**University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work**

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

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

October 6, 2021

***LSW Exam & Licensing***

**Ginny Vayda, LCSW, ACSW, BCD**

**Sinika Calloway, MSW, LSW**

**Ginny Vayda, LCSW, ACSW, BCD**

Social Work Executive

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

Altoona, Pennsylvania

ginnyvayda@yahoo.com

Ginny Vayda, LCSW, ACSW, BCD, has often been described as a social worker’s social worker because of her career long commitment to advancing the social work profession in the classroom, in the field, in the public arena, and in the board room. For many years she was an active leader of social work directors in health care serving in many elected capacities including president of the Society for Hospital Social Work Directors of SW PA and Society for Hospital Social Work Directors of PA. She served on the national board of the Society of Hospital Social Work Directors of the American Hospital Association. Ginny is a well-known speaker and workshop presenter locally, statewide, and nationally. Ginny can always be found in the front of the classroom. She has been part of the full time and adjunct social work faculties at several Pennsylvania universities. Currently she teaches at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Social Work. During her career she has provided field placement opportunities for almost 100 social work graduate students.

Ginny is currently the Social Work Executive for the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Prior positions have included working with the Department of Defense developing and sustaining behavioral health and victim advocacy programs for active duty service members and their families, and Director of Social Work, Discharge Planning, and Utilization Management at several community hospitals.

For the past 19 years she has been the NASW trainer in Western Pennsylvania for the social work licensure preparatory class helping to prepare almost two thousand social workers for their licensure exams.

**Sinika Calloway, MSW, LSW**

Baker Fellowship Program Manager

University of Pittsburgh

School of Social Work

412-648-0641

[ssc43@pitt.edu](mailto:CKoller@crisiscenternorth.org)

Sinika Calloway, a licensed social worker, therapist, author, and career coach, currently serves as Baker Fellowship Program Manager at the University of Pittsburgh. For over fourteen years, Sinika has been committed to the profession of social work. She has worked to empower students and professionals to continue their social work education and to obtain licensure. Sinika is a native of Gadsden, Alabama, who earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from historically Black Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in Normal, Alabama. Her social work experience ranges in child welfare, non-profit management, medical social work, workforce development coaching and training, and clinical counseling. She earned a master’s degree in social work with a concentration in family & child welfare also from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in Normal, Alabama. She has contributed articles to *The New Social Worker Magazine*and was a contributing writer, featured in the hospice and palliative care section, of *The Changing Faces of Healthcare Social Work: Fourth Edition*. She was also a contributing writer, featured in the *African Americans and End of Life Issues* section of *Health and Wellness for People of Color: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Problems, and Solutions.* In January 2017, Sinika published *How I Passed the Social Work Licensure Exam And How You Can Too* in hopes of inspiring social work graduates and professionals to never give up on their dreams of becoming a licensed social worker. In December 2019 and in March 2020, she donated money to two social workers to help cover a portion of their social work licensure registration fees. Through a social work Facebook group, her social work licensure registration giveaway inspired other social workers to donate money to other aspiring social work licensees as well.  Sinika recently completed clinical hours toward the licensed clinical social work exam. Sinika is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and previously served as the Northern Representative and Board Member of NASW-Alabama Chapter.  She was voted Social Worker of the Year by her employer in 2014. She has presented at social work conferences, facilitated continuing education trainings, and has served as a mentor to social work students and graduates.