HANNAH L. SAMAHA, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

University of Houston (August 2013-August 2019) Houston, TX
Ph.D. in School Psychology
APA- Accredited & NASP-Approved

University of Houston (August 2013-May 2017) Houston, TX
Master of Education in Counseling

Louisiana State University (August 2009-May 2013) Baton Rouge, LA
Bachelor of Science in Psychology

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Licensed Psychologist- Specialty: School Psychology (#1536; November 2020)
Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Certified School Psychologist- Type A Doctoral Level (AN 608674: October 30, 2019)
Louisiana Department of Education

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Tulane School of Medicine (September 2020-August 2021) New Orleans, LA
Position: Child Clinical Psychology Fellow in Infant Mental Health
Supervisor: Melissa Middleton, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
Responsibilities:

- Provide early childhood mental health consultation services (virtual and in-person) to children under the age of 6 years enrolled in early learning centers, childcare caregivers, and families
- Provide formal training to multidisciplinary professionals through center-based training and community events
- Provide individual psychotherapy using Preschool PTSD treatment to a 4-year-old boy

Crescent City Schools (July 2019- August 2020) New Orleans, LA
Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow/School Psychologist
Supervisor: Katherine Chenier, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
Responsibilities:

- Conducted multidisciplinary Special Education evaluations compliant with *Louisiana Bulletin 1508* for students with academic, cognitive, developmental, or social/emotional/behavioral concerns
- Disseminated evaluation results to families and educators and participate in IEP meetings
- Consulted with teachers on behavioral intervention strategies

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (July 2018-June2019) New Orleans, LA
Louisiana State University School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS*PIC)- *APA-Accredited*
Supervisors: Alan Coulter, PhD. and Scuddy Fontenelle III, Ph. D., ABPP
Position: Pre-Doctoral Intern at Jefferson Parish Schools
Responsibilities:

- Conducted multidisciplinary evaluations with pre-school age children with the Child Search team
- Conducted initial psychological evaluations for school-age children with social/emotional/behavioral, cognitive, or autism-related concerns
- Provided training on Autism Spectrum Disorders to Pupil Appraisal staff
- Conducted functional behavioral analyses and developed behavior intervention plans for students
- Provided individualized behavioral consultation to teachers for students with behavioral concerns
- Conducted group therapy (CBT) for students with concerns regarding anxiety and depression

Position: Mental Health Consultant at Early Head Start Program (EHS; January 2019-June 2019)
Responsibilities:

- Conducted consultation with school administrators, teachers, and parents to promote positive student behavior
- Served as consultant to teachers and parents with concerns of students with developmental disabilities
- Conducted Ages and Stages Learning Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) with at-risk students

Position: Psychology Intern at Autism Spectrum Disorders Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic (LSUHSC; March 2019)
Responsibilities:

- Received ADOS-2 training
- Conducted an interdisciplinary autism evaluation on a pre-school child (age 4)
    - Conducted the ADOS-2 to assess for autism symptomology
    - Collaborated with professionals from other disciplines (pediatrics, occupational therapy, speech therapy) to conduct the evaluation and provide individualized recommendations

Position: Psychology Intern at Fontenelle Psychology -Private Practice (May 2019-July 2019)

Responsibilities:

- Conducted psychotherapy with a variety of clients ranging from pre-school age to young adults
- Conducted comprehensive psychological evaluations of individuals (from early childhood to young adult) using the *DSM-5*
    - Individuals assessed included those with autism spectrum disorder, AD/HD, adjustment disorders, or/and anxiety-related disorders

The Monarch Institute Diagnostic Clinic (August 2016-May 2017) Houston, TX
Position: Advanced Practicum Student
Supervisor: Shawn Hirsch, Ph.D., LSSP, LP
Responsibilities:

- Conducted psychological and psycho-educational evaluations with children, adolescents, and young adults with neurodevelopmental concerns using *DSM-5* criteria
- Wrote comprehensive reports and provided recommendations for school programming and other evidence-based interventions based upon the assessment results
- Conducted feedback sessions with parents to review evaluation results

The Monarch School (August 2016-May 2017) Houston, TX
Position: Advanced Practicum Student
Supervisor: Shawn Hirsch, Ph.D., LSSP, LP
Responsibilities:

- Conducted functional behavioral analyses and developed behavior intervention plans for students with neurodevelopmental disorders
- Conducted behavioral consultation with parents and teachers of students with neurodevelopmental disorders using the problem-solving consultation model and Conjoint Behavioral Consultation

The Monarch Summer Program (June 2016-July 2016) Houston, TX
Position: Advanced Practicum Student
Supervisor: Shawn Hirsch, Ph.D., LSSP, LP
Responsibilities:

- Consulted with parents and educators on managing externalizing behavior
- Conducted functional behavioral analyses
- Developed and implemented individualized behavior plans with students
- Conducted group therapy with young adults with psychological disorders
    - Topic: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy-based program
- Conduced group therapy with adolescents with ADHD
    - Topics: social skills, emotion regulation

    - Implemented an interdependent group contingency program within the group for behavior management
- Conducted individual therapy for students with neurodevelopmental disabilities and comorbid anxiety disorders
    - Topics: Addressing anxiety using Coping Cat; mindfulness therapy

Houston Independent School District (HISD) Houston, TX
Psychological Services Department (August 2015-May 2016)
Position: Advanced Practicum Student
Supervisor: A. Grace Jennings, Ph.D., LSSP, LP
Responsibilities:

- Conducted individual interventions for children and adolescents with a variety of emotional/behavioral needs including, but not limited to: depression, anxiety, ADHD, ODD, selective mutism, substance abuse, trauma, and gender dysphoria
- Conducted individual and school-wide crisis intervention
    - Suicide/homicide risk assessment
    - Grief counseling groups
- Conducted behavioral consultation with teachers using the problem-solving consultation model
- Conducted brief behavioral parent training sessions
- Conducted group therapy with middle school females
    - Topic: reducing aggression and improving peer relationships

Katy Independent School District (August 2014-May 2015) Katy, TX
Position: School Psychology Practicum Student
Supervisor: Lindsay McMeans, M.A., LSSP/ Milena Keller-Margulis, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Conducted comprehensive psychological/psycho-educational evaluations with middle school students
- Wrote comprehensive assessment reports and provided recommendations for Special Education services and additional evidence-based interventions
- Conducted individual counseling for students with a variety of behavioral/emotional needs
- Conducted individualized academic intervention with Tier 3 RTI students
- Conducted classwide behavioral consultation with teachers using the Motivational Interviewing and the Classroom Checkup model
- Conducted individualized behavioral consultation using problem-solving consultation
- Conducted group counseling with female adolescents
    - Topic: anxiety and peer relationships
- Conducted group counseling for students with autism spectrum disorders
    - Topic: social skills

Integrated Assessment Practicum (January 2014 -May 2014) Houston, TX
Position: Practicum Student
Supervisor: Kristen Hassett, Ph.D., LSSP
Responsibilities:

- Performed comprehensive psycho-educational evaluations for school-age children using standardized and norm-referenced cognitive and achievement instruments, curriculum-based measurement (CBM), and semi-structured parent and teacher interviews
- Wrote integrated reports and developed recommendations for evidence-based academic interventions
- Monitored weekly progress of an evidence-based academic intervention, targeting areas such as reading, math, writing and spelling over an eight-week period; presented assessment cases on a routine basis

Inter-professional Pre-Practicum Rotation (August 2013- December 2013) Houston, TX
Position: Pre-practicum Student
Supervisor: Sarah Mire, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Interacted with professionals from a variety of disciplines and settings including school districts, hospitals and community agencies
- Received exposure to diverse theoretical orientations and populations through observation of direct intervention and assessment, case consultation and supervision

Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center (November 2011-January 2013) Baton Rouge, LA
Position: Volunteer Crisis Phone Counselor
Supervisor: Allyson Pardue, MSW, LCSW
Responsibilities:

- Received sixty hours of training in crisis intervention and suicide prevention
- Provided phone counseling using Motivational Interviewing techniques to clients dealing with feelings and problems including, but not limited to, depression, suicidality, anxiety, loneliness, interpersonal problems, and financial issues
- Conducted Suicide Risk Assessments on callers reporting suicide ideation

Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy (August 2012-May 2013) Baton Rouge, LA
Position: Undergraduate Psychology Extern
Supervisor: Frank Gresham, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Conducted Check-In/Check-Out behavioral intervention with students with neurodevelopmental disabilities
- Co-facilitated social skills groups for children with autism spectrum disorders using the Social Skills Improvement System

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Dissertation: *Examining the effectiveness and usability of teleconsultation for decreasing disruptive classroom behaviors* (December 2018)

- Chair: Milena Keller-Margulis, Ph.D.

Doctoral Candidacy (Thesis): *Exploring teacher preference among three communication mediums for consultation* (December 2015)

- Chair: Milena Keller-Margulis, Ph.D.

Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF) Project (June 2015-December 2016)
University of Houston
Position: Research Coordinator
Supervisor: Lorraine R. Reitzel, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Co-facilitated training workshops delivered to Texas mental health clinicians on providing Motivational Interviewing for smoking cessation
- Assisted with the development of project materials
- Managed and trained undergraduate volunteers
- Attended local health fairs and disseminated information on smoking cessation
- Created and managed project website
- Collaborated on peer-reviewed manuscripts

Social Determinants/Health Disparities Lab (August 2013-December 2016) Houston, TX
University of Houston
Position: Graduate Research Assistant
Supervisor: Lorraine R. Reitzel, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Assisted with study preparation and ran participants for multiple projects primarily dealing with health behaviors and stress in diverse populations
- Trained graduate and undergraduate students in study procedures
- Conducted literature reviews and collaborated on manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals

School Psychology Autism Research Collaboration (August 2013-May 2015) Houston, TX
University of Houston
Position: Graduate Research Assistant
Supervisor: Sarah Mire, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Collaborated on research projects on comorbidities of students with autism spectrum disorders

Gresham Research Team (August 2012 to May 2013) Baton Rouge, LA
Louisiana State University
Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant
Supervisor: Frank M. Gresham, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Collaborated on a study examining teacher acceptability of behavioral consultation using videoconferencing
    - Observed and recorded 80-100 behavioral consultation sessions conducted with teachers
    - Transcribed and coded video dialogue from consultation sessions
    - Collaborated on peer-reviewed manuscripts

Substance Abuse Clinical Research Lab (June 2012 to May 2013) Baton Rouge, LA
Louisiana State University
Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant
Supervisor: Amy L. Copeland, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Collaborated on a study researching the effects of brief mindfulness interventions on women's body image
    - Conducted a brief mindfulness intervention with participants
    - Conducted measures of body-image with participants
    - Assisted with data entry and research presentation preparation

PEER-REVEIWED PUBLICATIONS

Samaha, H. L. Correa-Fernandez, V., Lam, C.Y., Wilson, W.T., Kyburz, B., Stacey, T., Williams, W.T., & Reitzel, L.R. (2017). Addressing tobacco use at behavioral health treatment facilities through comprehensive workplace programs. *Health Promotion and Practice*.

Correa-Fernandez, V., Wilson, W., Shedrick, D.A., Kyburz, B., **Samaha, H. L.**, Stacey, T., Williams, T., Lam, C.Y., & Reitzel, L.R. (2017). Implementation of a tobacco-free workplace program at a local mental health authority: An academic-community partnership case report. *Translational and Behavioral Medicine.*

Wrighting, Q., Businelle, M.S., Kendzor, D.E., **LeBlanc, H**., & Reitzel, L.R. (2016). Cigarette purchasing patterns, readiness to quit, and quit attempts among homeless smokers. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research.*

Fischer, A.J., Dart, E.H., **LeBlanc, H**., Hartman, K, Steeves, R., & Gresham, F. (2016). An investigation into the acceptability of videoconferencing within a school-based behavioral consultation framework. *Psychology in the Schools, 53*(3), 240-252.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Fischer, A.J., Dart, E., **Samaha, H. L**, Silberman, M., Omlie, C., & Perez, L. (2019, February). *Contemporary applications of the Good Behavior Game in school settings.* Symposium accepted for presentation at the National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Samaha, H. L. & Beardmore, M. (2018, November). *Strategic listening: Incorporating the spirit and strategies of motivational interviewing into teacher collaboration.* Paper presented at the 2018 Louisiana School Psychological Association Annual Convention, Lafayette, LA.

LeBlanc, H., Fischer, A., Keller-Margulis, M. (2016, February). *Exploring teacher preference for three communication mediums for consultation.* Poster presented at the 2016 National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA.

LeBlanc, H., Tagliarina, A., Raff,N. , Hyatt,H., & Mire, S. (2015, April). *Parent and Teacher Perceptions of Internalizing Problems in Children with ASD: Effects of Child Age.* Poster presented at the 2015 Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, New Orleans, LA.

Raff, N., Tagliarina, A., **LeBlanc, H**., & Hyatt, H. (2014, August). The role of school personnel in managing emotional and behavioral comorbidities of students with ASD in the classroom. In S. S. Mire (Chair), *Autism spectrum disorder in public schools: Using research to inform school-based service.* Symposium presented at the American Psychological Association's 122nd Annual Convention, Washington D.C.

Raff, N., Mire, S. S., Tagliarina, A., **LeBlanc, H.**, & Hyatt, H. (2014, May). *Parent and teacher perceptions of emotional and behavioral problems in children with ASD: Effects of child age and IQ.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Atlanta, GA.

LeBlanc, H., Shellman, A., Obasi, E., McNeill, L.H., Kish, D., Reitzel, L. (2014, April). *Understanding stress and health among African American adults: A feasibility study.* Poster presented at the 2014 Houston Symposium for Research in Education and Psychology. Houston, TX.

LeBlanc, H., & Fischer, A. (2014, February). *Evaluating the moderators of the acceptability of videoconferencing in behavioral consultation.* Poster presented at the 2014 National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention. Washington, DC.

Fischer, A. J., **LeBlanc, H.**, Dart, E. H., & Florell, D. (2014, February). *The present and future of integrating technology into school practice.* Symposium presented at the 2014 National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention. Washington, D.C.

Kinsaul, J., Shah, S., **LeBlanc, H.**, Hirstius, B, Vinci, C., Copeland, A.L. (2013, November). *Comparing brief mindfulness interventions for body image in college women.* Poster presented at the 2013 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention. Nashville, TN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Human Development & Intervention (August 2013-May 2014) Houston, TX
University of Houston
College of Education- HDFS 2317
Position: Teaching Assistant
Supervisor: Kimberly Schoger, Ph.D.
Responsibilities:

- Prepared and delivery lectures (weekly) on a variety of topics related to human development
- Graded essays and assignments of undergraduate students

WORKSHOPS/TRAINING

Tulane Mental Health Consultation (T-MHC; September 2020-Present) New Orleans, LA
Position: Presenter for multiple trainings related to early childhood mental health

- Example topics:
  - *Managing Challenging Behaviors and Positive Discipline*
  - *Addressing Early Developmental Concerns*
  - *Stress: What Is It Good For?*
  - *Creating Supportive Learning Environments*
  - *The ABCs of School Readiness: Importance of Play*
  - *Behavioral Strategies for Promoting Wellness*
  - *Can You Spoil an Infant?*
- Locations: Multiple early childhood centers across the New Orleans region; community virtual trainings

Jefferson Parish Public Schools In-Service (March 2019) New Orleans, LA
Position: Presenter

- Topic: *Autism in the schools and community*
- Provided training to pupil appraisal staff on Autism Spectrum Disorders based upon the *DSM-5* and *Louisiana Bulletin 1508*

Online Webinar (October 2018)
Position: Co-Facilitator

- *Strategic listening: Incorporating the spirit and strategies of motivational interviewing into teacher collaboration.*

Motivational Interviewing Workshop (August 2014) Austin, TX
Position: Co-Facilitator

- *Want Motivational Interviewing Skills? An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing and Opportunity for Experienced Practitioners to Enhance Skills*
    - Motivational Interviewing workshop to train mental health providers to provide intervention aimed at tobacco cessation
        - funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Louisiana Psychological Association (2017- Present)
- National Association of School Psychology (2013-Present)
- American Psychological Association (2012-Present)
- Psi Chi- The International Honor Society in Psychology (2011 – 2013)

REFERENCES

Melissa Middleton, Ph.D.
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