

# Melody Gamba, MA, R-DMT

Board Eligible, LMHC (in process) anticipated licensure date 2021

melodygamba@gmail.com

## Profile

Mental Health Counselor, Dance/Movement Therapist, Educator, Advocate for more inclusive and equitable educational outreach, therapeutic interventions and social justice programming within the community. Utilizes movement, creative arts techniques and resiliency as a viable tool to empower, connect, and heal while encouraging more open, empathic and compassionate communities.

## Awards

**American Dance Therapy Association – 2019 Leader of Tomorrow**

**Salve Regina University – 2018 Davis Fellow**

**Marymount Manhattan College – Silver M Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service**

## Presentations

**American Dance Therapy Association Annual Conference – October 2019**

- Diversity in Motion Research Collective - Exploring Cultural Bias in the Movement Repertoire and Dance/Movement Therapists

**Conference for Educators on Youth Mental Health presented by Salve Regina University and the University of RI Education Honor Society - 2019**

- Keynote address - Embodying Brave Space: The Mental Health Informed Classroom

**American Dance Therapy Association Facilitated Discussion Group - July 2020**

- Deconstructing White Privilege

**American Dance Therapy Association Annual Conference – October 2020**

- Invitation to Action: Embodied Reflection

**National Dance Educators Organization Annual Conference – October 2020**

- Diversity in Motion Research Collective - Intersectionality: The Complexity of Identity and Oppression

**The Embodiment Conference – October 2020**

- Diversity in Motion Research Collective - Power Flower: Intersectionality and the Complexity of Identity and Oppression

**Lesley University, Supervision in Dance/Movement Therapy & Counseling II – November 2020**

- Guest Lecturer: Diversity and Cross-Cultural Dialogue: Exploring implicit bias, communication and beliefs about health/healing in treatment

**Lesley University, Body/Movement Observation & Assessment II – November 2020**

- Guest Lecturer: Ally, Supporter, Collaborator in Dance/Movement Therapy Practice

## Publications

**“ADTA 2019 Plenary Panel-Honoring Multiplicity: An Embodied Keynote Experience ADTA 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Miami, FL”, American Journal of Dance Therapy, Springer 2020**  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10465-020-09329-4>

## Education

**Lesley University Graduate School of Arts & Social Sciences; Cambridge, MA – May 2019**

- Master of Arts: Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Dance/Movement Therapy
- Cumulative GPA 4.0
- Thesis: Dance/Movement Therapy as a Tool to Address Racism and Injustice in Service Learning  
[https://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1135&context=expressive\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1135&context=expressive_theses)

**Marymount Manhattan College; New York, NY – Bachelor of Fine Arts: Dance, 2002**

- Dean Scholarship Recipient
- Dance Scholarship recipient
- Graduated with honors

**Experience**

**Butler Hospital, Young Adult Partial Hospital/IOP; Providence, RI 2018 - Present  
Program Therapist**

- Facilitate interpersonal psychotherapy groups in a psychiatric setting
- Conduct initial psychiatric evaluations, diagnosis, and treatment planning
- Lead individual therapy sessions, include evidence-based practices and risk assessment
- Participate in an interdisciplinary treatment team
- Create and develop Dance/Movement Therapy groups and integration within the Milieu

**Diversity in Motion Research Collective, US/International, 2018 – Present  
Founding Collective Member**

- Bring a fresh, innovative viewpoint to trauma research that is both qualitative and quantitative
- Facilitate mind, body and spirit experiential learning and healing through a diverse cultural lens
- Fuse principles of psychology, education and dance theory for a well-rounded strength based, trauma informed and person-centered embodied experience

**Salve Regina University; Newport, RI 2012 - Present**

**Adjunct Professor, Director of Extensions II Dance Company, Choreographer**

- Develop course syllabi, create learning goals and promote growth within the curriculum
- Course development of utilizing the arts for social justice and anti-oppressive strategies
- Create pieces for the mainstage performances and organize other events on campus and in the community

**Providence College; Providence, RI 2013 - Present**

**Guest Artist**

- Selected to work with the Providence College Dance Company
- Create a Jazz Dance Master Class series specifically designed for the students
- Guest Choreographer for the Blackfriars Dance Concert

**Moses Brown School; Providence, RI 2018**

**Guest Artist**

- Facilitate school wide master dance classes
- Choreograph the middle school musical “Legally Blonde Jr.”
- Choreograph the high school Musical “Les Misérables”

**Minuteman ARC for Human Services; West Concord, MA 2017**

**Dance/Movement Therapy Field Study**

- Clinical skills, practical application and experimental approaches to Dance/movement Therapy
- Facilitated 1:1 and group therapy for adults with intellectual, developmental delays and physical, emotional, and sensory challenges

**Shri Service Corps/Shri Yoga/Shri Bark; Pawtucket, RI, 2016 - 2018**

**Yoga Outreach Instructor, Dance/Movement Therapy Intern**

- Facilitate yoga/movement classes for the Adaptive Project and the School Project
- Advocate for yoga programs and smart snacking
- Complete Shri's Path of Service 80-hour yoga outreach teacher training

**San Miguel School, Providence, RI 2016 – 2017**

**Artist in Residence**

- Teach a variety of dance styles to youth grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Empower the gentlemen to find personal expression and creativity through movement
- Create a final collective dance piece to be performed at the school's Annual Gala

**Fusionworks Dance Company; Lincoln, RI 2004 - 2018**

**Assistant Artistic Director, Senior Educator, Dancer, Choreographer**

- Modern repertory company member and performer under the direction Deb Meunier
- Lead curriculum-based dance classes and workshops in North East School Systems and Community Centers (full list available upon request)
- Guest teacher/choreographer for Fusionworks Dance Company and Fusionworks II

**CORE: Center of Real Energy Mind/Body Studio; Providence, RI 2006 – 2016**

**Program Director**

- Create customized fitness and wellness plans for over 70 clients
- Develop positive client relationships and rapport
- Foster open and honest communication to build credibility and client trust
- Motivate, mentor, and evaluate team members
- Organize specialty workshops to educate and to challenge clients

**Memberships**

American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA)  
ADTA Multicultural and Diversity Committee (MDC)  
MDC Shared Space Curation Team  
ADTA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Committee member  
New England Chapter– American Dance Therapy Association  
Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society – Past Vice President