

**Shazia Akhtarullah, Ph.D., LMFT, LMHC, MAC, MCAP, SAP, FT**

Nova Southeastern University  
 Dept. of Family Therapy  
 3301 College Avenue  
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314  
 shaziaa@nova.edu

***PROFILE***

Licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT/2001/MT 1884)  
 Licensed mental health counselor (LMHC/2001/MH 6548)  
 Certified addiction professional (CAP/2002/# 2453)  
 Master's level addiction professional (MCAP/2015/ADC-010577-2015)  
 Substance Abuse Professional (SAP/2015/ # 0189)  
 Fellow in Thanatology (CT/2014/# 5007)  
 Diplomate American Mental Health Counselors Association (2018)  
 AAMFT Approved Supervisor (2001)  
 Qualified Supervisor for MFT & MHC (FL Board of CSW, MFT, & MHC)  
 Graduate Level Certification in Medical Family Therapy  
 Training in Hypnosis, 50 Continuing Education Credits  
 Training in Infant Mental Health, 150 Continuing Education Credits  
 Serving Our Veterans – Behavioral Health Certificate 20.5 Continuing Education Credits

***EDUCATION***

**Ph.D.** Family Therapy (2009)  
 Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
 Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**M. S.** Family Therapy (1998)  
 Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
 Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Certificate** Medical Family Therapy (1998)  
 Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
 Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**M. Phil** Psychology (1996)  
 National Institute of Psychology  
 Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

**M. S.** Psychology (1992)  
 Government College Lahore, Pakistan

**B.S.** Psychology and Journalism (1988)  
 Lahore College for Women, Pakistan

## ***WORK EXPERIENCE***

### **Adjunct Faculty** (Fall 2009 – Present)

Dept. of Family Therapy, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Responsibilities: Teaching graduate courses and providing on-site and off-site clinical supervision to students enrolled in COAMFTE accredited Masters and Doctoral programs at the department of family therapy.

### **Supervisor and Consultant** (November 2015 – Present)

SHAFA Consultants

Davie, FL

Responsibilities: Providing clinical supervisions and consultations to family therapists and mental health counselors.

### **Supervisor, Customer Care** (August 2014 – March 2016)

Magellan Health, Miami, FL

Responsibilities: Supervised a team of customer care staff, at a specialty integrated health plan, Magellan Complete Care of FL, as the team took incoming calls from members with severe mental illness (SMI) and providers about the health plan including finding providers, claims and authorization inquiries, member crisis calls, completing member assessments etc.; did daily problem solving and oversaw meeting call handling requirements and daily telephone standards as set forth by management.

### **Utilization Manager/Reviewer** (August 2008 – Nov 2013)

Magellan Health, Miami, FL

Responsibilities: Monitored inpatient and intermediate level of care services, for children and adults, related to mental health and substance abuse treatment to ensure medical necessity and effectiveness. Performed concurrent reviews for inpatient care and other levels of care as allowed by scope of practice and experience. In conjunction with providers and facilities, developed discharge plans and oversaw their implementation. Provided telephone triage, crisis intervention and emergency authorizations. Provided information to members and providers regarding mental health and substance abuse benefits, community treatment resources, mental health managed care programs, and Magellan Health Services policies and procedures, and criteria. Interacted with Magellan Medical/Associate Director and/or Physician Advisors to discuss Clinical/authorization questions and concerns regarding specific cases. Participated in quality improvement (QI) activities, including data collection, tracking, and analysis. Participated in care management center (CMC) activities as requested that help improve Care Center performance, excellence and culture. Supported team members and participated in team activities to help build a high-performance team. Demonstrated flexibility in areas such as job duties and schedule in order to aid CMC in better serving its members.

**South Miami Regional Director** (June 2004 – July 2008)

Institute for Family Centered Services (IFCS), Miami, FL

Responsibilities: Oversaw the operational, service delivery, public relations and marketing aspects of a mental health agency (regional office in Miami) as well as supervised clinicians (with Master's degrees) and over 100 children, adults and families the clinical staff was seeing every month (under diverse funding sources such as Medicaid, state/federal grants and contracts etc).

**Comprehensive Assessment Specialist** (December, 2002 – May 2004)

Institute for Family Centered Services (IFCS), Miami Dade, FL

Completed Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments (CBHA) for children in foster care.

**Volunteer Therapist** (May 2001 – July 2002)

Community Health Care Center One, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Family Therapist** (January 1999 – July 2001)

Intensive Crisis Counseling Program (ICCP)

Family Therapy Associates (Currently Brief Therapy Institute)

Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Graduate Assistant, Internship Liaison** (January 2002 – December 2002)

Dept of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Volunteer Intake Coordinator/Therapist** (September 2000 – September 2001)

Family Therapy Associates (Currently Brief Therapy Institute)

Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Graduate Assistant, Marketing Coordinator** (September 2001 – December 2001)

Center for Collaborative Change (Currently Brief Therapy Institute)

Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Group Facilitator/Leader** (January 2001 – July 2001)

“Growing up with Divorce:” Court-ordered, 4-hour group/class for divorcing parents

Family Therapy Associates (Currently Brief Therapy Institute)

Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Clinical Internship Experience as MFT Intern** (September 1997 – June 1998)

- Center One (Currently Community Health Care Center One), Ft. Lauderdale FL

- Family Therapy Associates (Currently Brief Therapy Institute) Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- New River Middle School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

***TEACHING & SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE***

**Adjunct Faculty** (Fall 2009 – Present)

Dept. of Family Therapy, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Courses Taught:

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Fall 2019)

Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2019 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Summer 2019)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2019)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2019)

External Clinical Practicum, Masters (Winter 2019)

Infant Mental Health (Winter 2019 – Online)

Family Systems Healthcare I (Winter 2018 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Fall 2018)

Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2018 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Summer 2018)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2018)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2018)

Grief and Loss (Summer 2018 – Online)

External Clinical Practicum, Masters (Winter 2018)

Infant Mental Health (Winter 2018 – Online)

Family Systems Healthcare I (Winter 2018 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Fall 2017)

Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2017 – Online)

External Clinical Practicum, Masters (Fall 2017)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2017)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2017)

Grief and Loss (Summer 2017 – Online)

Research in MFT (Winter 2017)

Systems Application in Family Life Cycle (Winter 2017)

Infant Mental Health (Winter 2017 – Online)

Family Systems Healthcare I (Winter 2017 – Online)

Internal Practicum – Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Fall 2016)

Human Development (Fall 2016)

Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2016 – Online)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2016)  
Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2016)  
Grief and Loss (Summer 2016 – Online)  
Human Systems in Healthcare (Summer 2016 – Online)

Research in MFT (Winter 2016)  
Relationships in Aging (Winter 2016)  
Infant Mental Health (Winter 2016 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Fall 2015)  
Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2015 – Online)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2015)  
Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2015)  
Grief and Loss (Summer 2015 – Online)  
Caregiving in the Family (Summer 2015 – Online)

Research in MFT (Winter 2015)  
Systems Application in Family Life Cycle (Winter 2015)  
Relationships in Aging (Winter 2015)

Human Development Across Life Span (Fall 2014)  
Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2014 – Online)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Summer 2014)  
Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2014)  
Grief and Loss (Summer 2014 – Online)  
Caregiving in the Family (Summer 2014 – Online)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Winter 2014)  
Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Winter 2014)  
Systems Application in Family Life Cycle (Winter 2014)  
Relationships in Aging (Winter 2014)  
Human Development Across Life Span (Fall 2013)  
Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Fall 2013)  
Grief and Loss in Aging (Fall 2013 – Online)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2013 – Online)  
Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Summer 2013)  
Grief and Loss (Summer 2013 – Online)  
Caregiving in the Family (Summer 2013 – Online)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Winter 2013)  
Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Winter 2013)  
Politics and Economics of Healthcare (Winter 2013 – Online)

Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Fall 2012)  
 External Clinical Practicum, Masters (Fall 2012)  
 Human Systems in Healthcare (Fall 2012 – Online)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2012)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Summer 2012)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Winter 2012)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Winter 2012)  
 Politics and Economics of Healthcare (Winter 2012 – Online)

Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (Fall 2011)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Fall 2011)  
 Human Systems in Healthcare (Fall 2011 – Online)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2011)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Summer 2011)

Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Winter 2011)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Winter 2011)  
 Politics and Economics of Healthcare (Winter 2011 – Online)

Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Fall 2010)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Doctoral (Fall 2010)  
 Human Systems in Healthcare (Fall 2010 – Online)

Assessment in Marital and Family Therapy (Summer 2010)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Summer 2010)

Politics and Economics of Healthcare (Winter 2010 – Online)  
 Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues in Systems Theories (Winter 2010)  
 Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Winter 2010)

Internal Clinical Practicum, Masters (Fall 2009)

**Teaching Assistant** (September 2002 – December 2002)  
 Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy (Master/Doctoral Level Course)  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Grief, Trauma & Loss: Program Development** (January 2002 - April, 2002)  
 Independent Study (Doctoral Level Course)  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Teaching Assistant** (September 2001- December 2001)  
 Ethics (Masters/Doctoral Level Course)  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University , Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Teaching Assistant** (April 2000 – July 2000)

Medical Family Therapy II - Bereavement & Loss (Masters/Doctoral Level Course)  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Teaching Assistant** (January 1999 – April 1999)

Medical Family Therapy I: Chronic Illnesses (Masters/Doctoral Level Course)  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Guest Lectures**

Ethnicity and Family Therapy (February, 2003)  
 Developing Cultural Competency among Family Therapists  
 Dept of Counseling, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

## Medical Family Therapy II: Bereavement and Loss (June 2002)

Religious Beliefs and Understanding of Grief  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## Human Sexuality (June 2001, June 2002)

Family Therapy with People Living with HIV/AIDS  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues in MFT (January 2001)

Clinical Documentation in Marriage and Family Therapy  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## Medical Family Therapy I: Chronic Illnesses (February 2000)

Family Therapy and Chronic Illness  
 Dept. of Family Therapy, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Clinical Fellow American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)

Clinical Member American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)

Professional Member Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA)

Premier Member Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Professional Member World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH)

Professional Member Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

Professional Member NAADAC: Association for Addiction Professionals

Clinical Member and Fellow in Thanatology Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC)

Professional Member Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA)

Professional Member American Society on Aging (ASA)

Member Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG)

Member Florida Council on Aging

## ***PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS***

### **Presentations**

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (Sep, 2004). *Harnessing the Storm: Working with Grieving Families*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Atlanta, Georgia.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (Oct, 2003). *To Recovery and Beyond: Therapy with Substance Abusing Clients*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Long Beach, California.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (May, 2003). *Building Bridges: Working with Substance Abusing Clients*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Delray Beach.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (Oct, 2002). *Healing Families: Bereavement, loss and grief Across Cultures*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (May, 2002). *Living with loss: Understanding bereavement and grief through the lifespan*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Orlando.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (May, 2002). *Looking through the prism: Viewing HIV/AIDS from a biopsychosocial/spiritual perspective*. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Orlando.

Akhtarullah, S., & Niazi, F. M. (2001/May). *Nowhere but home: Doing home-based therapy*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Orlando.

Akhtarullah, S. & Smith, C. (2001/May). *Binocular vision: Viewing HIV/AIDS through the eyes of a therapist and client*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Orlando.

Akhtarullah, S., & Smith, C. (2000, Sep). *The world of AIDS through the eyes of a therapist and client*. Paper presented for Dade Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Miami.

Akhtarullah, S. & Weiss, M. (1999/ October). *The ripple effect of HIV/AIDS: The impact on family therapists*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Chicago.

Akhtarullah, S. & Smith, C. (1999/February). *We are not dead yet: Life with AIDS through the eyes of a therapist and client*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Gainesville.

Akhtarullah, S. (1994). *Job satisfaction and job stress*. Paper presented at the meeting of National Society on Study of Stress, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Akhtarullah, S. (1994). *Social support as a coping resource for job stress*. Paper presented at the meeting of National Society on Study of Stress, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Burnett, C., Boyd, T., Spazonik, M., Jabouin, F., & Akhtarullah, S. (1998). *The creation of the Institute of Cultures/Families: Creating the Web Page*. Paper presented at the Brief Therapy Scholarship Series, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Niazi, F. M., & Akhtarullah, S. (Oct, 2003). Coping with Loss: Grief and Bereavement Across Cultures. Presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Central Education Conference, Ft Lauderdale, Florida.

Niazi, F. M., & Akhtarullah, S. (May, 2003). Picking Up the Pieces: Understanding the Multidimensional Phenomena of Grief, Bereavement and Loss. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Delray Beach.

Niazi, F. M. & Akhtarullah, S. (May, 2002). The reluctant clients: Doing therapy with adolescents. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Orlando.

### **Publications**

Green, S. K., & Akhtarullah, S. (Dec., 2002). *NSU Professor gives information on prevention and symptoms of HIV*. Nova Southeastern University (NSU) News Release. NSU Office of Public Affairs.

Kopp, S., Akhtarullah, S., Niazi, F., Duncan, B., & Sparks, J. (2001). Freaked out by forms: Why I should do this. In B. L. Duncan & J. Sparks (Eds.), *Heroic clients, heroic agencies: Partners for change*. FL: Nova Southeastern University Press.

Kopp, S., Akhtarullah, S., Niazi, F., Duncan, B., & Sparks, J. (2001). The seamless use of measures: The nuts and bolts of accountability. In B. L. Duncan & J. Sparks (Eds.), *Heroic clients, heroic agencies: Partners for change*. FL: Nova Southeastern University Press.

### ***RESEARCH EXPERIENCE***

From Clinicians to Administrators and Managers in Human Service Organizations:  
Evolving Career Paths of Marriage and Family Therapists  
A Grounded Theory Study: Ph.D. Dissertation (2007 – 2008)  
Nova Southeastern University, Ft Lauderdale, FL

Role of Perceived Social Support as a Coping Resource for Job Stress  
A Quantitative Study: Masters of Philosophy (M. Phil) Thesis (1996 – 1997)  
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Effects of Order of Birth and Gender on the Intellectual Development of Preschool  
Children of Lahore  
A Quantitative Study: Masters of Science (M.Sc.) Thesis (1990 – 1991)  
Department of Psychology, Government College Lahore, Pakistan

***PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES***

-Abstract Reviewer:

2017 Annual Conference, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Atlanta, Georgia

62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Atlanta, Georgia (2004)

61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Long Beach, California (2003)

60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Cincinnati, Ohio (2002)

***AWARDS***

Graduate Assistantship, 2001

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dept. of Family Therapy  
Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Community Service Award, 2000

Dade Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (DAMFT) Miami Dade County, FL

Distinguished Student of Year Award Winner, 1999

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Broward International Women's Club Scholarship, 1998 – 1999

Broward County, FL