

Brenda Sweeten, MSSW, LCSW
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Social Work
University of North Texas
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EDUCATION

1996	Master of Science in Social Work University of Texas at Austin
1995	Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Minor in Business Administration Baylor University

EMPLOYMENT

2019 - present	Clinical Associate Professor Director of Field Education (Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW & UNT BSW) UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
2018 - 2019	Clinical Associate Professor Director of BSW Field Education UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
2016 - 2018	Clinical Assistant Professor Director of BSW Field Education UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
2014 - 2016	Continuing Lecturer Director of Field Education UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
2013 - 2014	Visiting Lecturer Director of Field Education University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
2010 - 2013	Title IV-E Child Welfare Project Coordinator University of North Texas, Denton, Texas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performed multifaceted administrative tasks including program planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Project in the Social Work Program.• Promoted the IV-E program to meet required contract mandates and to adhere to policies and procedures. Facilitated effective relationships and

professional interface with students, community partners, sponsors and others to meet project goals.

- Recruited BSW students who completed final practicum at Child Protective Services and accepted employment upon graduation.
- Developed trainings and annual conference for Region 3 TDFPS child welfare staff.
- Hired and supervised program staff.
- Served as classroom instructor for Child Welfare Policy and Practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment I, Ethics and Professionalism, and Integrative Seminar courses.

Spring 2010

Adjunct Instructor

Child Welfare Policy and Practice

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

January 2002 – present

Social Study Evaluator

- Conduct court-ordered social studies in private adoption and disputed custody cases. Completed 200+ evaluations to date.

September 1999 - July 2010

Program Director

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. (CASA), Denton, Texas

September 1998 - September 1999

Diligent Search Casework Supervisor

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. (CASA), Denton, Texas

- Managed all program activities for the Court Appointed Guardian ad Litem Program serving over 450 children in the custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services per year.
- Supervised six casework staff responsible for 100+ volunteers working over 220 cases a year.
- Coordinated 30-hour training for new court appointed volunteer advocates.
- Organized biennial training for Attorneys ad Litem representing children in abuse and neglect cases.
- Maintained and submitted program statistical reporting for local, state and federal funding sources as well as for internal agency purposes.
- Participated in public speaking/community education on behalf of CASA.
- Supervised undergraduate student interns from various degree programs and served as agency liaison with local universities.
- Supervised undergraduate social work student interns.
- Developed CASA's Diligent Search Program locating missing parents and relatives of children living in foster care and in the custody of the State of Texas.
- Developed procedures and manual for program.

September 1997 - August 1998

District Coordinator

State of Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Orlando, Florida

- Managed a 30-member Ombudsman Council made up of gubernatorially appointed volunteers.
- Assigned and supervised ombudsmen responsible for investigating complaints regarding care and service received in over 200 long-term care facilities in a four-county area in Central Florida.
- Coordinated annual inspections of all long-term care facilities in the District Council's jurisdiction.
- Provided information and referral services to the public, agency staff, ombudsmen and facility staff.
- Recruited new Council members and provided initial orientation, certification and continuing education training for ombudsmen.
- Supervised administrative staff.

May 1996 - September 1997

Therapist

Health and Wellness Centers of America, Inc., Waco, Texas

- Conducted individual and family therapy with adult clients diagnosed with myriad psychological and physical disorders.
- Facilitated process, cognitive, and experiential group therapy sessions.
- Participated in biweekly multidisciplinary treatment teams. Completed diagnostic and discharge summaries, psychosocial assessments, referrals, discharge planning, home visits and conducted outpatient follow-up and re-evaluation.
- Supervised undergraduate social work student interns.

CONTRACT WORK

- Contracted with Texas CASA, Inc. to provide Volunteer Management training to new Executive Directors in the 69 member Texas network. (2010, 2011)
- Contracted with Texas CASA, Inc. to author articles for on-line volunteer newsletters. "Mitigating Grief and Loss in Children" and "Overcoming Challenges to Adoption: What CASA's Can Do." (2010)
- Contracted with CASA of the Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas, to conduct a comprehensive case file audit and make recommendations to bring program into compliance under National and Texas CASA standards. (August 2012)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Texas, License #27208
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

HONORS and AWARDS

- University of North Texas Bob Rogers Service and Community Engagement Award, Office of the President (2019)
- University of North Texas 'Fessor Graham Award, UNT Student Government Association (2017)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. 15 Year Service Award (2017)
- University of North Texas Honor's Day Faculty Recognition (2013, 2015, 2019)
- University of North Texas College of Public Affairs and Community Service Staff Award for Community Service (2012)
- University of North Texas Nonprofit Leadership Student Association Outstanding Faculty Award (2012)
- Kerrville Tivy High School Athletic Hall of Fame (Inducted 2012)
- 2010 Leadership Denton Alumni
- Baylor "B" (Letterwinner) Association—NCAA Division I Scholarship Athlete
- Golden Key National Honor Society
- Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society
- GTE/Southwest Conference Academic Honor Team
- Dean's List, Baylor University

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Invited Conferences, Workshops, and Presentations

Barriers to Employment, Housing, Healthcare, Education and Legal Support for Foster Youth in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region. (December 2, 2020). Region 3 Foster Care Consortium Meeting. Invited Virtual Panel Presentation. Dallas, Texas.

Non-Tenure Track Mentoring Network (NTMN) Promotion and Evaluation. UNT Non-Tenure Track Faculty Meeting. (November 11, 2020). Invited Virtual Panel Presentation. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (Author & Presenter). *Life After Foster Care: Is College for Me?* (August 22, 2020). Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Preparation for Adult Living Virtual Conference. Arlington, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe A (June 2020). *Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Pre-Conference Workshop.* 11th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. San Angelo, Texas. Postponed to June 4, 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Sweeten, B. (Author & Presenter), Rogers Mize, K. (Author & Presenter), Baker, Traci (Author & Presenter), O'Keefe, A. (Author & Presenter) (April 23, 2020). *Identifying and Serving an Invisible Student Population: Foster Care Alumni*. Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators. TACUSPA Annual Conference 2020. Virtual Webinar.

Vickery, J. (Author & Presenter), Heard, M. M. (Author & Presenter), Sweeten, B. (Author & Presenter) (February 2020). *Coalition-Building in Foster Care Focus Groups*. National Conference for Engaged Scholarship on Foster Alumni. Washington, DC. United States of America.

Texas Tour: Voices from Foster Care. (October 2, 2019). Invited Panel Moderator. Foster Care Film Community Engagement Project. Texas Woman's University. Denton, Texas.

What's Next for Foster Care Alumni Seeking Postsecondary Education. (October 8, 2019). Invited Presenter. Denton Noon Kiwanis Club. Denton, Texas.

The UNT PUSH Program. (September 26, 2019). Invited Presenter. Denton Noon Lion's Club. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Matteson, S. (June 2019). *Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Pre-Conference Workshop*. 10th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Austin, Texas.

Dallas County Community College District 4th Annual Foster Care Alumni Panel. (May 9, 2019). Invited Panelist. Dallas County Community College District. Mountain View College. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (Author & Presenter), Landau, B. (Author & Presenter), Dyke, V. (Presenter). (May 1, 2019). *PUSHing Foster Care Alumni Towards Success*. 9th Annual University of North Texas Student Portrait Symposium. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Mukherjee, D. (October 2018). *Social Work's Role in Helping Foster Care Alumni Transition to College*. National Association of Social Workers-Texas 42nd Annual Conference. Arlington, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Rogers, Keri (June 2018). *Collaborating with the Community Village: Engaging Resources to Recruit and Support Foster Care Alumni*. 9th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Williams, E., Choate, A., Davis J., Hernandez, P., Adams, D. (June 2018). *Nothing About Us Without Us: Discovering What Foster Care Alumni Want and Need from You*. 9th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe, A. (June 2018). *Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Pre-Conference Workshop*. 9th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Haniah, J., Murillo, A., Schmidt, S., Penate, R. (May 2018). 3rd Annual Dallas County Community College District Alumni Awareness Panel. Invited Foster Care Alumni Panel Discussion.

Sweeten, B., O'Keefe, A. & Haflich, B. (November 2017). *Efforts for Youth in Foster Care: Ensuring Educational Success*. Dallas Bar Association and SMU Dedman School of Law Caruth Institute for Children's Right Education Symposium. Dallas, Texas.

Gamez, S., O'Keefe, A., Head, R., & Sweeten, B., (October 2017). *Finding Funding for Invisible Students: Resources to Support Homeless and Foster Care Alumni Success*. California College Pathways 2017 Blueprint Conference. Los Angeles, California.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe, A. (June 2017). *Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Pre-Conference Workshop*. 8th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Commerce, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Vasquez, M., Evans-Durham, I., & Hernandez, P. (June 2017). *Building Momentum on Campus: Establishing and Supporting Foster Care Alumni Student Organizations*. 8th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Commerce, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Matteson, S. (May 2017). *The Role and Function of the University Foster Care Liaison Officer: Identifying and Serving an Invisible Student Group*. Texas Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers Annual Retreat. Austin, Texas.

O'Keefe, A., Gamez, S. Head, R., Lee, C. & Sweeten, B., (March 2017). *Finding Funding for Invisible Students: Resources to Support Homeless and Foster Care Alumni Success*. 99th Annual NASPA Conference (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education). San Antonio, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Dicke, L., Heffner, A. & Ratliff, P. (November 2016). *Expanding Community Frontiers: PUSHing for Success*. 2016 Texas CASA Conference: Amplifying Voices. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. Davis, J. Powell, K. & Hernandez, P. (November 2016). *What Permanency Means to Us: Insights from Foster Care Alumni*. 2016 Texas CASA Conference: Amplifying Voices. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Bustillos-Reynolds, S., Valdez, N., Norton, C. & Jagers, T. (June 2016). *Techniques and Practices to Identify, Track and Retain Foster Care Alumni Students*. 7th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. El Paso, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (November 2015). *The Incredibly Credible Social Worker*. Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County. Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Whitten, J., Haniah, J., Green, F., Mendoza, J., & Vasquez, M. (September 2015). *A Journey of Transitions: Finding Our Voices and Ourselves*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Permanency Summit. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Bustillos-Reynolds, S., Valdez, N., & Jaggars, T. (June 2015). *Techniques and Practices to Identify, Track and Retain Foster Care Alumni Students*. 6th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (May 2015). *The Incredibly Credible Social Worker*. Buckner International. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (March 2015). *The Incredibly Credible Social Worker*. Cancer Care Services. Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Gerlach, B., Davis, J. & Gaspar, A. (February 2014). *Normalcy, Empowerment and Positive Mental Health Outcomes*. Texas CASA Child Welfare Policy Primer. Austin, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Whitten, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R., Murrillo, A. & Rannabargar, A. (June, 2014). *A Journey of Transitions: Finding Our Voices and Ourselves*. National CASA Association Conference: A Better Life for Every Child. Grapevine, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (June, 2014). *Effective Advocacy Efforts: The Incredibly Credible CASA*. National CASA Association Conference: A Better Life for Every Child. Grapevine, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (June, 2014) *The Habits of the Highly Effective CASA*. Webinar for Texas CASA Network.

Sweeten, B. (October, 2013). *Effective Advocacy Efforts: The Incredibly Credible CASA*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. San Marcos, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Mendez-Grant, M. (May, 2013). *Identifying Youth on Your Campus*. Texas Reach 4th Annual Convening: From Foster Care to College. Houston, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R., Odufuwa, M. & Anderson, R. (November, 2012). *A Journey of Transitions: Finding Our Voices and Ourselves*. 8th Annual University of North Texas/Texas Woman's University Child Welfare Conference: Strengthening Children and Family Connections through Trauma Informed Practice. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (October, 2012). *Effective Advocacy Efforts: The Incredibly Credible CASA*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. Frisco, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R. & Williams, R. (October, 2012). *A Journey of Transitions: Finding Our Voices and Ourselves*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. Frisco, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (October, 2005). *Training Attorneys Ad Litem*. Texas CASA Conference. Plano, Texas.

Community Service and Professional Roles

- Member, Region 3 (Dallas-Ft. Worth) Foster Care Consortium (2020)
- Member, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 (Dallas-Ft. Worth) Child Death Review Committee (2020)
- Member, Governance Committee, CASA of Denton County (2019 to present)
- Member, Denton County Public Health Advisory Council (2019 to present)
- Board Member, Education Reach for Texans Board (2016 to present); Secretary (2020 to present)
- Education Reach for Texans Annual Conference Planning Committee (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Board Member, CASA of Denton County; Co-chair of Teen Taskforce and Policy Committee member (2013 to 2019)
- Texas Woman's University Social Work Program Advisory Council (2008 to 2016)
- Denton County Citizens Review Team Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (2010 to 2019)
- Texas CASA Policy Primer Planning Committee (2018)
- Education Reach for Texans Advisory Council (2013 to 2015)
- Leadership Denton Steering Committee (2013)
- Founding and steering committee member for Denton County National Adoption Day (2008 to 2013)
- Founding and steering committee member for Denton County Kinship Fair (2007 to 2013)
- Denton County Disproportionality Committee Advisory Council Member. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (2010 to 2012)
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Conservatorship Conference Coordinator. *Permanency Day is Every Day*. (August, 2012)
- Denton County Child Protective Services Family Group Decision Making Advisory Committee (2007 to 2010)
- Texas CASA Foster Care Redesign Taskforce (2010)
- Member of the Denton County Community Resource Coordination Group (2001 to 2010)
- Member of the Denton County Crime Victims Coalition Committee (2001 to 2002)
- Member of the 2009 and 2010 Texas CASA State Conference Committees

University, College, and Departmental Service

- Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW Curriculum Committee (2019 to present)
- Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW Comprehensive Exam Committee (2019 to present)
- Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW Administrative Committee (2019 to present)
- Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW Admissions Committee (2019 to present)
- University of North Texas Foster Care Liaison Officer. Appointed by Provost (2015 to present)

- BSW Admissions Committee (2010 to present)
- UNT Division of Student Affairs Search Committee for Coordinator of Special Projects (2020)
- UNT Department of Social Work Faculty Search Committee, co-chair (2019-2020)
- College of Health and Public Service Dean's Development Planning Committee member (2019-2020)
- Dean Search Committee for College of Health and Public Service (Spring-Fall 2017)
- College of Health and Public Service Experiential Learning Work Group (Spring 2017)
- Administrator Evaluation Committee for Dean of College of Public Affairs and Community Service (Spring 2016)
- Texas Social Work Student Day at the Legislature Committee Member (2016 to 2018)
- University of North Texas Homeless Student Taskforce Member (2014 to 2015)
- Department of Community and Professional Programs Faculty Search Committees (2014 to 2016)
- Department of Community and Professional Programs Peer Evaluation Committee (2013 to 2016)
- Direct UNT PUSH Initiative Program serving UNT Foster Care Alumni (Spring 2012 to present)
- Faculty Advisor/Mentor, Persevere UNTil Success Happens (PUSH), founded and advise student organization supporting foster care alumni students at UNT. (Spring 2012 to present)
- Mentor, UNT Serves Living Learning Community. College of Public Affairs and Community Service. (2011, 2012)

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (2020-2022). PI. \$50,000. King Foundation grant funded program support of year-round PUSH case management for foster care alumni at UNT, awards for housing and dining, and stipend for MSW student interns to help support the UNT PUSH Foster Care Alumni Program. Funded.
- UNT Diamond Eagle Excellence Fund (2020). PI. \$71,500. Sought program funding in support of foster care alumni students at UNT which included dedicated case management, textbook and technology lending library. Unfunded.
- Denton Benefit League (2021). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,800 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2020). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,500 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- Santander Consumer USA, Inc. Foundation (2019-2020). PI. \$85,000. Santander Consumer Foundation funded the PUSH Summer Bridge Program supporting foster care alumni youth aging out of foster care or transferring to UNT. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2019). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.

- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (2018-2019). PI. \$40,000. King Foundation funded the PUSH Summer Bridge Program supporting foster care alumni youth aging out of foster care or transferring to UNT. Funded.
- University of North Texas Mentoring Grant. UNT Provost's Office (2018-2019 & 2019-2020). \$5,000 per year. Received a faculty research mentoring grant to form the UNT Foster Care Research Network. Dr. Matthew Heard Principal with Professor Brenda Sweeten, Dr. Amy Murrell, Dr. Jacqueline Vickery, and Dr. Jordan Frith, supporters. Funded.
- Executed a \$100,000 Gift agreement with a private foundation to be paid over 10 years to support mental health and medical expenses for university foster care alumni (March 2018- 2028)
- Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (May 2018). \$152,493. Sought research and program funding in support of minority students seeking careers in health fields where they are historically underrepresented, focusing on foster care alumni. Unfunded.
- Denton Benefit League (2018). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni . Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2017). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- Received \$500 funding from Community Partners of Dallas in support of the UNT PUSH Initiative Program (Spring 2017)
- Received \$5,000 donation from a private donor in support of the UNT PUSH Initiative Program (Spring 2017)
- College of Public Affairs and Community Service Community Renewal Fund Grant (Spring 2016). Dicke, L., Sweeten, B., Heffner, A., and Ratliff, P. awarded \$4,498.54 for research project entitled, "Expanding Community Frontiers: PUSHing for Success." Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2016). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2015). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$6,000 for travel, textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alumni Program Initiatives Award (Fall 2014). UNT PUSH Initiative gifted \$12,500 in gift cards to benefit UNT Foster Care Alumni.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND COURSES TAUGHT
University of North Texas: Undergraduate & Graduate Courses

Course Number	Course Description	Semester/Year
SOWK 4700	Child Welfare Policy and Practice	Spring 2010; Fall 2010; Spring 2011; Fall 2011; Spring 2012; Fall 2012; Spring 2013
SOWK 3500	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	Fall 2010; Fall 2011, Summer 2012; Fall 2012; Fall 2013
SOWK 4000	Ethics and Professionalism in Social Work (Developed)	Spring 2011; Spring 2012; Spring 2013; Spring 2014
SOWK 1450	Introduction to Social Work (Blended, Face-to-Face & Online)	Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Summer 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019; Summer 2019
SOWK 4800 (4400)	Social Work Practice II (Groups)	Fall 2013; Spring 2014; Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019
SOWK 4870 & SOWK 4875	Integrative Field Seminar and Field Practicum	Fall 2010; Spring 2011; Summer 2011; Fall 2011; Spring 2012; Summer 2012; Fall 2012; Spring 2013; Summer 2013; Fall 2013; Spring 2014; Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019
SOWK 5813, 5833 & SOWK 5843	Generalist Field Seminar II, Advanced Field Seminar I & II (JMSW)	Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020 & Spring 2021