



Oyinlola Oluwagbemiga

Senior Medical Social Worker,
University College Hospital,
Ibadan, Nigeria



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Oyinlola's passion for improving the lives of vulnerable populations in Nigeria extends far beyond the walls of the University College Hospital where he works as a Senior Medical Social Worker and carries out clinical social services, training and research. He has been actively involved in the delivery of social services for vulnerable populations in Nigeria since 2009, working with organizations in roles related to health, HIV/AIDS, gerontology, mental health and youth cancer. He has approximately eight years of professional experience as a Registered Medical Social Worker in Nigeria.

In his current role, he is responsible for treatment and discharge of elderly patients including socioeconomic assessments and family therapy. He also provides clinical social services at the geriatric center, working alongside psychiatrists, to address psychosocial issues affecting the care of patients with dementia. In this role, he is also currently participating in a multidisciplinary study sponsored by the geriatric center on knowledge, attitudes and perception of the elderly on end of life care in Ibadan.

Oyinlola is an active member of numerous organizations promoting social service work, development and strengthening mental health services in Nigeria including: the Nigerian Association of Social Workers (NASoW), Association of Medical Social Workers of Nigeria (AMSOWN), the Oxford Institute of Population and Aging African Gerontological Society (AGES) Nigeria, African Research on Ageing Network (AFRAN), and Ageing Research and Development (ASARD) Nigeria. He also acts as a Board Member of the Human Service in Information Technology Association (HSITa) at the University of Texas. He also teaches social work students at the University College Hospital on clinical placement and medical students on social psychiatric techniques.

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What he loves the most about his work

Oyinlola enjoys the broad range of his work, including ensuring that patients recover well by addressing psychosocial issues that accompany all forms of health conditions. He also enjoys assisting family members in coping with the burden of care, working in multidisciplinary teams, teaching medical and social work students, and watching the diverse cohorts of students grow into their practice with equally diverse clients through cultivating cultural humility.

The skills necessary to do this work well

Because of his passion to serve others, he obtained degrees in Social Work and Community Development and a Master's of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Ibadan. Oyinlola asserts that while social work is a service to humanity, it must be grounded in skill development and certain qualifications. While studying social work, his internships included intensive work in a children's home. For his thesis, he researched the effects of social support systems on the psychosocial wellbeing of the elderly in old people's homes in Ibadan. In addition to his degrees, he has participated in ongoing professional development, such as trainings through USAID on development and programing. He also points to the importance of being willing to collaborate with other healthcare professionals, strong communication skills, and being an effective mentor and supervisor. As a social worker, Oyinlola emphasizes the importance of understanding the diversity of patients and clients. He also maintains that self-care and appreciation are important to succeeding in this work.

The impact of this work

Oyinlola has seen improved coping skills of caregivers in working with loved ones with chronic health conditions. Working with patients and relatives has improved their level of knowledge around the diagnosis, reconciled family differences through family therapy and developed skills for managing stress arising from chronic conditions. He has also helped advocate for patient rights in the workplace through educating patients' supervisors.



**“Improving the workforce.
Improving lives.”**

Who is the social service workforce?

The social service workforce is defined as being comprised of a variety of workers - government and non-government, paid and unpaid - who contribute to the care, support, promotion of rights and empowerment of vulnerable populations served by the social service system.

What is Social Service Workforce Week?

During this week, advocates will bring attention to and build support for the social service workforce as well as raise awareness about promising workforce strengthening efforts supported by stakeholders around the world. Organized around daily themes, the week is an opportunity for Alliance members and the public to engage in discussions and exchange ideas. Daily blogs, worker profiles and resources provide tools and innovative approaches for strengthening the workforce.

What is the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance?

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance works toward a world where a well-planned, well-trained and well-supported social service workforce effectively delivers promising practices that improve the lives of vulnerable populations. Launched in June 2013, the mission of the Alliance is to promote the knowledge and evidence, resources and tools and political will and action needed to address key social service workforce challenges, especially within low- to middle-income countries.

The Alliance is funded by PEPFAR/USAID and the GHR Foundation. The Tides Center acts as host and fiscal sponsor of the Alliance.

Learn More

Learn more about **Oyinlola** and other social service workers! Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #SSWeek, on our Facebook page and on the discussion boards on our website at www.socialserviceworkforce.org.