



RE: Sherie Martinez's application for practicum site position at XXX

February 4, 2025

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter in strong and enthusiastic support of Sherie Martinez, who is a current Master's student in the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) track with an emphasis in Child and Adolescent Mental Health in the Counseling Psychology Department at Santa Clara University. Sherie graduated from a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child and Adolescent Development from San Francisco State University. Sherie's thoughtful and longstanding commitment to serving children, youth, and families are evident in this academic record, alongside several professional experiences as an educator and a childcare provider in the past five years.

I met Sherie in the context of one of her advanced-level courses Family Therapy at Santa Clara University this past academic term. Despite the brief amount of time that I have known Sherie, such combination of rigorous academic training and professional experiences serving children, adolescent, and families was clear in her clinical skills. Sherie was the top student in my Family Therapy class; I was truly impressed with her professional maturity as well as therapeutic skills in serving families. Given the intimate and small classroom size (e.g., less than 15 students for this course) offered in our program, I have had the opportunity to witness Sherie's role plays and real plays with clients many times over the course of a 3-month term. I was impressed by her natural abilities to quickly identify and deeply understand family patterns. In particular, Sherie's clinical skills in honing in on the (said and unsaid) emotions felt by her clients and to hold the entire family unit was masterful for a clinician at her current career stage. Consequently, she was the one student in my course that I have shared further resources on advanced training in family therapy, which I hope that she will pursue. I have no doubt that Sherie will provide warm, compassionate care that will produce changes and improvements in the children, youth, and families that she serves.

On a practical note, Sherie is highly organized, plans ahead, and is consistently reliable/dependable. She is highly efficient, clear, and professional in her day-to-day communication. On a personal note, I have found Sherie to be a combination of warm and calming presence alongside sharp curiosities with excellent clinical skills and insights. She also has a good sense of humor, which makes it easy for people (including children and adolescents) to connect with Sherie. In summary, I give Sherie Martinez my highest endorsement for your practicum site. She has demonstrated a deep commitment to a career as a mental health provider for children, adolescents, and families, and I believe that her clinical skillsets will continue to grow. Sherie's strong academic background, clinical and professional experiences, and her calm demeanor will be an asset to your program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at awilliams4@scu.edu or 650-224-2349.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Aya Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aya Williams, PhD

Assistant Professor

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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