

Welcome to 2021!

What better way to start a new year than to take stock of the previous year's achievements and challenges?

Parkside Family Counseling completed its first full accreditation from the Council for Accreditation (COA) in 2015 which meant our first renewal was in 2019. I am very proud to share with you that Parkside not only managed to pass with flying colors but received an elite score which earned us an expedited accreditation without any required corrections. This was a very significant achievement and I am so very proud of all our staff, our Advisory Board, our community partners, clients, practicum students, and supporters.

These are the components (780+ standards!) reviewed by COA:

- Family Preservation and Stabilization Services
- Services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders
- Counseling, Support, and Education
- For-Profit Administration and Financial Management
- Ethical Practice
- Human Resources Management
- Performance and Quality Improvement
- Risk Prevention and Management
- Administration and Service Environments
- Client Rights
- Training and Supervision

I would also like to introduce to you a Parkside program which began several years ago but has really come into its own as a jewel in the community: The Healing Project. The Healing Project is a group launched by members of our Sexual Harm Survivors Group who wanted a way to reach out to the community and provide education on assault and trauma survivorship to those who may need more information and support on how to help survivors. This group of amazing girls and women, and their primary therapist, Mike Mohler, LMSW, has spoken to teachers, law enforcement groups, students in the helping professions, and others to help bridge the gap between wanting to help and true understanding of what a survivor endures – as well as their path to healing. Their willingness to share their experiences and their recovery path from traumatic experiences is vital for those who wish to be their allies. We are very proud of their program and if you have a chance to attend, we encourage you. Presentations that are open to the public will be announced on our Facebook page.

It is a pleasure to launch our 23<sup>rd</sup> year of practice in Lenawee County. If we can be a partner with you in the coming year to provide assistance to our community members, please reach out. Collaboration has always been a key to a happy, healthy, productive Lenawee!

Respectfully,

*Therese*

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