

Melissa A. Spencer

MSW, LCSW | Northern Utah

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Melissa's experience brings together clinical social work, undergraduate teaching, child welfare, and research support. Across these settings, her work has focused on helping people navigate challenges, build skills, and connect with resources.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Social Worker

Utah Department of Workforce Services | September 2024-present

Clinical social work in a state agency setting, combining psychosocial assessment, client-centered support, and coordination with community resources.

- Provides telehealth and in-person services, applying clinical judgment to behavioral health and stability needs.
- Coordinates with internal partners and community resources across three office locations to support service access and referrals.
- Maintains clinical documentation and communicates with clients, colleagues, and service partners to support continuity of care.

Library Liaison Assistant

Utah State University Libraries | January-September 2024

Research and information literacy support in the Merrill-Cazier Library's Research Strategy and Innovation Unit.

- Supported library liaisons with instruction, research consultations, tutorials, course guides, and e-learning materials.
- Collaborated across library units to improve access to research support and onboarding resources.
- Helped clarify patron needs and connect people with appropriate services and resources.

Associate Therapist

Family Institute of Northern Utah | New Leaf Program | August 2023-2024

Individual therapy and psychoeducational group work with people navigating trauma, substance use, relational conflict, anxiety, and depression.

- Completed psychosocial assessments, developed treatment goals and plans of care, and maintained progress notes and discharge summaries.
- Participated in multidisciplinary case reviews.
- Co-facilitated weekly psychoeducational groups focused on coping skills, insight, accountability, and continued engagement in treatment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE / CONTINUED

Adjunct Professor of Social Work

Utah State University | August 2021-May 2024

Online undergraduate instruction in generalist practice, helping skills, professional ethics, and applied social work competencies.

- Developed and taught courses using lectures, active learning, discussion, and individualized feedback.
- Used Canvas, Zoom, and multimedia instruction to support student learning and professional growth.

Child Welfare Social Work

Utah Division of Child and Family Services | May 2006-August 2012

Child welfare casework involving assessment, investigation, family engagement, service coordination, and permanency planning.

- Coordinated with families, courts, schools, service providers, and community agencies to support safety and stability.
- Maintained case documentation and used trauma-informed communication in complex, time-sensitive situations.

EDUCATION

Master of Social Work

Utah State University | 2011

Bachelor of Science, Family and Human Development

Utah State University | 2003

LICENSURE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker | State of Utah
- Certified Online Teacher | Utah State University
- Teaching Scholar Certificate, Foundations of College Teaching | Utah State University | August 16, 2023
- Mind-Body Bridging | Utah State University | December 15, 2023 | 1.5 CE hours

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Guest Speaker, Standup Comedian, Or True Collaborator? Forming Strong Library Partnerships to Support Student Learning

Katie Luder, Melissa Spencer, Kacy Lundstorm, and Sara Szobody

Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference | Utah State University | September 14, 2024

What the Best Teachers Do: Don't Eat the Elephant

Logan Haviland, Shalyn Drake, Melissa Spencer, Julie Stevens, and Melanie Chambers

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