

Ms. Patricia A. Haist has been with the YWCA of Grand Rapids for 29 years. She became the Director of Clinical Services of the YWCA Counseling Center in 2003; oversight of the Nurse Examiner Program was added in 2012. Her job duties include providing individual and group supervision for the staff of the Counseling Center and supervision of the Nurse Examiner Program. Ms. Haist has a small case load of sexual assault survivors in long-term therapy and provides crisis intervention for victims receiving forensic/medical examinations. Ms. Haist started at the YWCA in 1985 as a therapist in the Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program. When the YWCA took over the county-wide sexual assault services by opening the Sexual Assault Program in 1990, Ms. Haist became the supervisor and in 1997 became the director of that program. Ms. Haist was involved in the planning and implementation of Michigan's first Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program which the YWCA of West Central Michigan opened in 1996. Ms. Haist's clinical expertise is in assisting individuals who are recovering from interpersonal violence, including addressing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Ms. Haist has testified as an expert witness in sexual assault trials in an effort to assist the jury in understanding common reactions of victims following what is often a life threatening event. Ms. Haist is particularly interested in the area of vicarious trauma/compassion fatigue which may be experienced by service providers working with clients whose trauma can be overwhelming and distressing for the professional. Ms. Haist is committed to educating professionals to the potential "costs" of doing this work and how to recognize compassion fatigue and create a supportive environment to address it.

Before moving to Michigan, Ms. Haist worked as a therapist at a community mental health center in Elizabethtown, KY for 3 years. Her passion for working in the area of sexual assault began there with her work to establish the Rape Victim's Assistance Program, which was a satellite program to the YWCA in Louisville. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Hanover College in 1979 and her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University in 1981. She is a Limited Licensed Psychologist in the state of Michigan.