

CATHERINE ACOSTA TAYLOR, PhD, CRC, LMHC

EDUCATION:

PhD Education, Specializing in Exceptionalities,

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii

Dissertation Topic/Publication:

Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Social Thinking Intervention to Increase Social Responsiveness of Adolescents and Young Adults with Asperger Syndrome: A Mixed Methods Approach

Certificate of Completion, Post Baccalaureate Teaching Certificate Program,

University of Hawaii at Manoa, January 2008.

Certificate of Completion, The Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (MCHLEND), University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii, May 2005.

Post-Graduate Certificate in Special Education and Brain Injury,

The George Washington University (GWU), Washington D.C., May 2005

Post-Graduate Certificate, Rehabilitation Engineering Technology,

San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA January 1990

Master of Science, Rehabilitation Counseling, San Francisco State University,

San Francisco, CA

Bachelor of Science, Biology - Physiology San Francisco State University,

San Francisco, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

7/2019 to present Special Education and Science Teacher, Secondary Education,
Iao School and Maui High School, Maui District, Maui, Hawaii.

Teach Earth and Space Science, Life Science, Advanced Placement Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology coursework to all students, including students with disabilities. Provided instruction to individuals receiving Special Education services and facilitated implementation of IEP and 504 accommodations and modifications to ensure equity in the classroom. Case Coordinator for students with special, develop Individualized Educational Plans (IEP), and create Behavioral Intervention plans. Collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, and ancillary service providers in implementing IEP's and Behavioral programs.

07/2008 to present Licensed Mental Health Counselor/ Behavioral Specialist,
Catherine A. Taylor, PhD, Maui, Hawaii

Provide counseling and behavioral services to children, adolescents and young adults with disabilities addressing personal and family relationships, social interaction, and communication issues to improve overall mental health. Counseling and life coaching services to individuals requiring mental health counseling addressing personal, couple

and family relationship conflict and a variety of mental health issues. Provide a variety of therapeutic interventions, including but not limited to Brief Therapy, anger management, crisis counseling and parenting management.

07/2016 to 07/2019 Counselor, Disability Services, University of Hawaii Maui College, Maui, Hawaii

Plan and facilitate implementation of academic accommodations, auxiliary aids and support services for students with disabilities at UH Maui College campus and Distance Learning students. Interview, advise and orient students on accessibility and self-advocacy. Analyze disability documentation such as psychometric test results, medical documentation, psychological assessments and any additional documentation to determine eligibility for services and reasonable academic accommodations. Provide counseling support on personal, social and disability-related issues that can interfere with student progress and academic success. Conduct group counseling sessions, seminars and workshops for students to build academic skills and promote student retention and completion. Refer students to appropriate campus and community support services as needed. Facilitate high school transition. Interpret legal mandates on disability in post-secondary education. Consult with faculty, staff, and administration regarding school policy and student progress. Conduct staff seminars and trainings on college and federal guidelines and mandates regarding the rights of students with disabilities. Participate in district, campus, department and program meetings and activities. Maintain currency in counseling, disability and other relevant fields.

7/2009 to 7/2013 Behavioral Instructional Support Services (BISS) Specialist, Parent Trainer, Crisis Prevention/Intervention Trainer, Bayada Home Health Care/Nursefinders Inc., Maui, HI.

Supervised BISS and Paraprofessionals providing services to individuals with disabilities, and parent training services to parents of children with Autism and Traumatic Brain Injuries diagnosis. Develop and implement behavioral plans, visual schedules and visual cues, and conduct play activities to improve academic and community access. Train staff in Crisis Prevention/Intervention (CPI) measures on severe behavior issues of individuals with disabilities.

1/2007 to 7/2008 Behavioral Health Specialist – Autism Team; Maui District Traumatic Brain Injury Specialist, Maui District Special Education Department, Maui, Hawaii

District Behavioral Health Consultant to public school administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in developing programs for students with Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, and other developmental disabilities. Developed educational and afterschool programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Facilitated IEP meetings involved in dispute and/or litigation. Collaborated with school teams to develop IEP's and Behavior Plans. Supported district and school personnel in due process hearings. Provided parent-training services to families of children with Autism.

11/2005 to 1/2007 Acting Program Director/Behavioral Health Specialist,
Maui District Intensive Learning Center, Maui, Hawaii.

Supervised professional and paraprofessional staff in implementing a therapeutic-educational based program for middle and high school student with diagnosed disabilities and co-occurring emotional disorders. Collaborated with teachers, counselors, district personnel and school administrative personnel regarding appropriate referrals. Administered disciplinary procedures for students and for staff. Facilitate problem resolution among personnel staff, and between staff and students.

6/2002 to 1/2006 Instructor, Human Service Department,
University of Phoenix, Maui, Hawaii

Instructor for courses in Basic Psychology, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, and Practicum for students pursuing Bachelor's degree in Human Services.

4/2002 to 11/2005 Behavioral Specialist,
Wailuku Elementary School, Wailuku, HI

Provided Behavioral Counseling services to elementary students with learning disabilities and emotional/behavior disorders, including students with mild to severe disabilities including students with Autism. Conducted Functional Behavioral Analysis and develop behavioral management plans. Assisted teachers, parents and agency professionals in advocating for services. monitor student progress and implementing service plans. Provided family counseling services whenever requested and necessary. Conducted group counseling sessions for students requiring socialization skills, conflict resolution skills, and anger management skills.

1/1996 to 1/2000 Expert Witness, Vocational
Social Security Disability Appeals Court, San Francisco Branch
San Francisco, California

Contracted as Expert witness on appellant's ability to work considerate of limitations due to disability, work background, education, area of residence and labor market.

8/1989 to 1/1990 Disabled Students Counselor, City College of San Francisco,
San Francisco, California

Counselled and provided supportive services to students with wide range of disabilities. Worked with ancillary agencies to ensure student supports are subsidized to ensure academic access. Supportive services included academic, vocational and personal counseling around disability issues, academic adjustments, referral for ancillary services and provision of auxiliary aids. Collaborated with Professors and lecturers in providing

academic adjustments and accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Verified disability and assess academic needs. Reported data to program supervisor.

01/1989 to 04/2002 Rehabilitation Supervisor, Counselor, General Partner, Acosta & Taylor/CM Acosta & Associates, Maui, Honolulu, and San Francisco Bay Area, California.

Provided individual and family disability counseling, case management and consultation services to develop Vocational Rehabilitation Plans for injured workers to return to gainful employment. Administered academic, vocational and interest tests to identify areas of strengths of the client. Provided written documentation to agencies such as Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, US Department of Veterans Affairs, City and County of San Francisco, and private entities as required. Facilitated and coordinate services with team of professionals assisting clients, which included psychologists, psychiatrists, internists, lawyers, judges, counselors, other rehabilitation specialists, and instructors. Trained workers at the worksite in safety management. Compiled Job Analyses library for companies.

08/1986 to 01/1989 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Continental Insurance Company, Northern California Division Pleasanton, California

Provided individual and case management and consultation services to injured workers to develop Vocational Rehabilitation Plans for injured workers to return to gainful employment. Administered academic, vocational and interest tests to identify areas of strengths of the client. Provided required written documentation to private and public agencies. Facilitated and coordinate services with team of professionals assisting clients, which included psychologists, psychiatrists, internists, lawyers, judges, counselors, other rehabilitation specialists, and instructors. Trained workers on safety management on-site. Compiled Job Analysis library for companies.

08/1985 to 06/1986 Counseling Intern, Richmond Maxi Center, San Francisco, California

Provided individual, couples and family mental health services to patients of the Community Mental Health Center. Assess individual patient needs and develop treatment plans, facilitate referrals for ancillary services to other agencies to facilitate effective patient care and recovery. Provide updates to supervising Therapist on-site, and write documentation of treatment and services rendered.

08/1984 to 05/1985 Community College Disabled Students Programs and Services Counseling Intern, Disabled Students Programs and Services, DeAnza College, Cupertino CA

Provided supportive services for students with a wide range of disabilities. Supportive services included academic, vocational, career, and personal counseling around disability issues, academic accommodations, ancillary services and auxiliary aids. Collaborated

with Professors and lecturers in providing academic adjustments and accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Verified disability and assess academic needs.

Professional Certifications and Memberships:

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certificate # 2055, renewable 2022
Licensed Mental Health Counselor, State of Hawaii, License #67 renewable 2025
Pi Lambda Theta and Phi Delta Kappa, member since 2011
Mentor, Social Thinking, February 2010,
Teaching Certificate, Special Education, May 2008
Certified Crisis Prevention/Intervention Trainer, January 2008
Certified Brain Injury Specialist, Level 1- Basic, AACBIS since 2004
TBI Resource Team, Maui Representative, Hawaii DOE, 2004 to 2008
Parent Facilitator, Teaching Parenting Skills, The Positive Discipline Way, University of Washington, October 2003
Professional Primary Certificate, RATIONAL EMOTIVE BEHAVIOR THERAPY (REBT), Albert Ellis Institute, Oakland, CA, February 2003