

# **John Puls, LCSW, MCAP**

Licensed Psychotherapist

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Boca Raton, FL 33431

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(708) 655-1863

## **Professional Experience**

### **Puls Therapeutic Solutions, LLC - January 2017 - Present**

Boca Raton, FL

- Individual, family, and substance abuse counseling
- Supervision of 6 psychotherapists and 12 case managers within my practice
- Crisis interventions for substance use disorder and severe mental illness
- Substance use disorder and mental health forensic work

### **Adjunct Professor - January 2020 - Present**

**Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work - Boca Raton, FL**

- Teaching substance use disorder elective
- Social work practice theories
- Following ASWE social work guidelines

### **Clinical Director of Case Management - February 2018 to January 2021**

**Guardian Recovery Network - Delray Beach, FL**

- Weekly and ongoing supervision for case managers
- Coordinating with families and primary treatment providers
- Linkage to local community resources
- Crisis intervention and referrals to higher levels of care as needed

### **Primary Therapist - June 2017 to January 2021**

**Guardian Recovery Network (PHP/IOP) - Delray Beach, FL**

- Individual and group psychotherapy
- Development and implementation of evidenced based treatment plans
- ASAM assessments for appropriate levels of care
- Substance abuse psychoeducation
- Crisis intervention
- Family therapy

### **Clinical Therapist - June 2017 to January 2018**

**Boca Detox Center - Boca Raton, FL**

- Crisis intervention and assessments
- Substance abuse psychoeducation
- Group therapy
- Family interventions

### **MSW Intern - September 2016 to May 2017**

**Caron Renaissance - Boca Raton, FL**

- Work directly with primary and family therapists
- Complete initial clinical assessments
- Facilitate and co-facilitate process groups and various speciality groups
- Develop individualized treatment plans for patients

**Director of Recovery Services** - January 2016 to November 2017  
**Recovery Management Services, LLC** - Boca Raton, FL

- Supervise team of peer recovery support specialists
- Vocational skills training
- Assist in crisis management
- Coordination with families and primary treatment team

**Social Work intern** - May 2016 to August 2016  
**South County Mental Health Center, Inc.** - Delray Beach, FL

- Completed client intakes upon admission to the crisis stabilization unit
- Attending court proceedings related to baker acts
- Linkage to resources for indigent population
- Supportive counseling
- Facilitation of psychoeducation groups
- Discharge planning
- Suicide risk assessments and safety planning

**Director of Operations** - January 2014 - January 2016  
**Arch to Freedom** - Boynton Beach, FL

- Complete operational oversight for FARR certified 23 bed sober living
- Management of 3 individual house managers
- Overseeing intakes and discharges into sober living facility
- Crisis intervention and referral services

**Behavioral Health Technician** - January 2013 - February 2014  
**Into Action Treatment Center** - Boynton Beach, FL

- Administering urine analysis for patients
- Transportation to appointments
- Facilitating 12 step support groups

## **Education and Training**

**Florida Atlantic University** - Graduated Summer 2016  
 Boca Raton, Florida  
**Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) 4.0 GPA**

- Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- Treasure for the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society

**Florida Atlantic University** - Graduated Spring 2017  
 Boca Raton Florida  
**Master of Social Work (MSW) 4.0 GPA**

- Graduate Pathways Scholarship recipient

### **Awards**

- 2023 Alumnus of the Year for Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work
- Sierra Tuscan's "Hope Recognition" award 2024 honoring a professional who has contributed to prevention and education of substance use disorder
- Winner of the Heart of Social Work Essay Contest

### **License and Certifications**

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker SW 16498
- MCAP #100479 (Master's Certified Addiction Professional)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy certificate

### **Professional and Corporate Affiliations**

- Member of NASW (National Association of Social Workers)
- Member of the National Organization of Forensic Social Workers
- Palm Beach Mental Health Counselors Association
- Broward County Mental Health Counselors Association

### **Professional Organization Presentations and Workshops**

- Puls, J., Et al. (2020, January 21). *Spanish River High School Panel Discussion - Substance Use Issues*. Panel discussion for Spanish River High School Parents in coordination with Jewish Family Services.
- Puls, J. (2021, March 10). *Integrating Families Into the Treatment Process*. Community training for local professionals in coordination with Guardardian Recovery Network.
- Puls, J. (2021, June 11). *The Power of Language in Substance Use*. Webinar continuing education presentation for TPN Health.
- Puls, J., Et al. (2022, January 25). *Fentanyl Awareness and Harm Reduction*. Webinar panel discussion for families in coordination with B'Nai Torah Congregation and Jewish Family Services.
- Puls, J. (2022, April 22). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Current Research. Recovery Strategies*. Webinar Presentation for the Mental Health Counselors Association of Palm Beach.
- Puls, J. Et al. (2022, November 8). *The Marchman Act: Planning for Individuals and Families Struggling with Substance Use*. Webinar panel discussion for Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work
- Puls, J. (2023, June 17). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Workshop presented for the National Association of Social Workers Florida 2023 conference.
- Puls, J. (2023, September 15). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Webinar presented for the South Florida Christian Counselors Association.
- Puls, J. (2023, October 20). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Webinar presented for the Suncoast Mental Health Counselors Association.
- Puls, J. (2023, October 30). *Understanding the Opioid Crisis and Harm Reduction*. Workshop for Lynn University Psychology Students.
- Puls, J., Et al. (2023, November 3). *Client Acquisition From a Business and Clinical Perspective*. Panel Discussion for the East Coast Symposium on Addictive Disorders.
- Puls, J. (2023, November 17). *Assertive Community Treatment: A Paradigm Shift in Treating Severe Mental Illness*. Workshop presentation for the Mental Health Counselors Association of Palm

Beach.

- Puls, J. (2023, December 8). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Webinar presentation for the National Board of Forensic Evaluators.
- Puls, J. (2024, March 22). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Workshop presented for the Palm Beach Florida Psychological Association.
- Puls, J. Et al. (2024, May 31). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis and Clinical Strategies*. Panel discussion for the South Florida Professional Liaison Association.
- Puls, J. (2024, June 19). *Navigating the Opioid Crisis: A Comprehensive Review of Harm Reduction Psychotherapy*. Workshop presentation for the National Association of Social Workers Florida Conference.
- Puls, J. (2024, June 20). *Assertive Community Treatment: A Paradigm Shift in Treating Severe Mental Illness*. Workshop presentation for the National Association of Social Workers Florida Conference.
- Puls, J. (2024, July 30). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Workshop presentation for CE You! Summer Conference.
- Puls, J. (2024, August 2). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. NAMI Palm Beach County general meeting presentation.
- Puls, J. (2024, September 14). *Assertive Community Treatment: A Paradigm Shift in Treating Severe Mental Illness*. Virtual CE training for the 2024 Global Exchange Conference
- Puls, J. (2024, September 20). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Implications for Crisis Intervention*. Workshop for the Wisconsin Crisis Intervention Conference
- Puls, J. (2024, October 1). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. Webinar for the Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition.
- Puls, J. (2025, January 25). *Assertive Community Treatment: A Paradigm Shift in Treating Severe Mental Illness*. CE training for the Broward County Mental Health Counselors Association
- Puls, J. (2025, January 31). *Navigating the Baker Act: History, Ethics, and Practical Insights*. CE training for the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association annual conference
- Puls, J. (2025, February 21). *Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use*. CE training at Futures Recovery Healthcare

### **Media appearances and interviews**

- Puls, J. (2023, January 27) *Assertive Community Engagement and Mental Health*. Podcast interview on The Good Counsel Podcast with Eric Bricker, LMHC
- Puls, J. (2024, March 16) *Medical Cannabis*. News expert segment with the Mental Health Television Network (MHTV)
- Puls, J. (2024, April 19) *Cannabis Legalization*. News expert segment with NTD News
- Puls, J. (2024, May 6) *Homelessness in Light of Supreme Court Case*. News expert segment with NTD News
- Puls, J. (2024 June 18) *Path to Recovery: Navigating Inpatient Treatment with John Puls*. News expert segment with the Mental Health Television Network (MHTV)
- Puls, J. (2024 July 3) *\$50 Billion in Opioid Settlement Now Being Distributed, Addiction Specialist Analyzes the Best Use for the Money*. News segment with NTD News.
- Puls, J. (2024, September 2) *Ketamine: Risks and Use in Mental Health Treatment*. Expert news segment for NTD News.

### **Litigation History**

- Qualified expert witness testimony and evaluation for marchman act cases in Florida
- Standard of care in addiction treatment/wrongful death cases for plaintiff and defense counsel
- Suicide standard of care expert witness

- Mitigation specialist for cases involving addiction
- Family law expert witness

#### **Non-profit Board/Committee Member**

- FARR subcommittee member for mental health housing certification
- Board member of the Palm Beach County HUB, Recovery Community Organization
- Board member of FAU office of professional development School of Social Work
- Board member of the South Florida Professional Liaison Society

#### **References**

- Amanda Eiola (561) 704-9334  
Psychotherapist
- David Landsman-Wohlsifer (215) 470-2129  
Psychotherapist and professor
- John Egan (610) 938-7589  
Psychotherapist and addiction treatment center outreach
- Natalie Cohen, Esq. - (561) 202-7950  
Marchman act and guardianship attorney
- Joe Considine, P.A (561) 655-8081  
Marchman act attorney
- Jami Gursky (954) 703-3756  
Medical malpractice/personal injury - defense
- Kennedy Legaler (914) 748-5599  
Medical malpractice, personal injury, wrongful death - plaintiff
- Susan Ramsey (561) 283-2204  
Medical malpractice, personal injury, wrongful death - plaintiff