

MY STORY: CAREERS IN CARING



LAUREN PRICE, LCSW-C

Mrs. Price is a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in the field of aging for 15 years. She also teaches AGNG 200 for the Erickson School of Aging Studies as an Adjunct Professor. You can contact her at Laprice@umbc.edu.

1. Describe your current role at Counterpoint Health Services.
As a licensed clinical social worker, I provide mental health services to individuals living in assisted living and nursing homes. I provide psychotherapy to individuals who are dealing with various issues including adjusting to their new home and coping with the progression of aging. I also provide non-pharmacological behavioral interventions to assist staff when working with residents who have advanced dementia.
2. How did you become interested in the field of aging?
I didn't know I was interested in the field of aging until I had an internship in an Adult Medical Daycare Center. This was not my first choice for an internship and when the internship I had originally arranged fell through, the Adult Daycare Center was my only option. I had no idea it would become my career focus!
3. What are your motivations/ inspirations for being in a career in aging?
I love hearing the stories of older individuals. You can learn so much! I also feel that it is important to help make our older adults lives as meaningful as possible.
4. Tell us something about your career that makes you feel especially proud.
I feel proud when I can help someone navigate a challenge in their lives. I always have done a lot of work with adult children who are caring for a parent with dementia. I can only imagine how painful it is to see your parent deteriorated cognitively before your eyes. If I can help someone get through that, I feel proud.
5. What is the number one thing you look forward to every day at work?
Talking to the older adults. No work day is the same!
6. What is your most memorable/rewarding research/patient/ experience working in your current role?
I can still remember when I had to comfort the family of a resident who had just died. The resident was in the apartment with her family. I had very little experience with death and remembered being scared. Later, I realized what a privilege it was to share that moment with that family.
7. Do you have any tips for individuals considering entering the field of aging?
Don't be scared! It is interesting and rewarding to be able to work with someone in the last stage of their lives.
8. What is one thing most people might not know about aging services?
Only a small proportion of our aging population lives in an assisted living or nursing homes. Many people age well and are able to continue to live very meaningful and engaging lives.