

Jackie Markward, MS, LPC
Internship Program Director
Biographical Data

Jackie Markward is the Internship Program Director and Training Program Director for Ponessa Behavioral Health. She began this role in March 2023, though she has worked within the agency (previously T.W. Ponessa and Associates) since August 2010. Jackie is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Pennsylvania. She graduated with her Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University where she also obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She is an alumni member of Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology. Jackie has over 12 years experience working in the human services field with individuals of all ages. A majority of her experience has been working with children and adolescents with developmental delays and behavioral concerns. This includes a substantial amount of collaboration with community agencies and educational providers, as well as family members connected to her clients. She has also provided supervision and training to staff within, and outside of, Ponessa Behavioral Health.

Jackie began her journey in the human services field as a Therapeutic Staff Support in the Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (BHRS) department of Ponessa Behavioral Health in 2010. After obtaining her Master's Degree, she transitioned into the role of a Behavior Specialist Consultant and Mobile Therapist. She eventually found her passion as a Psychological Evaluator, where she had the opportunity to review, assess, and recommend treatment for a larger number of clients in the BHRS department. This program is now known as Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) with roles similar to the ones noted above. Jackie has conducted psychological evaluations in 5 of the 6 county offices of Ponessa Behavioral Health. Additionally, over the past 10 years, Jackie has provided trainings to the Therapeutic Staff Support in the area of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; trained new clinicians on the proper development of a Behavioral Treatment Plan; provided individual and group supervision for licensure to LPC/LCSW/LMFT candidates; provided individual IBHS supervision to Behavior Consultants and Mobile Therapists; and provided group supervision to Therapeutic Staff Support. She has also worked as an outpatient therapist with children, adolescents, and adults, and has had experience as an intake specialist. Jackie became part of the internship program as Undergraduate Internship Coordinator, followed by Graduate Internship Coordinator, between April 2021 until March 2023, while also coordinating the Training Program and Licensing Supervision Program at TWP. Outside of Ponessa Behavioral Health, Jackie worked as a camp counselor for Aaron's Acres, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for children with special needs.

Throughout her clinical journey, Jackie discovered her passion for working with children and adolescents. She has experience working with clients exhibiting a range of diagnoses, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, anxiety disorders, trauma disorders, and many more. She realized the importance of both clients and their families having advocates for appropriate mental health treatment, medical care, educational supports, and community involvement. She has collaborated with many schools, community agencies, medical professionals, and mental health professionals throughout her time in the human services field and found that the most rewarding part of her job was helping clients identify and obtain the support they deserve.