

— GRADUATE TESTIMONY —

Spring 2022 CABH Master's Graduate

Cherith Belmonte

Cherith Belmonte has been in the Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH) Master of Science Program at the University of South Florida since 2019. Supported by her husband and family, she is a working mother of two, with one more on the way!

Her field experience took place at the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County, where she studied the interest level of adolescent mothers in a peer support specialist program. The research demonstrated that a peer support specialist program could positively impact the health and developmental outcomes of adolescent mothers and their children, and these mothers were interested in any help they could receive.

In reflecting on her time in the CABH Program, she stated the following:

“The CABH program has prepared me in many ways for the workforce by providing a wide array of classes that were not only of interest to me but were relevant to my field. These experiences have helped me learn, grow, and become better prepared to serve my community. Even in my most insecure moments, I was supported by teachers and staff so that I was successful in my endeavors. I want to thank both the University of South Florida and the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County for the support and guidance during my course of study. I plan to continue a career at the Healthy Start Coalition, so that I may positively impact the families and children of Hillsborough County.”

