



NAME: SARA MILLER
DISCIPLINE: DISABILITY STUDIES

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

In my graduate training, studying clinical counseling and art therapy, I had the opportunity to elect for a number of practicum placements with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, mental health challenges and physical disabilities. My placements included Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, where I had the opportunity to establish art therapy and counseling programming for students with intellectual disabilities and severe behavioral and emotional challenges, and The Illinois Center for Autism, where I provided individual and group art therapy and counseling for adolescent individuals with autism. After graduation, I moved to Chicago and began working with an organization in Chicago serving adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. After about 7 years of full-time work with that organization as a clinical coordinator, counselor and art therapist, I established my own art therapy/counseling practice which has allowed me to work contractually with a number of service providers serving individuals with physical and developmental/cognitive disabilities including the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, Epilepsy Services of Northeastern Illinois, and Search Developmental Center.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

My goals for my LEND training experience include exploring the concept and impact of self-advocacy and exploring best practices for serving children and adults with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families in a clinical counseling context.

tangible resources for the disability community, speech language pathologist and assistive technology professionals to increase knowledge of and access to AAC supports and services for multilingual with disabilities.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as a professional/family member in the field:

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My experience working with individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities has highlighted what I see as a clear mandate for more research, psychoeducation and training support for service providers serving people with neurodevelopmental disabilities. I would like to be able to contribute findings in best practices in counseling individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities, especially around the issue of trauma.