

Najah Zaaed

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Public Health, Syracuse University
443 White Hall | Syracuse, NY 13244

Mobile: 313-332-8407 | Fax: 315-295-2654 | E-mail: nzaaeed@syr.edu

EDUCATION

- 2017 DrPH Public Health, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA
Areas of specialization: Health Promotion & Education, Global Health.
Dissertation: “*Developmental Disability Awareness for All: Assessing Knowledge, Perceptions & Attitudes of Jordanians.*”
- 2009 MSW
&
EMPA School of Social Work & Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs,
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 1996 B.S. Paralegal Education, Chancellor University, Cleveland, Ohio

Graduate Certificates

- 2009 Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY.
1) International Leadership & Non-Governmental Organizations
2) Gerontology

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Teaching:

- 8/2016- present Adjunct Professor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY.
School of Education, and Department of Health Promotion & Wellness
- 1/2016 – present Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

Professional:

- 1/2016-5/2017 Mental Health Specialist, Interfaith Works of Central New York, Syracuse, NY
- 1/2008-12/2014 Social Worker, Islamic Society of Central New York, Syracuse, NY

TEACHING INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES

General Courses: Community Health Education, Cultural Competency, Addiction & Wellness, Drug Use & Society, Gerontology.

Specialty Courses: Refugee Health, Social Media for Public Health, Mental Health.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Professor, Falk College School of Public Health, Syracuse University,
Syracuse, NY**

1/2017-
present

HTW 307, Culturally Competent Healthcare /undergraduate lecture and service learning

Examination of culturally competent healthcare, conceptual frameworks, relationship among diversity, differences and disparities, relating culture, race and ethnicity to healthcare disparities, cultural assessment tools, theoretical and conceptual models of culture and healthcare, explanatory models to retrieve data from diverse ethnic groups, health policies and resources for diverse populations.

Students are assigned to work with community organizations, in which they receive mentorship, to gain knowledge and experience on the processes related to community health education. In addition to negotiating placement opportunities, I meet with service learning supervisors throughout the semester, to ensure learning objectives are met.

1/2016-
present

HTW 304, Community Health Education /undergraduate lecture and service learning

In this course, students become familiar with roles and responsibilities of community health educators, as well as analysis of competencies and sub-competencies for community health education, ethical and legal considerations, strategies and to delivery health education, community planning frameworks (models for health education), needs assessment, program development and implementation, and evaluation.

Students are assigned to work with community organizations, in which they receive mentorship to gain knowledge and experience on the processes related to community health education. I secure placement opportunities and meet with service learning supervisors throughout the semester, to ensure learning objectives are met.

Experience in:

- Fostering collaborative learning environment
- Developing tools, attitudes, and motivation for students to practice in the social service, wellness and addictions and public health concepts in their daily lives
- Assisting students in developing critical abilities in given subjects that goes beyond simple literacy
- Exploiting topics not naturally explored in classical public health and social service offerings
- Securing service learning placements for students, relevant to course topics
- Supervising students' service learning
- Utilization of Blackboard for course design, delivery and management.

Adjunct Professor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY (online teaching)

8/2016-
present.

School of Education

GRT 501, Introduction to Gerontology/ graduate course

A multidisciplinary approach towards comprehending the aging process, among diverse populations. Additional contents covered in this course include: the socio-cultural and socio-economic systems influencing the aging process, therapeutic, emotional, biological, medical, cognitive, and financial interventions that enhance the aging process, identify support systems and caregiver patterns, effects of oppression on individual and group functioning, as well as theoretical perspectives.

1/2017-
present

Department of Health Promotion and Wellness

HSC 514, Wellness and Addictions/ graduate course

Students learn the ability to recognize relationship between wellness & addictions, multidimensional concepts of addiction, psychological process and biological differences of addictions, bio-psychosocial factors influencing addictions, chemical and non-chemical addictions, solutions to addressing addictions, treatment therapies, practice strategies to identify addictions and plans.

1/2018

HSC 343, Drug Use & Abuse in Society/ forthcoming, undergraduate course

Students explore the social, psychological, pharmacological and legal aspects of the use by humans of chemical agents, such as alcohol, tobacco and opioids, which affect behavior. Students also learn theoretical models and methods to address drug abuse or dependence.

Online Teaching Experience:

Prepared to design and deliver rigorous and engaging online courses through

- Designing online courses
- Learning Management System (Blackboard, Canvas)
- Online Communication
- Media delivery
- Building a strong online community
- Evaluating and scoring assigned areas precisely and consistently
- Providing comprehensive and robust feedback for students on assignments
- Utilizing my expertise to develop and maintain assessments of online courses
- Implementing institution-adopted accommodations, policies and procedures to maintain compliance with regulations

SUPERVISION, ADVISING AND MENTORING

1/2016 –present School of Public Health, Syracuse, University, Syracuse, NY

- Advised students on certification competencies.
- Supervision and advisement, of 60-73 students per semester, for service learning placement.
- Monitoring students research development and academic progress.
- Teaching research methods, theories, program design and evaluations.

8/2016 –present Health Promotion and Wellness & School of Education, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY

- Assessing graduate student's intellectual development, in the courses taught.
- Ensuring my students understand how to navigate course tools, to complete their assignments.

1/2016– 5/2017 Interfaith Works of Central New York, Syracuse, New York

- Provide on-and off-site mental health and addiction counseling services.
- Mentored and supervised social work and public health students.
- Trained interpreters and volunteers on issues including but not limited to confidentiality, cultural orientation and ethics.
- Grant management for chief operating officers and funders such as United Way and Excellus for funding related refugee mental health and wellness.
- Mentored students to assess, design and implement cultural orientation for refugees.
- Assessed students' newly-developed skills and research progress.
- Educate the public, non-profit organizations and governmental entities regarding mental health and well-being of refugees.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Aging with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Maternal & child health
- Effectiveness of ecological models for health awareness, at global levels.
- Refugee Health

PUBLICATIONS:

Walton, L.M, Schbley, BH, Milliner, SW, Muvati, FT, **Zaaed, N** (2017).
Investigating the reliability and validity of an intimate partner violence
screening tool for use in physical therapy practice. Int J Phys Med Rehabil
5:422. doi: 10.4172/2329-9096.1000422

Zaaed, N., Bahjri, K., Gleason, P., Modeste, N. Bio-ecological framework in developmental disability research: factors influencing Jordanian attitudes. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. In submission

Zaaed, N., Bahjri, K., Gleason, P., Modeste, N.. A mixed-methods approach: Assessing Jordanians attitudes towards persons with developmental disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*. In submission

BOOK CHAPTER

Bargainnier, S., McEvoy, A., Smith, Z., Brown, M., **Zaaed, N.**, Harris, J. (forthcoming 2018). Socio-cultural factors that support the successful transition of refugees from middle school to college. In Blessinger & Sengupta (Eds) *Refugee Education: International Perspectives from Higher Education and NGOs*. Bingley, UK, Emerald Publishing.

OTHER

Needs assessment of underprivileged Jordanians with disabilities and impairments, Global Health Institute, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 2014

Zaaed, N. (2014). Accessibility, Acceptance, Islamic Education: Living as a Muslim with Disability. Muslimmatters.org

Stats: 1.2K shares, 700 Facebook shares, 700 “Likes”, 7 shares on Reddit

“Understanding the Program: Establishing a Muslim Refugee Youth & Social Service Center” as well as an evaluation plan for the proposed project, for the Islamic Society of North America, 2009

Rule on head covering at airports hard to accept, Syracuse Post Standard, Letter to the Editor, Syracuse, NY, December 1, 2007.

KEY TALKS

Trauma and culture: Understanding the needs of refugee students. English Language Learner Student’s, Oswego College, Syracuse, NY July, 2017.

Health is academic: Socio-cultural factors that support the successful transition of male refugees from middle school to college. North American Refugees Health Conference, June, 2017.

Developmental disability awareness for all: Assessing knowledge, perceptions and attitudes of Jordanians. School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA, May 2017

The role of refugees in our community. Women in Medicine Group. Central New York Women's Bar Association and Upstate Medical University Women in Medicine Group, Syracuse, NY, April 2017

Refugee health & society (chair). Society of Health Symposium, Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, March 2017

Refugee mental health issues: stressors & consequences (mental and physical), during the resettlement process. College of Health Professions, Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, March 2017

Cultural orientation: Understanding refugee's mental health needs and resources. Syracuse Behavioral Health. Syracuse, NY, May 2016

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Hearing impairment/ loss: fear of community shaming & mental health among Arab refugees. North American Refugees Health Conference, June 2017

Healthy homes initiative: An integrated support system to increase self-advocacy. North American Refugees Health Conference, June 2017

PEER REVIEWER:

International Journal of Public Health, Peer Reviewer

Refugee Education: International Perspectives from Higher Education and NGOs, Book Reviewer

American Public Health Association, Abstract Reviewer

CONSULTATIONS:

2016-2017 Gangamma. Language and cultural orientation consultant for survey design and data collection.

2014 Chaplains Office, Emory University. Disability friendly ablution stations for Emory University Muslim Community.

2011 Bertini, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Agricultural Development Program.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1/2016– 5/2017 Interfaith Works of CNY, Syracuse, New York, USA.
A non-profit organization, serving the Central New York community, by providing interfaith dialogue, senior support services, civil rights and justice, as well as resettling and supporting refugees.

Mental Health Specialist, duties include:

- Provide mental health and addiction counseling services
- Providing cultural orientations to New Americans, volunteers and professionals working closely with the refugee community.
- Network with key community and universal stakeholders to improve refugee's quality of life
- Assist healthcare, social service and academic professionals as needed, to improve client's health and well-being
- Post-90-day case management
- Mentor and supervise social work and public health students
- Train interpreters and volunteers on issues including but not limited to confidentiality, cultural orientation and ethics
- Grant management
- Mentoring students to assess, design and implement cultural orientation for refugees.
- Assessment of students' newly-developed skills and research progress.

2008-2014

Islamic Society of Central New York, Syracuse, NY, USA

The primary mosque in Central New York, ISCNY's counselors provide comprehensive social services to its community at-large; this includes marriage and family therapy and adult and youth counseling, at group and individual levels.

Social worker duties included:

Counseling clients, with immediate and non-emergency concerns. The delivery method of my services were dependent on the client and situation at hand; I may travel to meet with a client and counsel at community, group and individual levels.

Furthermore, my networking skills-with social work and non-social work professionals-equips me with the information needed to refer clients to valuable and appropriate resources. I was promoted to full-time social worker after completing an internship in 2008.

- Interview clients for a needs and behavioral assessment, to analyze the situation
- Identify key concerns, consult with professionals regarding diagnosis, design and implement a treatment plan accordingly
- Address policy concerns, such as school or health, which may hinder access to services and entitlements
- Facilitate group and individual counseling programs, on topics such as adolescent challenges, refugee and immigrant assimilation and cultural coping mechanisms, elderly loneliness/ depression, marital and parenting concerns and substance abuse
- Advise, plan and coordinate public health awareness programs

LANGUAGES:

Arabic: Fluent

Training and Certification

- 2014 Patient Navigator Certificate, Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute, NY
- 2013 Certificate of Muslim Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Det., MI
- 2009 Chaplain Office Coordinator and Counselor, Hendricks Chapel–Muslim Chaplainry, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 2008-2009 Social Work Internship, Islamic Society of Central New York, Syr., NY
- 2007-2008 Social Work Internship, Dorothy Day House, Catholic Charities, Syr., NY

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Selma Andrews Award, Loma Linda University
- 2013 Global Health Institute, Loma Linda University Research Funding
- 2013 Fadel Education Foundation Scholarship
- 2008-2010 Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Fellowship, Islamic Society of North America

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Public Health Association, *member*
North American Society of Refugee Healthcare, *member*
Public Health in the Arab World, *member*.
Rahma Clinic, *volunteer*.