
ASHLEY BENNETT, MA

MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT | PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST | PROJECT MANAGER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly innovative, results-oriented, and effective Mental Health Expert and Public Health Specialist, well-versed in project management. Demonstrated ability to expertly manage and build projects and teams, conduct extensive research, and collaborate across functions with multidisciplinary teams in the development and execution of individualized care plans. Highly skilled at leveraging data analyses to identify root causes and risks, prior to developing and implementing corrective actions and innovative solutions. Actively pursuing Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification. Future Associate Project Manager, Project Support Specialist, or Junior Project Manager.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Psychiatric Emergency Screener/Project Coordinator | [Acenda Integrated Health](#): Cape May Courthouse, NJ **AUG 2010 – PRESENT**

- Managed a mental health outreach project throughout the entire project lifecycle; developed project timeline and schedule; monitored project status, and reported on progress to senior leadership; identified and mitigated any project risks; created and implemented new process and training; delivered training to various stakeholders (e.g., law enforcement, other mental health providers); crafted and distributed a post-project follow-up survey for continuous process improvement purposes, and to manage client outpatient treatment and engagement.
- created a tracking tool to log and monitor follow up contact in Nov 2020 to meet the department's project goal of improving our post screening follow up numbers per State guidelines. Since implementation our follow up numbers have improved by 20% for the year of 2020
- Assess 7+ daily patients in Cape Regional Hospital and the community who present with mental health symptoms.
- Develop individualized plans of care assessing issues, risks, mitigation plans, i.e., link patients to appropriate treatments and resources.
- Maintain county crisis/suicide hotline; answer 20+ daily calls, requiring subject matter expertise in crisis response.
- Schedule post-screening follow-up appointments to ensure safe discharges; create crisis and safety plans for patients being discharged.
- Conduct stakeholder analysis and serve as liaison with external stakeholders (e.g., insurance companies, community resources); obtain insurance authorizations for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization; present cases for admission.
- Facilitate training for, mentor, coach, and provide support to newly hired personnel.

LEADERSHIP

District 3 County Commissioner | [Atlantic Co Board of Chosen County Commissioners](#): Atlantic County, NJ **JAN 2017 – DEC 2020**

- Provided project support for three consecutive years to the Atlantic County Youth Services Program by scoping requirements to ensure they were adequately addressing the mission of Juvenile Division Services.
- Served as a project lead for 2 years on a city-wide diversity initiative honoring a civil rights icon, Fannie Lou Hamer; coordinated event logistics, including venue procurement; identified project resources; delegated assignments and tasks to various project team members; executed a successful event attended by 500+ people.
- Served as a liaison to the AC Library Commission and AC Youth Services Commission, Advisory Board President to the Young Political Black Caucus, one of the founding members of the NJ Nineteen, and member of the first-ever county-elected Black Caucus.
- Served on the National Association of Counties Human Services and Education Steering Committee for three years, and as an Executive Board Member of the Southern NJ Freeholder Association.
- Recognized as the youngest candidate running for NJ county government in 2017, the youngest elected official serving county-wide in NJ 2018-2020, and the first woman and African American to serve as a Freeholder to District 3 in Atlantic County history.
- Procured as a featured/keynote speaker at the 2018 Women's March in New York City, as well as for Emerge NJ in 2019.
- Featured consecutively on NJ Top 100 Millennials, named among NJ 2020 100 Black Leaders, and featured in the January 2017 Women Running for Office Avengers Time Magazine Cover.
- Earned a NAACP Community Service Award 2019 and named by TheRoot.com to their national 100 Influential African Americans of 2018.

EDUCATION | CERTIFICATIONS | TRAINING

Master of Public Health | Health Management & Policy, Health Education & Promotion | *Benedictine University: Lisle, IL* **MAY 2022**
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Clinical Psychology | *University of California, Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara, CA* **MAY 2015**
Master of Arts | Community Counseling | *Georgian Court University: Lakewood, NJ* **MAY 2010**
Bachelor of Arts | Psychology | *Rutgers University: New Brunswick, NJ* **MAY 2007**

Access Bridge Healthcare Administration Career Acceleratory Program Certificate
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate
Licensed Mental Health Screener
Crisis Intervention Team Training
COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training
Diverse Force Non-Profit Board Management Training Fellow

INTERNSHIPS

- Project Coordinator Intern** | *The College of Behavioral Health Leadership: Meza, AZ* **AUG 2021 – PRESENT**
- Provide project support; research and data analysis for equity report, assisted in drafting project plan for implementation of Fellowship program, drafted policy recommendations for policymakers
- Intern** | *Broad Street Covid19 Data Project: Milwaukee, WI* **MAY 2021 – PRESENT**
- Provide project support; collected and evaluated national COVID-19 health equity data; audited data for integrity.
- Forensic Lab/Research Assistant** | *Fielding Graduate University: Santa Barbara, CA* **SEP 2014 – SEP 2017**
- Spearheaded a project related to exposure to violence and trauma; conducted extensive research; delegated project resources; developed two journal articles and various presentations.
 - Participated in weekly research meetings; designed research with human subjects; processed and analyzed research data; prepared and presented research for conference presentations.
 - Served as a reviewer for the 2016 Summer APS Student Research Award.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT | PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Conference Host Committee Member | *Young Professionals Council for Alzheimer's NJ*
Black Excellence Scholarship Chair | *101 Women Plus Org*
Co-Chair | *National Summit for Civil Rights*
Advisory Board Member | *National Action Network – Atlantic County Chapter*
Advisory Board Member | *South Jersey Land and Water Trust*
Advisory Subcommittee Member | *New Leaders Council National Advancement Committee*
2018 Fellow | *New Leaders Council*
Subcommittee Member | *National Association of Counties*
Student Member | *Project Management Institute NJ Chapter*

PRESENTATIONS

Bennett, A., Boyle, E., J., Hicks, A., Jacquin, K. (2016) Childhood Exposure to Violence and Sexual Perpetration as an Adult. Poster presented at ABCT National Conference, October 2016.

Smith, S., Z., Boyle, E. J., Camacho, N., **Bennett, A.**, Jacquin, K. (2016) The relationship between paternal incarceration, maternal parenting behaviors, and offspring incarceration in African American and European American young adults. Poster presented at ABCT National Conference, October 2016.

CORE COMPETENCIES | TECHNICAL SKILLS

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| • Project Management | • Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion | • Microsoft Office Suite (including SharePoint) |
| • Process Improvement | • Research | • JIRA |
| • Behavioral Health | • Training Facilitation | • Asana |
| • Data Collection | • Outreach and Engagement | • Monday |
| • Data Evaluation | • Care Planning | • Slack |
| • Public Health | • Electronic Health Records | • Kanban Boards |
| • Public Relations | • SPSS | |