

# **Tamela Crouch**

**Adjunct Lecturer Dept. of Children Youth and Families at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Social work expert, specializing in substance and behavioral addictive disorders

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## **Biography**

Tamela Crouch is an adjunct lecturer at the Virtual Academic Center, where she teaches a substance and behavioral addictive disorders course. She currently serves as a contracted service provider for Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc., offering counseling services to a diverse group of clients and families in Florida. For the past few years, she has also contracted with Olympia High School in Orlando to facilitate all groups sponsored through the Student Assistance and Family Empowerment office and provide support to the SAFE coordinator.

For the last 30 years, she has worked in a variety of social service organizations. She got her start working in adult probation in Charleston, West Virginia, for seven Supreme Court justices. After relocating to Orlando, she became a New Horizons Counselor for The Center for Drug Free Living. During her 21-year tenure with the center, she counseled high school students, implemented prevention and intervention programs for students with drug and alcohol issues, and supervised and trained graduate-level interns and counselors from the University of Central Florida. In addition, she was asked by the Orange County Public Schools' SAFE department to train new coordinators and counsel students who had been suspended. While working at the center, she also served as an adjunct instructor and faculty field liaison for the University of Central Florida School of Social Work, where she taught 25 undergraduate and graduate social work courses.

In 2009, OCPS recruited Crouch to work as a project success coordinator with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students federal grant. In this role, she provided individual, group and family counseling, as well as crisis-intervention services to students at two Title I middle schools. She developed programs to meet the needs of the students and families utilizing the SS/HS program and created and facilitated social-emotional counseling groups for children. She also offered professional development services to school staff who needed instruction on how to deal with disruptive students and assisted with the interventions to strengthen students' social, emotional and decision-making skills for positive impact toward academic achievement.

Crouch earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in social work, with a concentration in family counseling and a minor in psychology.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Health and Wellness, Writing and Editing, Research, Education/Learning, Mental Health Care

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Social Work, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Addictive Disorders

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