

April Vandagriff

The Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 335.6462

Qualifications: I am a Christian counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern in the state of Texas. I completed a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas on December 10, 2010.

Experience: During my graduate degree training I co-led a children's group and also conducted individual therapy with women, children and adolescents. My work with children and adolescents allowed me to utilize play and art therapy techniques. I also have many years of experience working with children and families as a preschool teacher and through my volunteer work in children's ministry.

Nature of Counseling: I approach counseling from a biblical perspective and a family systems approach, utilizing techniques from the cognitive-behavioral approach. These techniques include, but are not limited to active listening, assessments, homework, psycho-educational discussions, reading assignments, prayer and therapeutic confrontation. This approach focuses on thoughts and behaviors, and sees emotions as the result or consequences of our thoughts. The purpose of counseling is to reach specific goals for individual and relational growth, which are mutually agreed upon by both the client and the counselor. Goals should be consistent with biblical truth.

Informed Consent

Supervision: Since I am a Licensed Professional Counselor-Intern, I am under supervision and there will be times when I discuss our session material with my supervisor. In the future, there will be times when my supervision requires me to audio or video tape our sessions. If this occurs, you will be notified beforehand. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my supervisor Mary Ring, MAMFC, LPC-S, RPT-S at 713-335-6466. If you have any questions regarding this supervision information, please feel free to ask. Please sign and date both copies of this form if you agree to the terms stated herein.

Counseling Relationship: During the time that we work together, we will meet at a mutually agreed upon frequency for approximately 45 minute sessions. Although our sessions take place in a church setting, and we may go to church together, it is important to remember that our relationship is professional and not social. Our contact will be limited to counseling sessions that you arrange through the counseling center. The policy of the counseling center and professional counselor ethics prohibit the receipt of gifts valued more than \$50 by counselors from clients.

Effects of Counseling: At any time, you may initiate a discussion of possible positive or negative effects of entering not entering, continuing, or discontinuing counseling. While benefits are expected from counseling, specific results are not guaranteed. Counseling is a personal exploration and may lead to major changes in your life perspectives and decisions. These changes may affect significant relationships, your job, and/or your understanding of yourself. Some of these changes could be temporarily distressing. The exact nature of these changes cannot be predicted. Together we will work to achieve the best possible results for you.

Client Rights and Responsibilities: Some clients need only a few counseling sessions to achieve their goals; others may require months or even years of counseling. As a client, you are in complete control and may end our counseling relationship at any time, though I do ask that you participate in a termination session. You also have the right to refuse or discuss modification of any of my counseling techniques or suggestions that you believe might be harmful. You agree to come to counseling free from the influences of drugs including alcohol. I assure you that my services will be rendered in a professional manner consistent with accepted legal and ethical standards. If at any time for any reason you are dissatisfied with my services, please let me know. If I am not able to resolve your concerns, you may refer your complaints to Adam Mason, MAMFC, LPC-S, Minister of Counseling at 713-335-6460; the Counseling Center oversight committee (names and phone numbers will be made available upon request); or the Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors at 512-834-6658.

Referrals: Should you and/or I believe that a referral is needed, I will provide some alternatives including programs and/or people who may be available to assist you. A verbal exploration of alternatives to counseling will also be made available upon request. You will be responsible for contacting and evaluating those referrals and/or alternatives.

Fees: Counseling Services will be provided to members of Houston's First Baptist Church and students of First Baptist Academy at the reduced rate of \$40 per session. For non-members, services will be provided for a fee of \$80 per session. If the fee represents a hardship to you, please let me know, as full and partial scholarships are available. The fee for each session will be due at, and must be paid by, the conclusion of each session. Money orders or personal checks made out to "HFBC" are acceptable for payment. The Counseling Ministry of HFBC does not file for reimbursement from health insurance companies. A separate fee will be charged for tests, reports, or expert testimony.

Cancellation: As the demand for appointments often exceeds the availability, please notify the Counseling Ministry receptionist or staff at 713-335.6462 as soon as possible if you discover that you will not be able to keep an appointment. A late cancellation fee will be charged if less than 24 hour notice is given. Exceptions will be given for emergencies.

Records and Confidentiality: All of our communication becomes part of the clinical record. Records are the property of the Counseling Ministry. Adult client records are disposed of seven years after the file is closed. Minor client records are disposed of seven years after the client's 18th birthday. Most of our communication is confidential, but the following limitations and expectations do exist: a) I determine that you are a danger to yourself or someone else; b) you disclose abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child, elderly, or disabled person; c) you disclose sexual contact with another mental health professional or clergy; d) I am ordered by the court to disclose information if d) I am ordered by the court to disclose information; e) you direct me to release your records; or f) I am otherwise required by law to disclose information. If I see you in public, including in the church, I will protect your confidentiality by acknowledging you only if you approach me first.

In the case of marriage or family counseling, I will keep confidential (within the limits cited above) anything you disclose to me without your family member's knowledge. However, I encourage open communication between family members and I reserve the right to terminate our counseling relationship if I judge the secret to be detrimental to therapeutic progress.

Emergency Contact: The limited resources of the Counseling Ministry prevent us from providing crisis intervention or intensive counseling. If you have a crisis after office hours, please contact your physician; call the crisis hotline at 713-228-1505; or go to the nearest hospital emergency room. If a hospitalization occurs, please contact this office as soon as possible to coordinate your care. The HFBC on call minister can be reached by pager at 713-949-3137. Please note: the on call minister keeps track of hospitalizations only. He is a minister, not a trained counselor.

Acknowledgment and Consent: By your signature below, you are indicating that you read and understood this statement, or that any questions you had about this statement were answered to your satisfaction, and that you were furnished a copy of this statement. By my signature, I verify the accuracy of this statement and acknowledge my commitment to conform to its specifications.

Client Signature

Counselor's Signature

Date

Date