

Laura Marra

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing
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Education

DEC 2011 **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK | CLINICAL CONCENTRATION**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Graduate Portfolio in Applied Statistical Modeling

JUNE 2006 **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY (HONORS)**
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Minor in Public Health

Professional Appointments

NOV 2012 – PRESENT **RESEARCH DIRECTOR (JAN 2019 – PRESENT)**
SENIOR RESEARCH COORDINATOR (JAN 2016 – DEC 2018)
RESEARCH COORDINATOR (NOV 2012 – DEC 2015)
TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR CHILD & FAMILY WELLBEING*, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Oversee research design, implementation, evaluation, data management and analysis
Supervise undergraduate research assistants, graduate research assistants, and research staff

JAN 2012 – JULY 2012 **RESEARCH STAFF**
HEALTH BEHAVIOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Supervised data cleaning and analysis for cross-site study to reduce injury and alcohol use
Evaluated construct validity of the SIP across ethnicity and language

JAN 2011 – DEC 2011 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SOCIAL WORK INTERN**
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER BRACKENRIDGE
Delivered supervised Motivational-Interviewing (MI) based brief interventions
Co-developed and facilitated a trauma support group for families

JAN 2009 – JULY 2011 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
HEALTH BEHAVIOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Conducted screening, brief advice, and follow-up interviews in a trauma setting
Evaluated Motivational Interviewing-based interventions to reduce injury and alcohol use

AUG 2009 – MAY 2009 **SOCIAL WORK INTERN**
CO-OCCURRING PSYCHIATRIC AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL
Provided supervised counseling sessions and groups to patients
Compiled and analyzed program data to better understand service utilization

AUG 2008 – MAY 2009 **GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT**
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Assisted Dr. Lori Holleran-Steiker with course preparation and grading for four classes
Guest lectured on programs that address high-risk drinking on college campuses

AUG 2006 – MAY 2007 **RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL ANALYST**
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Helped modify and evaluate an alcohol skills training program (ASTP) for college freshman
Recruited, trained, and managed peer educators to conduct ASTP program

JAN 2004 – MAY 2005 **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Collected data to examine effects of fatigue on stress and linguistic abilities

**Formerly known as the Child & Family Research Institute*

Research Experience

Current Grants and Contracts

- SEPT 2017 – PRESENT **RESEARCHER**, “Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey”, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Monica Faulkner, PI; Co-PI; Dr. Daniel Schroeder, Co-PI; Laura Marra, Co-PI; Funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, \$350,000 annually).
- SEPT 2014 – PRESENT **RESEARCHER**, “National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation”, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Rowena Fong, Co-PI; Dr. Nancy Rolock, Co-PI; Funded through US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children Youth and Families. HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-CO 0797, \$23,500,000. UT portion: \$1,650,000 through 9/30/19).

Past Grants and Contracts

- MAR 2013 – AUG 2018 **SENIOR RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “2013-2018 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey”, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Jim Schwab, PI; Dr. Daniel Schroeder, Co-PI; Dr. Monica Faulkner, Co-PI; Funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, \$350,000 annually)
- SEPT 2013 – SEPT 2016 **SENIOR RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “Family Connections/Conexiones de la Familia- Evaluation Subcontract”, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Monica Faulkner, PI; Funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Award #90CB0191-01-00, CFDA# 93.55 through New York Council on Adoptable Children, \$44,000 annually)
- OCT 2012 – SEPT 2015 **RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “Connections Project- Evaluation Subcontract”, Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin (Administration for Children and Families Award #90AK0036-01-00 through Cardea Health Services, \$161,033)
- DEC 2013 – AUG 2014 **RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “SB44 Needs Assessment”, Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Monica Faulkner, PI; Dr. Jim Schwab, Co-PI; Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, \$102,000 annually)
- NOV 2012 – JULY 2013 **RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “Texas Institute of Higher Education Capacity Survey”, Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Heath Price, PI; Dr. Daniel Schroeder, Co-PI; Dr. Monica Faulkner, Co-PI; Texas Early Learning Council, \$250,000)
- NOV 2012 – FEB 2013 **RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “Evaluation of the Texas Trio Project: Collaboration to improve educational outcomes of foster youth,” Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Monica Faulkner, PI; Dr. Beth Gerlach, Co-PI; Texas Education Agency, \$52,750)
- NOV 2012 – FEB 2013 **RESEARCH COORDINATOR**, “2012 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey”, Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Dnika Travis, PI; Dr. Daniel Schroeder, Co-PI; Dr. Monica Faulkner, Co-PI; Funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, \$408,703)
- JAN 2012 – JULY 2012 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, “Brief Intervention to Reduce Injury in Minorities” Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, RO1AA13824 (Dr. Raul Caetano, PI; Dr. Craig Field, Co-PI; total awarded over 7 years: \$2,145,798)
- JAN 2009 – DEC 2011 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, “Multidisciplinary Approach to Reduce Injury & Alcohol Use.” Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, R01-AA015439 (Dr. Craig Field, PI; Dr. Kirk von Sternberg, Co-PI; total awarded over five years: \$2,200,000)

- AUG 2006 – MAY 2007 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, “Reducing High-Risk Drinking Among First-Year College Students.” A three-year cooperative agreement grant funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Grant # 1 U18 AA015684-01, (Dr. Hugh Spitler, PI; Dr. Martie Thompson, Co-PI; total awarded over three years: \$572,227).
- JAN 2004 – MAY 2005 **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, “Stress, Fatigue, and Language Abilities.” Funded by the Department of Defense, Center for Advanced Study of Languages, University of Maryland (Dr. James McCubbin, PI; Dr. June J. Pilcher, Co-PI; total awarded over three years ~\$871,000).

Publications

Professional Reports

- Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2018). *2018 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, Ray Marshall Center.
- Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2017). *2017 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, Ray Marshall Center.
- Schwab, J., Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2016). *2016 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, Ray Marshall Center.
- Texas Blueprint Implementation Data Workgroup.** (2015). *Texas commits to transform outcomes of students in foster care: Findings from the Texas Implementation Data Workgroup.* Austin, TX: Children’s Commission & Child 7 Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin.
- Schwab, J., Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2015). *2015 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child & Family Research Institute, Ray Marshall Center.
- Brazeal, J., **Marra, L.**, McKerlie, K. & Faulkner, M. (2015). *Mixed Messages: The current state of teen pregnancy prevention in Travis County, TX.* Austin, TX: The Healthy Youth Partnership, Child & Family Research Institute.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., **Marra, L.**, Gomez, R. & Schwab, J. (2014). *SB44 Needs Assessment: Examining the relinquishment of children with serious emotional disturbances.* Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child & Family Research Institute.
- Schwab, J., Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2014). *2013 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child & Family Research Institute, Ray Marshall Center.
- Faulkner, M., Rivaux, S. L. & **Marra, L.** (2013). *Child Abuse Medical Evaluations in Texas: Current Practices & Challenges.* Austin, TX: Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas.
- Schwab, J., Schroeder, D., Faulkner, M., & **Marra, L.** (2013). *2012 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey* prepared for the Texas Workforce Commission. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child & Family Research Institute, Ray Marshall Center.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., & **Marra, L.** (2013). *Texas TRIO Project Final Evaluation Report* prepared for the Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families. Austin, TX: Child & Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Combs, K.M., Aparicio, E.M., Prince, D.M., Grinnell-Davis, C., **Marra, L.**, Faulkner, M. (2019). Evidence-based sexual health programs for youth involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems: Outcomes across settings. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 100, 64-69.

Marra, L.B., Field, C.A., Caetano, R., von Sterberng, K., & Beretvas, S.N. (2014). Construct validity of the short inventory of problems (SIP) among Spanish speaking Hispanics. *Addictive Behaviors*, 39, 205-210.

Thompson, M.P., Spittler, H.D., McCoy, T.P., Brown, C., **Marra, L.B.**, Sutfin, E., & Rhodes, S.D. (2007). The moderating role of gender in the prospective associations between expectancies and alcohol-related negative consequences among college students. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 44, 934-942.

Presentations

Marra, L., Fong, R., Faulkner, M. (2018). Increasing Parent Survey Response Rates Using Assertive Outreach Methods with Post-Permanency Families. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

Maxon, A., Lance, B.D., & **Marra, L.** (2017). If Not Now, When? Innovative Partnerships to Achieve Permanency Competence. Oral paper at the Child Welfare League of America 2017 National Conference, Washington DC.

Marra, L., Fong, R., Faulkner, M. (2017). Texas Students in Foster Care: Results from Data Sharing Between Child Welfare and Education Agencies. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 21st Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

Marra, L. & Faulkner, M. (2017). Challenging the Evidence Base: The Impact of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Curricula on Disconnected Youth. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 21st Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

Shuma, C., Fong, R., & **Marra, L.** (2017). Vermont Permanency Survey. Oral paper presented at the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation Annual Meeting, Washington DC.

Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M., **Marra, L.** & Ryan, T. (2016). Examining educational needs and outcome of foster youth in Texas. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

Marra, L., Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B. & Schwab, J. (2016). Role of caregiver strain in child relinquishment: Supporting caregivers of children with serious emotional disturbances. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

McKerlie, K., Brazeal, J., **Marra, L.** & Faulkner, M. (2016). Mixed messages: Methods and findings from a teen pregnancy needs assessment in Texas. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

Ryan, T., Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M. & **Marra, L.** (2016). Education experiences for foster youth with disabilities. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

Eisenbaum, E., Gerlach, B., **Marra, L.**, Schwab, J., Scott, J. & Faulkner, M. (2016). Vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities: Underserved populations and barriers. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.

Faulkner, M. & **Marra, L.** (2015). Challenging the evidence base: The impact of teen pregnancy prevention curricula on disconnected youth. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, IL.

Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B. and **Marra, L.** (2015). Examining the role of relinquishment of children with serious emotional disturbances. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, IL.

Jordanova, T. & **Marra, L.** (2015). Conducting community needs assessments: A practical overview of concepts and methods. Oral presentation at the 2015 Partners in Prevention Conference: Building Partnerships to Strengthen Families, Houston, TX.

Faulkner, M. & **Marra, L.** (2015). Effectiveness of teen pregnancy evidence based curricula with disconnected youth. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 19th Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

Faulkner, M., **Marra, L.** & Shumate, C. (2014). Effectiveness of teen pregnancy evidence based curricula with disconnected youth. Oral paper at the American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

Faulkner, M., **Marra, L.** & Rivaux, S.L. (2014). Practices and challenges to child abuse medical evaluations in Texas: Findings from a mixed methods study. Oral paper at the American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

Faulkner, M. & **Marra, L.** (2014). Program evaluation in the real world. Oral presentation at the 2014 Partners in Prevention Conference, Round Rock, TX.

Faulkner, M., **Marra, L.** & Schumate, C. (2014). Effectiveness of teen pregnancy evidence based curricula with disconnected youth. Poster presentation at the 2014 Health and Human Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference, Washington DC.

Schumate, C., Faulkner, M. & **Marra, L.** (2014). Addressing sexual health needs of LGBTQ youth in non-traditional settings: Findings from year one of the Texas Connections project. Poster presentation at the 2014 Health and Human Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference, Washington DC.

Faulkner, M., Brazeal, J. & **Marra, L.** (2014). Identifying gaps in sexual health information and services: An example of a community needs assessment in Central Texas. Poster presentation at the 2014 Health and Human Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference, Washington DC.

Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M., Hinson, J., **Marra L.** & Ryan, T. (2014). Improving Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth: Findings from a mixed-methods program evaluation of the Texas Trio Project. Oral paper at the 19th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN), New Orleans, LA.

Rivaux, S., Faulkner, M., **Marra, L.** & Gerlach, B. (2014). Factors Impacting Effective Use of Medical Evaluations in Child Abuse Cases: Findings from a Multi-Site Study. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Marra, L.B., Field, C.A., Caetano, R., von Sterberng, K., & Beretvas, S.N. (July 2011). Construct validity of the short inventory of problems (SIP) among Spanish speaking Hispanics. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Atlanta, GA.

Spitler, H.D. Thompson, M.P., McCoy, T.P., Suftin, E.L., & **Cronin, L.B.** (November 2007). Alcohol use among college students: Shifting stages of change. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Public of Health Association, Washington D.C.

Spitler, H.D. Thompson, M.P., McCoy, T.P., & **Cronin, L.B.** (July 2007). Context based intervention programs to limit high-risk drinking among first year college students: A shift toward higher stages of change. Oral paper presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Society Alcoholism, Chicago, IL.

Technical Skills

Proficient	SPSS, Qualtrics, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, HLM, Microsoft Excel
Basic	SAS, R, RedCap

Continuing Education

MAY 2018	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Introduction to Data Science in Python
JUNE 2016	KINSHIP CENTER, A MEMBER OF SENECA FAMILY AGENCIES Pathways to Permanence 2: Parenting Children who have Experienced Trauma and Loss
JUNE 2016	KINSHIP CENTER, A MEMBER OF SENECA FAMILY AGENCIES ACT, an Adoption and Permanency Curriculum for Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals
JUNE 2015	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION Sessions: Needs Assessments, Culturally Responsive Evaluation, Real World Evaluation, Systems as program theory
JUNE 2014	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION Sessions: Data Cleaning, Presenting Data Effectively, HLM, Qualitative Data Analysis, and Digital Qualitative Analysis
MAY 2014	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Geographic Information Systems Analysis
MAY 2013	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Applied Text Mining, Competitive Grant Writing
MAY 2012	SUMMER STATISTICS INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Structural Equation Modeling

Community Service

JULY 2013 – MARCH 2018	MEMBER, Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force's Data Workgroup, Children's Commission of the Texas Supreme Court, Austin, TX
JULY 2013 – JULY 2017	DEACON, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
JULY 2013 – JULY 2015	VOLUNTEER, Street Youth Ministry, Austin, TX
MAR 2013 – JULY 2015	RESEARCH COORDINATOR, Healthy Youth Partnership, Austin, TX

Scholarships and Awards

2013	Healthy Youth Partnership Champion Award
2013	Employee of the Quarter, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas
2006	Faculty Scholarship Award, Clemson University
2006	Ernst Jewell Hardesty Moore Award for Outstanding Senior in Psychology
2006	Calhoun Honors Scholar
2005	Robert S. & Kathryn N. Small Scholarship Recipient