

Introduction to Research

Audrey Wrobel, LSW
Kyle Terrill, LSW
Mary Beth Rauktis, Ph.D.

Audrey Wrobel, LSW

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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, in the High-Risk Department, which ultimately sparked her interest in healthcare. As a Baker Fellow Alum, she completed her field placement at UPMC Magee Women's Hospital, receiving experience in both inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings. Audrey was honored to be the Direct Practice Student Representative at her commencement ceremony. In May, Audrey accepted a position as a Medical Social Worker at Magee's Outpatient OB/Gyn clinic where she works with expecting mothers and their families during their prenatal period. 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 received her LSW in September and is currently working towards her clinical social work licensure.

Kyle Terrill, LSW

Program Assistant
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Kyle Terrill completed his BS in biology from Geneva College in 2016 and his MSW from the University of Pittsburgh in 2020. Prior to starting his MSW, Kyle worked as a research specialist at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital in the fields of neuroscience and mental health research. Kyle entered his MSW education interested in issues surrounding the integration of physical and behavioral healthcare and had the privilege of being 2019-20 Edith Baker Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Fellow.

Kyle completed his generalist social work internship at the Foundation of HOPE Aftercare Program where he assisted individuals recently released from incarceration obtain resources in the Greater Pittsburgh area. He completed his Baker Fellowship internship at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital and was tasked with discharge planning, motivational interviewing, and conducting social needs and safety assessments as needed. His Baker Fellowship research poster entitled "Barriers to Skilled Nursing Discharge Planning for Patients with Opioid Dependency" was recently chosen to be showcased at the 2020 NASW-PA / PASWE Annual Conference in October.

Kyle is currently working as a Program Assistant at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) serving as a member of the Foundation's Senior Connections/Aging Team. He is involved with senior-focused initiatives including JHF's Grandparent Activist Network (GRAN) Reading Program, an intergenerational volunteer and engagement opportunity aimed at decreasing social isolation in older adults, as well as the Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP), a state-funded program to reduce COVID-19 outbreaks in skilled nursing and personal care/assisted living facilities, where JHF is the state-wide lead education provider. Kyle also holds a role as a JHF member of the Southwest Pennsylvania (SWPA) Contact Tracing Consortium, a collection of 80+ community organizations, foundations, colleges/universities, and health departments collaboratively working together to improve COVID-19 contact tracing efforts in the SWPA region.

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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