

## **MICHELLE WATERS-BUTLER, PsyD**

---

### **Michelle Waters-Butler Clinical Consulting**

**Los Angeles, CA** | *August 2025- present*

- Deliver individualized case management and coaching support to families and individuals, creating comprehensive, evidence-based service plans aligned with client goals.
- Lead care coordination efforts, provide crisis management, and continuously evaluate and refine treatment recommendations to support measurable progress.

### **Chief Operating Officer**

**Polaris Teen Center – Tarzana, CA** | *June 2014 – July 2025*

A distinguished residential treatment program for adolescents, respected for expertise and innovation in treating complex psychological, behavioral and interpersonal issues. via ethical, evidence-based care.

- Created the organization's mission, vision, and full program design, shaping Polaris into an internationally recognized treatment program.
- Directed business development and marketing strategies, resulting in \$60M revenue across private pay and insurance.
- Developed key referral relationships with treatment consultants, providers and IOP/PHP/Hospital Inpatient programs that established Polaris as a trusted brand in adolescent care.
- Authored all operational and safety policies, ensuring initial licensing and continued full compliance as a licensed Group Home Administrator with the California Department of Social Services.
- Secured initial Joint Commission accreditation, successfully leading multiple Joint Commission triennial accreditation surveys.
- Designed and oversaw all pre-admission clinical reviews and insurance coverage viability.
- Supervised the Clinical Director and guided the hiring, training and continual oversight of all therapists.
- Ensured foundational evidence and skills based therapeutic modalities were holistically utilized while also integrating the use of specialized, innovative modalities (Brainspotting, Somatic Experience, Creative Arts).
- Maintained zero sentinel events despite serving nearly 1,000 high-risk adolescents in a facility that used no restraints or seclusions. Oversaw staff training, competency evaluations, and creation, implementation and review of rigorous hazard and vulnerability assessments to ensure a safe environment of care.

## **Psychotherapist, Family Coaching**

**Los Angeles, CA** | *March 2010 – August 2014*

- Delivered Individual Therapy for The Hills Treatment Center (dual diagnosis adult residential program), Group Therapy at various residential and IOP programs ( Promises Treatment Center, The Canyon), and Parent Coaching for Hirschman Clinical Services.
- Developed treatment plans, coaching protocols, crisis management strategies for high risk populations focusing on recovery, codependency, and trauma for adult clients.

## **Aftercare Director**

**Promises Treatment Center – Malibu/West LA** | *March 2003 – January 2010*

- Created and implemented data collection systems and outcome surveys for thousands of clients and alumni.
  - Monitored and supported post-treatment clients, leading multiple weekly aftercare groups for both West LA and Malibu programs, providing relapse prevention support and care coordination for both centers.
  - Participated in CARF accreditation efforts, working closely with CEO, COO and Directors ensuring program quality and compliance.
- 

## **EDUCATION**

Michelle received her Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD) from Ryokan College in 2017 with her dissertation examining the *Treatment of Borderline Personality Organization in a Dual Diagnosis Setting*. She earned her master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Ryokan College and her undergraduate studies were in Communications and Behavioral Science at University of California, Santa Barbara and Ryokan College respectively.

---

## **NON-PROFIT**

- Event Committee, Hav-A-Sole Gala 2024 & 2025
- Member of the Board of Directors, My Friends Place, 2018-2020