

**Michele M. Saunders, LCSW**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Seminole County Government January 2009- Present  
***DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES***  
Responsible for the overall leadership and management of social services, cooperative extension, adult probation, and juvenile diversion programs, CDBG grant funding as well and health department contracts.
- Florida Partners in Crisis, FL March 2006 – January 2009  
***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:*** Responsible for development, administrative and fiscal management and oversight of organization. Facilitate and oversee process for developing and implementing education and advocacy efforts with lawmakers and other key community leaders, facilitate and assist with the expansion of CIT, with the development of community collaboration and with the promoting and sharing of best practices among communities. Florida Partners in Crisis work focuses on improvements to the mental health and substance abuse treatment system
- Lakeside Alternatives, Orlando, FL July 1992 – March 2006  
***EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS (Aug 2004 to present):***  
Responsible for overseeing fundraising activities to include grant writing, community education, community systems improvements, program development, liaison to the community, governmental relations. Other functions at Lakeside from 1992 – 2004) have included clinical administration and fiscal/budget oversight for Children and Adult case management, assessment services and inpatient clinical programs, as well as community relations.
- PsyTec, Altamonte Springs, FL (Private Practice) October 1989 - June 1995  
***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER:*** Provided individual, group, family and marital psychotherapy. Involved in administrative functions and marketing strategies to promote the practice.
- Seminole Community Mental Health Center (Part Time) October 1991 - July 1992  
***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER:*** Provided individual, group, family and marital psychotherapy.
- Glenbeigh Hospital, Orlando, FL (Part time) May 1990 - October 1991  
***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER:*** Provided individual, group and family psychotherapy for inpatient Eating Disorders unit. Additional tasks included assessments, treatment planning, diagnostic summaries and discharge planning.
- Florida Hospital Center for Psychiatry, Altamonte Springs, FL October 1989 - May 1990  
***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER:*** Provided individual, group, family and marital psychotherapy.
- Orlando Regional Medical Center: Center for Life Management, Orlando, FL June 1987 - October 1989  
***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER:*** Provided individual, group, family and marital psychotherapy. Specialized with ADHD children, eating disorders, stress management and crisis intervention. Chairman of Quality Assurance Committee.
- Orange County Government - Great Oaks Village, Orlando, FL March 1987 - Nov 1987  
***CHILDREN SERVICES COUNSELOR:*** Provided counseling and casework to adolescent females. Coordinated services with HRS and other community agencies.
- Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, FL Dec 1984 - March 1987  
***ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION TEACHER*** (June 1986-March 1987): Howard Junior High School. Provided academic instruction and counseling services to at-risk youths. Assisted with community referrals.

**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER** ((December 1984-June 1985): Acted as liaison to three schools, the community and families to meet the needs of at-risk children and adolescents. Provided individual and family counseling, report writing and court appearances.

Orange County Government - Great Oaks Village, Orlando, FL Sept 1984 - Dec 1984  
**ICCP COUNSELOR:** Provided in home crisis counseling to families at risk for having their children removed due to abuse and neglect.

Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Orlando, FL June 1983 - Sept 1984  
**DISTRICT INTAKE COUNSELOR:** Provided crisis intervention, investigation of status offense cases, individual and family counseling, report writing, court appearances and case management.

Fairfax County Juvenile Court System, Fairfax, VA Nov 1979 - Nov 1982  
**OUTREACH COUNSELOR:** Provided in home counseling and case management services to adolescents involved in the juvenile court system.

### **BOARD EXPERIENCE**

Florida Partners in Crisis 1999 - 2009  
Participated in the early development of Partners in Crisis for Orange County. Assisted in the development of statewide Florida Partners in Crisis. Chaired the Public Education and Awareness committee from 2001 to present. Responsibilities included coordinating the activities to carry out and communicate the legislative agenda. Helped develop educational materials for awareness about the state's needs to improve resources to the mental health and substance abuse treatment system.

Primary Care Access Network (PCAN) 2003 – 2006  
Represent Lakeside Alternatives as a member agency on the PCAN Board, which is a dynamic collaborative between Orange County Government, primary health care centers, community agencies, hospitals and other social services. PCAN's mission is to improve the access, quality and coordination of health care services to the underinsured and uninsured populations of Orange County. Currently Chair of the Capacity and Access committee.

Lakeside Alternatives Foundation Board 2004 – 2006  
Provide the staff support and oversight to this fundraising board for Lakeside Alternatives. Have assisted in conducting 4 fundraisers (raised \$60,000 in one year), have helped increase board participation and membership, have helped rewrite the bylaws to better reflect the activities of the board, on-going work with building a dynamic board.

National Alliance on Mental Illness 2008 – present  
Duties include advisory to the National Alliance on Mental Illness – Florida Chapter in fulfilling its mission and advancing its strategic plan, provide oversight and direction related to the its financial management and operational management of the organization and assist with fundraising.

### **EDUCATION**

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Masters in Social Work (1984-1986)

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA  
Bachelor in Social Work (1975-1979)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/AFFILIATIONS**

Member of the National Association of Social Workers  
Member of the Mental Health Association  
Volunteer with the American Red Cross  
National Alliance on Mental Illness – Florida Chapter  
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

### **CREDENTIALS**

ACSW - Academy of Certified  
Social Workers

LCSW - Licensed Clinical Social  
Worker

### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request