

Karen M. Dexter, Esq., LICSW

Education

Suffolk University Law School Boston, MA
Juris Doctor, Evening Division, May 2015
2011-2012-LPS Best Oral Advocate Award
2012-Invited Participant –McLaughlin Appellate Advocacy Competition
2012-2014-Dean’s List

Boston University, School of Social Work Boston, MA
Master of Social Work

Northeastern University Boston, MA
B.S. in Criminal Justice, Minor: Sociology

Legal Experience

Law Office of Karen M Dexter Franklin, MA
Family Law Practice – divorce, alimony, custody, child support, etc.

Massachusetts Trial Court

Norfolk County Probate and Family Court Nov. 2015 to Present
Volunteer Monthly as Lawyer of the Day. Work under the supervision of the Assist. Register of Probate assisting indigent clients file various motions related to custody, visitation and financial matters. Review divorce agreements and assist with any probate matters that arise.

The Honorable Isaac A. Borenstein (Ret.), Adjunct Professor of Law Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2014
Research and Teaching Assistant for Evidence and Criminal Procedure Courses, Boston, MA
Researched and prepared examination materials concerning search-and-seizure law

Worcester Juvenile Court

January 2013 to May 2013
Law Clerk/Intern: Worked directly with five judges researching issues requiring immediate responses arising out of trial, more long range issues and drafted orders of the court. Completed a considerable courtroom observation.

Other Professional Experience

Boston College School of Social Work January 2017 to Present
Adjunct Professor

Course Taught: Policy Issues in Family and Child Services

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network September 1997 to Present

Arlington Continuum Program July 1, 2014 to Present
Program Director

Directed the development and implementation of the Continuum Program from its inception as it is new treatment modality under the state wide Caring Together Initiative. Ongoing management of the program which provides an array of community based services to maintain youth in their home. The Continuum serves clients involved with

DCF and DMH. Responsible for hiring and management of staff, oversight of program budget and subcontracts, as well as ongoing development of the program and treatment models. Oversee all Parental Functioning Evaluations.

HomeBase Program/Wayside

TRS Program Coordinator

June 2001 to June 2014

Coordinator of the Transitional Residential Services (TRS) Program. Manage a DMH funded contract for a homebased long term wraparound services for children with serious mental health issues. Responsibilities include supervision of staff, clinical oversight of the program, assessment and treatment planning, direct behavior management services to families, quality management, case collaboration with DMH and other providers, foster care recruitment, billing and management of flexible funding and program development. Coordinate Take Charge Program, a multi-family group model that helps parents regain control of difficult adolescent behavior. Conduct comprehensive Parental Functioning Assessments via contract with DCF.

Steward Norwood Hospital

Norwood, MA

Access Clinician

May 2009 to December 2016

Provide evaluation and disposition of patients presenting with psychiatric and substance abuse issues in Emergency Department; process referrals from other hospitals/crisis teams for admission to one of the Steward Hospitals throughout MA; collaborate with crisis teams throughout the state and hospital psychiatrists to assess appropriate level of care for patients.

FST/CSP Program Coordinator/Wayside

May 1999 to June 2001

Supervisor and Program Coordinator for Community Support Program and Family Stabilization Program. Responsibilities included hiring and supervision of staff, billing and administration. FST/CSP duties included responding to hospitals and insurance companies to provide transition services to mentally ill children and adults.

Multi Service Center/Wayside

September 1997 to May 1999

Outreach clinician serving a 60 family Public Housing Development in Watertown, MA. Developed afterschool programming for youth, recruited community supports and collaborated with the local police, school and housing departments to develop programs to serve the housing community.

RePlace of Lexington/Wayside

September 1997 to May 1999

Domestic Violence Advocate/Outreach Clinician. Assisted in the development of the Domestic Violence Response Team in Lexington. Provided advocacy, assessment, and empowerment based services to those experiencing Domestic Violence; responded to referral calls from the Lexington Police Department; collaborated with the police in responding to victims, as well as providing Domestic Violence training to local agencies.

Newbury College

Brookline, MA

Part-time Lecturer

August 1996 to December 1998

Spring 1997 – Taught Gender Roles in Society on the Brookline Campus
Fall 1997, Fall 1998 – Taught Human Growth and Development on Brookline Campus

Boston Red Sox

Boston, MA

Disables Services Supervisor/Security Supervisor

May 1991 to 2001

Coordinated day of game disabled seating. Responded to routine and emergency calls.

Memberships

Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar – November 2015

Member of the Massachusetts Bar Association & Women's Bar Association