

Beverly D. Ward, MA, EdS, LPC

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mental health leader passionate about transforming lives by advancing the integration of evidence-based therapeutic modalities with faith-based approaches. Licensed Professional Counselor and group practice director with over 30 years of combined experience in counseling, clinical supervision, program development, and organizational leadership. Founder and Executive Director of Still Waters Counseling & Education Center, a thriving 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing faith-integrated counseling, internship opportunities, and community education initiatives. Dedicated to equipping future counselors through mentorship and the development of robust clinical training experiences. Devoted to offering innovative therapeutic approaches while expanding community awareness to improve access to holistic, faith-integrated mental health care.

LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Invited Conference Speaker:** (November 2025), Alabama Counseling Association Annual Conference. Presenting “*Counseling Without Borders: The Future of Teletherapy*”.
- **Founder and Executive Director:** Still Waters Counseling & Education Center (Founded 2021; transitioned to 501(c)(3) in March, 2025), Founded and scaled SWCEC into a thriving nonprofit, leading strategic growth and operational transformation. Established partnerships with KCG CARES, The Lovelady Center, and Hope Inspired Ministries to expand access to faith-integrated care.
- **Clinical Supervisor and Mentor:** (2024–Present) Provide supervision for Master’s-level interns from Colorado Christian University and Regent University.
- **Featured Speaker:** (2023), City of Center Point Mental Health Awareness Day. Delivered “*Mental Health Misconceptions*” talk to promote community awareness.
- **Featured Mental Health Writer & Podcast Guest:** (2021–Present), Published in Birmingham Christian Family Magazine and SWCEC’s blog, guest on local podcasts, invited guest on WDJC Radio during Mental Health Awareness Month 2022.
- **State Leadership Team Member:** Moms in Prayer International (2017–2023), Supported Alabama’s State Coordinator in equipping prayer group leaders statewide.
- **Grant Writer & Program Developer:** (1998–2002), Secured \$97,500 for school-based mental health and resilience programs.
- **Author, UAB Community Counseling Clinic Handbook:** (1998), Designed and authored the clinic’s first handbook as an Ed.S. project under Dr. Patti Sheets; awarded 3 credit hours.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant:** University of Alabama at Birmingham (1997–1999), Co-taught Master’s-level counseling internship courses and supported student learning and supervision while completing the Ed.S. program.
- **Master’s Program Admissions Committee Member:** (1997–1998), Interviewed prospective students for UAB’s Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.
- **Executive Board Member:** Chi Sigma Iota (Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International) (1996–1999), Served as Secretary and Treasurer; collaborated on initiatives and coordinated and presented at professional development events.

EDUCATION

Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA

- Doctoral Student, PhD in Counseling & Psychological Studies (October 2025–present)

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

- Education Specialist in Counseling (1999)
- Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling (1997)
 - Awarded the Glenda Elliott Scholarship for Professional Excellence to pursue advanced Ed.S. studies.
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Biology Minor (1994)
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychometry (2013)

Birmingham Theological Seminary, Birmingham, AL

- Master's-track coursework in Biblical Counseling:
 - Introduction to Biblical Counseling (2016)
 - Biblical Counseling and The Law (2022)
- Graduate GPA: 4.0/4.0

Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Philadelphia, PA

Completed one year of study in the Post-Graduate CBT Certification Program (2021)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Licensed Professional Counselor (1998–Present), Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling
- Certified Counselor Associate (superseded), Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling
- Certified Psychometrist (lapsed), Alabama State Department of Education
- Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (lapsed), Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Christian Association for Psychological Studies
- American Association of Christian Counselors
- American Counseling Association
- Alabama Counseling Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–Present: Founder, Therapist, Executive Director, and Board President, Still Waters Counseling and Education Center.

- Founded SWCEC in 2021 as an LLC and transitioned it into a thriving 501(c)(3) nonprofit in March 2025.
- Oversee clinical, operational, and financial functions for a team of 10 therapists and interns.
- Maintain a part-time clinical caseload in addition to administrative and leadership responsibilities.
- Lead outreach strategy and partnership development to expand access to faith-integrated mental health services.
- Build collaborations with community organizations and ministries to support SWCEC’s mission.
- Formed and developed SWCEC’s Board of Directors and Advisory Council, recruiting members and establishing governance structures to support the organization’s mission.

2002–2021: Family-Focused Season and Continued Professional and Theological Development.

Invested 19 years raising family while intentionally pursuing personal, spiritual, and professional growth. During this season, engaged in theological study, leadership development, and continued clinical training, seeking God’s direction and preparing for an eventual return to professional counseling practice.

- Completed a refresher of *Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders* at UAB (2021) to ensure up-to-date competency with current DSM guidelines before returning to clinical work.
- Completed one year of study in the Post-Graduate CBT Certification Program at the Beck Institute (2020) in preparation for return to clinical work and launch of SWCEC.
- Completed Biblical Counseling coursework at BTS (2016) and pursued extensive theological study through lay classes at Dallas Theological Seminary and Samford University’s Beason Divinity School, Lifeway Bible studies, Community Bible Study, church small groups, and church leadership involvement.
- Served on the Alabama State Leadership Team for Moms in Prayer International (2017 – 2023).
- Earned a Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychometry at UAB (2013), completing an internship with Mountain Brook Schools (2013) and serving as a School Psychometrist in Jefferson County Schools (2014), before resuming an extended sabbatical to focus on family priorities.
- Provided volunteer counseling services for various community programs

1994–2002: Earlier Mental Health Roles

School-Based Counselor and Consultant, Five Shelby County High Schools (2000–2002)

- Served across five high schools delivering individual counseling, group interventions, and consultation for diverse student populations.
- Designed and led a summer program addressing career, emotional, and social needs; secured grant funding to support the program.
- Collaborated with administrators, educators, and families to integrate evidence-based interventions into student success plans.

High School Counselor, Moody High School (1999–2000)

- Delivered comprehensive high-school counseling program, including individual and group counseling, college/career exploration, and personal-social support.
- Coordinated interventions and individualized success plans for at-risk students.
- Provided disaster-related grief counseling following a traumatic incident at a nearby elementary school.
- Partnered with faculty and community professionals to strengthen crisis-response systems.

Elementary School Counselor, Brookville Elementary School (1998–1999)

- Provided individual and group counseling for K–6 students addressing psychosocial needs.
- Designed, developed, and implemented a summer transition program supporting students moving from elementary to middle school, focusing on social and emotional skills to ease adjustment and build resilience.
- Wrote for and secured grant funding from three separate sources to fully support a school-wide improvement program, with major funding provided through a competitive \$75,000 CVS Pharmacy grant.
- Collaborated with teachers, administrators, and parents to strengthen interventions and improve student outcomes.

Counselor, Easter Seals of Birmingham (1996–1998)

- Provided individual counseling and case management for adults in a vocational rehabilitation program.
- Developed individualized treatment plans, delivered counseling services, facilitated therapeutic interventions, and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to maximize client success.
- Cross-trained in the Evaluation department, gaining experience in testing and assessment

Job Placement Instructor, Alabama Goodwill Industries (1995–1996)

- Designed and led job-readiness training programs for adults with disabilities facing employment barriers.
- Delivered coaching on résumé development, interview preparation, workplace communication, and job retention strategies.
- Partnered with local employers and vocational rehabilitation services to facilitate successful job placements.

Crisis Response Consultant, Bradford Parkside (1994–1995)

- Delivered on-call crisis counseling and intervention services for individuals and families experiencing acute psychiatric and substance use emergencies.
- Conducted rapid assessments, collaborated with licensed therapists, and facilitated referrals to detox programs, inpatient psychiatric care, and outpatient treatment services.
- Built foundational experience in crisis stabilization, de-escalation techniques, and family support strategies.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST