

**MARIA TESU BARBER, MA, LMFT-A**

*SC Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate*

*Owner of Wildflower Family Therapy Center LLC*

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Passionate about my work, authentic in my sessions, and approachable in my interactions, the most important thing I learned from my clients is that change is truly possible! In my work, I utilize Bowens' Family Systems Theory to conceptualize cases while drawing from experiential approaches to meet client objectives. Internal Family Systems is my go-to model for trauma work. When working with children, I love using play and art therapy strategies.

While my professional background includes experience with teaching special education students and school counseling, my therapist role offers me the best opportunity to make a real difference in the world. By changing the way we relate with each other and with ourselves, we can truly build a legacy worth passing down to future generations by honoring our needs with love and compassion.

I have experience working with clients ages 5 – 75 with various mental health diagnoses. I am an open-minded, career-oriented person and a *life learner* with a desire for *continuous personal enrichment and development*.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

February 2022 – present – Owner of Wildflower Family Therapy Center LLC, LMFT-A

January 2020 – February 2022 – Human Services Coordinator at Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center, SC Department of Mental Health – I provided mental health services in a clinic and school-based settings by working with a variety of mental health diagnoses with clients ages 5 – 75+

June 2019 – January 2020 – Marriage and Family Therapy student at Northcentral University – worked towards meeting SC certification requirements for LMFT-A

October 2015 – June 2019 – Special Education Teacher, Berkeley County School District. I provided special education services to students with learning disabilities and other health impairments in academics, behavior, and social/emotional functioning.

April 2015 – December 2015 – Mental Health Professional, Care Coordinator at Community Resource Solutions, Charleston – providing mental health services to consumers with mental illnesses.

August 2009 – July 2014 – Special Education Teacher at Woodland High School, Dorchester, SC. I worked with students struggling with emotional and learning disabilities by helping them develop the skills they need to be successful in school and further in life.

September 2006 - July 2009 - Counselor at the "Center for Educational Psychology" Iasi County, Romania. I worked with parents and students dealing with behavioral and emotional issues through *individual and group counseling*. I also implemented programs focused on preventing drug and cigarette use and bullying, reducing school dropout rates, and facilitating personal development.

2005 - 2006 – Education Specialist within the non-profit organization "Papadia," Iasi County, Romania.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

*Certified Trauma Professional* – training completed through Evergreen Certifications via PESI

*Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy – Associate, currently working under the supervision of Theresa Bonesteel, LPC/S, LMFT/SC*

*Advanced Graduate Studies Certificate in General Marriage and Family Therapy – Northcentral University (2021)*

*Youth Mental Health First Aid USA Certified (2019)*

*Certified School Counselor in the state of South Carolina (exp June 2022)*

*Certified Special Education Teacher – Multicategorical in South Carolina (Exp June 2022)*

*Certified Prepare/Enrich Facilitator*

*Certified Relationship Workshop Facilitator with Joeel and Natalie Rivera from Transformation Academy on Udemy.com*

*Certified Happiness Life Coach with Joeel and Natalie Rivera on Udemy.com*

*Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology (2007) from University Al. I Cuza, Iasi, Romania*

*Systemic couple and family therapy training +500 hours over three years - "Psychotherapy Association of Couple and Family" Romania (2007 - 2010)*

*Bachelor's Degree in Exceptional Education with an academic major in Psychology (2005) from University Al. I Cuza, Iasi, Romania.*

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy – professional member

American School Counselors Association – former professional member

Palmetto State School Counselor Association (South Carolina) – former member

## **OTHER INTERESTS**

- Aromatherapist in training at Aromahead Institute, School of Essential Oils (Online)
- Passionate about gardening, healthy living, pets, baking, painting for relaxation, crafts, and nature.