

Charity Thay Vasquez, Ph.D., CCLS

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Interim Chair and Director for Master of Science in Child Life program

Assistant Professor | Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) #6334

Department of Psychology

Azusa Pacific University

901 E. Alost Avenue | Azusa, CA 91702

Personal Motto

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” – Philippians 4:13

Professional Summary

Child Life:

More than 24 years in the field of Child Life and 22 years as a Certified Child Life Specialist with career advancement in hospital setting including more than 15 years in leadership role and more than 10 years in Management role in clinical setting with progressive responsibility for shift operation, supervision and management, staff development and financial management, students/interns training and mentorship, operation strategic planning, fundraising, grant writing, community engagement, performance improvement process, and patient/customer satisfaction initiatives. Active within Child Development and Child Life community as current Board member of California Association of Child Life Professionals (CACLP) and serving in several committees within Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP).

Academic Institution:

More than 20 years of experiences in higher education at various 2- and 4- year colleges and universities teaching child life and child development related courses with topics including but not limited to:

- Majority of courses within Child Development emphasis
- Child Life scope of practice
- Development impact of illnesses and injuries
- Assessment, Prioritization and Documentation
- Preparation and Diagnosis educations
- Bereavement and Family Centered Care
- Stress and Coping with traumas and hospitalization
- Therapeutic play and its implications for healing process

Currently hold a position as faculty, Interim Chair, and Director for Child Life graduate program, and assuming leadership role overseeing daily operation of the program, student development (recruitment, engagement, and retention), and faculty development.

General:

- Skilled in providing developmentally appropriate play programs for children in various settings
- Innovative educator with strong team building skills
- A caring and compassionate teacher, who initiates students' interest and imagination, provides an encouraging environment, fosters cooperative and respectful social interactions, and encourages students in all areas
- Diplomatic and flexible “people person” with a strong work ethic and commitment to superior job performance and cultural diversity

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, outstanding interpersonal skills, and effective organization, planning, and prioritizing skills
- An active Certified Child Life Specialist and holds the Child Development Director's permit as well as Certified Infant Massage Instructor and Certified as Infants/Toddlers caregivers

Professional Experiences

Azusa Pacific University

Azusa, CA

Feb. 2017 – Present

Assistant Professor | Director for M.S. in Child Life Program

A complete oversight of M.S. in Child Life graduate program as full time Faculty. Responsibilities include but not limited to: overall direction and administration of graduate admissions, recruitment and student services, teaching, scholarship, community engagement activities, implementing and development of M.S. coursework to align with ACLP competencies and requirements for student success, establish and expand external agency practicum and internship collaborations. In addition:

- Maintain ongoing communication with University Relations to coordinate and implement marketing strategy
- Implementation and oversight of the M.S. admissions process, ensuring a fair and equitable procedure
- Oversee program evaluation and curriculum review, development, and implementation of evaluation and change processes.
- Serve as clinical supervisor to students
- Implemented Child Life practicum in International setting

UC Irvine Health – UC Irvine Medical Center

Orange, CA

Aug. 2011 – Jan. 2017

Child Life Manager

A complete oversight of service delivery to patients and families by Child Life specialists and volunteers. Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Determine scope of service, priorities, policies, and procedures of the Child Life Program as well as management of Child Life Staff and providing fiscal management of the Program.
- Ensure program development and expansion as well as manage fund-raising to support program.
- Offer education about child life, normal child development, and the impact of illness on children and families to physicians, medical students, nursing and ancillary staff, and maintains overall responsibility for students doing field placements and internships with Child Life Program.
- Provide direct and indirect clinical Child Life services to pediatric patients and families.
- Actively participates in the development and implementation of medical center strategic plans, operational goals and objectives, business initiatives and policies and procedures
- Collaborate effectively with other health care team members to maximize patient care
- Coordinate special events and programs for patients offered by outside groups and individuals
- Effectively coordinates with the Volunteer Department of the Medical Center and supervise Child Life volunteer program and Cuddler volunteer program
- Develop goals for the department and action plans for staff engagement consistent with the institutional goals and objectives
- Represent the Child Life Program and the Medical Center to the public and to donors
- Promote high patient satisfaction by conducting daily rounds with patients and parents, addressing issues and concerns in a timely manner
- Meet regularly with child life staff and Pediatric Nurse Manager for updates, concerns, or issues.
- Accountable for staff recruitment and retention efforts, hiring, training, competency assessment, coaching, and mentoring

- Oversight and management of staff compliance with all university/medical center policies and address as needed
- Monitor and facilitate compliance with regulatory agencies, i.e. The Joint Commission, California Department of Public Health, California Children Services and the Child Life Council
- Seek funds and donation opportunities
- Partner with donation sources and collaborate with health advancement for givings
- Chair of Women & Children's Services Bereavement committee since 2012
- Chair Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Family Advisory Care Team committee since it's inception 2015
- Chair of UCI's March for Babies walk committee since 2013
- Chair of NICU Reunion committee

Paloma Comfort Care Program Coordinator

Orange, CA

April 2013 – Jan. 2017

- Developed Perinatal and Neonatal Palliative Care program since 2013
- Submit grant proposals to receive continuous funds for the program
- Coordinate care for patients/families
- Liaison between medical staff and patients/families
- Liaison between medical staff and community agencies
- Provide resources to families
- Program & Budget management including purchasing
- Oversee flow of program and data collection

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Loma Linda, CA

Nov. 1998 – July 2011

Program Coordinator – Grant (2007 – 2011)

Coordinated daily operation of the Grant Program funded by First 5 San Bernardino at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Duties and responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Managed daily operations of the Grant program to ensure the delivery of high quality services consistent with service goals, client enrollment goals, grant program goals
- Established and implement practices and systems, compliance with contract requirements and met program milestones set forth by grant funder including preparation and tracking of reports for annual fiscal, contract and program compliance
- Established open communication with upper management and other disciplines within the facility and with community agencies to ensure prompt and proper exchange of information
- Provided direct supervision of staff including hiring/termination process, scheduling, performance evaluation, orientation and staff training. Monitored and supports staff compliance
- Direct services to children and families in the program and provided support, information, education and resources as well as follow ups
- Participated in community and institution wide outreach by conducting in-services and presentations to community agencies, physicians, pediatric residents as well as nursing staff

Perinatal Health Specialist – Grant (2009 – 2010) Loma Linda, CA

- Funded by the March of Dimes, works in collaboration with the regional perinatal programs team to promote and coordinate educational outreach including outreach visits, collection of related documentations, tracking and monitoring hospital progress and other activities consistent with consultation or grant objectives. Also served as liaison between regional perinatal program and region hospitals and community agencies

Supervisor/Coordinator (2006 – 2007)

Loma Linda, CA

- Supervised Perinatal Health Specialists, Administrative assistants and volunteers including training and orienting new staff

Perinatal Health Specialist (2005 – 2007)**Loma Linda, CA**

- Child Life in Alternate setting role
- Provided direct services to patients by managing individual cases prenatally and postpartum, determined plan of care with patients and follow up for support as well as resources
- Offered and facilitated Prenatal education classes and established a positive relationship with community base agencies through outreach events, in-services and collaborating

Certified Child Life Specialist (2000 – 2005)**Loma Linda, CA**

Address the psychosocial, emotional, and developmental needs of hospitalized children, adolescents and their families. Responsibilities and accomplishments include but not limited to:

- Helped to reduce stress experienced by children and families in the hospital
- Assessed, Planned, Intervened and Evaluated children’s reaction/responses to hospitalization
- Educated children regarding surgery, procedures, diagnosis, treatment plans and hospital
- Provided support during procedures and accompany to surgeries
- Part of interdisciplinary & a component of family-centered care
- Collaborated with all health care team members and provide in-services to Medical Students, Residents and Nursing staff. Also participated in multi-discipline rounds
- Trained and supervised child life assistants, volunteers, students and Child life interns
- Determine developmentally appropriate practices when interacting with children and families as well supported siblings regarding health care experiences

Child Life Assistant (1998 – 2000)**Loma Linda, CA**

- Facilitate playroom and play activities
- Supervise volunteers and students
- Support children at play in playroom and at bedside
- Assist Child Life specialists as needed
- Implement play curriculums for various developmental age group

Academic Instruction Experiences

2014 – Present**Cal State Fullerton****Fullerton, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child & Adolescent Studies Department

2014 – 2016**Hope International University****Fullerton, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Psychology & Counseling Department

2007-2016**Loma Linda University****Loma Linda, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child Life Department – Behavior Science Department

2002-Present**Chaffey Community College Rancho Cucamonga, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child Development Department – various Child Development courses

2004-2007**Victor Valley Comm. College Victorville, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child Development Department – various Child Development courses

2003-2005**Mt. San Antonio College****Walnut, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child Development Department – various Child Development courses

2003-2005**University of La Verne****La Verne, CA**

- Adjunct Faculty: Child development Department– various Child Development courses

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| 2001-2004 | San Bernardino Valley College | San Bernardino, CA |
| • Adjunct Faculty: | Child Development Department – various Child Development courses | |
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| 2001-2003 | Rio Hondo Community College | Whittier, CA |
| • Adjunct Faculty: | Child Development Department – various Child Development courses | |

Additional Experiences & Presentations

- Zero to Three Poster presentation “Infants, Toddlers and Parents....Oh My! How Child Life Specialists prepare Infants and Toddlers for medical procedures and parents to become their Child’s advocate.” December 2017
- Association of Child Life Professionals webinar presentation “Infants, Toddlers and Parents....Oh My! How Child Life Specialists prepare Infants and Toddlers for medical procedures and parents to become their Child’s advocate.” August 2017
- Annual California Association of Neonatology “Paloma Comfort Care Program”, program implementation and review. January 2015
- Treasurer and Liaison for Karen Fellowship of Purpose Church Pomona also known as Pomona First Baptist church
- Conference planning committee Chair - Child Life Intern Symposium
- Sibling education Class – Facilitator
- Plan and Organize annual Candlelight Ceremony Event for families and Staff
- Plan and Organize annual Palliative Care Conference – Committee member and support staff
- Trauma Services’ Injury Prevention outreach events – Educator and Facilitator
- Pediatric Trauma Injury Prevention projects – Collaboration Committee member
- Child Life Conference 2009, San Diego – Conference Planning Committee
- Diabetes Support Group for children – Facilitator
- Camp Good Grief – Grief Counselor and Support Staff (Operate camp's daily activities)
- Annual Hospital Sponsored events: Children’s Day and Kids Care Fair – Educator and Support
- Workshops & Conferences – Presenter on various Child Development topics
- Children’s Grief Workshop – Presenter
- Special Topic Class: Career in Child Life – Instructor Mt. San Jacinto College, CA (1 semester)
- Child Development/Child Life Lectures to Medical Students and nursing students
- Special events: Fundraising project benefiting Youth Groups – Fundraiser and Support
- Child Development and Child Life conferences – Attendant and Conference support
- Children’s Network Conferences – Attendant and Vendor
- PITC Graduate Conferences – Attendant and Conference support
- ABWM (American Baptist Women Mission) Scholarship Girls – Special Project Coordinator at Claremont First Baptist church

Areas Available to Serve

- San Bernardino County – City of Upland east to City of Fontana
- Los Angeles County – San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley, from Covina to Pasadena, and border of Orange/LA County such as Diamond Bar

Education

- 2022 Azusa Pacific University Azusa, CA**
- Doctor of Philosophy: Higher Education
 - Dissertation Title: A Case Study of Child Life Academic Program and University Public Good
- 2001 University of La Verne La Verne, CA**
- Master of Science – Child Development
- 2000 University of La Verne La Verne, CA**
- Bachelor of Science – Child Life: Cum Laude and Graduated with Department Honor

Professional Certificate and Qualification

- Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) since 2000
- Certified Child Disaster Services Volunteer
- Certified Infant Massage Instructor (CIMI)
- Certified Trainer for PITC (Program for Infant Toddler Care) –WestEd
- Child Development Permit – Director’s Permit
- Effective Leadership Trainings – Certificates

Professional Association

- Founders Council – Child Life Academic Society
- Board member – California Association of Child Life Professionals (CACLP)
- Member Association of Child Life Professionals
- International Association of Infant Massage
- Patient and Family Centered Care
- Zero to Three
- Advisory Board Member Lollipop theater
- Advisory Board Member Mt. SAC college
- Advisory Board Member Victorville college
- AAB (American Academy of Bereavement)
- Operation Smile

Technical Skills

Computer - Typing; Ability to work with and knowledge of Microsoft word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint.

References

- Will be provided upon request