**University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work**

**Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program**

**Edith Baker Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Fellowship** (M01HP31376)

September 22, 2021

***Introduction to Research***

**Audrey Wrobel, LSW**

**Mary Beth Rauktis, Ph.D.**

**Audrey Wrobel, LSW**

Medical Social Worker - NICU

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Audrey Wrobel received her B.A. in Psychology at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 2018. At Temple University, she devoted her time as a research assistant in developmental, psychopathology, and health psychology laboratories. Following her Bachelor’s, Audrey earned her Master of Social Work with a certificate in Integrated Healthcare at the University of Pittsburgh in April 2020. Her first-year field placement was at Community Care Behavioral Health, a managed care organization, which ultimately sparked her interest in healthcare. As a Baker Fellow Alum, she completed her field placement at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, receiving experience in both inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings. Audrey was honored to be the Direct Practice Student Representative at her commencement ceremony. After graduation, Audrey accepted a position as a Medical Social Worker at Magee’s Outpatient OB/Gyn clinic where she worked with expecting mothers and their families during their prenatal period. She then accepted a position to transfer to Magee’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she supports and empowers families during their NICU journey.

Audrey is passionate about accessible, affordable, and competent healthcare, and is a Speaker’s Bureau Advocate for the Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania as well as a Storyteller for the National Planned Parenthood Office. Audrey is working towards her clinical social work licensure.

**Mary Beth Rauktis, Ph.D.**

Associate Research Professor

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Mary Elizabeth Rauktis, Associate Research Professor earned a PhD in social work from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993. Prior to joining the Pitt faculty in 2007, Dr. Rauktis was Director of Research and Evaluation at Pressley Ridge, an international nonprofit provider of services to children and families. She was an adjunct at the school from 1993 to 2000 and has held adjunct teaching positions at Robert Morris University’s Bayer School for Nonprofit Management and at the University of Minho Institute of Child and Family Studies in Portugal.

In 2017 she was awarded a Fulbright Core Award to do research and teach at the University of Porto, School of Psychological Sciences. Dr. Rauktis is currently on the editorial boards for the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships, the Journal of Child and Adolescent Social Work and Residential Treatment for Children and Youth. She has also co-edited three special journal issues –one on interventions in Portugal for children and two focused on residential care and child safety in out-of-home care and one on human-animal interactions for children and youth.

**Recent Research Projects**

* Evaluation of the Pennsylvania IV-E waiver 2013-2018 for children and families involved in child welfare
* Exploring food insecurity for low-income adults and their companion animals.

**Research Interests and Topical Areas**

* Living environments for out of home care, with a focus on youth in the foster care system or residential care
* Adoption of best practice interventions in child welfare casework (structured assessment and family conferencing)
* Measurement of living environments
* Child welfare education and work force development
* Human-Animal intersectionality

**Social Media**

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