Melissa D. Hunter

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EDUCATION:

2003-2005 Ph.D., School Psychology

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dissertation Title: Training Head Start Teachers to Use Effective Instruction Delivery in the Classroom.

2000-2003 M.A., Psychology

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Thesis Title: The Mystery Motivator as a Classroom Behavior Management Strategy.

1995-1999 B.A., Psychology

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas

07/2004 - 06/2005: Pediatric Psychology Intern

Department of Psychology, Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Supervisors: Susan Wilczynski, PhD, BCBA-D; Brett Kuhn, PhD; Mark Shriver, PhD, BCBA-D

Provided therapeutic and assessment services for Project BEST-CASE, an intensive early intervention program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Also engaged in coordination, implementation, and data collection for several applied research projects with children with ASD, as well as assisting in grant-writing. Participated in behavioral pediatric outpatient therapy clinic, providing services to children and adolescents presenting with a broad range of concerns. Participated in multidisciplinary clinics for children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and sleep disturbances. Provided Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Behavior Therapy, Discrete Trial Teaching, and other child therapy services.

07/2005-09/2006: Postdoctoral Fellow in Developmental Disabilities

Child Study Center, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Clinical Supervisors: Jan Culbertson, PhD, & Lori-Holmquist-Day, PhD

Research Supervisor: Mark Wolraich, MD

Participated in an interdisciplinary assessment clinic to provide assessments for children expected of having developmental delays or behavioral problems; provided outpatient therapy services for children with emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs; supervised psychology practicum students; engaged in research activities such as data collection and analysis with a Medical Home model team in the hospital setting; participated in a federally-funded grant program to provide training and support to educators in meeting the needs of student with autism using empirically-supported practices; and participated in the Oklahoma Leadership Education in Neuro-Developmental Disabilities (LEND) program.

LICENCES AND CERTIFICATIONS:

3/2008 – present: Pennsylvania License to Practice Psychology **09/2021 – present:** Nebraska License to Practice Psychology

CLINICAL/APPLIED EXPERIENCE – SCHOOL BASED SERVICES:

08/2021 - present: School Consultant

Madonna School, in collaboration with the Munroe Meyer Institute, Omaha, Nebraska

Conduct functional behavior intervention plans and develop behavior intervention plans for K-12 students with a variety of presenting needs. Participate in school-based team meetings and provide teacher training.

01/2021 - 07/2021: Clinical Supervisor

CenClear Child and Family Services, Community and School-Based Behavioral Health Program; St. Marys, PA
Provide clinical supervision for a school-based mental health program supporting children and families in rural PA.
Support masters and bachelors level staff by providing education, supervision, case discussion, paperwork support and feedback, and participation with consumer treatment teams.

04/2014 - 05/2021: School Consultation Services

Independent Consultation Services, State College PA

Contract with local school districts to provide assessment services and intervention recommendations for challenging cases. These are often cases that involve conflict between parents and schools, legal system involvement, or failed intervention strategies or other approaches. I contract with schools to provide consultation to address these needs by conducting comprehensive evaluations, classroom observations, teacher and parent interviews, and informal information gathering. Assessment results and recommendations are provided to the student's team via a written report and meeting with the team. Training for teachers or other team members is also provided when requested by the team. To date, I have independently contracted with seven school districts and approximately 30 cases.

08/2012 - 05/2021: Clinical Specialist

Pyramid Healthcare, Soaring Heights School; State College, PA

Provide staff training and support for teaching and behavior management for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related diagnoses; provide individual, group, and family counseling sessions for students with ASD; develop and implement or train teachers to implement Positive Behavior Support plans; conduct functional behavior assessments; administer a wide range of assessment procedures include behavioral, emotional, academic, intellectual, and others; coordinate care with outside agencies and providers; supervise doctoral level practicum students and interns; supervise undergraduate practicum students; and other services as needed to support the program.

08/2002 - 05/2004: Mental Health Consultant

Pinebelt Association for Community Enhancement (P.A.C.E.) Head Start, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Supervisor: D. Joe Olmi, PhD

Duties include planning, developing, and implementing operational procedures for mental health services. Specific responsibilities include coordinating the referral procedures for children and families exhibiting mental health concerns, conducting assessments and designing interventions for behavioral concerns of preschool children both in the home and the classroom, providing parent trainings on various topics, and coordinating behavioral screenings and related assessments.

CLINICAL/APPLIED EXPERIENCE – ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILTY SERVICES:

08/2021- present: Licensed Psychologist, Adult Developmental Disability Services

Munroe Meyer Institute, Omaha, Nebraska

Conduct functional behavior assessments and other functional assessments for adults with intellectual disability, autism, and other developmental disabilities; develop behavior intervention plans for home, work, and community settings; train staff in implementation of plans and progress monitoring.

01/2011 – 05/2021: Adult Developmental Disability Consultation Services

Independent Consultation Services, State College, PA

Conduct functional behavior assessments and other functional assessments (AFLS, ABLLS-R) to develop and implement programming in home and community settings for adults with autism, intellectual disability, and related diagnoses. Train parents and care providers in the use of applied behavior analysis strategies to support behavioral, functional, social, and communication goals. Support ongoing data collection on program goals for progress monitoring and continued plan development. Services are provided to 2-3 families at any given time for approximately 5-10 hours per month in conjunction and support of other waiver-based services.

11/2006 - 6/2007: Consultant

Autism Behavior Consultants, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Supervisor: Rita Chandler, PhD, BCBA

Provided staff training, school community, and home support, and assessment and direct intervention services for children and adults with disabilities using an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) approach. Contracted with the state of Oklahoma Adult Intellectual Disability Services to develop program materials for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities programs, completed functional behavior assessments and other behavioral assessments, conducted community trainings, and worked collaboratively with families and service providers in the provision of services.

CLINICAL/APPLIED EXPERIENCE – OUTPATIENT SERVICES:

01/2010 - 08/2012: Clinical Director of Autism Services/Licensed Psychologist

Dickinson Mental Health Center, Possibilities Autism Center; Ridgway, PA

Conducted comprehensive autism evaluations; provided individual, family, and group therapy with an applied behavioral approach; provided care coordination services for families; and engaged in school consultation services to children with autism spectrum disorders and related disorders or concerns and their families. Also provided general outpatient child psychology services to children with diagnoses such as anxiety, learning disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and others. Engaged in fundraising and community outreach activities to promote community engagement and growth of the program.

10/2007 - 01/2010: Licensed Psychologist

SunPointe Health, State College, Pennsylvania Supervisor (from 10/07 to 3/08): Craig Feaster, MD

Conducted outpatient therapy, group therapy, assessment, and school consultation services for children (and some adults) with diagnoses such as autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, disruptive behavior problems, sleep and toileting concerns, academic issues, and parenting concerns. Specific intervention strategies utilized included Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Parent Management Training (PMT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Discrete Trial Teaching (DTT), and others.

11/2006 - 6/2007: Consultant

Autism Behavior Consultants, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Supervisor: Rita Chandler, PhD, BCBA

Provided staff training; school community, and home support; and assessment and direct intervention services for children and adults with disabilities using an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) approach. Also developed program materials for in-home ABA-based autism programs, conducted community trainings, and worked collaboratively with families and service providers in the provision of services.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

08/2025 - present: Senior Lecturer; The University of Nebraska, Omaha, Department of Psychology, State College,

Pennsylvania

Course taught online: Abnormal Psychology

08/2012 – 07/2021: Associate Teaching Professor of Psychology; Pennsylvania State University, Department of

Psychology, State College, Pennsylvania

Courses taught in residence: Psychological Interventions in Childhood; Developmental Psychology; Child

Psychopathology; Introduction to Abnormal Psychology; Abnormal Psychology; Practicum in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Courses taught online: Adolescence; Psychology as a Science and Profession; Developmental Psychology; Abnormal

Psychology; Senior Seminar in Psychology; Child Psychopathology; Introduction to Clinical Psychology

7/2007 – 5/2008: Adjunct Faculty Member; Pennsylvania State University, Department of Human Development and

Family Studies, State College, Pennsylvania

Courses taught in residence: Developmental Problems in Childhood and Adolescence

8/2006 - 12/2006: Adjunct Faculty Member; University of Oklahoma, Department of Psychology, Norman, Oklahoma

Courses taught in residence: Elements of Psychology; Lifespan Developmental Psychology; Capstone Survey in

Psychology

Courses taught online: Elements of Psychology

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

7/2018-7/2019: Contributing Writer, Expert Mommy

Supervisor: Imani Mitchell, PhD

Expert Mommy is a website and educational platform designed to provide mothers with access to research-supported information on the development of their children, as well as their own health and wellness needs. As a contributing author, I wrote an online course for mothers on Social Emotional Developmental Delays.

9/2007 - 2/2008: Parent Training grant

National Autism Center; Randolph, MA

Director: Susan Wilczynski, PhD, BCBA-D

Contracted with the National Autism Center to write a training program for parents of children who have recently been diagnosed with autism. The program is presented in 8 weekly sessions, and addressed topics such as understanding the autism diagnosis, locating and evaluating treatment, and identify community resources.

SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:

8/2018 - 06/2021: Honors Advisor, Department of Psychology, Penn State University, University Park, PA.

8/2018 – 8/2019: Member, Social Disparities Committee, Department of Psychology, Penn State University, University Park, PA.

8/2012 – 06/2021: Member, Board of Directors, DuBois Area Families for Effective Autism Treatment (DaFEAT), DuBois, PA.

9/2009 – 9/2011: Member, Consumer Advisory Network, National Autism Center; Randolph, MA.

8/2007 - 10/2008: Article Reviewer, National Standards Project, National Autism Center; Randolph, MA

8/2005 –9/2006: Contributing Editor, *Focus Facts on Community Living Newsletter;* Center for Learning and Leadership, College of Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

PUBLICATIONS:

- Hunter, S.T. & **Hunter, M.D.** (In press). Career development, retention, and performance management considerations. In Bruyere and Colella (Eds.) *SIOP Organizational Frontiers Series: Neurodiversity in the Workplace*.
- Wilczynski, S. M., Rue, H., **Hunter, M**., & Christian, L. (2013). Elementary behavioral intervention strategies:

 Discrete trial instruction, differential reinforcement, and shaping. In Prelock and McCauley (Eds.) *Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies for Communication and Social Interaction.*
- **Hunter, M.,** & Kleit, S. (2011). Family preferences and values in the treatment process. In *A Parent's Guide to Evidence-Based Practice and Autism: Providing Information and Resources to Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. National Autism Center: Randolph, MA.
- **Hunter, M.,** & Wilczynski, S. M. (2009). Values and preferences of families. In *Evidence-Based Practice and Autism in the Schools: A Guide to Providing Appropriate Interventions to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. National Autism Center: Randolph, MA.
- Wilczynski, S. M., Menousek, K., **Hunter, M.** & Mudgal, D. (2007). Individualized education programs for youth with autism spectrum disorders. *Psychology in the Schools, 44,* 653-666.
- Olmi, D. J., & **Scoggins, M**. (2004). Tantrumming. In *Encyclopedia of School Psychology*. Kluwer Press.
- **Scoggins, M. D.** (2003). Text review. [Review of the book *Conducting school-based assessments of child and adolescent behavior*]. Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, 21, 293-296.

SELECTED INVITED ADDRESSES/TRAININGS

Hunter, M.D. (August, 2020). "Table Time" strategies for teaching communication skills to adults with autism. ARC staff training, State College, PA.

- Hunter, M.D. (June, 2020). Autism at school: Basics and beyond. Soaring Heights School Staff Training, State College, PA.
- Hunter, M.D. (March, 2019). Autism Basics. Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (February, 2018). *Teaching social skills in the home and community.* Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (October, 2017). *Autism basics: What we know, and what we need to know.* Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (June, 2017). *Effective strategies for managing disruptive behaviors of students with autism and related disorders.* Staff Training, Behavioral Advancements, DuBois, PA
- **Hunter, M.D.** (March, 2017). Addressing challenging behaviors for children with autism. Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series. State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (February, 2017). *Legal issues impacting individuals with autism.* Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series. State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (November, 2016). *Preparing children with autism for the holidays.* Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series. State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (October, 2016). *Living with autism: Eating, toileting, and sleep issues.* Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series. State College, PA.
- Hunter, M.D. (September, 2016). Autism basics. Soaring Heights School Parent Training Series. State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (April, 2014). *Effective education strategies for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. DaFEAT Autism Awareness Training Series, DuBois, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (March, 2014). Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the general education classroom. Teacher Training, State College Area School District, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (October, 2012). Wraparound services for treatment of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Staff Training, Behavioral Advancements, DuBois, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (October, 2012). *Treatment of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Beyond the basics*. Staff Training, The Meadows Psychiatric Center, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (August, 2012). *Strategies for supporting students with special needs in the early care classroom.*Staff Training, Centre County YMCA Early Care and Education Program, Bellefonte, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (August, 2012). *Using reinforcement effectively in the Autism Support Classroom.* Staff Training, Central Pennsylvania Autism Spectrum Disorders Academy, DuBois, PA.

- **Hunter, M.D.** (April, 2012). Supporting adaptive skill acquisition for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Invited address, Autism Awareness Lecture Series, DuBois, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (October, 2011). *Supporting individuals with Autism in residential care.* Staff Training, The Meadows Psychiatric Center, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (August, 2011). *Effective teaching for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.* Staff Training, Central Pennsylvania Autism Spectrum Disorders Academy, Clearfield, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (June, 2009). *Autism spectrum disorders*. Parent Training sponsored by Central Intermediate Unit #10, West Decatur, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (May, 2009). *Managing disruptive behavior*. Parent Training sponsored by Central Intermediate Unit #10, West Decatur, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (December, 2008). *Autism in social settings*. Autism Awareness Seminar, Cameron County High School, Emporium, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (August, 2008). *Autism spectrum disorders in the classroom setting*. Staff Development Training, Clearfield Public Schools, Clearfield, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (March, 2008). *Autism spectrum disorders in the college classroom.* Staff Development Training, Counseling and Psychological Services, the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- **Hunter, M.D.,** & Culbertson, J. (September, 2006). *Evidenced-based assessment and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.* Resident training, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- Culbertson, J., & **Hunter, M.D.** (March, 2006). *Empirically supported assessment and treatment practices for children with autism*. Resident training, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (February, 2006). *Clinical assessment of autism.* Training presented to school psychology faculty and trainees, School Psychology graduate training program, Department of Counselor Education and Educational Psychology, Mississippi State University.
- Wilczynski, S., & **Scoggins, M.** (November, 2004). *Serving children with Autism: IEP development and motivation.*Workshop presented to teachers and service providers in Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Forcht, E., Chang, D., Shillingsburg, L., & **Hunter, M.D.** (faculty advisor). (April 2019). *Effects of brief exercise on on-task behavior for students with autism spectrum disorder*. Poster presented at the Annual Penn State Psi Chi Student Research Conference, State College, PA.
- McCreadie, K.M, Heiser, M.H, & Hunter, M.D. (faculty advisor). (April 2018). Association between behavior specific

- praise and on-task behavior for students with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at the Annual Penn State Psi Chi Student Research Conference, State College, PA.
- Hunter, S.T., Parr, A., & **Hunter, M.D.** (May, 2014). What goes unseen: Mental disabilities in the workplace. Paper presented at the Annual Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (September, 2006). *Conducting functional behavior assessments in schools: focus on victims of child abuse and neglect.* Training session conducted at the 14th Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and Healthy Families. Norman, OK.
- **Hunter, M.D.** (September, 2006). Assessing and Treating Sleep Problems for Children who have experienced child abuse and neglect. Training session conducted at the 14th Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and Healthy Families. Norman, OK.
- **Scoggins, M.,** Wilczynski, S., Wolf, K., & Needelman, J. (May 2005). *The relationship between allotted response time and compliance in a girl with Rett's Syndrome.* Paper presented at the annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis. International, Chicago, IL.
- Scoggins, M.D., & Olmi, D.J. (March, 2005). *Mystery motivator: An investigation of reinforcement delivery systems.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists. Atlanta, GA.
- DuBard, M., Sterling-Turner, H. E., **Scoggins, M.,** Lyons, L., & Turner, K. (May, 2003). *Assessment and treatment of walking refusal in a client with Angelman Syndrome*. Paper presented at the Annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis. International, San Francisco, CA.
- DuBard, M., Sterling-Turner, H. E., **Scoggins, M**., Lyons, L., & Turner, K. (May, 2003). *Assessment and treatment of problem behavior maintained by multiple functions*. Symposium presentation (Direct Behavioral Consultation in the Schools: Implementation Issues; H. E. Sterling-Turner, Chair) presented at the Annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis. International, San Francisco, CA.
- Trahant, D. M., DuBard, M., Sterling-Turner, H. E., **Scoggins, M.,** Harmon, K. L., Hardwick, S., & Lestage, S. (May, 2002). *Discrimination training of appropriate eating in a child with Childhood Disintegrative Disorder*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Convention, Association for Behavior Analysis, Toronto, Canada.

EDITORIAL DUTIES:

10/2005 - 01/2010: Member, Editorial Review Board, Psychology in the Schools

AWARDS AND HONORS:

March, 2018: Psychology Professor of the Year, Psi Chi Honors Society, Penn State University