

2017 Latino Mental Health Conference:

Trauma in the Latino Community

July 19, 2017

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

JENNY MARTINEZ, OTD. OTR/L

Dr. Martinez is Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California, Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Her expertise centers around promoting the meaningful involvement of healthcare and community stakeholders in research and program development, as well as improving health status, health outcomes and quality of care for individuals from marginalized communities.

LORALEI R. BINGAMON, MA

Loralei Rose Bingamon has an MA in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern California, where she is a doctoral student. As an awardee of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, she was able to help bring the Af3irm School of Youth Activism to fruition in 2016. Ms. Bingamon has a passion for creating spaces centered in social justice, alternative healing methods, as her experience includes producing expressive arts workshops to adolescents and adults across California.

GUSTAVO LOERA, EDD

Dr. Gustavo Loera received his doctorate in education from the University of Southern California. His work and research centers on identifying unmet mental health needs and associated risk and protective factors to better understand and meet population mental health needs and reduce mental health disparities in underserved populations. Dr. Loera has over 20 years developing and evaluating school-based programs for underrepresented youth in urban settings. His work

and research has influenced school-to-career programs in California. For 17 years, he led Mental Health America of Los Angeles' (MHALA) workforce development efforts founding the first Human Services Academy model in 1997 for young people interested in pursuing a career in behavioral health.

LAURA ORNELAS, LCSW

Laura Ornelas is a licensed clinical social worker and has been working in child welfare and mental health for over 20 years. Ms. Ornelas is currently the Director of Family Service of Santa Monica, a service of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services. She specializes in attachment based, experiential techniques that encourage healing through relationships and has created statewide mental health clinics and birth to five programs to this end. Ms. Ornelas has worked with children of all ages, specializing in the birth to five population, and families widely ranging in diversity, with a focus on relative caregivers and Latino family systems. Originating in Los Angeles County, Ms. Ornelas has advocated for the rights of vulnerable children and families on county and state wide levels, and educates professionals across the country about the effects of relational trauma. Ms. Ornelas is a seasoned trainer to professionals and parents, a contributing curriculum developer and a published author on these works.

ELIZABETH SANCHEZ, MSW

Elizabeth Sanchez is a social worker that is passionate about the intersection of immigration policy, early prevention/intervention, and mental health services. Elizabeth enjoys providing contextual and culturally attuned clinical services to young children and families that predominantly come from immigrant contexts. Elizabeth's professional and academic experiences stem from obtaining a B.A in Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies from University of California Irvine and obtaining a Master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. Her research interests explore undocumented immigrant family systems and interventions that can be culturally and contextually attuned to meet

their needs. She aspires to obtain a Ph.D., to become a research pioneer that explores the community integration of Central American Unaccompanied youth in hopes to help shape immigration policy and develop and culturally attuned service delivery. Elizabeth has taken part in various public speaking engagements to help address the intersection of immigration policy and mental health services.

VERNON ROSARIO, MD, PHD

Vernon A. Rosario MD, Ph.D., is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles and a Child Psychiatrist with the Department of Mental Health (Augustus Hawkins Family Mental Health Clinic). He received his Ph.D. in the History of Science from Harvard University where his research was on the history of modern European Neuropsychiatry. He received his M.D. from the Harvard Medical School--M.I.T. Program in Health Sciences and Technology. He is the author of *“The Erotic Imagination: French Histories of Perversity”*, (1997) and *“Homosexuality and Science: A Guide to the Debates”*, (2002). His current clinical research is on sexuality and gender identity in transgender and intersex children and adults.

THERESA ARREDONDO, LCSW

Theresa Arredondo holds a Master Degree in Social Work from California State University Long Beach, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Arredondo has been employed with the Los Angeles County for nineteen years. She has worked for the Department of Children and Family Services; servicing children, and the Department of Mental Health; providing services to adults with mental illness. Ms. Arredondo’s has thirteen years of Forensic Social Work experience working with the Court Linkage Program, Psychiatric Mobile Response Team, and the Public Defender’s Office. Presently Ms. Arredondo is a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor for the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office. She supervises the forensic social worker program in the Public Defender’s Office.

The Psychiatric Social Workers provide biopsychosocial assessments, advocacy, and linkage for clients represented in juvenile and adult criminal proceedings. The Public Defender social workers work collaboratively with the Sheriff Department, and Probation Department to provide an array of services for their clients.

RIGOBERTO ARRECHIGA, JD

Rigoberto J. Arrechiga was born in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico to parents who struggled in their native land. Their desire for a better life brought them to this country without the requisite documentation. Mr. Arrechiga was undocumented most of his childhood and lived under the constant fear that he might be picked up by the “green” vans. He was raised in the Eastside community of Boyle Heights, where generations of immigrants just like him have and continue to settle in their journey towards the American Dream. Mr. Arrechiga attended San Antonio de Padua, a small parochial school located in Boyle Heights, not too far from the concrete banks of the Los Angeles River and in the shadow of downtown’s high rises. He graduated from Cantwell Preparatory High School in Montebello, where he cleaned classrooms before and after school to help offset the cost of tuition. Mr. Arrechiga was the first in his family to attend college. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with a Minor in Latin American Studies from Arizona State University in 1995 and his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School in 1998. Mr. Arrechiga has had the privilege of representing thousands of clients in all aspects of their criminal cases as a deputy public defender for the County of Los Angeles. He joined the office in 2001. Prior to his employment as a deputy public defender, Mr. Arrechiga taught History and Language Arts to middle school students at Stevenson, Hollenback and Nimitz Middle Schools. He also taught Citizenship at Belmont Adult School. Mr. Arrechiga is past President of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) and the Latino Public Defender Association (LPDA).

RAFAEL ANGUELO, MSW, LCSW

Rafael Carlos Angulo is currently a Clinical Professor at the University of Southern California, School Of Social Work. His areas of both clinical and policy interests include fatherhood impact on child development, clinical practice with Latino clients, media literacy, spiritual dimensions of clinical work, transforming power of art in undervalued communities and educational success for minority youth. Trained as a filmmaker, Angulo has produced and directed documentaries, public service announcements and corporate videos for nonprofit agencies. He also has utilized video technology to conduct oral histories, digital storytelling and ethnographic recordings. He teaches integrative seminar, HBSE and the Media in Social Work: Documentary Filmmaking as a Praxis for Social Justice class. Outside the university, Mr. Angulo is a licensed clinical social worker and facilitates group therapy for Spanish-speaking fathers, provides relational psychotherapy to the immigrant community, and is working on numerous documentary projects for national distribution.

JANICE BOAFO, CHES, MSW

Janice K.B. Boafo is currently a Child Welfare Social Worker with the County of Ventura. Her research and practice interests include educational equity, culture and identity formation, public child welfare reform, pedagogy as activism, and exploring the intersections of art, culture, and social justice. Ms. Boafo is a writer who believes in the transformational power of capturing and promoting the voices of marginalized communities through storytelling. She has twenty years of experience in behavioral healthcare and non-profit management including program development, policy implementation, risk management, environmental prevention, and community health needs assessment.

STAN BOSCH, ST, PSYD

Father Stan Bosch, PsyD. is a member of The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, a Catholic religious community working with the poor and

abandoned, and has worked with Los Angeles's gang involved youth and adults in the Latino community for more than 30 years. In these past years, Fr. Stan's work with inner city youth was featured in the National Geographic documentary "Inside LA Gang Wars", as well as in various Los Angeles Times articles. Fr. Stan holds a doctoral degree in psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from the California Graduate Institute of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He is a psychotherapist, Co-Director of Mental Health/Personnel Development for gang intervention and staff workers with Soledad Enrichment Action and the City of Los Angeles' Gang Reduction and Youth Development Project as well as 'Caught in the Crossfire'.

ALEJANDRA ACUÑA, MSW, LCSW, PPSC, PHD

Dr. Alejandra Acuña has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to serving racial/ethnic minority populations in her clinical, administrative, teaching, and research activities. Specifically, her research interests include trauma and resilience among low-income ethnic minority urban youth and their families. Since 1998, she has worked with low-income ethnic minority urban youth in the Los Angeles Unified School District. As a Chicana/Latina and first generation college student, she brings a passion for social justice and improving the educational opportunities and well-being of urban youth. With over 25 years of professional experience in health and human services working primarily with immigrant populations and families of color, Dr. Acuña brings both breadth and depth on issues pertaining to culture and diversity, which has prepared her to work effectively with participants from diverse backgrounds.

PIA ESCUDERO, LCSW

Pia Escudero is a recognized local and national licensed clinical social worker leader in the field of school mental health and trauma for over twenty five years. Expertise includes the development, implementation, and evaluation of mental health and trauma services for the benefit of promoting resiliency, healing and the health of children, families. She is the Director for School Mental Health and

Crisis Counseling & Intervention Services at the Los Angeles Unified School District. Her current duties include supervising over 350 school mental health professionals, crisis teams, mental health outpatient clinics and Wellness Networks by implementing high quality interventions, evidence based practices and programs that promote the social emotional, well-being and academic achievement of students.

VIOLET BERKENKAMP

Violet Berkenkamp, is a licensed, certified and insured Body Worker and Energy Healer. For the last 22 years, she has helped people heal with energy modalities such as Jin Shin Jyutsu acupressure, Reiky hands-on healing, Emotional Forgives with kinesiology and body work with therapeutic massage. Violet graduated from The Touch Therapy Institute in Los Angeles in 1996 as a body worker. She has been certified since year 2000 in Jin Shin Jyutysu acupressure from the institute of Jin Shin Jyutsu Inc. in Arizona. Violet has held a certification on the Backman Emotional Technique from Dr. Backman in Kelona, Canada since 2005. Her passion is to educate and empower the community by sharing her acquired self-help techniques and to assist countless individuals in finding hope and gaining tools that will benefit them in the long run.