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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education, Health, and Human Services

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Staci S. Tessmer

For the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Counselor Education and Supervision

COUNSELING SITE SUPERVISORS’ EXPERIENCES OF AND PREPARATION TO CONDUCT INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION OF GROUP WORK

February 29, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Room 200 White Hall
Staci S. Tessmer  
M.A., Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Walsh University  
B.A., Biomedical Humanities  
Hiram College

Staci is an independently licensed counselor with a supervisory designation (OH) and maintains her NCC and BC-TMH credentials. She is also Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) and Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) trained. She has been practicing in the counseling field for over a decade and has held a variety of clinical, supervisory, and administrative roles at both the inpatient and outpatient levels of care, working with children, adolescents, and adult populations. She currently serves at the Training Coordinator for Kent State University’s Counseling and Psychological Services. Staci is adjunct faculty for two CACREP-accredited counseling programs and has taught a variety of courses, such as diagnosis, case conceptualization, practicum, and internship.

Additionally, Staci has held many leadership roles within state and national counseling organizations. She has presented at numerous local, state, national, and international counseling conferences on a variety of clinical, supervision, and counselor education topics. Lastly, Staci has been published in peer reviewed journals discussing topics such as the supervision of group work and working with injured student athletes.

Counseling Site Supervisors’ Experiences of and Preparation to Conduct Individual Supervision of Group Work

The purpose of this qualitative study was to understand counseling site supervisors’ experiences of and preparation for the individual supervision of group work with counselor trainees who were conducting group work as a part of their practicum and/or internship experience. An interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) approach was the chosen methodology. Nine participants who were licensed counselors with a supervisor designation in a large midwestern state participated in semi-structured interviews. Following data collection and analysis guidelines by Smith et al. (2009), a total of three superordinate themes were identified: (a) Inadequate to be a Supervisor of Group Work, (b) Supervisor Reliance on First-Hand Experiences, and (c) Shaping Supervision for the CT. Implications and recommendations for the five core areas of counselor education and supervision were provided and limitations of the study were discussed.