

MARLU HARRIS, LMFT

CURRICULUM VITAE

1821 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 411 ♦ Santa Monica, CA 90403
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Psychotherapist and Expanded Life Coach

Dedicated psychotherapist who emphasizes the concept of positive reinforcement of self and others with a goal of empowering individuals to take responsibility for their lives. Using a mindfulness-based approach, she actively participates in expanding a client's internal experience to far surpass previously met goals. She is an expert in mending fractured relationships, including reunification of estranged parent/child and blended family relationships and therapeutic monitoring of families.

CORE COMPETENCIES INCLUDE

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| ▪ Marriage Counseling | ▪ Child Custody Evaluations |
| ▪ Bereavement Counseling | ▪ Parent Plan Coordinator |
| ▪ Dynamic wellness seminars | ▪ Reunification Therapy |
| ▪ Expanded Life Coaching | ▪ Therapeutic Monitoring |
| ▪ Parenting Coaching & Education | ▪ Relationship Coaching |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRIVATE PRACTICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

1993 TO PRESENT

Reunification Counseling/Psychotherapist: Resourceful and interactive therapist with expertise in relationship matters. Therapeutic modality preferences include: cognitive behavioral, brief solution-focused, family systems theory, and mindfulness. Trained mediator helping individuals resolve internal and external conflicts. Specially experienced and trained in working with families and children of divorce and separation; high conflict couples; and reuniting children with estranged parents through a process of observation of parent and child individually and together - providing the parent with coaching/education in communication and developmental stages relating to the unique personality of each child involved.

Therapeutic Monitor: work with families to observe interactions among family members and educate with regard to safety, appropriate behavior and improved communication skills, often when parent may have a history of bipolar disorder or past inappropriate behavior that requires supervision.

Notable Accomplishments

- Provided hundreds of trainings and critical incident debriefings to employer groups. Topics: stress, balancing work and family, trauma, grief and loss, dealing with mental illness.

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- *Reunification Therapy*: Assist in re-establishing parent/child relationship (building a therapeutic bond) when one parent has been absent from a child's life as a result of relocation, divorce, possible alienation, substance abuse, imprisonment, etc.
- *Parent Plan Coordinator*: Support divorced parents in negotiating conflicts and cooperating within the guidelines of their parenting plan.
- *Featured in local Fox News short "Parent Referee" in February 2008.*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, LOS ANGELES, CA AND PRIVATELY FROM 2003 TO PRESENT	2001 TO 2003
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Child Custody Evaluator. Resolved child custody disputes in court-ordered cases. Assessed children and adults for domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Conduct interviews and gather information in homes and in consultation with other professionals. Thoroughly investigates allegations with interviews and collateral contacts. Provides clearly written reports that detail findings and offer recommendations to the court on custody, parenting, and time-sharing plans to achieve the child's best interests.

Notable Accomplishments

- Completed more than 50 complete custody evaluations.
- Brief Solution Focused Assessments – Pro Bono Work for LA Superior Court and privately
- Listed among the Superior Court's qualified evaluators and counselors.

MANAGED HEALTH NETWORK/MHN	<i>Irving, Texas</i>	6/2008-2014
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Military Family Life Consultant. Consult with staff, service members and their families through military family service organizations at bases in U.S., Germany and England offering solution focused counseling to individuals, couples and families, as well as providing various trainings including emotional issues of deployment, team building, and family separation: divorce, deployment, bereavement.

Notable Accomplishments

- Created **Happy Book** to help young children and parents deal with anger by creating personal book filled with things that made them "happy" as an aid in shifting focus from the helplessness of unresolved anger to one of success by participating in an empowering activity that can measurably improve their mood.
- As part of an Air Force Resiliency effort, collaborated with behaviorists, chaplains, and fitness experts to explore ways of increasing cohesiveness and personal resilience by creating "Happy Hour" menu of services (meditation, stress management) implemented at the base.

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HEALTHNET/MANAGED HEALTH NETWORK, LOS ANGELES, CA	1998 TO 2001
PACIFICARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, VAN NUYS, CA	1997 TO 1998

Case Manager. Offered caring, dedicated, and resourceful client care. As proactive team member, provided diagnostic assessments, short-term problem resolution, crisis intervention, advocacy, and education. Adeptly integrated wellness seminars, basic pharmacology, therapeutic modalities, and diagnosis, and treatment strategies in consultation with other providers.

Notable Accomplishments

- Dispensed EAP services to major client to handle consequences of traumatic events, robberies, deaths, family crises, and job-related stress.

FAMILY SERVICES, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA	1994 TO 1995
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Crisis Intervention/Trauma Relief. Following 1994 Northridge earthquake, applied multi-disciplinary techniques to treat children and families suffering from post-traumatic stress. Prepared and delivered incident stress debriefings; educated community at school sites and in homes to reduce stress and assist recovery, a FEMA funded project.

NEW START SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, SANTA MONICA, CA	1991 TO 1994
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Director of Adolescent Program. Facilitated groups and delivered individual counseling for at-risk children in Santa Monica elementary, middle, and high schools. Led stress management and assertiveness training classes for teens and teachers.

EDUCATION

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY – 1992 - M.A. – Clinical Psychology

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY – 1975 B.A. PSYCHOLOGY, *MAGNA CUM LAUDE*

MARRIAGE, FAMILY THERAPIST LICENSE 31000, 1993

SPECIALIZED POST-GRADUATE TRAININGS:

Trained Mediator -LA City Attorney and LA Bar Association/ 70 hours;
Pepperdine University Mediation training, 40 hours
Emotionally Focused Training (EFT) 4 day Externship
Neurolinguistic Programming Certification (NLP) 80 hours
Collaborative Family Law Training
Narrative Therapy – one year training Southern CA Counseling Center

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

LA SUPERIOR COURT LIST OF CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATORS AND THERAPISTS
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS (CAMFT)