

SAMUEL R. BETHEL

(he/him/his)

Assistant Professor of Social Work
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Alabama

Humanities Building, Rm. 09
5991 USA Drive North
Mobile, AL 36688

srbethel@southalabama.edu

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Researcher and Licensed Clinical Social Worker experienced in health, mental health, and forensic social work practice. Particularly interested in the integration of social care into the delivery of health care services, specifically as it pertains to the implementation, evaluation, and optimization of social work services on interprofessional healthcare teams across the continuum of care.

EDUCATION

PhD	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC College of Social Work	2018-2024
MSW	Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO Brown School	2011-2013
BA	University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY College of Arts and Sciences	2006-2010

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2024- Present Assistant Professor of Social Work (tenure-track)
College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work
University of South Alabama

Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Healthcare Concentration (courtesy appointment)
College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
University of South Alabama

Health and Society Research Associate
Center for Public Policy, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
University of South Alabama

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principal Investigator 2022-2024

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Teri Browne (Chair), Dr. Terry Wolfer, Dr. Candice Morgan, & Dr. Kevin Bennett
Currently conducting a qualitative process evaluation examining questions of how and why social care programming is designed, implemented, and maintained in the largest health care system in South Carolina. Particular attention is being paid to the influence of rurality and how integrated social care is delivered in rural and under-resourced contexts. Two manuscripts for journal publication and one technical report for the use of the community partner are planned.

Research Practicum Spring 2021

Supervisor: Dr. Melissa Reitmeier
Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate simulated learning labs for social work students to earn field hours during COVID-19 pandemic. Co-authored two scientific abstracts for conference presentation and two manuscripts for journal publication.

Graduate Research Assistantship Summer 2019

Supervisor: Dr. Teri Browne
Analyzed qualitative data from an interprofessional course on tele-mental health in rural contexts. Analyzed qualitative data from interprofessional course material to address professional stereotypes. Drafted manuscripts for scientific publication.

Graduate Research Assistantship Summer 2019

Supervisor: Dr. Melissa Reitmeier
Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data from an exploratory study regarding multidisciplinary attitudes toward social work. Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data from study comparing MSW and BSW student educational outcomes from SBIRT training. Drafted manuscripts for scientific publication.

Graduate Research Assistantship 2018-2020

Supervisor: Dr. Teri Browne
Assisted in data collection, data management, and data analysis in scientific research. Co-authored manuscripts and scientific abstracts for publication.

Laboratory Technician 2010-2011

Supervisor: Dr. Elizabeth Head
Performed daily cognitive and behavioral testing on canine subjects to collect data on learning and memory function. Collected and processed blood and brain tissue samples. Aided in veterinary assisting and animal husbandry tasks as needed.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Bethel, S. R. (2024). Clinician-scientists in health social work. *Health and Social Work*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlad031>

- Cooper, Z., Reitmeier, M., & **Bethel, S. R.** (2022) Health professionals' attitudes on integrated care and social work practice. *Social Work in Health Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2022.2104984>
- Browne, T., McKinney, S., Duck, L., Baliko, B., Blake, E., **Bethel, S. R.**, & Christopher, R. L. (2021) An academic-community interprofessional telehealth online training partnership: Impact on students, patients, and providers. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*.
- Bethel, S.R.**, Browne, T., Forfong, D., Joseph, J., Collins Damron, K., Brereton, L. (2021). The state of patient-centered outcomes research in chronic kidney disease: Perspectives from patients, care partners, and researchers. *Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, 45(1), 20-29. https://www.kidney.org/sites/default/files/v45a_a2.pdf
- Browne, T., Blake, E.W., Baliko, B., Christopher, R.L., Iachini, A.L., Dunn, B.L, **Bethel, S.R.** & Ray, D. (2021). Health equity in interprofessional education. *The Clinical Teacher*, 00, 1-3. DOI:10.1111/tct.13330
- Browne, T., Forfang, D., **Bethel, S.R.**, Joseph, J., Brereton, L. Collins Damron, K. (2021). The National Kidney Foundation's Efforts to Improve and Increase Patient-Centered CKD Research. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, 77(4), 471-473. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272638620311550>
- Ceckowski, K. A., Salimbeni, M., Little, D., Jones, E. I., Browne, T., **Bethel, S. R.**, Yuan, C. (2019). Clinical social work end-of-life survey: Constructive work with patients and family members on advance directives and medical orders of life sustaining treatments. *Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, 43(2), 29-38. https://www.kidney.org/sites/default/files/v43b_a3.pdf
- Head, E., Murphey, H. L., Dowling, A. L., McCarty, K. L., **Bethel, S. R.**, Nitz, J. A., Pleiss, M., Vanrooyen, J., Grossheim, M., Smiley, J. R., Murphy, M. P., Beckett, T. L., Pagani, D., Bresch, F., & Hendrix, C. (2012). A combination cocktail improves spatial attention in a canine model of human aging and Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 32, 1029-1042. doi: 10.3233/JAD-2012-120937

Book Chapters

- Brown, T. & **Bethel, S.R.** (2022). Psychosocial issues in nephrology nursing. In S. M. Bodin (Ed.) *Contemporary Nephrology Nursing, 4th edition*. Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses Association.

Media

- Bethel, S. R.** (2011, November 29). The time for marriage equality is now. St. Louis Post Dispatch. Retrieved from: http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letters-to-the-editor/the-time-for-marriage-equality-is-now/article_Oeda10d0-1ad9-11e1-9dee-0019bb30f31a.html

In Progress

- Bethel, S. R.**, Tindall, J., & Brown, T. (Book chapter in preparation). Social work roles in health care settings. In S. Gehlert and T. Browne (Eds.), *Handbook of Health Social Work*.
- Tindall, J., Song, I. H., Soskolne, V., Zuojian, Z., Wong, J., **Bethel, S. R.**, & Browne, T. (Book chapter in preparation). Global health social work. In S. Gehlert and T. Browne (Eds.), *Handbook of Health Social Work*.

Bethel, S. R. (Manuscript in progress). Making the case for a health focused DSW program. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Bethel, S. R. (Manuscript in progress). A formative process evaluation of a large health system's social care programming.

Bethel, S. R. (Manuscript in progress). Challenges and opportunities for integrated social care at a large health system serving a predominantly rural state.

Bethel, S. R. (Technical report in progress). Integrated social care at Prisma Health.

Browne, T., **Bethel, S. R.**, Grace, B., Merighi, J., Sullivan, J. E., & Savage, T. E. (Manuscript in progress). Influencing federal health policy: Lessons from nephrology social work.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

Bethel, S. R., Browne, T., Wolfer, T., Morgan, C., Bennet, K. (2025, January 18). *A formative process evaluation of social care programming in a health care system serving a predominantly rural state*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Seattle, WA.

Bethel, S. R., Blake, E. W., Browne, T., & Baliko, B. (2024, November 21). *Bridging ethics and practice: Applying codes of ethics to patient scenarios in interprofessional education* [Poster Presentation]. Interprofessional Education Collaborative 2024 Virtual Poster Fair.

Englert, A.E., Reitmeier, M.C., Pitner, R.O., and **Bethel, S. R.** (2023, November). *Impact of an asynchronous mindfulness module on trainee clinical practice and wellness* [Poster Presentation]. Council on Social Work Education's 69th Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Cooper, Z., Reitmeier, M.C., & **Bethel, S. R.** (2023, January 11-15). *Healthcare professionals' attitudes toward social workers as integrated care providers* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research 27th Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Englert, A. R., **Bethel, S. R.**, Reitmeier, M. C., Pitner, R. O. (2022, August 4-6). *Assessing students' mastery of mindfulness and its learning outcomes in a human services education program*. American Psychological Association Convention. Minneapolis, MN.

Bethel, S. R., Englert, A. R., Reitmeier, M. C., Pitner, R. O., & LeCleur, E. (2022, January 12-16). *The competency rating scale: Assessing students' mastery of competencies during COVID-19* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
<https://secure.sswr.org/2022-conference-home/>

Bethel, S. R. (2020, April). Expanding the reach of interprofessional education through asynchronous instructional videos. Discover USC, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. *(event canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)*

Bethel, S. R., Browne, T., Grace, B., Merighi, J.R., Sullivan, J. & Savage, T. (2020, January). Influencing federal health Policy: Lessons from nephrology social work. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.

Browne, T., Merighi, J., Blake, E., Baliko, B., Iachini, A., Reitmeier, M., Christopher, R. & **Bethel, S.** (2019, November). Addressing stereotypes about public health social workers through interprofessional education. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Bethel, S. R., Browne, T., Grace, B., Merighi, J. R., Sullivan, J. E., & Savage, T. E. (2019, April). Influencing federal health policy: Lessons from nephrology social work. Discover USC, University of South Carolina, April 2019.

Dowling, A. L. S., Murphey, H. L., McCarty, K. L., Nitz, J. A., **Bethel, S. R.,** Kercksmar, J.A., Blalock, S., Beckett, T., Pleiss, M., Vanrooyen, J., Smiley, J. R., Murphy, M. P., Pagani, D., Bresch, F., Hendrix C., Head, E. (2012, July). Spatial attention is improved in aged canines treated with a medical food cocktail. Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Bethel, S. R., Holzhauer, J. L., Constantino, J. N., Spiegel, T. E., & Hu, X. R. (2012, April). The child and family traumatic stress intervention: preliminary outcomes from a new secondary prevention intervention. Research Without Walls, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis.

Head, E., Murphey, H. L., Dowling, A. L. S., McCarty, K. L., Nitz, J. A., **Bethel, S. R.,** Kercksmar, J. A., Blalock, S., Bresch, F., & Hendrix, C. (2011, November). A medical food cocktail improves spatial attention in a canine model of human aging and Alzheimer's disease. Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Washington, DC.

Invited Presentations

Bethel, S. R. (2025, February 19). Interviewing techniques for community health workers. [Community Health Worker Training Program]. Center for Continuing Education, University of South Alabama. Mobile, AL.

Bethel, S. R. (2023, May 18). *Integrating health and social care: What every social worker needs to know* [Continuing Education Series]. National Association of Social Workers, South Carolina Chapter. Columbia, SC.

Bethel, S. R. (2023, February 14). *Concepts from cognitive behavior therapy and their relevance to social work in health care settings* [Continuing Education Series]. Prisma Health – Midlands. Columbia, SC.

Bethel, S. R. (2022, August 9). *Current trends in social needs care integration into the delivery of health care services* [Continuing Education Series]. Prisma Health – Midlands. Columbia, SC.

Bethel, S. R. & Porell, L. (2022, January 26). *Social work licensure and supervision: A presentation to hospital care management shared governance council* [Presentation to departmental leadership]. Prisma Health – Midlands. Columbia, SC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Indicates I designed or completed a major redesign of course

University of South Alabama

Graduate:

Health Services Research and Program Evaluation Methods*

Undergraduate:

Power, Privilege, and Oppression*

Generalist Practice 1

Social Work in Health Care*

University of South Carolina

Graduate:

Transforming Health Care for the Future (Instructional Facilitator)

Advanced Interventions for Social Work Practice: Health and Mental Health (Teaching Assistant)

Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice: Health and Mental Health (Teaching Assistant)

Evaluation of Social Work Practice (Guest Lecturer)

Undergraduate:

Diversity and Social Justice in Contemporary Society (Instructor of Record)

Survey of Developmental Psychology (Guest Lecturer)

Prevention of Psychological Problems in Children and At-Risk Youth (Guest Lecturer)

Washington University in St. Louis

Graduate:

Transdisciplinary Problem Solving: Criminal Justice Involved Adults: Practice and Policy Interventions
(Adjunct Instructor)

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Social Worker

2023-2024

Prisma Health Neurology- Midlands

Provided professional social work services on a multidisciplinary treatment team providing care to patients and their family members in the Huntington's Disease clinic at Prisma Health-Midlands. In partnership with the USC School of Medicine Department of Neurology, this clinic is designated as Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence by the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

- Social Work Hospital Care Manager 2020-2024
Prisma Health—Midlands, Columbia, SC
Completed comprehensive psychosocial assessments to identify, stratify, and mitigate risks to timely and safe discharge from the acute care setting. Assessed and intervened on patient mental, emotional, behavioral, and social health concerns, especially abuse and neglect situations.
- Child, Youth, and Family Therapist 2015-2018
Youth in Need, Inc., St. Louis, MO
Completed comprehensive psychosocial assessments of children and youth referred for services to assess both need and fit of agency services. Conducted individual, family, and group psychotherapy and counseling services for school- and office-based settings. Coordinated services with school personnel and outside providers to meet the needs of children and families.
- Mental Health Professional/Family Advocate 2013-2015
Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis
University of Missouri—St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Served children and families involved in the forensic process due to allegations of child maltreatment or witness to violent crime. Heavily utilized crisis intervention and advocacy skills for non-offending caregiver of alleged child victims. Provided psychoeducation regarding interprofessional team intervention and legal processes and performed case management services.
- Case Manager and Care Coordinator (MSW Concentration Practicum) 2012-2013
Trauma Response Program, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Acted as case manager and care coordinator for clients receiving mental health and psychiatric care from the program. Assisted in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, and provision of psychotherapy services.
- Social Work Intern (MSW Foundation Practicum) 2012
Parc Provence, St. Louis, MO
Performed daily brief cognitive assessments (PHQ-9 and MMSE) and progress notes on cognitively impaired older adults residing in an assisted living and skilled nursing facility to ensure residents were receiving the most appropriate level of care. Additional duties included managing a database of assessment scores, monitoring residents’ assessment scores over time, participating in care planning meetings, and facilitating support groups for residents and their families.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Social Work

- 2024-Present Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)
Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners, License #5861C
- 2016-Present Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
Missouri State Committee for Social Workers, License #2016040154
4000+ Hours of Supervised Experience

- 2018-2024 Licensed Independent Social Worker—Clinical Practice (LISW-CP)
South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners, License #12619
- 2013-2016 Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
Missouri State Committee for Social Workers, License #2013035402
- 2013-2016 Certified Social Worker (CSW)
Kentucky Board of Social Work, License # 6757

Other

- 2022-2024 Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider
American Heart Association
- 2017-2019 Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
American Red Cross, ID # GV3FQR
- 2015-2017 Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
American Red Cross, ID # GS1KZX

SERVICE

Editorial Board

- 2018-Present *Journal of Nephrology Social Work*

Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer

- Health and Social Work*

Program

- 2024-Present Advisor, Phi Alpha Honor Society, Pi Nu Chapter (USA)

Department

- 2024-Present Chair, Community Engagement Committee (USA)

College

- 2024-Present Member, Community Engagement Committee
- 2023 Panelist, admitted doctoral student orientation
- 2020 Panelist, admitted doctoral student orientation
- 2020 Panelist, prospective doctoral student open house
- 2019-2020 Student Representative, PhD Program Committee
- 2019 Participant, Safe Zones Program
- 2019 Participant, Green Zones Program
- 2018 Member, PhD Student Social Events Committee

University

- 2024-Present Member, Interprofessional Education Committee (USA)

2018-2024	Member, Interprofessional Education Committee (USC)
2019-2021	Member, Steering Committee, Institute for Healthcare Improvement USC Chapter
2019-2021	Social Work Liaison, Institute for Healthcare Improvement USC Chapter
2019	Participant, Green Zones Program
2019	Participant, Safe Zones Program
2019	Judge, Undergraduate Poster Presentations, Discover USC
2019	Panelist, Galen Health Fellows and Carolina Leadership Week
2014	Participant, Safe Zones Program (UMSL)
2013-2015	Ambassador, Wellness Program (UMSL)

Agencies

2023-Present	Member, Board of Directors, Yew Belong Community Services, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President of the Board (2024) - Vice President of the Board (2023)
2022	Peer Team Interviewer, Social Work Manager of Hospital Case Management (Prisma Health)
2021-2024	Member, Shared Governance Council (Prisma Health) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - co-chair, 2023-2024 - co-chair elect, 2022-2023 - member, subcommittee on Professional Development - member, subcommittee on Pediatric Psychosocial Assessment
2021-2023	Field Instructor (Prisma Health)
2021-2022	Member, Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (Prisma Health)
2016	Volunteer, Celebration of Youth (YIN)
2014-2015	Task Supervisor (of practicum students; CASGSL)
2013-2015	Member, Employee Evaluation Committee (CASGSL)
2013-2015	Member, Policies and Procedures Committee (CASGSL)

Community

2014	Member, Welcoming Spaces Network, St. Louis, MO
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TRAININGS & RESEARCH SKILLS

Research and Teaching Training

Fostering Proactive Learning Environments Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	2023
Teaching Towards Inclusive Excellence Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	2019
SHARPGrads University Libraries, University of South Carolina	2019

Research Skills

Qualitative methodology, especially Grounded Theory and case study approaches in health services research; survey research

Software competence: MAXQDA, SAS, SPSS

Professional Practice

Certificate of Completion: Cognitive Behavior Therapy Intensive Training Program
PESI, Inc. 2018

COMPETITIVE AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

University of South Alabama

Best Poster Award, 2024 IPEC Virtual Poster Fair 2024
Attendance Scholarship, SIREN 2025 National Research Meeting 2025
Mentee, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Mentoring Program 2024-2025

University of South Carolina

The Outstanding Achievement and Student Triumph (TOAST) Award 2020
Graduate Civic Scholars Program 2019-2020
Dean's Doctoral Fellowship 2018-2020

Washington University in St. Louis

William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship 2012-2013
Partial Tuition Remission 2011-2013

University of Kentucky

Certificate of Appreciation, Department of Sociology 2010
Nominee: A. Lee Coleman Award, Department of Sociology 2010
Nominee: Doris Wilkinson Award, Department of Sociology 2010
Inductee: Alpha Kappa Delta (The International Sociology Honors Society) 2010
Dean's List 2010
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship 2008-2010
Dean's List 2009
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship 2006-2007
Provost Scholarship, Kentucky Governor's Scholars 2006-2007

HONORS

Case Manager of the Year (Prisma Health) 2023
Field Instructor of the Year (Prisma Health) 2023
Nominee, Case Manager of the Year (Prisma Health) 2022
Nominee, Field Instructor of the Year (Prisma Health) 2022
Employee of the Month, August (Prisma Health) 2022
Kentucky Colonel, The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels 2007

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Sierra Gilstrap, Prisma Health—Midlands (MSW student, Winthrop University)	2022- 2024
Liliann Pineda, USC Capstone Scholars Program (MSW student, USC)	Spring 2023
Emma Hackworth, Prisma Health—Midlands (MSW student, USC)	Spring 2023
Megan McMillian Prisma Health—Midlands (MSW student, USC)	Fall 2022
Ryan Chait, Prisma Health—Midlands (MSW student, USC)	Spring 2022
Ellissa Small, Prisma Health—Midlands (MSW student, USC)	Fall 2021
Katlyn Wooten, Graduate Assistant, College of Social Work (MSW student, USC)	2019-2020
Katherine Ernstring, Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (MSW student, UMSL)	2014
Rosie Pandolfo, Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (MSW student, UMSL)	2013-2014
Jessica Daniels, Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (MSW student, UMSL)	2013-2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Coalition for Social Work in Health
LGBTQ Caucus of Social Work Students & Faculty
Society for Social Work and Research
National Association of Social Workers