

PERSONAL SUMMARY

Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Nationally Certified Counselor who holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision with 12+ years of experience in the counseling field. Known for utilizing skills and experiences to maximize client outcomes, increase productivity, advocate for the professional counseling field, provide leadership, and educate, train, and supervise counselors and other professionals. Always working to help bridge the gap in mental health disparities across various ethnic groups and provide exceptional pedagogy to counselors-in-training.

EDUCATION

2019 | Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision (CACREP)
WALDEN UNIVERSITY | Minneapolis, MN

2009 | Master of Arts, Mental Health Counseling (CACREP)
ARGOSY UNIVERSITY | Sarasota, FL

2005 | Master of Arts, Education, Guidance and Counseling
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS | St. Thomas, USVI

2002 | Bachelor of Arts, Psychology (Cum Laude)
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS | St. Thomas, USVI

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

U. S. Virgin Islands Licensed Professional Counselor, # 0-46221-1B | April, 2022

Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor | Jul 2019

Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor | Jun 2019

Certified Prepare-Enrich Facilitator | Jan 2018

Certified Clinical Trauma Professional | Aug 2017

Qualified Supervisor for Mental Health Interns and Marriage and Family Therapist Interns | Jan 2015

National Board-Certified Counselor, #316563 | Feb 2013

Florida Licensed Mental Health Counselor, #MH11000 | Nov 2011

Certified Parent Effectiveness Trainer, Gordon Training International, St Croix, (USVI) | Jan 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Core Faculty

HODGES UNIVERSITY | Fort Myers, FL | 2021- Present

- Teach graduate-level courses to counselors-in-training in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
- Designed coursework to align with CACREP Standards, graded discussion posts, assignments, and tests
- Canvas platform to update course information, post to discussion boards, and interact with students
- Plan for on-campus residency for students
- Faculty advising for students to discuss program requirements, course sequence

Courses: Career Counseling, Counseling in Community Settings, Individual Assessments and Evaluations, Diagnosis & Treatment Planning, Child Therapy, Counseling Theories & Practice, Research and Program Evaluation, Practicum and Internship, Group Theories and Practice, Child and Adolescent Therapy, Internship

Adjunct Faculty

ADLER UNIVERSITY | Chicago, IL | 2021

- Taught graduate level Internship course in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
- Provide clinical supervision to counselors in training via Zoom
- Facilitate student learning through weekly supervision groups, case conceptualization, and case consultation
- Utilize Moodle in course grading, discussion posts

Courses: Assessments in Counseling, Practicum and Internship supervisor

Adjunct Faculty

WALDEN UNIVERSITY | Minneapolis, MN | 2021

- Teach graduate-level courses in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
- Execute preset courses that align with CACREP Standards, grade posts, assignments, and tests
- Facilitate student learning through blended and online learning platforms
- Utilize Blackboard in course grading, discussion posts

Courses: Assessments in Counseling

Adjunct Faculty

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY | Lynchburg, VA | 2020

- Teach graduate-level courses in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
- Execute preset courses that align with CACREP Standards, grade posts, assignments, and tests
- Facilitate student learning through blended and online learning platforms
- Utilize Canvas in course grading, discussion post

Courses: Psychopathology, Orientation to Counselor Profession Identity & Formation, Dissertation Chair, Crisis Counseling

Adjunct Faculty

HODGES UNIVERSITY | Fort Myers, FL | 2017-2021

- Taught graduate-level courses in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
- Designed coursework to align with CACREP Standards, graded discussion posts, assignments, and tests

ELISA A. NILES THORNE

PhD., LMHC-S, NCC, CCTP, CCMHC, RPT-S

Murdock, Florida | (407)270-2491 | (340)514-7950 | dreniles2019@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/elisanilesthorne

- Instituted student learning through blended and online learning platforms
- Used Blackboard and Canvas for course design, grading

Courses: Career Counseling, Counseling in Community Settings, Individual Assessments & Evaluations, Diagnosis & Treatment Planning, Child Therapy, Counseling Theories & Practice

Teaching Assistant

WALDEN UNIVERSITY | Minneapolis, MN | 2017

- Supported faculty grading papers and discussion board posts
- Collaborated with faculty weekly to discuss the progress of students

Courses Co-Taught: Career Counseling, Crisis & Trauma Counseling

Teaching Assistant

HODGES UNIVERSITY | Fort Myers, FL | 2017-2017

- Assisted faculty in grading papers and discussion board posts
- Attended bi-weekly faculty meetings regarding course development and student progress

Courses Co-Taught: Research and Counseling In Community Settings

Lecturer

CARIBBEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY | Kingston, Jamaica | 2012-2013

- Aided guest lecturer teaching graduate students counseling theories
- Developed weekly assignments, lessons, and exams
- Graded papers and evaluated student clinical skills
- Presented PowerPoint on Advance Techniques of Psychotherapy integrated with Christianity
- Developed and implemented a four-week blended format course for Advance Techniques of Psychotherapy using Moodle format

Instructor (Part-time)

NATIONAL CORRECTIVE SOLUTIONS | Sarasota, FL | 2008-2010

- Instructed participants on how to be financially responsible and integrating the relationship between finances and emotional health
- Facilitated class discussions that were interactive and didactic with adults (20-35 class size)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Psychotherapist | 2022-Present

SOUNDMIND COUNSELING AND CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC. | PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

- Provide individual, couple, and family psychotherapy
- Facilitate psychoeducational and process group counseling
- Supervise licensed, registered interns and graduate student interns

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Clinical Director | 2016-2021

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNSELING CENTER, LLC | Port Charlotte, FL

- Provide individual, couple, and family psychotherapy
- Facilitate psychoeducational and process group counseling
- Supervise licensed, registered interns and graduate student interns
- Weekly Chart Reviews for Medicaid compliance
- Execute quarterly staff meetings and monthly case presentation meetings
- Generate community presentations on mental health-related topics (print and radio)

Psychotherapist (Independent Contractor) | 2013-2016

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNSELING CENTER, LLC | Port Charlotte, FL

- Delivered individual, couple, and family psychotherapy
- Facilitated group counseling on anger management, stress management, and parenting skills
- Completed intake and bio-psychosocial assessments on clients and utilized evidence-based therapeutic practices
- Contributed monthly articles to the Health and Body section of Florida Weekly newspaper

Behavioral Health Specialist | 2011-2014

CHARLOTTE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION | Punta Gorda, FL

- Provided Counseling and Case Management services to inmates in the Florida Department of Corrections
- Managed caseload of 80-145 inmates in the outpatient setting and 20-25 inmates in the Transitional Care Unit (inpatient)
- Monitored inmate progress, treatment goals, and medication compliance
- Supplied crisis intervention to inmates declaring psychological emergencies
- Participated in daily multi-disciplinary team meetings and conducted weekly chart audits for compliance with state regulations

Behavioral Specialist | 2010-2011

DESOTO DUAL DIAGNOSED CORRECTIONAL FACILITY | Arcadia, FL

- Conducted intake and comprehensive evaluations on juveniles
- Provided individual, family, group, and substance abuse therapy as well as crisis intervention to youth on suicide precautions
- Monitored and documented youth's weekly progress in treatment

Therapist (Independent Contractor) | 2009-2013

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS | Bradenton, FL

- Conducted in-home individual and family counseling and psychotherapy

Therapist | 2009-2009

MANATEE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT SERVICES-SEX OFFENDERS PROGRAM, Bradenton, FL

- Facilitated and co-facilitated group therapy using Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy
- Developed therapeutic plans and behavior modification techniques based on individual cases

Graduate Student Counselor Intern | 2004-2009

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OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Exam Item Writer, National Board of Certified Counselors, Remote, 2023, 2021

Scholarship Reviewer, National Board of Certified Counselors, Minority Fellowship Program, Remote-2021, 2020, 2019

Social Services Counselor | 2008-2010

SARASOTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT | Sarasota, FL

- Performed case management to at-risk populations, acting as liaison and partner with community stakeholders
- Developed and implemented care plans that yield healthy outcomes for mothers and infants
- Designed tools for effective data collection

Licensing Specialist | 2002-2008

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES | St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

- Managed recruitment, screening, and selection of foster parents and placement of foster children and provided foster care orientation and trained new foster parents
- Implemented Virgin Islands Foster Care Association and Blue-Ribbon Campaign for Foster Care Month and Promoted Foster Care Month through local television and radio programs

PUBLICATIONS

Niles, E. A. (2021). An Integrative Approach to Play Therapy Supervision Using Sandtray Therapy. *Techniques and Interventions for Play Therapy and Clinical Supervision* (pp. 106-119). IGI Global.

Niles, Elisa Amaris, "Impact of Trauma on Reoccurring Homelessness in the U. S. Virgin Islands" (2019). *Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies*. 7707.

<https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/dissertations/7707>

Galvez, Tristin Corrine, "The Relationship Between Shame Proneness and Guilt Proneness, Counseling, and Recidivism in Incarcerated Individuals" (2022). *Doctoral Dissertations and Projects*. 3426.

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/doctoral/3426> (**Dissertation Chair, Dr. Elisa A. Niles Thorne**)

Niles, E. A. (2015, May 21). Mental health awareness is critical to well-being—*Florida Weekly*, p.C4.

Niles, E. A. (2015, Apr 23). It's counseling awareness month, so learn some answers—*Florida Weekly*, p.C8.

Niles, E. A. (2015, Mar 26). Healthy self-love: Learning to love yourself is important—*Florida Weekly*, p. C8.

Niles, E. A. (2015, Jan 22 & Feb 19). What is going to be new about you in 2015? *Florida Weekly*, p.C19.

Tichy-Smith, L. (2014, Nov 27). Holiday Stress: How to keep it under wraps this season. *Florida Weekly*, pp. C1, C22. (Interviewed)

Niles, E. A. (2009). *The psychological state of homelessness: Using counseling to address the needs of the homeless*. (Unpublished directed independent study) Argosy University, Sarasota, FL.

Niles, E. A. (2005). *Homelessness in the Virgin Islands: A study of social worker's attitudes towards the Homeless*. (Unpublished master's thesis). University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI.

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Chambers, E. C., Tull, E. S., Fraser, H., Mutunhu, N. R., Sobers, N. P., & Niles, E. (2005). A family history of diabetes is related to abnormal insulin sensitivity in African-Caribbean girls of low birth weight: is catch-up weight important?. *Ethnicity and Disease, 15*(3), 424.

Chambers, E. C., Tull, E. S., Fraser, H. S., Mutunhu, N. R., Sobers, N., & Niles, E. (2004). The relationship of internalized racism to body fat distribution and insulin resistance among African adolescent youth. *Journal of National Medical Association, 96*(12), 1594–1598.

PRESENTATIONS

- Sept 2023 “Love’s Placebo: The effects of human trafficking and creative ways of helping survivors. Presenters: **Dr. Elisa Niles Thorne**, Danielle Bishop, Thomas Nettehiem, and Maribeth Toner. Poster Presentation at American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference, September 15, 2023
- Jan 2022 “Playing in Deh Yard”. Presenter **Dr. Elisa Niles Thorne**. National Board of Certified Counselors, Minority Fellowship Program Webinar.
- Nov 2021 “Caribbean Faculty Women of Color: Successfully Navigating U.S. Universities”. Presenters: Dr. Nivischi Ngozi Edwards; Dr. Ann Shillingford Butler; Malaika Edwards; Dr. Letitia Browne James; Dr. **Elisa Niles**. Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology CRCP 2020+, Virtual Conference
- Oct 2020 Providing Ethical Practice during a Pandemic: Panel Discussion: Presenters Dr. Eric Davis, Dr. Homer Brown, Dr. Antwan Player, Dr. LaTonya Summers, and **Dr. Elisa Niles**. Florida Counseling Association Virtual Convention, 2020
- July 2020 Presenter: **Dr. Elisa Niles**. Webinar: Florida Mental Health Counseling Association
- Nov 2019 “Children Should be Seen and Heard: Implications for Play Therapists and Counselors working with Caribbean Children & Families”. Presenter: **Dr. Elisa A. Niles**. National Board Certified Counselors, Mental Health Academy, Bridging the Gap Virtual Summit
- Oct 2019 “Counselor Wellness from Within: Finding Balance Between Self-Care and Client-Care” Presenter: **Elisa A. Niles**. Florida Counseling Association-2019 Convention.
- Oct 2018 “Addressing Counselor Wellness from a Trauma-Informed Care Approach” Florida Counseling Association-2018 Convention Pre-Conference Learning Institute. Presenters: **Elisa A. Niles** and Tia Nagel
- June 2018 “The Globalization of Trauma: Implications for Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling. Florida Counseling Association, Traumatology Symposium. Presenters: Daniel Balva, Letitia Browne-James, **Elisa A. Niles**
- Aug 2017 “Gatekeeping and Leadership in Counseling.” Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, Behavioral Health Conference, Orlando, FL. Presenters: Letitia Browne James and **Elisa A. Niles**

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- May 2017 "Becoming a Trauma-Informed Care Professional Counselor," Roundtable Discussion at the National Board of Certified Counselors, Bridging the Gap Symposium: Eliminating Mental Health Disparities, Annual Symposium, Atlanta, GA. Presenter: **Elisa A. Niles**
- Apr 2017 "Incorporating Trauma-Informed Care Approach into Clinical Practice." Presenters: **Elisa A. Niles** and Letitia Browne-James. The Florida Counseling Association 2nd Annual Traumatology Symposium
- Apr 2017 "Helping the Homeless to Succeed: Integrating Trauma-Informed Care Approach." Presenter: **Elisa A. Niles**, St. Thomas, USVI
- Apr 2016 "Microaggressions: Implications for Counselors, Counselor Educators, and Supervisors." Presenters: Letitia Browne-James, LMHC, NCC; Jenae Thompson, LPC, DCC; & **Elisa A. Niles**, LMHC, NCC. American Counseling Association Conference, Montreal
- Sept 2014 "The Psychological Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse". Southwest Florida Caribbean-American Association, Port Charlotte, FL. Presenter: **Elisa A. Niles**
- Jul 2013 "Managing Stress: Increasing Productivity while Decreasing Pressure," Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, Kingston, Jamaica. Presenter: **Elisa A. Niles**

HONORS & AWARDS

2019 | The National Society of Leadership and Success

2016 | National Board of Certified Counselors-Minority Fellowship Program Fellow 2016-2017 Recipient

LEADERSHIP/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Florida Counseling Association, Ethics Committee Chair
- Dr. LBJ Behavioral Health Services, Inc., Vice President
- Restoring Oaks, Inc., Treasurer
- Florida Counseling Association-Convention Co-Chair
- Volunteer scholarship reviewer for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program
- Southwest Regional Director, Florida Mental Health Counselors Association
- Past Member-at-Large, Florida Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development
- Past Membership Chair, Chi Sigma Iota-Omega Zeta Chapter Honor Society, Walden University Chapter
- Past Public Relations Officer, SWFL Caribbean-American Association, Port Charlotte, FL
- Community Lay Director of Suncoast Emmaus Board, Sarasota, FL
- Staff Parrish Relations Team member, Saint James United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL
- Chaired and Co-Chaired Youth Committee, Christchurch Methodist Church, St. Thomas, USVI
- Mission and Evangelism Committee member, Christchurch Methodist Church, St. Thomas, USVI
- Youth Program Director and Youth Choir Director, Christchurch Methodist Church, St. Thomas, USVI

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TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Techniques of Adlerian Sandy Tray Therapy | Presenter: Terry Kottman, PhD | Jun 2019

Techniques of Adlerian Play Therapy | Presenter: Terry Kottman, PhD | Mar 2018

Traumatic Incident Reduction Workshop | Presenter: Judith Steiner, LMHC, Certified TIR Trainer & Facilitator | Jun 2016

Trauma-Focused- Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) | Presenter: Roy Van Tassell, MS, LPC | Mar 2015

Qualified Supervisor Training | Presenter: Kelly Garza, LMHC | Jan 2015

Effective Therapy: A major force in enhancing moral intelligence | Presenter: John Bradshaw, MA | Feb 2010

Leadership Development Council | Sarasota County Health Department | Jan 2010

Parent Effectiveness Training | Dr. Thomas Gordon Training Institute | Feb 2007

Summer Institute for Future Business Leaders in the Caribbean | July 2004

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Association of Christian Counselors
- American Counseling Association #6240707 (Divisions: ACES, AMCD)(Inactive)
- Association for Play Therapy
- Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society-Omega Zeta Chapter #37698863
- Florida Association for Play Therapy
- Florida Counseling Association (Divisions: FACES, FAMCD)
- Florida Mental Health Counselors Association
- National Certified Counselor #316563
- The National Society of Leadership and Success
- Traumatic Incident Reduction Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Tom Hofmann | thofmann1@hodges.edu

Christine Rykiel | swfcc.2@gmail.com

Dr. Letitia Browne-James | Letitia.browne-james@alfredadler.edu

Dr. Nivischi Edwards | nivischi@yahoo.com

Dr. Laura Haddock | laura.haddock@waldenu.edu