

William Olin Higgs, Jr.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HIGGS COUNSELING SERVICE, JASPER, ALABAMA

May 2016-present. Sole proprietor private counseling practice.

NORTHWEST ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, JASPER, ALABAMA

January 1991- December 2017

January 2014 – December 2017. **County Director.** Managed all adult outpatient services for Walker County office of Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. Supervised (directly and indirectly) approximately 25 staff. Organized budgets for all programs.

February 2011 – December 2013. **Coordinator of Intensive Day Treatment/Outpatient Therapist.** Managed Intensive Day Treatment program. Responsible for all aspects of program, including receiving/evaluating referrals, conducting group and individual therapy sessions, staffing. Also continued duties as Outpatient Therapist in addition to Intensive Day Treatment.

July 2008-February 2011. **Outpatient Therapist.** Managed outpatient caseload of primarily mentally ill and co-occurring consumers. Conducted intake assessments, group therapy, individual therapy, crisis intervention/resolution, probate commitment evaluations.

March 1999-July 2008. **Therapist/Coordinator of Substance Abuse Services.**

Managed outpatient substance abuse program. Performed intake assessments, made referrals, managed Adult Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program. Conducted individual, group, family therapy.

October 1997-January 2001. **Liaison Therapist.**

Conducted group/individual therapy at inpatient psychiatric unit of local medical center. Served as liaison for MHC and advocated for MHC clients on unit. Evaluated patients for referral into MHC services and made arrangements for referral.

March 1995-March 1999. **Coordinator of Mobile Outreach and Substance Abuse Services.**

Managed mobile outreach program, targeted to seriously mentally ill adults in the community. Supervised Case Managers, nurses, and Therapists. Made home visits to SMI adults to conduct therapy, crisis intervention, assess mental status, monitor medication compliance, evaluate for probate commitment/placement. Coordinated outpatient substance abuse program. Conducted intake assessments, made referrals, coordinated Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). Supervised Bachelor's and Master's counselors.

February 1992-March 1995. **Outpatient Therapist.**

Intake assessments, individual/family therapy, crisis intervention/resolution, probate evaluations/testimony. Led IOP groups in substance abuse program. Co-led perpetrator groups in Domestic Violence Intervention Program.

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January 1991-February 1992. **Mobile Outreach Therapist.** (Hamilton and Haleyville, Alabama)
Made home visits to SMI adults in rural communities to conduct therapy, crisis intervention, assess mental status, monitor medication compliance, evaluate for probate commitment/placement, testify in Probate Court for commitment hearings.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO, MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA

January 1989-August 1990. **Coordinator of Career Planning and Placement.**
Managed Career Planning and Placement Center. Managed and conducted career planning workshops, career search workshops, career counseling, managed corporate on-campus recruiting program. Established an Alumni Career Fair. Assisted in coordinating a Birmingham-area placement fair with two other area colleges. Supervised two full-time employees, various graduate assistants, counseling interns, and work-study students. Was advisor to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

January 1989-August 1990. **Instructor, Counseling and Guidance Department.**
Taught senior-level Career Counseling course in the College of Education.

TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

August 1987-January 1989. **Recruitment Coordinator/Career Counselor.**
Managed corporate on-campus recruiting program for Career Planning and Placement Center. Performed career counseling, developed/conducted career planning and career search workshops. Coordinated Tulane's first Graduate and Professional School Day.

EDUCATION

Master of Education, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Alabama
May 1988. Major: Counseling and Guidance

Bachelor of Arts, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana
May 1984. Major: Psychology Minor: Sociology

LICENSURE

Licensed Professional Counselor (Alabama # 1526 since October 1995)
Alabama Counseling Supervisor (License # 2921 since March 2015)

ACTIVITIES

Member of Alabama Counseling Association
Member of American Counseling Association