

Our mission is to **support** the **physical, mental, and emotional well-being** of K-12 students throughout our community.

# Meet the Team



Our vision is to **empower** students, families, and educators by expanding intervention strategies to **increase mental well-being** for academic success.



## DarNesha Green, LMSW, PMC, SSW

Darnesha is excited to serve the team as the Assistant Director for Community and School Partnerships. As a certified K-12 administrator, licensed clinical social worker, and certified school social worker, she has spent nearly two decades in the field of education and clinical practice. She has witnessed firsthand the profound impact that holistic support can have on students' lives. Her goal is simple: to ensure sustainable student wellness. By fostering strong partnerships between home, school, and community, she believes they can empower students to reach their full potential. Darnesha is here to support the Bridge Clinical team in implementing effective school-based clinical services for the local districts.



## Candace Craig

Candace brings over seven years of experience in educational support roles, with a strong background in administrative coordination, event support, and office operations. Most recently, she served as an Office Professional and Receptionist at Washtenaw Intermediate School District, where she excelled in managing event services, coordinating facility scheduling, and creating engaging digital content for visitors. Candace is known for her excellent communication, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. She's proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and has experience with financial and purchasing systems. Whether it's organizing complex schedules, supporting day-to-day office functions, or creating a welcoming atmosphere for visitors, Candace does it all with professionalism and care. Her education includes a Bachelor of General Studies from Eastern Michigan University, with concentrations in Records Administration, Management & Marketing, and Liberal Studies, and an Associate of General Studies from Washtenaw Community College.



## Shannon Novara

Shannon has worked at WISD since 2012 and is currently a Program Manager on the Bridge Team. As part of this team, she works with community partners and local school districts to identify universal supports for students' mental health and substance use prevention. She manages the county's Handle with Care initiative, is a certified Michigan ACE Initiative Master Trainer and a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Shannon is a member of Washtenaw Alive and the Washtenaw Prevention Coalition's leadership team, and she convenes school staff monthly for the Mental Health Action Team.



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## Gina VanDuinen, LMSW



Gina is a licensed master-level social worker with training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Wraparound Facilitation. Gina brings extensive experience to her work with youth who have survived complex trauma. She has also supported families affected by various challenges, including involvement with the juvenile justice system, child welfare system, addiction, grief, and loss. Having been on the receiving end of therapy since adolescence, Gina personally understands the importance of the therapeutic relationship and the profound journey of healing. Her aim is always to create a safe and therapeutic space for the youth and families she works with. Gina is committed to remaining aware of the inequalities faced by Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), womxn, queer/trans/non-binary individuals, and disabled persons. Her mission is to provide therapy with an integrative approach, considering the whole person, their strengths, emotional support, spirituality, and community resources to aid in reaching their treatment goals.

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## Sarah LeVar, LMSW, SSW



Sarah is a licensed clinical social worker with the Bridge Clinical Team at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District and has her School Social Work Endorsement. She has over 15 years of experience working with children, youth & families in Washtenaw County focused on social justice work. Her training background includes DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy), EMDR Therapy (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), as well as Somatic and Attachment based therapies. Other areas of experience include working in residential substance abuse treatment programs for youth, residential transition to independent living programs, unhoused family services, community mental health with children and families, and both group and individual private practices. She cares deeply about social justice work and using a trauma informed approach to work with individuals, families, and systems to better meet the mental health needs of children & youth.

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## Kara Williams, LMSW, SSW



Kara Williams is a licensed clinical social worker with experience working in crisis, drop-in, homeless/runaway youth shelter, and private practice settings. She obtained her MSW at the University of Michigan with a focus in supporting youth and families in 2018, then went back to school for her school social work certificate in 2023. Kara has an undergraduate degree and working background in theatre arts and continues to pursue the marriage of art and healing in her therapeutic work. It is her belief that in order to care for one's mental health, care also has to be given to the community at large. In this position, Kara strives to bring compassion, safety, and both individual and collective empowerment into the spaces she supports.

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## Kanika Spears, LMSW, SSW



Kanika Spears is a fully certified licensed master social worker and certified school social worker. She received her MSW degree from Wayne State University's Advanced Standing Program with a focus in Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). For nearly two decades, Kanika has supported the mental health and well-being of K-12 students in various school districts. She is passionate about designing data-driven curriculum for psycho-educational groups. Her dedication to integrating the arts into her clinical practice and her commitment to a holistic approach to serving students is distinct. Kanika is eager to continue to cultivate partnerships and collaborations with our local school districts and community through service, advocacy and empowerment.

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## Jessica Fonville, LMSW



Jessica Fonville is a licensed clinical social worker with the Bridge Clinical Team at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. Jessica received her MSW degree from the University of Michigan School of Social Work, with a focus on childhood and adolescent development and community organizing. She has spent the last several years working with some of our community's most vulnerable youth and families providing crisis intervention, case management, and wraparound service support in youth shelter, drop-in center, and educational settings. Jessica is passionate about positive youth development work and providing holistic and strengths-based support to help young people be successful in reaching their goals.

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## Steve Hall, LMSW



Steven is a licensed clinical social worker with training and experience in Restorative Practices. He received his MSW from the University of Southern California with a focus on Adult Mental Health and Wellness and a focus on Veteran Populations. Since entering the field of social work nearly a decade ago he has experience working with homeless adults, adults and youth involved in the criminal justice system, and high school aged youth. He has worked as an Outreach Worker through the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, a Juvenile Probation Officer through the Trial Courts of Washtenaw County and as a Behavioral Intervention Specialist through Ypsilanti Community High School. He is excited to be part of the Bridge Team and has a passion for helping youth see past their circumstances to reach their full potential.

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## Kara Lilly, LMSW, SSW



Kara is a licensed clinical social worker with an MSW from the University of Michigan. Her area of concentration was interpersonal practice. She later went on to obtain her school social work license. Kara has 15 years of experience working with individuals across the lifespan, but for the past 10 years has worked in general and alternative education settings. Most recently, Kara has worked in the field of education as a School Social Worker for students K-5 as well as a Social Worker for an alternative education program. Kara being exposed to the most vulnerable of students led her to want to identify ways they could be better served through creativity, collaboration and working with an interdisciplinary team. Kara also has experience in school attendance outreach, restorative practices, mental health, crisis intervention and has worked with the following other populations: Pre and postpartum mothers (Maternal Infant Health Program), incarcerated and re-entering individuals, dual diagnosis consumers, homeless and/or unaccompanied youth, court involved youth as well as older adults.

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## LaKeisha Floyd, LMSW, SSW



LaKeisha Floyd is a certified school social worker and license master social worker. She obtained her MSW degree from Wayne State University's Advanced Standing Program. She has over a decade of experience working with children, families, and individuals as an agent of support and guidance. LaKeisha has assisted students and families by addressing mental health, social-emotional, or basic needs that present barriers to their success. She has additional expertise in areas of trauma, crisis intervention, family systems, and mindfulness. LaKeisha is passionate about mental health and empowering students to identify their strengths.

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## Al Correa, LLMSW



Al is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. He has spent the past several years working with students in school settings. Specifically, supporting students and families in advocacy, mentoring, and re-engagement into the school environment. He is passionate about dismantling the school to prison pipeline. Al understands the importance of school and believes that every student has a right to a good education. The first in his family to receive a high school diploma, college degree, and masters. Al uses his lived experiences to validate and support all students. He uses a strength break approach and self-empowerment for students to reach their true potential. Al is humbled and excited to bring his unique skills to the bridge team.

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## Kaylee O'Neill



Kaylee is thrilled to join the Washtenaw Intermediate School District as an intern on the Bridge team. She is currently pursuing her master's degree at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work, focusing on interpersonal practice in integrated health, mental health, and substance abuse. Inspired to pursue social work after obtaining her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Michigan, Kaylee has developed a deep passion for mental health advocacy and promoting child welfare. Her experience includes implementing social-emotional learning programs in Washtenaw County schools, providing behavior therapy to children on the autism spectrum, and tutoring and mentoring youth from underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds. Kaylee is eager to apply her knowledge and skills to support the Bridge team's mission and values. Through her role, Kaylee aspires to positively impact and empower students by providing comprehensive support services that foster well-being and cater to the diverse needs of individuals.

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## Ben Villareal



Ben is a social work intern from the University of Michigan pursuing his MSW degree with a focus in interpersonal health, mental health, and substance use treatment. Ben obtained a BSW degree from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania. He brings with him outpatient mental health treatment experience, case management experience and also knowledge from interning in community schools during his time in Erie. Ben is passionate about furthering his education and skills both inside and outside the classroom through collaboration with the Bridge Clinical Team and the Education Project Team. Ben is excited to assist these teams in eliminating barriers that are preventing students and their families from achieving their goals.

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**To learn more about the Bridge Team and offerings please email:  
[bridgeteaminfo@washtenawisd.org](mailto:bridgeteaminfo@washtenawisd.org)**

### **Website:**

**<https://www.washtenawisd.org/our-collaborations/community-school-partnerships/bridge-team/>**