - Self Published. 2024
Dancing Snake Heads of Carney Ford and Other Short Stories. Self Published. 2025.