

Texas Bar Foundation Scholar Profiles 2018



Brittany Touchon, LMSW

Social Worker-Geriatrics
Long Term Care
JPS Health Network

“The Last Steps training was very useful to me in my role as a social worker that specializes in geriatrics. I learned how to introduce, explain and help people make decisions about end-of-life care. It was the part of the conversation that I was missing. Last Steps is very practical and makes complex topics easier to confront for both my patients and me.”

Lifesaving moment: <https://jpshealthnet.org/news/social-workers-great-save>

Favorite movie: *“I would love everyone to see “Alive Inside” – a documentary that you can watch on Netflix.”*



Kevin Thompson

Case Management
Union Gospel Mission

“The most touching thing I’ve seen was a memorial for 50 people who died in 2017, which is approximately 20 to 25% of those receiving services with us.”

“I hope that this training will help my residents understand the choices that they have.”

Favorite movie: *Thor*



Jeong "Sookie" Kim, APRN, AGNP

Palliative care
THR Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital

"I am so grateful for the training. I was having these conversations with my patients, but with the Respecting Choices training, there is a great template to build upon."

"I can see more & more ways to bring this information to my faith community and other organizations."

"I look forward to working with CQEC more to serve as many people as possible."

Favorite movie: Forrest Gump and Inside Out



Debbie Rocha, RN

Registered Nurse
Healing Shepherd Clinic

Healing Shepherd Clinic staff and volunteers work closely with Union Gospel Mission & John Peter Smith Health Network to ensure that the indigent patients are provided prescription medications; diagnostic evaluations and specialty care at no cost. Debbie Rocha joined the Healing Shepherd Clinic in 2011 as a volunteer. It wasn't until 2015 she accepted a nursing position.

"We are in the process of implementing the Advance directives with Union Gospel Mission. I am working with the case managers to offer a couple of classes for the residents to familiarize them with advanced directive concepts. We will discuss what it is & why it is so important to have an advanced directive in place. I am looking forward to alleviating some of the stress our residents may be experiencing due to their current situation -or worrying about what's going to happen to them in an emergency situation."



Kristen Reuter, LMSW, MSSW, CDP, CADDCT

Social Worker-Geriatrics
UNTHSC

"The emphasis has always been on getting the documents finished and signed by all parties. Now I realize the process of the conversation is just as important as the finished product."

Favorite movie: Titanic



Christian Anthony Burton, MD

Geriatric Medicine – Tarrant County Hospital
JPS Health Network-Fort Worth

“This information is vital to get to our physicians in training. I hope to partner with CQEC further to reach our next generation of physicians with this approach to ACP. My team serves many homeless, urban poor and all over 65.”

“I am so grateful for The Texas Bar Foundation’s grant to help us as doctors to be bring our best to our patients and this very difficult topic.”



Debra Vernon, RN

Nurse Case Manager
The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

“As a case manager, I use my Respecting Choices training daily. I work in a cancer treatment facility where this conversation is had often. Our patient population is comprised of a significant number of at risk patients.”



Lesca Hadley, MD

Assistant Professor Geriatrics with subspecialties of
Hospice and Palliative Medicine
*UNT Health Science Center &
JPS Health Network-Fort Worth*

“I teach medical students, residents & fellows. I will use the Respecting Choices course to give my students a better framework for the conversation and together we will reach our Mercy Clinic homeless & underserved patients. I look forward to partnering more with CQEC in future.”



Mary Teague, MDiv, BSN, RN

Faith Community Nurse Liaison
Texas Health Resources

“In the past I focused on teaching the documents. I really appreciate the hands-on approach to the ACP conversation. I intend to use respecting choices and what I have learned in the hospital and our faith communities that I serve.”

Favorite movie: Braveheart



Teresa Whittington, RN, BSN

Vice President, Clinical &
Continuum Operations, CC Young, Dallas

I currently work at CCYoung, a large CCRC (retirement community) in Dallas. We have multiple levels of care on our campus from Independent to Skilled Nursing.

We need to have advanced directive discussions with our residents while they are healthy and living in the independent living. I am going to share this information with our social workers & nurse managers so all have better tools and language to utilize when talking to residents and/or families about advance directives. I will also use my training both at church in helping seniors, plus I assist with an Alzheimer's Support Group."

I can't thank you enough for the scholarship – I truly appreciate it!



Tanisha Tyler-Carr

Care & Support Specialist, Alzheimer's Association, Dallas

"I will use Respecting Choices training in my work with families as I do care consultations. In my position at the Alzheimer's Association I meet with families affected by Alzheimer's disease this training will enhance my ability to serve them better and providing better resources. In 2018 I helped increase our outreach contacts with new constituents by 25% presented 'Knowing the 10 signs of Alzheimer's' at an African-American symposium in Fort Worth.

I also volunteer with the Bridge Breast Health Network it will help me understand resources specific to special populations."

Favorite movie: never ending story



Leah R. Wingard

Administrator
Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care

"I am so grateful for the training I believe I will be able to steward my legacy better, as well as help my family and friends understand their rights and responsibilities in the advance care planning process.

I do believe ACP could be THE catalyst for converting a vast amount of resources rightfully directed towards making this world a better place.

Imagine if every person's estate donated 10% to resolve whatever crisis on our planet they were passionate about? What a different world we could have in 2020!"

Favorite movie: Saving Mr. Banks. "I love the story's layering & the legacy preserved."



Jenny Unsen, LMSW

Caseworker, Alzheimer's Association,
North Central Texas Chapter

"I am working with the elderly and people with dementia at the Alzheimer's Association. I am helping clients and their caregivers to plan for end-of-life needs."

"I also volunteer with the Tarrant Area Gerontological Society and I can share my experiences with other professionals."



Karolyn Sorenson

Executive Director
Whitley Place, Capital Senior Living,
Gerontology & counseling

"I work with the elderly on a daily basis & with their families in our memory care facility in Fort Worth. I will also use in social groups and at professional meetings like the Tarrant Area Gerontological Society."



Laura Addicks, LMSW

THR Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital
Social Worker- Palliative care

"I will be able to utilize the ACP training in my daily work. Part of the social work role within the Palliative care services is to facilitate advance care planning and goals of care conversations with families. However at the time of class registration I learned that there were no funds available for tuition for Respecting Choices from my department. With the scholarship I will be able to serve the 'At risk' populations on a daily basis in my employment, due to being in an urban hospital setting. In my three years on the Palliative care team I have seen many from each of these populations."



Sue Wallace, CSA

Owner
Assisted Services, Inc.

"I now start conversations about ACP at each evaluation I do which averages 1-2 per week. The Respecting Choices training really helps me navigate my clients through very important conversations sooner rather than later."

"I'm so thankful for a scholarship for this best practice training with CQEC."



Caroline Barbini, RN

Faith Community Nurse Liaison, Bedford
Texas Health Resources

"Respecting Choices provides training, modeling and gives me a greater understanding of the resources available to our community."

"I serve Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, and volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth."

Favorite movies: It's a wonderful life and Roman holiday



Holly Glover, MAC, LPC

Director of Senior Adult Day Program
and Family Services
James L West Center

"I really like the framework and structure that Respecting Choices conversations provides. I work with families that are affected by dementia. I will use this information daily in my work, as well as at my church. I do a lot of community education and will use this information when teaching."

Favorite movies: Breakfast at Tiffany's



Dawn Bransky, Physical Therapist

Owner

Benevolent Hearts home care agency

"I have regular conversations with the geriatric population in their home. I am often finding I am one of the first to discuss this topic with them. This training helps me be better prepared for those conversations."

Favorite movies: Wizard of Oz



Sheila Gibson

Volunteer, St. John Lutheran

"I have been associated with CQEC for seven years. I will be assisting Saint John Lutheran with ACP conversations in the Mansfield/ Arlington community."

"I'm so happy that several of the Faith Community Nurses were accepted for scholarships in Arlington, this will help us raise awareness of the need for Advance Directives, as well as getting the documents prepared."

Favorite movie: The Way and A Walk in the Clouds



Cheryl A. Mart, MSN, RN – BC

Faith Community Nursing Program Coordinator, Southwest Zone

Texas health resources face community nursing program coordinator

"As a registered nurse I will use this training in my faith community, as well as in my career as a program coordinator for health outreach in faith communities. My work allows me to offer training to at risk ZIP Code areas as well as the aging populations in Fort Worth."

"The Respecting Choices training really helped me practice the conversational framework. It really gave me more direction and confidence."

Favorite movies are seasonal: It's a wonderful life and Wizard of Oz



Mary Ellen Barrow, M.Div. - Chaplain

Texas Health Resources, Clearfork

Currently enrolled in Doctor of Ministry program- in Project phase; board certified chaplain and elder with CTCUMC

"I find the training to be very helpful! As a chaplain I use it daily. I help our multidisciplinary teams and Palliative care teams assess patient and family wishes."

"Thank you for offering this meaningful guidance toward best practices."



Mary Collins, RN

Nurse Manager
Trinity Terrace

“I do this every day as the Home Care and Resident Nurse Manager for Trinity Terrace. I never really knew how to complete the conversation and now I do! And I’m so thankful!”



Kim Quigley, LMSW

Palliative Care Social Work Navigator
North Texas Specialty Physicians

“I will assist my patients who may not be very knowledgeable about ACP and unable to afford the cost of having their documents prepared.”

“I’m grateful for the scholarship because my employer has no funding for ACP training at this time.”



Emily Rider, LVN

Assisted Living /Memory Support Administrator
Trinity Terrace

“I am grateful for the information and training, as I am helping to educate the geriatric community on advance care planning.”

Favorite movie: Narnia



Anita M Mitchell, RN, CNOR

Faith Community Nurse Liaison
Texas Health Resources - Arlington

“As a faith community nurse for THR Arlington Memorial & Trinity United Methodist Church Arlington, I will endeavor to improve communication and develop skills for facilitating the ACP conversations with our members and community as requested.”

“As a liaison part time I do not qualify for educational funding with my employer. I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to receive a scholarship for this important professional education.”

Favorite movie: Dances with wolves



Robin Nabors, LMSW

Director of resident and family services
Silverado Fort Worth, Memory Care Community

"The training will help with and family education efforts and assisting families and understanding advanced care plan documents."

"I assist patients in completing advance directives multiple times per week. I routinely facilitate advanced care planning appointments with patients and a physician to complete directives. I work with elderly who are memory impaired and their families. I have also discussed advance directives with patients on hospice and help answer a variety of questions."

Favorite movie: Lord of the Rings



Mary Schaaf, LMSW

Family Practice – Azle, TX
UNT Health Science

"I will be able to talk with patients and /or their families about end-of-life care planning. My clinic is located in a neighborhood where 'at risk' persons reside. We service low income, disabled, elderly, and persons with multiple chronic health conditions."



Jennifer Massey, Master of Divinity,

Staff Chaplain
JPS health network

"I encounter patients and families on a daily basis that are dealing with grief and loss. I work at the County hospital where I provide those services to those considered 'at risk'."

"I am grateful to have been granted a scholarship for this valuable training I will certainly use as I serve the community."



Christy Odman, Master Ed. Admin, RN

Trinity Terrace

"I work with the elderly and this training will help us with conversations with them and their families. We really appreciated the opportunity to practice this approach with other professionals before we assist those in our community."

Janie Williams, LVN

Patient Navigator

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

"I help patients that are newly diagnosed and they are usually not thinking about this topic. Having a template to guide our conversations is really helpful."

Favorite movie: Top Gun