



Jefferson County  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# Beyond Books: The Library as 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

MARCH 8, 2019 | DEBRA WALSH, LCSW

Wait, why does the library  
need a social worker?



# What the library does

(so much more than books!)

# Programs and Events



## Kids and Families

- Story time, baby time, dance time

## Teens

- STEM, STEAM, Maker Spaces
- Writing groups

## Adults

- Book clubs, author visits, lectures
- Tax help
- One-on-one tech help

# Programs and Events



## Kids

- Nature exploration, discovery play
- Family Place Model

## Teens

- Ukele Tuesday
- Spanish conversation Table

## Adults

- Library 4 all
- Hard Times Writers Workshop
- Craft classes
- Yoga



# Libraries provide access.

(we offer technology, materials, and events.)



Libraries are “the  
last public  
space.”

(where you don't have to pay to be.)

Wait, why does the library  
need a social worker?



Where do you go if you don't  
have a first place?

SOCIAL WORKER IN THE LIBRARY



helping people

# What Library Social Workers Do

(and what we don't do)

# Library Social Workers



## Help Patrons

- Crisis intervention
- Community resources and referrals
- Relationship building
- Review programming for social work values

## Help Staff

- Trainings related to challenging behaviors
  - Substance misuse, mental health crises, etc
- Trauma-sensitive practice
- Person-first language

Do you only help homeless  
people?

# Can the library social workers solve homelessness?





# Libraries are awesome third places

(where social workers can meet people where  
they're at.)

A group of cartoon animals from the show 'The Backyardigans' are dancing in a room with large windows. The animals are wearing various colorful clothing and are holding hands, suggesting a group dance or performance. The scene is set in a room with large windows and a green curtain on the left. The overall atmosphere is cheerful and lively.

Questions?

***Having fun isn't hard, when you've got a library card!***