

CLIMB-OWEP



Anna Askansas
CLIMB@DU 2020-2021
Denver

Hello! My name is Anna Askansas (she/her/hers). I am currently interning at Mount View Youth Services Center. I am interested in doing OUD/SUD focused work because I see it as an ongoing issue without enough treatment and resources. Post-graduation, I plan to receive my clinical license and hopefully work in the juvenile justice field as a clinician. In my spare time, I like to swim, watch reality TV, hang out with friends, and watch movies.



Breanna Davidson
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Breanna. I am interning at ARTS and I will be doing individual and group substance use therapy. My interest in working with people who have substance use disorders comes from my past experiences in case management and working within child protective services. I have seen how mental health, trauma, and substance use are intertwined and can seriously impact people's lives and the lives of their families. I have seen the long-term and intergenerational patterns of substance use disorder and want to focus on this in my work. My long-term career goal is opening my own therapy practice. I would like to focus on substance use disorder and the intersections of mental health. In my spare time I enjoy playing with my 6 month old mini dachshund, watching movies, reading, and spending time outdoors.



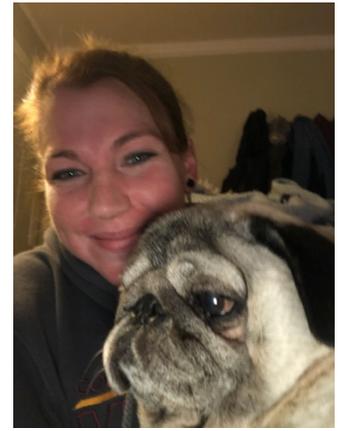
Zoe Jackson
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Zoe Jackson and I am Counseling Intern at the Center for Dependency, Addiction, and Rehabilitation (CeDAR). Most of my previous experience has been with kids, as well as with families experiencing homelessness. In the future, I would like to work with women with SUD/OD, possibly within the criminal justice system. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, camping, and being with friends and family.



Emma Price
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

I am GSSW Concentration Student concentrating in Mental Health and working as a Clinical Intern Therapist in my field placement at Maria Droste Counseling Center. At Maria Droste I'll have the opportunity to provide level I outpatient psychotherapy services to clients experiencing substance use disorders provided the client meets criteria for safe and effective outpatient treatment. I have experience working as a patient advocate for substance use facilities and spent my foundation year field placement at Addiction Research and Treatment Services (ARTS) providing group and individual therapy to individuals with SUD who are involved in the criminal justice system. Post-graduation, I hope to work in a clinical setting with individuals with SUD as well as in a macro setting to work towards the implementation of supervised injection facilities in America.



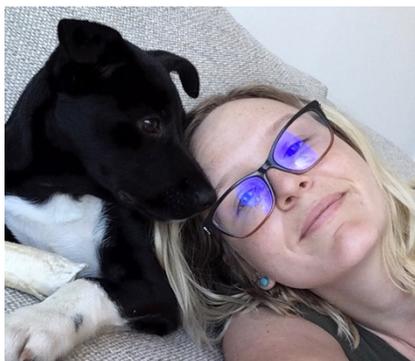
Amber Doggett
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
WestCO

My name is Amber Doggett. My preferred pronouns are she/her(s). This year my internship is at the Office of the Alternate Defense as a forensic social worker. I am interested in OUD/SUD-focused work because I find it disturbing that we are losing so many people to addiction and we still use punitive approaches that are ineffective, expensive, and dangerous. We could and should be doing better. After graduation, I plan on getting my LCSW and hopefully stay on with the Alternate Defense Counsel. In my spare time I like to read.



Niki Primm
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Niki Primm, Juvenile Assessment Center SUD-focused work has interested me since beginning my social work career a few years ago. I was a case manager in foster care and began seeing a high number of cases that involved substance use. It really got me thinking about how substance use is treated and how it begins. I love prevention! So, I hope to work with families to come up with services and goals to keep their kids safe and find healthier coping skills. Eventually, you can find me as a Director of a state child welfare agency making impactful change for everyone involved in the system. In my spare time you can find me on a stand-up paddleboard, hosting dinner parties with less than 10 people, or sending my friends the best Tik Toks out there.



Grethe Rundquist
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Hi I'm Grethe (pronounced "Greta") and I use both she and they pronouns. This year I am interning at Boulder County Probation alongside the Victim-Centered Restorative Justice Team. I'd love to one day develop programming to provide restorative alternatives to incarceration for justice-involved folks experiencing substance use disorders. My favorite days off are spent riding my bike, petting dogs, and listening to too many podcasts.



Samantha Narins
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Samantha Narins and I am currently interning at Sandstone Care, which is a substance use disorder treatment center for adolescents and young adults. This is my second internship working with those affected by substance use disorder. In my spare time, I love to hike, bike, climb, run, and spend as much time outside as possible. I look forward to all that I will learn this year in both my internship and through the CLIMB program.



Brittini Wexler
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Brittini Wexler and I am interning at Savio House in the Child Protection Program. I previously worked with individuals with eating disorders who had comorbid substance use disorder diagnoses. I will be completing my LCSW requirements while working at Savio House after graduation and hope to eventually become a child and family therapist. Many of the clients I will be working with at Savio would benefit immensely from receiving OUD/SUD resources and I am grateful to be able to use the skills and knowledge I gain from this program with those clients. In my free time, I love to play guitar, do yoga, and cuddle with my cat, Gilly.



Cameron Surratt
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Cam (or Cameron if you're formal) and I'm an intern with Behavioral Treatment Services (BTS) at their Golden site. I do not have a lot of experience with OUD/SUD work, but I am looking into it because I feel that the skills applicable to substance use treatment and recovery are invaluable for any clinician to be familiar with. Additionally, most of my social work experience so far has been with the LGBTQ community, and because substance use is something that disproportionately impacts that demographic I feel that my skills learned through this program will be transferable to my future work with LGBTQ folks. I would love to be able to go into clinical work (at any level, micro through macro) with a wealth of experience under my belt regarding OUD/SUD and especially how it affects trans and other LGBTQ people, since I am a trans man myself and there are very few competent practitioners who work with trans and gnc clients. In my spare time I spend a lot of time with my dog, and I also create a lot of art (digital drawings as well as sewing and costume making). I like videogames as well because they serve as a brief escape from the stress of day to day life.



Drew Stem
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

As a disabled military veteran, I have personally experienced what it's like to struggle with substance abuse. Additionally, experiencing the feeling of being hopeless became all too familiar when I received that phone call that family, friends, and veteran members have struggled with substance abuse that ended their lives. My hope is, with the right tools and knowledge, I can be the changemaker in that person's life, like when the changemaker in my life empowered me to make a change that led me here today. Career goals would be working for the Colorado Coalition for the homeless to advocate for getting homeless veteran's house and sober. I am also interested in pursuing being a social worker to respond to 9-11 calls that law enforcement should be the last resort to respond to. Then work in training/supervising social workers and law enforcement in the experience I gained from working in the field. Lastly, becoming a director (not sure where) and then working in policy on a state and federal level. Spare time: Being a dog dad, listening to Joe Rogan or Armchair Expert podcast, watching the Great British Baking Show, and going to the mountains.



Gladys Tellez-Villa
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
WestCO

My name is Gladys Tellez and I am interning at Eagle Valley Behavioral Health. I am interested in OUD/SUD-focused work because it is a prevalent problem where I live. I am also interested in the what substances do to the brain and comorbidity. My plans after graduation are to enjoy a nice vacation with my husband and to be working in a job that I love and that fulfills my purpose. I'm contemplating clinical work, and if I do choose to do so, I would love to do therapy with children and families. I am also passionate about policy. In my spare time I enjoy to watch Netflix, specifically anything with crime and psychology involved. I love hanging out with my husband whether it be tasting new wine and munching on snacks or being outdoors. I also enjoy working out and spending time with my parents, sister, and niece and nephew. I like to try new recipes when I get the chance as well!



Ayana Session
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Ayana Session. I am currently interning at Karis Community Mental Health, a community-model behavioral and mental health residential program. There I provide therapy and facilitate groups for community members with a range of mental and behavioral health diagnosis including substance and opioid use disorders.

Upon graduating I hope to continue to work towards becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, working in clinical and non-profit settings. When I am not studying to accomplish these goals I enjoy hiking, writing, and spending time with friends and family.



Katie Siadak
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Katie Siadak and I'm serving as a behavioral health extern at Salud Family Health Centers this year. I don't have much experience with OUD/SUD-focused work to date, but I look forward to delving deeply into the field at Salud under the guidance of my supervisor, who directs the medication-assisted treatment program there. After graduation I hope to pursue my LCSW and my LAC and work in behavioral health at an integrated healthcare facility like Salud that supports those struggling with OUDs/SUDs. In my spare time I love to run and go hiking with my partner and our dog, Lola.



Alexandra Juarez Aragon
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Hi! My name is AlexSandra—I go by Alex or AlexSandra. I am currently interning at ARTS Westside Center for Change for my concentration year. While I do not have any practical experience with SUD/OUD as of yet, my fascination for this topic started when I was in undergrad. I am excited to further my education and interest in this line of work throughout my last year of the program! After graduation, I want to start working towards obtaining my LCSW and work with the Mental Health and/or SUD/OUD population. In my spare time I love hiking, traveling, road tripping, working out, and spending time with my family, friends, and dogs!



Courtney Stain
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Hi! My name is Courtney, and my preferred pronouns are She/Her/Hers. I am in my concentration year at GSSW and am interning at Sheridan Health Services in their behavioral health clinic. The opioid epidemic has devastated our communities and burdened our social systems. I am interested in the health and wellness of the whole person and the collective impact on communities. To be an effective mental health professional, I want to deepen my understanding of OUDs/SUDs and their role in individuals' psychological and physical health. Post-graduation, I hope to continue a behavioral health career, working with marginalized populations and individuals involved in the criminal justice system. I like to go to concerts, camp, hike, and snowboard with friends and family in my spare time.



Taylor Whaley
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My interest with SUD focused work stems from the learning of dual diagnosis interventions and treatment. It makes sense to me personally to approach treatment and recovery in a way that is wrapped around the client's whole life and environment, not just one singular facet. My goals and plans include becoming licensed and trying to see where I work best in a few different areas of social work-integrated health, education, and even with law enforcement in crisis settings. For fun, I really enjoy being outdoors and challenging myself on backpacking and hiking trips. Staying at home with my cat and houseplants are just as fun to me, however, and am often cooking recipes, reading, or coloring!



Sara Lange
CLIMB-OEWEP 2020-2021
Denver

I am Sara Lange and I am so excited to be apart of the 2020-2021 CLIMB-OEWEP Cohort! This year I will be interning at the Center for Dependency and Addiction Rehabilitation (CeDAR) as a counseling intern. At CeDAR I will co-facilitate intensive outpatient program groups for substance abuse intervention and will be taking on a caseload of individual clients for addiction counseling. During my past social work experiences I have worked with many populations that have been negatively impacted by substance abuse, directly and indirectly. These experiences have called me to learn how to intervene upon substance abuse, so I can help these populations in a more effective manner. I hope to find sense of home and belonging in Denver so that I can continue OUD/SUD-focused work here, post grad. During my spare time I love to travel to national parks, spend time with friends and family, and am attempting to start a famous Trader Joes food review blog.



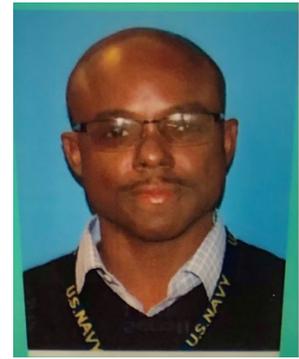
Ashley Munger
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Ashley Munger and I'm a mental health concentration, interning at Behavioral Treatment Services. I have previously worked in an outpatient facility on the substance use unit and I used to work at a place where I would give urinalysis to patients as well. My goal is to do therapy and provide services with adults who suffer from substance use disorder in the criminal justice system. In my spare time I like to do yoga, hike, and hangout with my dog.



Kelly Rose Garza
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Hello! My name is Kelly Rose (she/her). My concentration year internship is at the Mount View Youth Services Center, a juvenile detention center in Lakewood, CO. I have experience working with transitional age youth and doing research on substance use behaviors among youth experiencing homelessness in the Denver area. I hope to continue working with this population post-graduation. I love being outside, playing basketball, and spending time with loved ones in my free time!



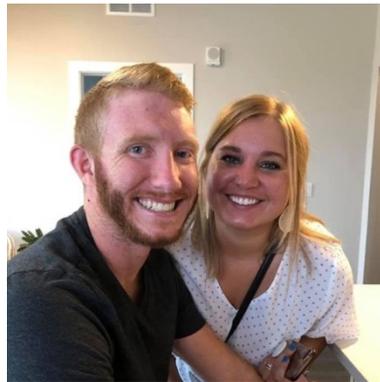
Otis Journey
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
WestCO

My name is Otis Journey; I am interning at the VA clinic in Montrose, CO. I am interested in working with substance use Veterans, especially those veterans struggling with opioid addiction, as a licensed clinical social worker. After post-graduation, my goal is to continue to work with veterans; I am deeply inspired in assisting my fellow veterans suffering from substance use disorder. During my spare time, I enjoy playing tennis and skiing.



Mackenzie Brown
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

My name is Mackenzie Brown but often go by Mack, whichever is fine. I am doing my internship this year at the Veteran's Medical Center in Grand Junction, CO in the HUD-VASH program, working with homeless vets. I have worked with the homeless population for two years and have used OUD/SUD focused interventions like Harm Reduction and Trauma-Informed Care. Many of my clients struggle with opioid addiction and substance use, but I am very interested in learning more clinical interventions to support these clients. I am not sure exactly what I want to do post-graduation, but I do want to continue working with the homeless population. I will more than likely get my licensure to better assist this extremely vulnerable population. In my spare time, I coach cheerleading at Colorado Mesa University and spend time outside with my family and pets.



Michelle Ebertz
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Hello, my name is Michelle Ebertz and Michelle is my preferred name. I am currently interning at CeDAR in Boulder. CeDAR is a Center for Dependency, Addiction, and Recovery center. Growing up with an addict in your immediate family is never easy. I knew at a young age that I wanted to work with people who are addicted to substances or are recovery. I have worked in the child welfare system for roughly five years and have seen the harm that addiction can do to a family, both personally and professionally. I want to be on the different end of that spectrum.

I want to be the one helping those with addiction, rather than "recommending" treatment. I want to be the one providing the treatments and seeing the progress and changes. I have several paths I want to take after graduation, but I do not know which one is calling to me more. I would eventually like to obtain my LCSW and maybe my LAC or CAC. In my spare time I like to hike with my husband and dog, I don't have the patience for reading any more but still enjoy it so I listen to Audible, and I like to cook, but not baking. I enjoy cooking more because you don't have to follow the recipe correctly and can make things your own, adding ingredients here and there, whereas baking, if you don't follow the recipe, it likely won't turn out. Sorry I don't have a single photo of myself but here is a picture of myself and my husband Christopher.



Haley Calkins
CLIMB-OWEP 2020-2021
Denver

Howdy, my name is Haley Calkins and I go by she/her/hers pronouns. This year I will be interning at Savio House here in the Denver area and my concentration at DU is Mental Health. For the past three years, I worked in Austin, Texas at a Medication-Assisted treatment facility. There I was given a surplus amount of experience and education in Methadone, Buprenorphine, Suboxone, and the use of Naloxone. My passion is in working with individuals who have been diagnosed with an Opioid Use Disorder and combating the severe stigma these clients receive daily from our society. Post-graduation, I would like to become a licensed MSW and continue my career in working with individuals diagnosed with OUD in the Denver area. In my spare time, I enjoy walking my dog, taking care of my plants, and hiking!