



HCS Social Work Services Staff Biographies

**BRUCE A.
COPELAND**
Ph.D., LCSW, CSOTP
Coordinator
HCS McKinney-Vento Liaison

Bruce A. Copeland, Ph.D., is a venerable scholar and practitioner whose illustrious career spans over 38 years within the expansive realm of clinical social work. With an academic trajectory marked by a bachelor's degree (1987), a master's degree (1990), and a doctorate in Social Work—awarded by Norfolk State University in 2014. Dr. Copeland's scholarly pursuits have been meticulously concentrated on understanding and enhancing parental involvement among African American fathers, emphasizing culturally responsive practice and research.

In 1995, he achieved licensure as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) through the Virginia Board of Health Professions, affirming his credentials as a highly skilled psychotherapist. Further, in 1999, he earned certification as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider (CSOTP) from the Virginia Board of Psychology, underscoring his expertise in forensic and trauma-informed care.

Throughout his career, Dr. Copeland has delivered comprehensive mental health services across a spectrum of settings—including outpatient clinics, acute care hospitals, residential programs, and private practice—dedicating himself to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diverse mental, behavioral, and emotional disorders among individuals, families, and groups. His clinical acumen reflects a deep commitment to fostering resilience and healing within underserved populations.

Beyond his clinical endeavors, Dr. Copeland has demonstrated an exceptional dedication to advancing social justice, health equity, and clinician well-being. His scholarly contributions include the co-authorship of the pivotal article titled "Behind the Frontlines: Black Male Social Workers and the Weight of Structural Bias," published in the "Journal of Medical Inventions and Clinical Case Reports" on June 16, 2025.

This seminal work critically examines the intersectionality of race, professional identity, and systemic barriers confronting Black male social workers, offering a nuanced analysis of the emotional and structural burdens they shoulder within the complex landscape of healthcare and social services.

In addition, Dr. Copeland contributed to the exploration of occupational burnout and physiological stress responses through the co-authored publication, "Understanding Burnout Rates for Clinicians and Physical Symptoms of Allostatic Load," featured in "Archives of Case Reports" in 2025 (Volume 9, Issue 1, pages 11-15). This research illuminates the intricate relationship between burnout and the physical manifestations of allostatic load, emphasizing the crucial need to address both mental and physical health concerns among clinicians. The insights derived from this study are instrumental in informing targeted strategies to bolster clinician resilience and organizational wellness.

His scholarly work is complemented by a prolific record of national conference presentations. Dr. Copeland has shared his expertise at the 56th Annual Conference of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) with a compelling presentation titled "Healing Wounds, Building Resilience: Navigating Race-Based Trauma," and at the 2023 conference of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), where he delivered a talk on "The Impact of Homelessness on the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, and Using the Arts as a Tool to Improve Outcomes."

Currently, Dr. Copeland serves as an administrator within Hampton City Schools, fulfilling the role of coordinator of school social worker services. He also enriches academic discourse as an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University. Additionally, he operates as an independent contractor, providing clinical supervision, training, and assessment services for various agencies throughout the Hampton Roads community.

In his unwavering commitment to community service, Dr. Copeland volunteers at the Western Tidewater Free Clinic, where he has offered pro bono outpatient mental health care to indigent residents since 2007.

Recognized for his leadership and advocacy, he was appointed by the Suffolk, Virginia, City Council in 2012 to serve on the Department of Human Services Advisory Board. Further exemplifying his dedication to human rights, he was appointed in 2013 by the Virginia State Human Rights Committee to serve on the Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC).





School Social Workers



Kevin Banks, Jr., LCSW
Smith Elementary
Christian Elementary
Lindsay Middle



Shakira Barner, LCSW
Moton Early Childhood
Phenix PreK-8
Eaton Fundamental Middle



Calvin Cooper II, MSW
Cooper Elementary Magnet
Jones Magnet Middle
Bethel High



Shakira Dixon, MSW
Bassette Elementary
Barron Fundamental Elementary
Langley Elementary



Dr. Brittny Gainey, LCSW
Kraft Elementary
Kilgore Gifted Center



Caroline Gonzales, MSW
Armstrong School for the Arts
Mary Peake Elementary
Syms Middle



Octavia Holmes, MSW
Bryan Elementary
Jackson Fundamental Elementary
Patrick Elementary



Yunjeong Shin, LCSW
Andrews PreK-8
Asbury Elementary
Alternative Learning Center



Lynman Stamps, MSW
Forrest Elementary
Tarrant Middle
Hampton High



Teloria Sutton, MSW
Aberdeen Elementary
Phillips Elementary
Phoebus High



Savannah Whitaker, LCSW
Burbank Elementary
Machen Elementary
Kecoughtan High

School Social Work Auxiliary Team Members



Lawrence Holloway, Jr., MA, LPC
Mental Health Specialist
Alternative Learning Center



Lisa Johnson
Administrative Secretary II

School Social Work Services

School social work services are designed to address social, emotional, economic, and environmental barriers that may interfere with a student's academic success. Through early identification, prevention, and intervention services, school social workers support the whole student -- needs at home, in school, and in the community.



Our Vision

School social workers will support teaching, learning and positive academic outcomes for all children in Hampton City Schools through the provision of high quality school social work services.



DR. BRUCE COPELAND, LCSW, CSOTP
Coordinator



Our Mission

By engaging the "Whole Child, Whole School and Whole Community", school social workers will seek to address barriers to academic success.



KEVIN BANKS JR.

LCSW



Kevin Banks Jr. is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and school social worker with 18 years of experience in the mental health field. He has provided services in various treatment settings, including schools, private practice, group homes, community-based mental health agencies, and court service units. He is deeply gratified by the opportunity to impact the lives of those he serves positively. His passion lies in assisting students of all ages, addressing issues such as depression, anxiety, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and trauma.

Kevin specializes in trauma-informed care and solution-focused interventions that support student resilience and success. He provides individual and group counseling to address emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges. He is experienced in crisis intervention and collaborates closely with multidisciplinary teams to develop student-centered support plans. He also advocates for students and families, helping them navigate school systems and access essential community resources. In addition, he is a fitness coach who believes in the transformative power of a healthy mind and body. As such, he specializes in helping children and parents enhance their overall well-being through self-care practices, mindfulness, and movement.

Throughout his career, he has held diverse and impactful roles that reflect his dedication to service. As the owner of Empower You Counseling and Wellness, LLC, Kevin provides evidence-based psychotherapy to clients. His earlier work as a Juvenile Justice Case Manager involved supporting court-involved youth through targeted case management, mental health screenings, and psychoeducational groups focused on anger management and substance use. In his role as a therapeutic day treatment (TDT) behavioral counselor at Hampton High School, he helped students develop essential skills for emotional regulation, communication, and resilience. Kevin holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. Before that, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

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SHAKIRA BARNER

LCSW



Shakira Barner is a licensed clinical social worker with over 10 years of experience as a dedicated school social worker. With a strong background in child development, mental health, and crisis intervention, she has hands-on experience supporting students, families, and school staff in diverse educational settings. Her mission is to advocate for every student's right to a safe, supportive, and equitable learning environment. As a proud product of Hampton City Schools, she has been deeply influenced by her early experiences within the local school system, which have influenced her commitment to education, service, and community empowerment. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Virginia State University and a master of social work from Norfolk State University. This academic foundation has provided her with a strong understanding of human behavior, mental health, and the complex social systems that influence student success.

As a school social worker, Shakira relies on a diverse set of skills to support students' academic, social, and emotional development. Strong communication is at the core of her work, enabling her to build trust with students, families, and school staff. She is skilled in conflict resolution and crisis intervention, effectively helping to de-escalate tense situations and guide individuals toward constructive solutions. Her experience in case management allows her to assess student needs, coordinate services, and monitor progress effectively. Shakira approaches every interaction with cultural competence, ensuring that services are inclusive and respectful of each student's background.

At the core of her work in social work, education, and student advocacy is a steadfast belief in equity, empathy, and empowerment. She views social work not just as a profession but as a moral commitment to stand with individuals and communities as they navigate systemic barriers and personal challenges. Shakira believes that every person deserves dignity, support, and the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.

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CALVIN COOPER II

MSW



Calvin Cooper is a highly skilled and compassionate school social worker with over six years of service to Hampton City Schools and more than 21 years of experience in mental health. He specializes in addressing the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students through psychosocial assessments, crisis intervention, therapeutic support, and community collaboration. Drawing from a diverse background in behavioral health, therapeutic services, and higher education, Calvin is committed to empowering students and families through culturally responsive, trauma-informed care that promotes equity, inclusion, and student success. His dedication to service is evident through his professional roles, community involvement, and ongoing efforts to foster environments where individuals feel valued and supported.

Calvin's expertise includes conducting comprehensive assessments, providing crisis intervention, facilitating individual and group counseling, and leading multidisciplinary teams during critical incidents. He excels at building strong family and community partnerships, ensuring wraparound support for students in need. Skilled in behavioral health practices, Calvin addresses issues such as anger management, behavioral disorders, and substance abuse recovery. As an adjunct professor, he prepares future social workers in areas such as human behavior, policy, and field practice. His strengths in communication, conflict resolution, case management, and cultural competence allow him to effectively collaborate with educators, administrators, and service providers to meet complex student needs.

His professional experience includes serving as a school social worker for Hampton City Schools since 2019, adjunct professor at Norfolk State University, and various behavioral health roles with the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, Newport News Behavioral Health Center, and other agencies. He holds a Master of Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, both from Norfolk State University, graduating with honors. Calvin is certified in Crisis Intervention Skills Management, First Aid, CPR, AED, CPI, and is an active member of several professional organizations, including the National Association of Black Social Workers.

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SHAKIRA DIXON

MSW

Shakira Dixon is a dedicated school social worker and supervisee in social work with over eight years of direct experience in counseling and social work practice, supported by ten years of experience in case management and service coordination. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work, with specialized expertise in counseling, crisis intervention, and student advocacy. Throughout her career, she has delivered individual and group counseling, facilitated crisis response services, and engaged in community outreach to ensure students receive comprehensive, wraparound support. Shakira is deeply committed to promoting student success by fostering supportive and nurturing environments that encourage both academic achievement and emotional development. Her work is grounded in collaborative partnerships with educators, families, and community stakeholders.

In her role, Shakira fosters a supportive environment where both academic and emotional needs are met, ensuring that students receive comprehensive care tailored to their circumstances. She performs social history evaluations to identify and assess factors such as absenteeism, tardiness, and truancy that may be affecting student attendance and engagement. She connects families and students with community resources and programs. Shakira offers tailored support for underrepresented families by linking them with appropriate services to address their unique needs. She delivers both group and individual therapy focused on social-emotional learning and encourages and facilitates the development of effective social skills and peer communication. She works to support students' overall academic success while also addressing mental health and behavioral challenges as they arise. Additionally, Shakira actively participates in special education and multi-disciplinary teams to evaluate and determine student eligibility for additional educational services and support.

Shakira is a dedicated and compassionate social worker with extensive experience supporting students facing mental health, behavioral, and social-emotional challenges within the school setting. She collaborates with students, families, and school staff to ensure that appropriate interventions and referrals are in place to promote student well-being and academic success. Her role includes identifying and addressing barriers to school attendance, developing individualized strategies to reduce absenteeism and truancy, and fostering consistent school engagement. As an active member of special education and multi-disciplinary teams, she contributes to comprehensive evaluations, assists in determining eligibility for special education services, and advocates for tailored supports to meet diverse student needs. In addition to her work in schools, Shakira brings a strong clinical background from her previous roles at community-based agencies. At Bacon Street Youth and Family Services, she served as a social worker and case manager, providing support for youth and families experiencing mental health and substance use challenges. She also provided emergency and crisis intervention services at Colonial Behavioral Health, where she worked with diverse populations to assess risk, coordinate care, and stabilize clients in acute crisis.

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BRITTNY GAINNEY

DSW, LCSW



Dr. Brittny Gainney is a licensed clinical social worker with over 15 years of experience. She currently serves and supports students in Hampton City Schools as a school social worker. Her experiences in and outside of the public school system have given her a unique perspective on student achievement and how it intersects with emotional, mental, and behavioral health. Dr. Gainney believes in the Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community concept. She is driven to help others understand how these factors influence one another and the value in giving children, their families, and their community a voice. Dr. Gainney is a strong advocate for social work and stands on the values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of a person, and the importance of human relationships.

Her areas of expertise include mental health support, self-care, restorative practices, crisis intervention, student and family advocacy, particularly in the realm of special education services. She is skilled in providing not only individualized and school-based support services but also in facilitating workshops, presentations, and virtual and in-person panel discussions. Her most recent trainings include "Responding To The Alarm: Suicide in Black Children in Adolescents" at the NASW Virginia/Metro DC 2025 Conference and "Men in Social Work Virtual Panel" for Norfolk State University's School of Social Work, and "Managing Beginning of the School Year Stress" for the HCS Talks Podcast and "Self-Care: I Don't Have Time for That" at the 15th Annual Rejuvenate Conference for Hampton City Schools. Recently, she was interviewed as a guest for the I am Hampton Roads Show segment for The Hampton Roads Show, discussing self-care and her "why."

Outside of Hampton City Schools, Dr. Gainney is an adjunct instructor for Norfolk State University, Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work, Echo Hub Team Expert for the Virginia Partnership for School Mental Health, co-owner of Mother to Daughter, LLC, and owner of The Middle Ground Counseling and Consulting. Her commitment to public education and mental health has been shaped by her experience working for non-profit agencies, military installations, outpatient and community treatment settings. She has received training in cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, supervision of social workers, trauma counseling, DONA Doula, and various parenting curricula. Dr. Gainney's career is supported by a doctorate in social work (DSW) from The University of Alabama and an MSW from the Joint Master of Social Work Program at NC A&T State University and UNC Greensboro. She often gives back by participating in the DSW conferences through The University of Alabama and acts as a panelist for the Aggie Success Academy Summer Bridge Program at NC A&T State University. Professionally, she is a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Virginia Association of School Social Workers (VASSW), where she serves on the research committee. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

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CAROLINE GONZALES

MSW



Caroline Gonzales, as a school social worker, is committed to fostering a supportive and empathetic environment for all students while bridging the gap between school, family, and community. Within her school communities, she serves K-8 students and staff through socioemotional individual and group counseling, mental health education, resource allocation for students and families, and multidisciplinary collaborations with school support staff. In addition, Caroline serves as an active member on special education committees. In this role, she conducts comprehensive sociocultural evaluations and utilizes her area of expertise to assist the multidisciplinary team in making determinations of special education services. She is dedicated to ensuring the appropriate identification of students with disabilities and protecting against disproportionality and misidentification within the student population.

By understanding the broader context of student well-being, Caroline provides mental health education to school support staff, equipping them with the knowledge to recognize signs of emotional distress and respond with empathy and effectiveness. She offers comprehensive support to students through both individual and group counseling, creating a safe and supportive environment for emotional expression and skill building. Furthermore, she integrates trauma-informed care practices into her work, ensuring that the needs of individuals are met with sensitivity and awareness.

Before becoming a school social worker, Caroline served as a therapeutic family clinician for a local foster care agency, where she was responsible for managing and assisting families and foster youth affiliated with the agency. She is a graduate of Emory and Henry University, holding a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology. After completing her undergraduate studies, Caroline began her graduate-level coursework at Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated with her master's in social work, specializing in clinical practice in 2023. During her graduate program, she completed the necessary coursework to become certified in school social work. Caroline currently holds her Virginia Pupil Personnel Services License in School Social Work (License Number: PPS-0608396) through the Virginia Department of Education.

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OCTAVIA HOLMES

MSW



Octavia Holmes is a dedicated and compassionate school social worker from Hampton, Virginia, with a strong background in outpatient therapy, in-home services, mental health, and educational support. Her mission is to remove barriers to students' academic and personal success by addressing their emotional, social, and behavioral needs. With extensive experience in school settings, community-based programs, and clinical environments, she employs a trauma-informed, family-centered approach that promotes equity, empathy, and the holistic development of every child. Octavia is passionate about fostering inclusive, safe spaces where students can thrive while empowering families and collaborating with educators to create effective interventions and support systems.

She has specialized expertise in school-based mental health counseling, crisis response, behavioral intervention planning, and special education advocacy. Skilled in case management, conflict resolution, motivational interviewing, and cognitive behavioral therapy, Octavia excels at building rapport, managing crises, and coordinating with families and service providers to ensure consistent support for students. Her cultural competence and strong communication skills enable her to navigate diverse environments and advocate effectively for youth and their families, both within and beyond the classroom.

Currently, Octavia serves as a school social worker with Hampton City Schools, providing individual and group counseling, implementing behavioral interventions, and participating in special education processes, including IEP meetings. Her professional background also includes intensive in-home support, outpatient treatment, therapeutic day programs, and medical social work. She holds a Master of Social Work from Fordham University and a Bachelor of Social Work from Norfolk State University, is license-eligible as a supervisee in social work, and maintains active membership in the National Association of Social Workers and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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YUNJEONG SHIN

LCSW

Yunjeong Shin is a licensed clinical social worker with a strong foundation in nonprofit educational leadership and 18 years of school social work experience dedicated to Hampton City Schools. Her practice is grounded in culturally responsive and person-centered care, guided by the belief that every student deserves a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment where their unique strengths are recognized and nurtured. She is driven by the transformative power of building authentic, trusting relationships with students and families. Her mission is to empower young people by advocating for their needs, fostering resilience, and helping them thrive both in school and in life.

Deeply committed to promoting mental health and well-being, Yunjeong integrates self-care and mindfulness practices to support healing, build resilience, and create a nurturing environment where both students and educators can flourish. She plays a vital role in promoting educational stability for students in foster care by ensuring compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Her strengths in collaborative team building enable effective partnerships with educators, students, and families. Through self-awareness, empathy, and a strengths-based approach, she builds trust, promotes open communication, and inspires meaningful growth.

Before transitioning into school social work, Yunjeong founded and directed a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving heritage language and culture for second-generation Korean-American youth and local learners. She remains actively involved as a board member and SAT II Korean instructor. She holds a Master of Social Work from Norfolk State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Educational Administration from Yonsei University in Korea.

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LYNMAN STAMPS

MSW



Lynman Stamps is a dedicated school social worker with 10 years of experience supporting Hampton City Schools. His background in public education and community service has equipped him with a deep understanding of student life, including the social, emotional, behavioral, and socio-economic factors that are essential for student success. Lynman is committed to advocating for students and families by empowering them with knowledge, advocacy, empathy, and protection of civil rights.

Lynman specializes in several important areas, including mental health support, self-care strategies, crisis intervention, and advocacy for students with special education needs. He has significant experience providing both individual services and leading group sessions. Additionally, he acts as the foster care liaison, ensuring that the needs of students in the foster care system are prioritized. His diverse background in law enforcement and community service enhances his ability to navigate and resolve complex, high-stress situations, such as incidents involving domestic violence, gang involvement, and emergencies that require immediate action.

Before his role in school social work, Lynman provided in-home services that included weekly individual and family counseling aimed at helping children succeed academically, socially, and within their communities. His previous experience in law enforcement with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department involved serving as a community officer for a major neighborhood organization. In this role, he developed strong community relationships, shared information on city ordinances and neighborhood safety, and collaborated with elected officials and police leadership. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Arkansas State University in 1992, completed the basic recruit training program at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in 1995, and obtained his Master of Social Work from Norfolk State University in 2017.

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Teloria Sutton has over 20 years of experience as a school social worker within Hampton City Schools, and is passionate about empowering children and families to achieve stability and success. She is deeply committed to ensuring that every child receives the support and resources they need to thrive—whether in the classroom or at home. Teloria prides herself on being empathetic, actively listening, providing conflict resolution, and offering case management. These skills are essential to her role and directly benefit the students and families she serves. Her journey began with Hampton City Schools as an intern in the Department of Social Work. After completing her internship, she was fortunate enough to be hired, and since then, she has built strong, lasting relationships with the students and families in Hampton. To her, they are like extended family, and she has had the privilege of serving multiple generations within the same families. These relationships are invaluable, and she is deeply grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Driven by the desire to see her clients overcome challenges and achieve their goals, Teloria goes home each day knowing she has done everything possible to support the children and families entrusted to her care. She believes that every success, big or small, is a reflection of the power of empathy, dedication, and teamwork. As a dedicated school social worker, she provides comprehensive support to students, families, and educational staff, fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment. Her services encompass individual and group counseling to address mental health concerns, behavioral challenges, and promote emotional well-being. She also offers crisis intervention, providing immediate assistance during emergencies to ensure student safety and stability. In addition, she implements behavioral support strategies aimed at enhancing positive behaviors and academic engagement. Through consultation and collaboration, she works closely with teachers, parents, and administrators to develop and execute effective support plans. Advocacy is another key aspect of her role, as she champions students' rights and ensures they have equitable access to educational resources and services.

Teloria holds a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a Master of Social Work (MSW) from Norfolk State University, along with a certification in school social work. Beyond her professional work, she is also highly involved in the community. She can often be found volunteering at local food banks, participating in Toys for Tots, and helping with highway and park cleanups, among other initiatives. Giving back to the community is a core value of hers, and she strives to make a positive impact wherever she can.

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TELORIA SUTTON

MSW

SAVANNAH WHITAKER

LCSW



Savannah Whitaker is a licensed clinical social worker with 15 years of experience in the mental and behavioral health field. Currently serving as a school social worker with Hampton City Schools, Savannah draws on her diverse background to support students' emotional, social, and academic well-being. In her role, she works to address social, emotional, and behavioral barriers to learning by promoting equity, inclusion, and access to resources. Her approach is grounded in trauma-informed and strengths-based practices, prioritizing compassion, trust-building, and student empowerment. Savannah is passionate about creating safe, supportive environments where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Savannah specializes in crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, solution-focused interventions, and student and family advocacy. She is also experienced in special education processes, including conducting assessments, participating in multidisciplinary team meetings, and developing strategies to support students with diverse needs. She provides both individual and group counseling and is skilled at coordinating services among families, educators, and community partners to create a holistic support network for each student. She is particularly effective at working with students who face emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges, and she brings a clinical lens to her work in school settings.

Savannah earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Hampton University and a Master of Social Work with a clinical focus from Walden University. Throughout her career, Savannah has gained diverse experience working as a behavioral counselor, mental health case manager, intake coordinator, and direct support professional. In these roles, she has supported children, adolescents, court-involved youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities across school, residential, and community-based settings. She has worked extensively with students affected by trauma, mental illness, and behavioral disorders, and has led psychoeducational groups on anger management, substance use, and emotional regulation. Her diverse professional background has given her a well-rounded perspective and the skills needed to effectively support complex student needs and drive meaningful change within the school environment. Savannah is also a member of the Virginia Association of School Social Workers (VASSW), where she currently serves on the Research Committee.

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LAWRENCE HOLLOWAY JR.

MA, LPC

Auxiliary Team Member

Lawrence Tyrone Holloway Jr. is a dedicated mental health specialist with over a decade of experience supporting students, families, and schools. His mission is to remove barriers to learning, provide trauma-informed care, and empower students to build resilience, confidence, and long-term success. He is passionate about equity, advocacy, and creating safe environments where all students can thrive.

He brings expertise in crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, suicide prevention, family counseling, and restorative practices. Lawrence is skilled in case management, attendance improvement strategies, and linking families with community resources. His strengths in communication, cultural competence, conflict resolution, and collaboration allow him to work effectively with school leaders, multidisciplinary teams, and community partners.

Professionally, Lawrence has served in school-based and community mental health settings, providing direct services and crisis intervention to children, adolescents, and adults. Currently with Hampton City Schools, he provides counseling, behavioral support, and professional development for staff and families. His prior roles include serving as a clinical therapist in various crisis settings and case management in the community setting. Lawrence is a licensed professional counselor and holds a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Regent University and a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Old Dominion University.

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