

Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW

University of Connecticut
School of Social Work
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WORK EXPERIENCE

- July 2015 – Present
Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, *Director* West Hartford, CT
Manage the Institute's programming, operations and staff, including the following initiatives:
- Developing models for agency-based nonpartisan voter registration;
 - Collaborating on research in the field of political social work and promoting it as a practice specialization;
 - Running an annual Campaign School for Social Workers; and
 - Creating models for MSW field placements in political settings.
- September 2013 – Present
The Zoom Foundation's Leadership Development Roundtable Fairfield, CT
Facilitator and coach
Lead six-month professional development program for emerging nonprofit leaders that includes visioning, aligning strategy to mission, cultivating stakeholder relationships, managing change and creating sustainable high performing organizations.
- September 2012 – Present
University of Connecticut School of Social Work, *Adjunct and Advisor* West Hartford, CT
Teaching Program Planning, Development and Evaluation, Political Advocacy and Political Social Work and provide academic and field support for students and agencies.
- Fall 2010
Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, *Interim Director* West Hartford, CT
- October 2007 – December 2011
duBay Horton Associates, *Consultant* Bridgeport, CT
Worked on a variety of projects for both government and nonprofit organizations, including:
- Conducting focus groups on topics such as teen gambling and underage drinking;
 - Serving as lead evaluator for a \$3 million federal capacity building grant managed by the City of Bridgeport;
 - Writing and presenting training sessions to nonprofit organizations; and
 - Researching best practices and current trends on various issues.
- June 2007 – October 2008
The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc. Bridgeport, CT
HR Consultant
Assisted with hiring, staff management and support, and policy development.
- May 2005 – April 2006
Program Director for Safe Start Initiative
Managed all aspects of the Bridgeport Safe Start Initiative (BSSI), a federally funded demonstration grant to improve the continuum of care for the identification, assessment and treatment of children exposed to violence. Responsibilities included:
- Strategic planning and collaboration with community partners, agencies and stakeholders;
 - Managing the community-based RFP process and monitoring of quality service delivery;
 - Overseeing and managing extensive program evaluation activities;
 - Creating policy recommendations from the evaluations and national research; and
 - Supervising all staff, consultants and resources secured by BSSI.
- April 2004 – May 2005
Consultant/Temporary Project and HR Director
Special assignments included:
- Assisting CEO to implement HR reorganization to address employee retention, development and agency culture;
 - Leading the initial planning and fund-raising for 4–6 unit supportive housing project; and
 - Managing successful implementation of a large-scale database reporting project.
- January 2000 – January 2002
The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (BCAC) Bridgeport, CT
Legislative Liaison
Responsible for BCAC's legislative advocacy:
- Wrote publications such as the annual legislative report card, fact sheets on current issues, letters to legislators and BCAC's Legislative Agenda;

- Tracked pending legislation and mobilized support or opposition by submitting and presenting testimony to committees; issuing “alerts” to BCAC’s network of citizens, writing op-ed letters, and other outreach activities;
 - Organized BCAC’s annual legislative forums in Bridgeport and surrounding communities;
 - Worked with various types of media, including newspapers, radio and T.V. through editorials, interviews (STAR99.9) and providing supporting documentation; and
 - Provided support on technological projects, including developing BCAC’s first website, purchasing sophisticated donor/accounting software and record conversion.
- June 2000 – September 2000 **The Center for Connecticut Studies** New Haven, CT
Consultant
Wrote and graphically designed series of one-page topic sheets on issues such as poverty, education, health care and the environment.
- September 1996 – August 1998 **Person to Person** Darien, CT
Director of Development and Support
Managed the development activities and technology for a large community agency;
- April 1988 – August 1996 **Hewitt Associates** Norwalk, CT
Project Manager/Unit Manager, Defined Contribution Services
Lead consultant on defined contribution plan administration and consulting services for large corporations. Clients included Salomon Inc., ITT Corp., ICI Americas Inc., Zeneca Inc., John Hancock, and National Westminster Bank.
- Consulted on 401(k) plan design, legal and compliance issues, communications to employees and investment goals; and
 - Managed unit of consultants and support staff (up to 10 direct reports), which included career development, performance appraisals, salary/bonus recommendations, project assignments and hiring needs.

EDUCATION

- May 2000 **University of Connecticut School of Social Work** West Hartford, CT
Masters in Social Work with a major in Policy and Planning and minor in Administration
- May 1988 **University of Connecticut** Storrs, CT
Bachelor of Arts with major in Economics and concentration in Mathematics

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- May 2015 – Present Social Venture Partners CT, *Partner* Westport, CT
- May 2011 – Present **TheConnectedCitizen.org**, *Co-founder* Fairfield, CT
- September 2009 – Present **Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition** Bridgeport, CT
Board Member and co-chair Public Policy Committee
- January 2009 – Present **School Volunteer Associates Bridgeport**, *Student Mentor* Bridgeport, CT
- September 2007 – June 2008 **Burroughs Community Center**, *Tutor* Bridgeport, CT
- October 2003– April 2004 **Nonprofit Enterprise Self-sustainability Team**, *Volunteer* Santiago, Chile
- April 1995 – June 2000 **Connecticut Counseling Centers, Inc.** Norwalk and Waterbury, CT
Board of Directors, *Chair and Vice Chair*
- April 2000 **Symposium 2000, The Power of Social Work** Boston, MA
Co-presented *Political Empowerment of Clients: A Training Model*
- June 1999 **Fourth Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Educators** Kingston, Jamaica
Co-presented *Political Empowerment of Social Service Clients: An International Comparison*
- September 1999 – May 2000 **Student Organization**, University of Connecticut School of Social Work West Hartford, CT
Co-chair
- September 1992 – August 1996 **Person to Person**, *Volunteer Caseworker* Darien, CT

OTHER

Lived in Santiago, Chile from 2002 to 2004 and four months in 2010. *Functional fluency in Spanish language.*