

# Desirée Luerene Israel, LCSW-C, LICSW

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.**, Social Work In Progress

WIDENER UNIVERSITY

**M.S.W.**, Social Work, School Social Work 08/24/2009 – 05/21/2011

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, School of Social Work

**B.S.**, Social Work 08/24/2004 – 05/18/2008

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Department of Social Work

## LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATES

Licensed Certified Social Worker- Clinical (LCSW-C), MD 10/31/2019 – 10/31/2021

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker - (LICSW), DC 7/2021 – 10/2023

Maternal Mental Health Intensive – Seleni Institute 2018

Trauma-Informed Care – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 2016

Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders – Postpartum Support International 2015

Birth Doula – The Birth Well 2014

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Black Social Workers 2018 – present

Postpartum Support International 2016 – present

National Perinatal Task Force 2015 – present

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Founder/Lead Consultant** 08/05/2015 – present

MOTHERLANDCO., LLC, Baltimore, MD

- Provide mental health therapy and support groups to families suffering from perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs).
- Train helping professionals how to properly screen for PMADs and link to local and national resources.
- Consult with birth equity, reproductive justice and perinatal mental health organizations on integrating anti-oppressive and anti-racist principles
- Curriculum development and integration of anti-racist, anti-oppressive and liberation focused frameworks

**MSW Off-Site Field Instructor**

2/1/2021 – 8/13/2021

WIDENER UNIVERSITY, Chester, PA

- Assist in integrating social work theory, practice, and research.
- Review learning objectives and tasks on the learning contract.
- Provide support and feedback regarding strengths and identified areas for growth
- Provide one hour of scheduled supervision per week.
- Provide constructive feedback on student's performance; including review of students assignments and completion of all written evaluations.
- Consult with the Faculty Liaison regarding learning contracts, performance issues, and integration between field and course work.

**Clinical Services Supervisor**

11/02/2020 – 8/02/2021

PRESSLEY RIDGE, INC., Towson, MD

- Establish and maintain an effective working relationship with local public agencies
- Provide technical direction, consultation, and supervision for clinical/case management staff
- Develop/train capacity to document notes in MyEvolv software system, in a timely fashion, as well as an understanding of the program's intervention model and outcome goals
- Provide direct clinical supervision to all of the LMSW Transition Care Coordinators that is consistent with the COMAR regulations
- Awareness and responsiveness to budgetary issues and constraints
- Participate in the development of new agency policies, procedures, and programs
- Monitor the flow of information in and out of the agency regarding clients and case records

**Transition Team Coordinator**

11/18/2019 – 11/02/2020

PRESSLEY RIDGE, INC., Towson, MD

- Monitored participants' progress towards established goals; evaluated and modified plan of care as needed
- Linked participants to community resources in regards to child care, parenting, breastfeeding and doula support
- Maintained client case records; networked with community organizations to refer youth for education, mental health, physical health, support and/or vocational training

**Off Site Therapist** 11/08/2018 – 11/17/2019  
BETTER TOMORROW STARTS TODAY SERVICES, INC., Baltimore, MD

- Completed individual and family therapy sessions
- Documented of all services rendered as required by COMAR, and CARF Standards, as well as BTST agency policies

**Family Life Educator** 09/12/2016 – 11/30/2018  
THE CHILDREN'S GUILD, INC., Baltimore, MD

- Assisted foster parents to creatively use available resources as well as integrate the components of daily living in an educational manner
- Clinical and case management services to children placed in treatment foster care, their family members and foster family

**Social Work Medical Case Manager** 09/22/2014 – 02/27/2015; 08/03/2015 – 09/02/2016  
HEALTHCARE ACCESS MARYLAND, Baltimore, MD

- Coordination of health care services through medical, dental and behavioral health care system navigation for all children newly entering foster care
- Medical case management for children with complex behavioral health needs and psychiatric consultation regarding “high risk” youth including those on multiple psychotropic medications and those requiring high intensity service

**Social Worker II, Child Protective Services** 03/02/2015 – 08/28/2015  
BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, Towson, MD

- Investigated referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect by conducting risk and safety assessments; Referred families to appropriate services
- Developed service plans to address the future risk of maltreatment and provided an outline of service needs; Coordinated with foster care regarding court proceedings and service direction

**Social Worker** 03/04/2013 – 09/12/2014  
SERAAJ FAMILY HOMES, INC., Towson, MD

- Provided case management services to children and families
- Collected and evaluated information for the child's placement, assessment of the child's needs, progress and discharge planning; Maintained the case record on each child
- Linked youth and foster family to resources in the community

**Independent Contractor**

09/10/2012 – 02/22/2013

SOULDIER SEYYID SOLUTIONS, Baltimore, MD

- Provided social work consulting services to individuals, families and human service agencies
- Facilitated Licensure Academy on the LSWA/LGSW/LCSW-C levels
- Provided support for foster parents in areas of recruitment and retention at Progressive Steps, Inc.
- Supervised Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program at All Walks of Life, LLC

**Case Manager**

07/11/2011 – 09/9/2011; 03/5/2012 – 12/14/2012

KING EDWARDS, INC., Baltimore, MD

- Assessed youth's level of success/progression. Identified areas of need and support for youth. Scheduled and facilitated team meetings. Maintained youth case record; filed youth paperwork
- Supervised, communicated and assigned tasks to Independent Living Specialist

**School Based Therapist**

10/10/2011 – 02/10/2012

CHANGE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC., Baltimore, MD

- Provided mental health services to youth in regular education programs to include assessment, prevention, case management and treatment
- Maintained caseload of students in several Baltimore City Head Start Programs

**MSW Practicum Student**

09/13/2010 – 04/22/2011

REGINALD F. LEWIS HIGH SCHOOL, Baltimore, MD

- Reviewed IEP records to ensure understanding of the IEP process. Attended meetings and supervision regularly
- Developed etiquette and social skills programs to engage students in Life Skills program using Manners Matter curriculum

**Awake Overnight Child Care Worker**

06/7/2010 – 11/19/2010

THE BOARD OF CHILD CARE, Baltimore, MD

- Logged events in the house logbook throughout the night. Ensured an accurate census in the house by making overnight call-ins
- Provided overnight supervision to residents to ensure whereabouts at all times

**MSW Practicum Student**

09/14/2009 – 04/23/2010

THE FAMILY TREE OF MARYLAND, Baltimore, MD

- Provided information and referrals through a consumer call line. Completed session notes for anger management and parenting classes. Identified updated resources relevant to Prince

George's County using United Way First Call for Help database

- Facilitated Parents' Anonymous Support Group sessions with parents that were first time offenders of child abuse and/or neglect
- Facilitated Parents' Anonymous Children's Program during anger management and parenting education sessions; activities were chosen to stimulate youths' social/emotional & cognitive behaviors

**Residential Counselor**

01/20/2009 – 08/21/2009

MOSAIC COMMUNITY SERVICE, Ellicott City, MD

- Observed resident's behavior to assess their level of functioning. Completed written documentation of rehabilitation plan, services, behaviors, and progress in compliance with Mosaic and program standards
- Developed rehabilitation plans that meet resident's needs; Transported residents to weekend activities

**Family Services Caseworker**

07/17/2008 – 06/30/2010

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, Baltimore, MD

- Provided direct services to individuals and/or families who are troubled. Concern self with the safety, permanency and well-being of children
- Assisted children's safety by conducting weekly/monthly home visits, home health assessments, SAFE-C and risk assessments

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Co-Founder**

02/17/2017 – present

PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR, Nationwide

- Provide support, advocacy, information, and resources around perinatal mental health for clients, families and professionals of color
- Program affiliate of Postpartum Support International to enhance their initiative of reaching underserved populations of African/Black/Caribbean, Latina, Asian and Pacific Islander families

**Maryland Co-Coordinator**

08/08/2016 – present

POSTPARTUM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL, Nationwide

- offer social support, information, and resources to moms, dads and families, helping them prevent or recover from perinatal mental health issues during pregnancy, postpartum, and post-loss
- reply to all calls and emails within 24 hours

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Review

**Israel, D.** (2018). [Review of the book *When Postpartum Packs a Punch: Fighting Back and Finding Joy*, by Kristina Cowan]. *Clinical Lactation*, 9(1), pg. 44.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

### Juried

Coleman, J., **Israel, D.**, & Kumar, D. (July 2018). *Bridging the Gap: Women of Color and PMAD Professionals*. Breakout session presented at the annual conference of Postpartum Support International, Houston, TX.

Coleman, J., **Israel, D.**, & Kumar, D. (July 2017). *Bridging the Gap: Women of Color and PMAD Professionals*. Breakout session presented at the annual conference of Postpartum Support International, Philadelphia, PA.

### Invited

**Israel, D.** (April 2018). *Beyond the Baby Blues: An Overview of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders for Helping Professionals*. Breakout session presented at the annual conference of Maryland Reproductive Update-Access Matters, Baltimore, MD.

**Israel, D.** (August 2017). *Targeted Prevention*. Panel expert presented at Substance Abuse and Health Services Administration Maternal Depression Meeting, Rockville, MD.

**Israel, D.** (October 2017). *Birthing While Black: The Effects of Racial Trauma and Perinatal Outcomes*. Main conference session presented at the annual conference of GOLD Perinatal, Online.

**Israel, D.** (October 2017). *Panel expert*. Raising of America documentary viewing and community conversation at Baltimore Healthy Start, Baltimore, MD.

Coleman, J. & **Israel, D.** (December 2017). *Perinatal Mental Health and Beyond: Postpartum Facilitator Training*. Training presented for Baltimore Healthy Start, Baltimore, MD.