

Sandra L. Bloom, M.D.

Biography **January 2008**

Dr. Sandra L. Bloom is a Board-Certified psychiatrist, graduate of Temple University School of Medicine, and recipient of the 2005 Temple University School of Medicine Alumni Achievement Award. She is an Adjunct Professor of Health Management and Policy at the School of Public Health of Drexel University in Philadelphia, Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and President of CommunityWorks, an organizational consulting firm committed to the development of nonviolent environments.

From 1980-2001, Dr. Bloom served as Founder and Executive Director of the Sanctuary[®], inpatient psychiatric programs for the treatment of trauma-related disorders in adults. Her first book, *Creating Sanctuary: Toward the Evolution of Sane Societies* tells the story of the creation of one of the nation's first inpatient programs for the treatment of adults who were abused as children.

Dr. Bloom was appointed to serve as Distinguished Fellow of the Andrus Children's Center in 2004 and in September, 2005, the Andrus Center for Learning and Innovation initiated the Sanctuary Institute in order to teach leadership teams from other programs how to introduce Sanctuary concepts into their settings. As of December 2007, the Sanctuary Network of approved programs includes residential, group home, juvenile justice, inpatient and outpatient centers for children, as well as substance abuse and inpatient programs for adults in seven states and three countries outside of the United States.

In 1998, Dr. Bloom was appointed the Saul Z. Cohen Chair in Child and Family Mental Health, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS) of New York for the purpose of implementing the "Sanctuary Model" in three residential treatment centers for children in Hawthorne, New York, as well as domestic violence shelters operated by JBFCS.

In 2000, NIMH awarded a three-year grant to study the implementation of the Sanctuary Model into this residential setting and Dr. Bloom served as co-investigator to this grant awarded through Columbia University. As a result, the Sanctuary Model is the only trauma-informed, systems model for children's residential treatment with an evidence base to support its implementation.

Dr. Bloom is a Past-President of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) and in 1998 received the Sarah Haley Award for Clinical Excellence from the ISTSS. For the last four years she has served as the Ombudsman for the ISTSS. She is the Past-President of the Philadelphia chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and during her tenure helped to develop award winning domestic violence training programs for health care settings. Under the auspices of PSR, Dr. Bloom co-authored a second book, *Bearing Witness: Violence and Collective*

Responsibility. In 2003, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Work awarded her their award as Public Citizen of the Year. She now serves on the Board of the Institute for Safe Families in Philadelphia.

In 1999-2000 Dr. Bloom chaired the Task Force on Family Violence for Attorney General of Pennsylvania, Mike Fisher. In 2003, she participated in a study of the “Unmet Needs of Pregnant and Parenting Women” with the Women’s Law Project and completed a large literature review for that study. The result of the study was the appointment of a Domestic Violence Task Force for the City of Philadelphia and Dr. Bloom is presently a member of that Task Force. She now co-chairs a Trauma Task Force for the City of Philadelphia as well.

Dr. Bloom speaks nationally and internationally about the impact of traumatic experience on individuals, families, organizations, and cultures. In addition to the two books she has authored, she has edited another book on violence, has edited or co-edited and contributed to two issues of *Psychiatric Quarterly* and two issues of *Therapeutic Communities* as well as authoring fifteen chapters and more than thirty journal articles.

She and her colleagues recently completed a *S.E.L.F.: A Trauma-Informed Psychoeducational Group Curriculum* that is being utilized in a number of different settings. She recently co-edited a volume for Cambridge Scholars Press on *Loss, Hurt and Hope: The Complex Issues of Bereavement and Trauma In Children*. Currently, Dr. Bloom is working on a book that focuses on the impact of organizational stress on social service and mental health environments and the Sanctuary Model as an antidote to recurrent stress and systemic dysfunction. In 2007, Dr. Bloom and her colleagues created a certificate program in trauma studies for the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work which is being repeated in the current academic year. For the previous three years, Dr. Bloom has taught an elective in trauma theory and the creation of safe environments for the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. She maintains a website at www.sanctuaryweb.com.