

Robert Edelman, M.Ed., Ed.S.

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Village Counseling Center
3919 Newberry Road, Suite 5
Gainesville, FL 32607

Phone: (352) 373-8189
Fax: (352) 373-8190
robert@villagecounselingcenter.net
www.villagecounselingcenter.net

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 30 years' experience in the mental health field primarily treating children and adolescents with sexual abuse, sexual behavior problems and severe trauma issues
- Founder, CEO/President of the Village Counseling Center (2001- Present) which provides specialized mental health services in 16 counties, employs 30+ clinicians and office staff and who routinely treat over 750 clients per month
- Managed over \$8,000,000 in grant funding
- Accountable for the evaluation and/or treatment for over 8,000 children and adolescents with mental health issues including trauma, sexual abuse and/or sexual behavior problems
- Author of two successful and highly rated children's books:
Trauma: Teaching kids all about trauma (CreateSpace Publishing, copyright 2015);
My Private Parts are Private: A Guide to Teaching Children about Safe Touching (CreateSpace Publishing, copyright 2013)
- Qualified Expert in Child Abuse and Neglect, Sexual Abuse, Juvenile Sexual Offending, Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Child and Adolescent Psychological Trauma
- State and National Presenter/Trainer in the areas of Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse, Childhood Psychological Trauma as well as Evaluation and Treatment Issues related to Children and Adolescents with Sexual Abuse and/or Behavior Problems
- Invited Member of the Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Children with Sexual Behavior Problems Strategic Planning Committee, State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, Office of Family Safety
- Appointed member to the Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council by the Alachua County Commission
- Appointed Member to the Gabriel Myers Florida Work Group related to Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse established by Florida Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), Appointed by DCF Secretary George H. Sheldon
- Committee & Voting Member of the Adoption Review Committee for DCF/PSF Florida Circuits 3 & 8 (2007-2023)
- Founder and Co-Chair of the Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force - North Florida
- Co-Founder and Co-Chair - Northeast Florida Regional Task Force on LGBTQ Children
- Founding/Former Executive and Clinical Director of a DJJ 24-opening day treatment program for Juveniles with Sexual Offending Problems, which received Exemplary Status by DJJ
- Former Director of Clinical Services of a DCF Contracted, 80-Bed residential treatment program for male and female children/adolescents with general psychiatric problems and severe trauma histories

**BOARD
MEMBERSHIP &
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council

Appointed by the Alachua County Commission Sept. 2018 – Dec. 2023

Northeast Florida Regional Task Force for LGBTQ Youth

Co-Founder and Co-Chair April 2013 – August 2014

Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

Founder and Co-Chair - Gainesville, FL July 2008 - 2011

Adoption Review Committee

Oct. 2007 – Dec. 2023
Voting Member, Partnership for Strong Families, DCF Circuits 3 & 8

Clinical Review Team

Oct. 2012 – 2017
Clinical Member, Partnership for Strong Families, DCF Circuits 3 & 8

**Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Children with Sexual
Behavior Problems Strategic Planning Committee**

Invited Member, State of Florida, DCF - Office of Family Safety 2011 - 2012

Gabriel Myers Florida Work Group – Child Sexual Abuse

Appointed Member, DCF Secretary George Sheldon 2010

Alachua County Crisis Center

2007 - 2008
Member, Friends of the Crisis Center – Gainesville, FL

Child Advocacy Center

Feb. 2006 – Oct. 2006
Member, Training Committee

Association for Sexual Offender Providers (ASOP) - Florida

President 1999 - 2000

Child Advocacy Center

1999 - 2001
Startup and Advisory Board Member

Alachua County Crisis Center

1992 - 1997
Care-Team Consultant & Trainer – Volunteer

**NOTED
PRESENTATIONS**

**Reunification: When is it Safe to Reunify Child Victims with
Sexual Offenders and their Non-Offending Caregivers?**

The Sexual Battery Committee of the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women,
Inc. - 33rd Annual Conference. May 2014. Gainesville, FL

Child Sexual Abuse

The University of South Florida, Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare
September 2013. Gainesville/Tampa, FL

**Psychosexual Assessments and Treatment of Juveniles
Who Sexually Offend**

The Sexual Battery Committee of the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women,
Inc., 32nd Annual Conference. May 7, 2013. Gainesville, FL

**Stop Sexualizing Our Children! How the Media Impacts
Children's Sexual Development and Ways to Intervene!**

The Child Center - Annual Conference. April 26, 2012. St Charles, MO

**NOTED
PRESENTATIONS**

(Continued)

Establishing a Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

Accepted Paper Presentation. 30th Annual 2011 National Research and Treatment ATSA Conference. November 3, 2011. Ontario, Canada (Unable to attend due to illness)

Child on Child Sexual Abuse: What is it and How to Respond?

DCF Family Accountability Summit – State Conference. Sept. 7-9, 2011. Orlando, FL

Stop Sexualizing Our Children! How the Media Impacts Children's Sexual Development and Ways to Intervene!

National Child Advocacy Center - National/Annual Conference. August 23-25, 2011. New Orleans, Louisiana

Establishing a Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

Co-Presentation with Brandi Rhoden, LMHC. National Child Advocacy Center - National/Annual Conference. August 23-25, 2011. New Orleans, Louisiana

Compassion Fatigue and Debriefing

Series of Trainings for The Department of Children and Families Protective Investigators, Supervisors and DCF Attorneys – Circuits 3 & 8. May & June 2011. Lake City & Gainesville, FL

Psychosexual Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents (7 hours)

Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (S.A.I.N.) December 17, 2010. Tampa, FL

The Psychology of Adoption

Alachua County Child Advocacy Center – Annual Conf. Nov. 2010. Gainesville, FL

Psychosexual Assessment and Treatment of Children

Florida Coalition for Children 2010 Annual Conf. Oct. 18-20, 2010. Jacksonville, FL

Psychosexual Assessment and Treatment of Juveniles & Stop Sexualizing Our Children (2 separate trainings)

Polk County Task Force on Sexual Abuse Prevention. Sept. 2010. Polk County, FL

Recognizing and Treating Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse

Presentation with Robin Rosenberg. 2010 Dependency Summit for Florida's Child Protection Communities. October 23-26, 2010. Orlando, FL

Stop Sexualizing Our Children!

Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers 7th Annual Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse. August 4-6, 2010. Orlando, FL

Establishing a Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

DCF Office of Family Safety Dependency Summit 2009 State Conference. Co-Presenter: Shawn Salamida, CEO, Partnership for Strong Families. August 26-28, 2009. Orlando, FL

Stop Sexualizing Our Children!

National Adolescent Perpetrator Network (NAPN) 24th Annual/National Conference. Countering the Counterproductive. May 17, 18 & 19, 2009. Tampa, FL

**NOTED
PRESENTATIONS**
(Continued)

Preventing Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) 27th Annual/National Conference. Teamwork in Trying Times: Improving Our Response to Sexual Abuse. October 22-25, 2008. Atlanta, GA

**Intervention and Treatment Strategies to Prevent
Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse**

State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. August 2008. Lakeland, FL

**Intervention and Treatment Strategies to Prevent
Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse**

Preventing Sexual Abuse: Advances in the Evaluation and Treatment of Youthful and Adult Sexual Abusers. Hillsborough County Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) and the Florida Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (FATSA). March 2008. Tampa, FL

**LICENSURE &
CERTIFICATIONS**

EMDR Therapist

All requirements met – June 2015

Certified BIP Counselor – State of Florida

All requirements met – 2013

Certified Speak Up Be Safe Facilitator

All requirements met – 2012

Qualified Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor – Florida

Approved - February 2012

Certified Adoption Counselor – State of Florida

All requirements met – 2010

CEU Provider – State of Florida

Approved February 2005

Qualified Mental Health Supervisor – Florida

Approved, 2000

Child/Adolescent Forensic Examiner, State of Florida

All requirements met - May 2006

Certified Juvenile Sex Offender Therapist – State of Florida

All requirements met - July 1998

Licensed Mental Health Counselor – State of Florida

Issued December 1997 (MH 4473)

**CURRENT
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS**

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA)

Clinical Member 1999 - 2002, 2007 – Present Date

Florida Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

Clinical Member 2007 – Present
Date

American Counseling Association

Professional Member 2018 – Present Date

**FORMAL
EDUCATION**

Master of Education (M.Ed.) & Specialist in Education (Ed.S.)

December 1994 University of Florida Gainesville, FL
Department: Counselor Education Area: Marriage and Family Therapy

Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

April 1989 University of South Florida Tampa, FL

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Village Counseling Center (VCC) May 2001 – Present Date

Founder, President/CEO, Director of Clinical Services North Central FL

- CEO & Clinical Director of the Village Counseling Center which is a for-profit and contracted mental health provider with several state, non-profit and private agencies to provide mental health assessments, treatment and consultation in sixteen (16) counties of North Florida
- Direct all agency staff and services related to substance abuse & mental health assessments; psychosexual/amenability and comprehensive behavioral assessments; sexual abuse treatment; juvenile sex offender treatment; case management; clinical training and consultation; and adult, child, couples and family psychotherapy (outpatient program)
- Provide clinical supervision to supervisors, licensed clinicians, and staff as well as Interns seeking state licensure
- Direct all contract negotiations and monitoring such as current contracts with Partnership for Strong Families, FamiliesFirst Network, Alachua County School Board, North Central Florida Community Foundation, and several other agencies
- Provide on-going training and consultation for VCC, outside agencies and within the community in several areas including sexual abuse assessment and treatment, juvenile sexual offender treatment, group counseling, program and staff development, and clinical supervision
- Direct CEU & VCC Trainings

ITM Group & Ted Shaw, Ph.D.

August 1996 – May 2001

Associate Practitioner/Clinician

Gainesville, FL

- Provided outpatient treatment to sexually reactive children and adolescent sexual offenders in individual, group and family therapy
- SAMH Program Coordinator & Supervisor- Coordinated the completion of all Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) assessments for DJJ in a 4-county area

The Brown Schools of Florida

March 2000 – July 2000

Director of Clinical Svc's, Beverly Hills Residential Program Lecanto, FL

- Assisted in the planning, development and licensure of a DCF state contracted 80-bed residential facility for males and females
- Clinically directed all mental health related services that included specialized treatment for sexually reactive children, adolescent sexual offenders and youth having general psychiatric problems
- Directly responsible for the supervision of approximately 40 staff including the Clinical Coordinator, Educational Coordinator, Activity/Recreational Director, Therapists, Teachers, Nursing Staff, Case Managers, Lead Counselors, Direct Care Workers, Support Staff, Drivers and Interns
- Developed all clinical policies and procedures, forms and programming

The Brown Schools of Florida

June 1998 – October 1999

Interim Director, Volusia Threshold Program

Daytona, FL

- Interim Director of all program operations for a 24-slot day treatment and after school/outpatient juvenile sex offender program located in Daytona, Florida
- Supervised program staff of 12 including the Clinical Coordinator/ Therapist, Teacher, Case Manager, Lead Counselor, Direct Care Counselors, Support Staff, Drivers and Interns
- Directed the revision and development of all program policies, procedures, and school contracts and operations forms

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

(continued)

The Brown Schools of Florida February 1997 – March 2000
Founding & Executive Director, Alachua Threshold Program Gainesville, FL

- Directed all program operations for a 24-slot day treatment and after school/outpatient juvenile sex offender program
- Achieved "Deemed Status," one of the highest ratings by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Quality Assurance Board for two (2) consecutive years and was awarded "Program of the Year" among all Brown School programs in Florida
- Supervised program staff of 15 including the Clinical Coordinator/ Therapist, Educational Coordinator, Teacher, Case Manager, Lead Counselor, Direct Care Counselors, Support Staff, Drivers, and Interns
- Developed all program policies, procedures, and school contracts and operations forms
- Formed an Advisory Board that included representatives from numerous community agencies including: the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Alachua County School Board, North Central Florida AIDS Network, State Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office, Gainesville Police Department, Alachua County Crisis Center, Victim's Advocate Program and the Alachua Family Psychiatry Center
- Primary participant in the development of all program contracts and proposals with the Department of Juvenile Justice, Alachua School Board, Alachua Family Psychiatry Center and other local agencies

The Recovery Center - Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
Lead Clinician, Lake City, FL Aug 1996 to Feb 1997

- Lead Therapist for a 14-bed, substance abuse program for male adolescents under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Florida Department of Children and Families
- Responsible for coordinating and providing all counseling services and treatment programming for youth

Certified Batterer's Intervention Program
Domestic Violence Counselor – Gainesville, FL Aug 95 - Nov 96

- Clinically trained and supervised by Dr. Paul Wheeler, Ph.D.
- Led and co-facilitated weekly counseling groups for men charged with domestic violence offenses

Adolescents Who Sexually Offend Program
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Gainesville, FL
Program Coordinator for Dr. Ted Shaw January 1996 to August 1996

- Clinically trained and supervised by Dr. Ted Shaw, Ph.D., Former President of the Florida Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers
- Coordinated outpatient services for youth admitted into the Adolescent Who Sexually Offend Program
- Liaison between Meridian, Dr. Shaw and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Child and Adult Brief Therapy Program
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Gainesville, FL
Therapist January 1995 to August 1996

- Provided assessments and outpatient treatment to adults and children with primary diagnosis of ADHD, depression, family conflict and sexual abuse

USF Psychiatry Center Tampa, FL
Mental Health Technician, Children's & Dual Diagnosis Units 1987 to 1990

- Employed during undergraduate studies at the University of South Florida

**RECENT TRAININGS, FORMAL TEACHING POSITIONS
& REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

Updated: Jan 2023