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Assessing the psychological distress and mental healthcare needs of unaccompanied refugee minors in the Netherlands

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Tammy

Curriculum Vitae

Tammy Bean, born in 1971 in Elkhart, grew-up in Northern Indiana (Amish and Mennonite country). She graduated from a small high school, Northwood in 1990. After a year of following pre-medicine classes at Messiah College, Pennsylvania, she participated in an exchange program in Hong Kong for one year, 1991-1992. She resumed her education majoring in Psychology at Goshen College in Indiana. During her study, she worked with severely emotionally disturbed adolescents at several mental healthcare facilities as a mental health worker from 1992 to 1995. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in the Arts from Goshen College in 1995.

Again her travels took her abroad for another exchange program, this time to the Netherlands (1995-1996). However, after a short stay in the States in 1996, she returned to the Netherlands (and her future husband) and began Dutch language classes at Leiden University in 1997. In the fall of 1997, she was allowed to begin taking regular classes in Psychology. Tammy wished to specialize in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology in 1998 and was allowed to assemble her own “afstudeerrichting (classes)” because Leiden University did not offer it standard. During her study, she also worked at the International Child Development Initiatives in Leiden to assist in setting up a Youth Monitor for The Hague “Jong in Den Haag”.

At the start of 1998, since she had always had a great interest for other cultures, adolescents with troubled backgrounds, and after living for several years in the multicultural city of The Hague, she knew she wanted to develop/modify a psychological instrument to measure posttraumatic stress by refugee and immigrant youth. Tammy wrote to De Vonk/Stichting Centrum '45 (unit for the treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers that suffer from the consequences of organized violence) in 1999 and was allowed to do her Master level internship at De Vonk/Stichting Centrum '45 and to carry out a research project in schools throughout the Hague, in which she could develop/modify a psychological instrument to measure traumatic stress reactions by adolescents. She graduated *cum laude* for her Master's in Science from Leiden University in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology in 2000.

She was asked in 2000 by Professor J.N. Schreuder (former director of Stichting Centrum '45, a mental healthcare center which treats people suffering from the consequences of organized violence) to re-write a research proposal and carry out a project with Unaccompanied Refugee Minors which she did. This project (2001-2004) was financed by Achmea Victim and Society Foundation, the Health Research Development Counsel (ZON-Mw), and Centrum '45. The writing of this dissertation (2005 until mid-2006) was totally financed by Achmea Victim and Society Foundation. Tammy also worked as a research consultant with the Omega Healthcare Center in Graz, Austria on several European projects since 2000.

Tammy continues her work with traumatized children and adolescents in a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Child/Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. The focus of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship is on treatment implementation and mental health services research with children and youth.