

Consequences of the Social Worker Shortage on Opiate, Immigration, and Foster Care Services to the Latino Community

(6 CE Credit Hours)



March 7, 2018 - 8:15 – 4:00 PM
NYU Global Center | Grand Hall
238 Thompson Street New York, NY 10003



Dennis Romero, MA, Regional Administrator, DHHS Region II (SAMHSA) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
9:15 AM – Overview of Opioid Epidemic

Mr. Dennis O. Romero, M.A. is the first Regional Administrator (RA), DHHS Region II for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an operating division of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In that role, he represents the Administrator at the regional level in fulfilling the agency's mission of reducing the impact of mental illness and substance abuse on America's communities. He provides authoritative advice and assistance on behavioral health policies and innovations for use in the delivery and financing of prevention, treatment and recovery services, develops regional perspectives on SAMHSA initiatives, and is a visible advocate for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders within the federal government and across the region.



Diana Padilla, NDRI-USA, Inc.
Program Manager, RCR, CASAC-T NDRI-USA/NeC ATTC
9:45 AM - Opioids: Clinical Impact on Communities of Color

This presentation will provide an assessment of how the opioid epidemic is presently impacting communities of color, with increases in overdose death rates of as high as 236%, highlighting the need for the best treatments approaches for opioid use disorders. The content will review medication assisted treatment (MAT), empirically identified as the most effective treatment for opioid use disorders (OUD), and why it has the highest potential to access and sustain recovery.



Laura Gonzalez-Murphy, Ph.D.
Director, NYS Office for New Americans
10:40 AM – New Services for New Americans

Dr. Laura V. González-Murphy, serves as Director of the NY State Office for New Americans (ONA). In this capacity, she oversees the operation of the Office's 26 Opportunity Centers across the state, a model of immigrant integration in the country. Prior to this position she was an Empire State Fellow at the NY State Department of State, where she assisted in the program administration of ONA, helped promote the Governor's Anti-Human Trafficking campaign, and served as the department's Language Access Coordinator.



Maria Lizardo, LMSW
Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
11:15 - Immigrant Communities Under Attack: A Settlement House Response to Foster Wellness and Resistance

Ms. Lizardo joined NMIC as the Director of Social Services in 1998 and was promoted to be the Deputy Director of Client Services in 2004. Before joining NMIC, Ms. Lizardo worked at PROMESA, Inc., a multi-service agency in the Bronx for eight years, during which time she advanced from being a social worker in the substance abuse program to the Director of Community Development with responsibility for implementation and oversight of numerous tenant, youth, open space, and safety programs.



Jason Lippman, MA

Executive Vice President, The Coalition for Behavioral Health, Inc.

1:00 PM - The State of the Social Work Licensing Exemption: Where Do We Go from Here?

The state fiscal year 2019 Executive Budget proposes clarifying which tasks performed by certain workers do not require licensure for psychology, social work and mental health practitioners. This applies to social and mental hygiene workers employed by programs or providers regulated, operated, funded, or approved by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD, DOH, and other state agencies. This includes limitations on the tasks that licensed master social workers can do as opposed to licensed clinical social workers. However, the current bill under consideration brings up a multitude of concerns for both licensed and unlicensed practitioners, including the difficulty and cost of hiring licensed professionals, particularly bilingual and culturally competent social workers and other mental health professionals should the exemption be allowed to expire.



Evan Senreich, Ph.D, LCSW and Graciela Castex, Ed.D., LMSW
Associate Professors of Social Work; Lehman College, City
University of New York

1:50 PM- “Microaggressions and Racial Privilege within the Social Work Profession: The Social Work Licensing Examinations as a Barrier to Effective Service Delivery”

Dr. Senreich has had research articles published regarding the experiences of LGBT clients in substance misuse treatment, the education of social work students to work with substance using clients, the difficulties of adults living with sickle cell disease, the attitudes of West African immigrants towards substance misuse in the United States, the use of spirituality in social work practice, and a Gestalt Therapy approach to social work. More recently, he has been researching the historic high rates of heroin usage among Puerto Rican communities.



Dr. Castex has been a social work educator for many years. Exploration of diversity issues has been central to her teaching, practice, and research. Presenting and publishing widely on ethnicity and ethnic identity, Latinos, immigration, and stereotyping processes, she has also worked directly with immigrant and refugee populations from throughout the world.



Dr. Sophine Charles, Ph.D.

Director, COFCCA, Preventive Services Policy and Practice

2:30 PM- Opioid Abuse: Implications for Child Welfare Professionals, Child Safety, Permanency, and Well-being Outcomes

Dr. Sophine Charles has dedicated her professional life to empowering parents and families, helping incarcerated citizens transition back into communities, and supporting the ethical leadership development of police personnel. She is the Director of Preventive Services, Policy and Practice at the Council for Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) where she advocates for the policy and practice needs of more than 100 non-profit agencies delivering services to children in foster care, juvenile justice, sexually exploited youth and families involved in all aspects of the child welfare system

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

1. To learn about the impact of the social worker shortage on immigration, opiate, and foster care services on Latino families and children
2. To learn strategies and on how to support families and children that need these services
3. To raise awareness among the participants and their clients on recent changes in immigration laws and statutes that may adversely affect services to the Latino community
4. To provide strategies to promote self-reliance and guidance in dealing with health care and opioid issues before they arise

For more information and to register for the conference visit:
<http://www.latinosocialwork.org/march7registration.html>
Latino Social Work Coalition and Scholarship Fund
305 Broadway, Suite 100 New York, NY 10012
www.latinosocialwork.org