

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program
Edith Baker Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Fellowship (M01HP31376)

September 11, 2019

*Fellowship Alumni: Social Work in an
Integrated World*

Heather Messa, MSWc (Room 2217 CL)

2018-2019 Edith M. Baker Integrated Healthcare Fellow
University of Pittsburgh
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Heather Messa was an Edith M. Baker fellow during the 2018-2019 school year. Her field placement at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital's Total Care Inflammatory Bowel Disease Medical Home assisted her in recognizing the increased need for social workers in healthcare settings. Following the Spring 2019 semester, Heather was a Bridging the Gap intern at Bethlehem Haven, a women's shelter and co-ed medical respite for individuals who are either homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless post-hospital discharge. Heather will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Social Work in December 2019.

Prior to her graduate studies, Heather completed her BSW at West Chester University of Pennsylvania where she interned in a skilled nursing facility. Post undergraduate studies, Heather served two years with City Year, an AmeriCorps program aimed at improving high school graduation rates in the city of Philadelphia through addressing the needs of youth in the areas of attendance, academics, and social-emotional learning.

Courtney Powell, LSW (Room 2248 CL)

2018-2019 Edith M. Baker Integrated Healthcare Fellow
Medical Social Worker - UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital
Mobile Therapist/Behavior Specialist Consultant - Wesley Family Services
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Courtney Powell graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. During her time at Slippery Rock University Courtney was an integral part of the multicultural community on her undergraduate campus. Courtney served as a mentor to first year students through the Office of Multicultural Development Jump Start Program, for three years. She was awarded the Jump Start Mentor of the year award during for the 2015-2016 school year. Courtney held executive board positions across different organizations including Internations Club, Black Action Society, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Courtney earned a department specific tutoring position for high academic standing in her class. She was active in the Psychology department as a student liaison. Courtney immersed herself in other cultures and traveled to Italy, Ireland and Paris during her time at Slippery Rock. Courtney completed her undergraduate internship as a Care Manager for Auberle and graduated in May of 2016 from Slippery Rock University.

Shortly after graduation, Courtney began working in the field as a Behavioral Support Staff Associate for Wesley Family Services K-8 school. During her time at Wesley, Courtney developed a passion for working with children. Wesley taught Courtney the importance of access to mental health services, intervention in childhood and the difference someone can make in an individual's life. Courtney desired to advance her education to be able to aid individuals on a higher level. Courtney began the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2017. Courtney completed her

generalist field placement at UPMC Children's Hospital Child Advocacy Center. She worked directly under the Forensic Interviewers who collaborated on a multidisciplinary team on issues of child abuse. Courtney closely collaborated with medical professionals during her time at the Child Advocacy Center and became interested in working in the healthcare field. She diligently researched social work practice in healthcare and declared the Integrated Healthcare Certificate in her Master of Social Work Program. Courtney was accepted to be an Edith M. Baker Integrated Healthcare Fellow for the 2018-2019 school year. During her time with the fellowship she completed specific course work, participated in professional trainings, seminars and did a multi rotational field placement at a certified integrated healthcare site. While concentrating on completing her degree, Courtney continued working and developing her skills in therapeutic treatment with children. Courtney later took on another roll of being a Therapeutic Specialist for Wesley Family Services where she ran social skills groups for children with Autism. Over the summer of 2018 Courtney worked for Quest therapeutic summer camp as a counselor where she provided therapeutic treatment in a summer camp environment. Courtney was awarded the Mary C. Siemer Scholarship for high academic standing and graduated in April of 2019 with her Master of Social Work degree.

Courtney presently works at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital as a Medical Social Worker in the outpatient clinic. She has secondary employment with Wesley Family Services as a Mobile Therapist/Behavior Specialist Consultant. Courtney received her social work license in June of 2019. Courtney aspires to eventually combine her two passions of healthcare and children and aims to be a pediatric medical social worker.

Carolyn R. Prutting, MSW/MPHc (Room 2217E CL)
2018-2019 Edith M. Baker Integrated Healthcare Fellow
Graduate Assistant, School of Social Work
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Carolyn "Cally" Prutting is a 3rd year joint degree student in the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health programs. She was a 2018-2019 Edith M. Baker Integrated Healthcare Fellow, and completed her School of Social Work internships with Pittsburgh Public Schools and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Cally graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and minors in sociology and political science. During her time there, she was extremely involved with the Penn State Dance Marathon, a student run philanthropy and year-long fundraising effort. Holding multiple leadership positions, she worked directly with children and families battling pediatric cancer at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. Cally also was a Therapeutic Support Counselor with a program designed for children with autism through the UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital, in addition to positions with local non-profits and UPMC Presbyterian. Through these experiences, she saw firsthand how healthcare, policies, behavioral health, and various social determinants directly impact the care provided to individuals which further sparked her passion for the field. She began the MSW program in the fall of 2017, and was accepted into the Master of Public Health in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences soon after.

Through her work, volunteer, and internship experiences, she has developed passions for interdisciplinary integrated healthcare, advocacy work, and policy. She is interested in how factors at every level, including socioeconomic, biopsychosocial, behavioral, and population directly impact the health of individuals and the public as a whole. She hopes to one day effect change at the policy level with a "seat at the table," but she wants that seat to be well-informed and holistically representative of those directly impacted.

She is currently completing research for her thesis at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, focusing on a new protocol to identify and effectively address barriers to adherence and larger social determinants of health within the pediatric transplant population. Cally also works as a graduate assistant in the School of Social Work Student Services Center.