

ANDREA SZÚCS, LMSW, RDT, SIFI, NYCAPP

Licensed Master of Social Work, Registered Drama Therapist, Seminar in Field Instruction, NY Certificate in Applied Positive Psychology
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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Creative, innovative self-starter with excellent leadership, and communication skills
Trained as an actor ([Andrea Sooch](#)) and as a clinician (Andrea Szucs)
Designed and developed programs and curriculum
Co-creator of *The ACTing Cure* group model
Researched, created and facilitated groups for individuals with ID/DD
Experienced working with persons with Alzheimer's and dementia
Focused on Experiential, Behavioral and Relation Oriented Therapies
Proficient in languages: Native Hungarian, fluent English, fluent German
Teaching experience in diverse fields and populations (educational, professional performance, wellness, languages, clinical)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Columbia University - Columbia School of Social Work, NYC September 2017 - Present
Lecturer in Social Work / Field Instructor

- Supported student's learning in the field
- Helped students to develop direct practice skills
- Answered questions and provide support on student's interactions with clients and/or agency employees - formulating progress notes, process recordings, treatment plans for individuals and groups.

AHRC, New York, NY September 2014 – Present
Consultant Drama Therapist / Trainer / Supervisor

- Designed and facilitated strengths based experiential drama based projects and programs for groups and individuals with ID/DD -- using tools of Drama Therapy, Improvisational Theater, embodied creative processes and expressive techniques
- Spoke at domestic and international conferences, conducted workshops, published articles, designed training programs on new therapeutic approaches of creative arts.
- Supervised, trained and mentored interns and volunteers.
- Made assessments; case formulation / conceptualization / treatment plans
- Supported and cultivated talent, spotted strength and helped individuals with ID/DD to express feelings, discover and enhance creativity, autonomy and relatedness.
- Maintained records for individuals /groups through progress notes and process recordings
- Assisted individuals with community integration, performance improvement and socialization skills.

New York Certificate in Applied Positive Psychology, NYC December 2016 - Present
Teaching Assistant to Director

- Assisted experiential and didactic sessions
- Participated in faculty meetings and contributed to curriculum planning

- Conducted quality assessment of assignments / student communication
- Videography and editing

Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, New York, NY

December 2014 – January 2016

Assistant Program Director / Creative Drama Specialist

- Facilitated all programs and developed new ones using creative art processes
- Provided creative drama activities to help residents to maintain and maximize cognitive and communication skills – using tools of Drama Therapy and Improvisational Theater.
- Created daily full schedules and monthly events.
- Wrote service plans and conducted assessments as member of an interdisciplinary team
- Executed management roles; , coordinated and supervised daily activities of auxiliary staff, interns and volunteers
- Established long-term relationships with community partners and families, conducted trips to community.
- Performed public speaking, participated in service plan meeting

AHRC, New York, NY

2012 –2014

Social Work and Drama Therapy Intern

- Provided clinical interventions with individual clients
- Researched, developed & facilitated therapeutic drama groups
- Mentored and supervised interns to co-lead drama group
- Made assessments; case formulation / conceptualization / treatment plans

Performance of a Lifetime, New York, NY

2006 – 2008

Corporate Trainer / Actor / Facilitator

- Facilitated transformative education through role-play
- Conducted experiential and didactic sessions

EDUCATION

Fordham University, New York, NY

Master of Social Work, 2014

Concentration: Clinical Leadership

North American Drama Therapy Association

Registered Drama Therapist Alternative Training Program – Completed 2014

The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY

Professional Performance in Musical Theater, 1995

Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst , Vienna, Austria

Associate Degree in Performing Arts, 1993

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary

Faculty of Education and Psychology / Centre of Teacher Training

Bachelor's Degree in Teaching, 1988

LICENSE, CERTIFICATION

- Seminar in Field Instruction, Fordham University, New York, NY - 2017
- NY Certification in Applied Positive Psychology - NYC Open Center -2016
- Registered Drama Therapist - NADTA – 2015 (#603)
- Licensed Master of Social Work – State of NY – 2014 (#093231)
- Interactive-Behavioral Therapy (Positive Group Psychotherapy for people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities) Brock University, Ontario, Canada, 2013

AFFILIATIONS:

NADTA (North American Drama Therapy Association)

ASGPP (American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama)

SAG-AFTRA (The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists)

AEA (Actors' Equity Association)

PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE:

Creative Engagement in Dementia Care: A Strengths-Based Positive Psychology Approach

9th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, October 13th, 2019

Positive Interventions for People with Psychiatric and Intellectual Disabilities

9th European Conference on Positive Psychology - Budapest, Hungary, June 27-30, 2018

The Science of Possibilities: Interventions of Positive Psychology for Education, Psychotherapy and Individual Growth - Universität Trier, Germany, June 22, 2018

Positive Psychotherapy – Cultivating Hope Through Strength Based Practices

Annual START National Training Institute Conference – Boston, MA, May 2018

The ACTing Cure: Strengths-based Group Techniques for People with Intellectual Disabilities

38th Annual North American Drama Therapy Association Conference, October 28th, 2017

Roleplay as a Social Work Tool

Guest Lecture, Fordham University, October 19th, 2017

Positive Psychology in Clinical Settings: Creative Interventions for Counseling & Psychotherapy

8th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, October 14th, 2017

Engaging Persons with Dementia through Action Methods: A Strengths-Based Approach

8th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, October 15th, 2017

Challenges, Triumphs, Successes

Guest Lecture, Vanguard High School, October 11th, 2017

Wrong to Strong: Applying Positive Psychology to the Field of IDD

Annual START National Training Institute Conference – Rye Brook, NY, May 2017

Engaging Persons with Dementia through Action Methods: A Strengths-Based Approach
7th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, November 10, 2016

Positive Supervision: Positive Psychology in Action
NADD 33rd Annual Conference - Niagara Falls, ON, Canada, November 3, 2016

The Acting Cure: Strengths Based Group Techniques for People with Cognitive Limitations
74th Annual ASGPP Conference -- Phoenix , AZ, April 3, 2016

Ménage à trois: Couples Therapy, Positive Psychology, and Psychodrama
74th Annual ASGPP Conference -- Phoenix , AZ, March 31, 2016

Positive Supervision in Mental Health
Behavioral Health Network, Inc. -- Springfield, MA, March 9 - 11, 2016

Make Volunteering Work for You
The Actor's Fund of America
AWP Panel, New York City, NY, January 2016

Positive Interactive-Behavioral Therapy
ServiceNet, Springfield, MA, November 12-13, 2015

Integrating Positive Psychology, Couples Therapy & Psychodrama
Expressive Therapies Summit -- NYC, November 8, 2015

Positive Supervision for Mental Health Professionals
ServiceNet, Springfield, MA, October 30, 2015

Working with Older Adults
The Actor's Fund of America
AWP Panel, New York City, NY, November 2014

Positive Supervision for Mental Health Professionals
Behavioral Health Network, Springfield, MA, October 2014

Teaching Adults
The Actor's Fund of America
AWP Panel, New York City, NY, March 2014

Interactive-Behavioral Therapy – Positive Group Psychotherapy for people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities
Brock University, Ontario, Canada, June 2013

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS:

Social Work Practices in Action –Strengths-based Positive Interventions for Counseling and Education
Lehman College/City University of New York April 2019

Positive Psychotherapy – Cultivating Hope Through Strength Based Practices Annual START National Training Institute Conference – Boston, MA, May 2019

PUBLICATION:

Tomasulo, D., & Szucs, A. (2015). The ACTing cure: evidence-based group treatment for people with intellectual disabilities. *Dramatherapy*, 37(2-3), 100-115.

On line: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02630672.2016.116282>

Szucs, A., Schau, C., Muscara, K., & Tomasulo, D. (2019) Character Strength Activation for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Using Video Feedback in Groups. *Journal of Education and Learning*; Vol. 8, No. 1; 2019

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