

Karen Lawson, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PERSONAL PROFILE

A humanitarian and clinician working at the intersection of clinical care and program development, focused on individual and large-scale management of acquired and developmental trauma.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Founder and Director

NYC NeuroCog | September 2024 – present

- Case management for teens and adults with acquired brain injury.
- Cognitive Remediation Specialist.
- Network manager for neuropsychology, neurology, psychiatry, physical therapy, and related disciplines.

Founder & Director

Reach Within (RW) | 2008 – present

A program of the Bartholomew J. Lawson Foundation for Children and The Windward Islands Research & Education Foundation (WINDREF). RW transforms childhood trauma into healthy living by providing therapeutic, educational, and outreach programs for children living in Grenada's care homes and for street-connected teens and young adults; community training in trauma-informed caregiving and stress reduction for caregivers; and community-based outreach aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Reach Within's model of care in Grenada is poised for Caribbean-wide expansion.

- Advisor for St. George's University (SGU) Department of Public Health Community Board.
- Provide practicum and capstone course credit for SGU medical and public health students; teach Neuroscience and Developmental Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Care and Child Protection; advise students on child protection policy research.
- Co-teach Central Michigan University medical interns & residents: ACEs Study and Trauma-Informed Care.
- Co-create elective course intensives for SGU nursing students on Parent-Infant Mental Health.
- Supervise University of the West Indies social work students.
- Guest teacher in Community & Population Health for SGU Nursing.

Founder

REACH Grenada | 2006 – 2009

A program of the Bartholomew J. Lawson Foundation for Children, REACH Grenada was founded to improve the overall well-being of children living in rural St. Andrew's Parish — through the installation of playgrounds, the introduction of standardized literacy training through Jolly Phonics, the installation of agricultural grow boxes to supplement the school feeding program, and the implementation of a comprehensive program of diagnosis and treatment of intestinal parasites. These initiatives were established in 14 schools and continue to this day.

Executive Director

Clinical Associates for Rehabilitation & Evaluation | 1997 – 2001

Provided administrative, program development, and research oversight of a NYC-based center for comprehensive care (neuropsychology, speech–language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, medicine, psychiatry, and neurology) in Traumatic Brain Injury. Average annual visits approximated 7,500 adults, adolescents, and children.

Founder and Clinical Director

Center for Cognition and Communication | 1983 – 1996

Provided clinical management and research oversight for a NYC-based neuropsychological / neurology practice specializing in acquired and developmental brain dysfunction.

Research Associate

Institute for Research in Behavioral Neuroscience | 1983 – 1996

Published peer-reviewed scientific papers in leading journals including *Advances in Clinical Neuroscience*, *Brain and Language*, *Aphasiology*, *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, and *Journal of Neurolinguistics*. Co-edited and contributed as an author to *Science of Olfaction*, a leading medical textbook published by Springer Verlag.

EDUCATION, SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y.

Bachelor of Science and Master of Science | 1978 – 1983

Degrees in Speech-Language Pathology.

City University Graduate Center, New York, N.Y.

Doctor of Philosophy | 1992 – 1996

Degree in Neurolinguistics.

Post-Graduate Studies

Continuing Education Courses | 1998 – present

Brain & Behavior, Developmental Trauma, Neuroscience, and Mental Health.

SKILLS SUMMARY

- Executive Leadership & NGO Governance
- Medical & Graduate Student Advisory
- Published Researcher
- Data-Driven Project & Curriculum Development

CERTIFICATIONS

- American Brain Injury Association — Certified Brain Injury Specialist
- Kornfield-Brach Mindfulness Meditation Teacher