



Issues and Strategies for Latino Immigration and Health Care Entitlement Services

Thursday, October 26, 2017 - 8:30 – 4:00pm
Long Island University Post, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville, NY
Hillwood Commons Lecture Hall at Post

PROGRAM

8:15 am **Check in and Breakfast**

9:00 am **Welcome**

Dr. Ilene Nathanson, LCSW
Chair, Social Work Department, LIU Post

Opening

Dr. Dilcia Granville, LMSW
Board President, Latino Social Work Coalition and Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Louis Medina, MSW
Board President, National Association of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Social Workers

Immigration Issues and Strategies

9:15 am – 10:30 am **Keynote Presentations**

Assemblyman Phil Ramos
NYS Assembly, 6th Assembly District

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Bronx Borough President

10:30 am **Panelists**

Dr. Luis Valenzuela, Executive Director, Long Island Immigrant Alliance (LIIA),
Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare SUNY Stony Brook

11:00 am Dr. Laura Gonzalez-Murphy, MS
Director, NYS Office for New Americans

11:30 Presenter from **Protecting Health Care and Entitlement Services Forum**

Christy Parque, MSW
President and CEO, Coalition for Behavioral Health, Inc.

11:55 Q and A for Immigration Forum

12-1pm Lunch (on your own, on site)

Protecting Health Care and Entitlement Services

1pm-1:45pm **Keynote Presentation**

Dennis Romero, MA, Regional Administrator, DHHS Region II
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Eight Federally Recognized Tribes, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

1:50 pm **Panelists**

Maria Kercado
Vice President, 1199 SEIU

2:20 pm Dr. Evan Senreich, LMSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Lehman College, City University of New York

3:00 pm Q and A

3:30-4:00 Closing and Evaluation

AM Educational Objectives:

- To learn about the impact of immigration on Latino families and children in Latino communities and
- To learn about how to deal with the situation before it arises
- To inspire motivation and inspiration as for the Latino community and others to look up to during these stressful times.
- To promote dialogue among participants

PM Educational Objectives:

- To awareness among the participants and their clients in dealing about their health care and entitlement services before a situation arises
- To provide strategies to promote self-reliance and guidance in dealing with health care issues before they arise
- To provide motivation and inspiration among the participants
- To promote dialogue among the participants.

Immigration Issues and Strategies



Phil Ramos

Assemblyman, 6th Assembly District

Philip Ramos (D, WFP – Bay Shore) represents the 6th Assembly District, which includes portions of the hamlets of Brentwood, Central Islip, North Bay Shore, Bay Shore and Islandia. He was elected to a newly created Assembly seat in 2002 and has proudly served the people of his district for 13 years. During the 2015 legislative session, he was appointed Deputy Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly.

Born in the Bronx and raised in Brentwood, Phil is the son of a correction officer and a registered nurse. From an early age, he was taught the value of helping others and giving back to the community. He has lived in Brentwood for the past 50 years, raising his two children here and working tirelessly on behalf of the community.

After graduating from Brentwood High School, he went on to work as a therapy aide at the Pilgrim Psychiatric Center and later became an Emergency Medical Technician. In 1979, Phil followed in his father's footsteps and joined law enforcement, becoming a Suffolk County police officer. Phil dedicated himself to protecting members of the community and making the neighborhood a safer place. He also used his position to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the Latino community, founding the Suffolk County Police Hispanic Society. In 1987, he was promoted to the detective unit. After 20 years of dedicated service, Phil retired from the Suffolk County Police Department.

Since he was elected to the state Assembly, Phil has achieved notable increases in state aid for local school districts, helping both students and taxpayers. He has also worked tirelessly to expand universal pre-K, resulting in significant increases for both Brentwood and Central Islip programs.

Assemblyman Ramos has worked to make the community a safe, affordable place to live. He has secured property tax rebates for homeowners and extended the property tax cap. He has also authored several pieces of legislation to keep the community a safe place for all, including fighting for harsher punishments for gang-related crimes. He is strongly committed to preventing violence and stemming the rise of gang activity.

Assemblyman Ramos has also helped organize and establish the Long Island Latino Elected Officials Association and played an integral role in the establishment of the Long Island Black & Brown Caucus, which consists of 28 legislators from Long Island.

During the 2015 legislative session, Deputy Majority Leader Ramos was elected as the first vice chairman of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. He is an executive board member of the Puerto

Rican/Hispanic Task Force, as well as a member of the Committees on Ways and Means, Aging, Education and Local Government. Assemblyman Ramos is a member of the Subcommittee on Students with Special Needs.



Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Bronx Borough President

“Doing away with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is another step in the wrong direction by the Trump Administration and represents a wrong-headed turn in immigration policy. It is no secret that President Trump came right out of the gates with hateful invective, launching his presidential campaign with xenophobic rhetoric labeling hardworking immigrants as ‘criminals’ and ‘rapists.’ His intentions were clear from Day 1 of his campaign”

Ruben Diaz Jr. first entered public office as a member of the New York State Assembly in 1997, and is currently serving his second full term as Bronx Borough President, having been reelected in November 2013 with more than 89 percent of the vote. As borough president, Ruben Diaz Jr. has led the implementation of a robust agenda—on economic development, housing, health and wellness, education, and public safety—in every corner of the borough. The Bronx has seen over \$12.7 billion in new development of all kinds since Borough President Diaz took office in 2009. This includes more than 29,000 new units of housing and thousands of new jobs.

More than 15,000 new jobs have been created in The Bronx since 2009, thanks in large part to the continued partnership between Borough President Diaz, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation and those seeking to do business in the borough. As a result of those efforts, the unemployment rate in The Bronx has been cut nearly in half, and roughly 100,000 more Bronx residents have jobs today than when Borough President Diaz took office eight years ago.

Much of this success is driven by new infrastructure improvements, and Borough President Diaz has helped bring significant new projects to the borough. This includes the East Bronx Metro North expansion, which will bring new commuter rail service to Co-op City, Morris Park/Van Nest, Parkchester and Hunts Point; the future redevelopment of the Sheridan Expressway and the reconstruction of the historic Orchard Beach Pavilion, among others.

Prior to his current role Borough President Diaz served seven terms in the State Legislature. A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Borough President Diaz lives in the Southeast Bronx with his wife Hilda Gerena Diaz. They have two sons, Ruben Diaz III and Ryan Isaiah Diaz.



Dr. Luis Valenzuela

Executive Director, Long Island Immigrant Alliance (LIIA)
Clinical Associate Professor
School of Social Welfare SUNY Stony Brook

Luis Valenzuela has many years of experience as an advocate in non-profit organizations. He is currently employed by the Healthcare Education Project of the Greater New York Hospital Association & 1199 SEIU. In his capacity as a Health Care Advocate, Luis works to improve healthcare in New York State through education, grassroots organizing and coalition-building.

In order to protect and expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all New Yorkers, Luis focuses on building partnerships with individuals, local healthcare providers, and civic and religious leaders in neighborhoods across the Long Island region. Luis is also a Clinical Associate Professor at SUNY Stony Brook, School of Social Welfare.

In his role as the Executive Director of the Long Island Immigrant Alliance (LIIA), Luis works with an alliance of charitable, religious, labor, civil rights and immigrant organizations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties that are concerned with ensuring that Long Island provides a welcoming environment for immigrants and invites their involvement in the cultural, socio-economic and political life of their community. Over the last ten years, LIIA has been successful in preventing the establishment of anti-Latino/ anti-immigrant policies in Suffolk County. LIIA has played a significant role in the immigrant rights movement at the national, state, and regional levels. LIIA is presently working to ensure that new Americans are fully integrated into the larger society.

Luis advocates support for all immigrants, affirms their legal and human rights, and advances the use of collective strength to overcome the voices of extremism, division, and hatred. He promotes collaboration among networks of human services organizations to empower communities.

Luis had the honor to serve as President of the National Association of Puerto Rican Hispanic Social Workers. He is active in many community organizations including: Long Island Progressive Coalition, LI Save Our Healthcare Alliance, Energeia Leadership Academy Advisory Board, Long Island Council of Churches, Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, Jobs with Justice LI, The Suffolk County Welfare to Work Commission, Long Island Organizing Network (LION), College of Advisors for Erase Racism, LI Healthcare Collaborative.



Dr. Laura V. Gonzalez-Murphy, MS

Director, NYS Office for New Americans

Dr. Laura V. González-Murphy, has been recently appointed 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 also served as the department’s Language Access Coordinator. She has also served as consultant on immigration policy issues with the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars and the Mexican Congress, etc., earning herself the status as the “go to person” in the country on issues of Mexican immigration policy.

Prior to this position she was a Research Assistant Professor at Rockefeller College, SUNY at Albany, where she has taught a variety of courses on foreign policy, immigration, human rights, and immigration and Latin American politics. She was assistant director of the project “The International Context of Immigration: US, Mexico and Beyond,” which examines the politics of changing immigration policies in the US and Mexico.

In a previous tenure she worked for the New York State Office of Rural Affairs and frequently chaired the Governor’s Coordinating Committee on Farm Worker Services. Her advocacy career has entailed co-chairing Albany’s Committee on Immigrant Rights, for which she received the Albany Justice for Workers Award, and membership of the Board of Directors of the Empire Justice Center, a multi-issue public interest law firm. González-Murphy earned her PhD in comparative politics and international relations from SUNY at Albany.

She holds an MS in urban planning and environmental studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BS in political science from Elmira College, graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. Her book “Protecting Immigrant Rights in Mexico: Understanding the State–Civil Society Nexus”, which due to its success has recently been re-published by Routledge (June, 2015).

For additional publications see http://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_gonzalez_murphy.shtml

Protecting Health Care and Entitlement Services



Dennis O. Romero, M.A.

Regional Administrator, DHHS Region II
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
And Eight Federally Recognized Tribes

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

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.

Prior to his current appointment as Regional Administrator, Mr. Romero served as the SAMHSA lead establishing the framework necessary to ensure a coordinated approach involving the Departments of Justice, Interior, and Health and Human Services assist and respond to the behavioral health needs of tribal governments across the country through the provisions of training, guidance and technical assistance to enhance the Tribe's behavioral health prevention and treatment initiatives as required under The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. Prior to that position, Mr. Romero served as the Agency's Deputy Executive Officer and Deputy Director for the Office of Program Services at SAMHSA which oversees the conduct of management and administrative operations across the agency. Preceding that position, Mr. Romero served in several senior leadership capacities in SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, providing national leadership in the prevention sciences, development and dissemination of effective strategies, services and support efforts in reducing substance abuse while promoting the strategic prevention framework across our nation's behavioral health care system.

Mr. Romero has extensive experience in the fields of administration, program development, and as a seasoned clinician has served in numerous clinical capacities in the Northeast region both in the public and private sectors. Mr. Romero has served on many professional committees, advisory boards, and commissions (at regional, state and local

levels) that address issues related to the field of behavioral health as well as allied social and educational issues. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, honors and recognitions.

Earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Psychology from Cathedral College, he also holds a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Manhattan College. He received post-graduate training at the State University of New York, Albany Campus.



Christy Parque, MSW

President and CEO
The Coalition for Behavioral Health, Inc.

Christy Parque, the President & Chief Executive Officer of The Coalition for Behavioral Health, Inc. (The Coalition), an umbrella advocacy organization representing nearly 140 of New York's community-based behavioral health nonprofits has lead the organization since April 2016.

Prior to joining The Coalition Ms. Parque served as the Executive Director of Homeless Services United (HSU) from 2007 until 2016. Her work at HSU, a 50-member association of non-profit organizations serving homeless people, focused on creating sound homeless and housing policy, providing advocacy, information, and training to providers around the provision of housing and support services for homeless populations in New York City.

Trained as a social worker and with a homeless, aging, healthcare, labor, and social justice background, she is a consummate advocate who is passionate about creating strong and healthy individuals and thriving communities. She has worked tirelessly to develop collaborative relationships with elected officials, government professionals, community partners and service providers. Recognized as a leader in human services, homeless services and behavioral health sector, Ms. Parque is frequently called upon to present expert testimony at public hearings, and is a frequent guest lecturer at conferences and universities.

During her nine-year tenure at HSU, Ms. Parque grew the organization, significantly increasing its funding, and expanded greater training opportunities for her member agencies. She has developed and implemented successful advocacy campaigns at the city, state and federal levels and has championed programs and funding to study and support best practices in the field. She has been an active participant on several high-level City and State task forces with sector and government stakeholders. She is also a co-author of "A Roadmap to End Homelessness in New York City," (2013), a

guide written for the incoming Mayor and City Council detailing proven, cost-effective policies to prevent and end homelessness in New York City.

In addition to her leadership role at The Coalition for Behavioral Health, Inc., Ms. Parque is on the Board of Directors of the Coalition of the Institutionalized Aged and Disabled (CIAD), Gateway Housing Corporation and the Human Services Council of New York.

Christy graduated with a Bachelor's degree of Social Work from San Francisco State University and a Master's degree of Social Work in Policy and Community Organizing from Boston University.

About The Coalition for Behavioral Health

The Coalition is the nonprofit public policy advocacy organization of New York's behavioral health providers. It represents nearly 140 community-based agencies that serve more than 450,000 adults and children and deliver a full continuum of behavioral health care in all neighborhoods of NYC and surrounding counties. The Coalition provides technical assistance to its members and the professional community on critical issues related to managed care readiness, rehabilitation and recovery, organizational development, best practices, evidence based skills, technology, administration, and compliance. The Coalition secures funding for members to conduct meaningful projects in critical program areas and facilitates networking and community among members. The Coalition's aim is to coordinate government and the private sector efforts toward efficient delivery of quality behavioral health services to children and adults of all ages and backgrounds, enabling them to lead productive lives in their communities.



Maria Kercado

Vice President
1199, SEIU

Maria Kercado is the Executive Vice President representing the Mt Sinai Health System Division of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. She, with a team of 15 staffers, that includes Vice Presidents, Organizers, Contract Administrators, we represent over 11,000 Bargaining Unit members in the NYC and surrounding areas.

Her work with the Union has allowed her to indulge in two of her passions- Social Justice Issues and Politics. As a member of several committees and coalitions she's had the opportunity to participate in social justice forums in Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and many States in the USA. A historical highlight was directly participating in the 2000 Presidential Election Recount in Florida.

She is a Vice President of the Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body Executive Board, Executive Vice President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) Westchester Chapter, a Trustee of four different Benefit

Funds, an Alternate Trustee of a Pension Fund, a member of the Mount Sinai/ IJ Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine Advisory Board, a member of the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Committee, as well as several other Committees.

Maria was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and raised in New York. She and her husband of 27 years, John, an IT Administrator in NYC, live in the Bronx.



Dr. Evan Senreich, LCSW

Associate Professor of Social Work
Lehman College, City University of New York

Evan Senreich has been a faculty member in the Lehman College Department of Social Work, City University of New York, since 2008. He obtained his doctorate in social work from New York University Silver School of Social Work in 2007. He previously worked in New York in the fields of mental health and substance misuse programs for over two decades.

Dr. Senreich has had numerous 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, and the attitudes of West African immigrants towards substance misuse in the United States.

Furthermore, he has had articles published regarding using a Gestalt therapy approach to social work practice and teaching social work students an inclusive definition of spirituality for use in practice. He is also involved in research projects regarding the physical, mental health, and substance use problems of U.S. licensed social workers, the high rate of heroin use among Puerto Ricans in the United States, and the attitudes of urban college students towards the police. He was the Project Director of a three-year federal grant training social work students and medical residents in the use of SBIRT, a protocol for screening and providing brief interventions to substance using clients according to an integrated health care model.

Location and Directions to LIU Post:

LIU Post
720 Northern Blvd. Brookville, NY 11548

Public Transportation

- LIU Brooklyn is central to all transportation. Use the MTA's Trip Planner, to plan your trip to the campus.

BY CAR:

From New York City

Take Queens-Midtown Tunnel to Long Island Expressway (I-495). Take Exit 39 and make a left at the light (Glen Cove Road north). Go north for 2 miles; turn right (east) on Northern Boulevard (Route 25A). LIU Post is 2 miles on the right.

From Bronx, Westchester and Points North

Take Throgs Neck Bridge to Clearview Expressway (I-295) south. Exit to eastbound Long Island Expressway (I-495); proceed to Exit 39 and continue as indicated above.

From Northern New Jersey

Take the George Washington Bridge east to the Cross Bronx Expressway. Cross the Throgs Neck Bridge then follow directions given from Bronx, Westchester and Points North.

From Eastern Long Island

Take Long Island Expressway (I-495) to Exit 41N (Route 107). Turn right (north) onto 107 north. Proceed to Northern Boulevard (Route 25A). Turn left (west) at Northern Boulevard. LIU Post is on the left.

BY RAILROAD: (Long Island Rail Road)

From Pennsylvania Station, take either the Long Island Rail Road's (LIRR) Port Jefferson train line to the Hicksville station, or the Port Washington-Manhasset line to the Great Neck or Manhasset station, or the Oyster Bay line to the Greenvale station. All of these stations, except Greenvale, have bus service to LIU Post (see below for bus information). Contact the LIRR at 516-822-5477 or visit their Web site at: mta.info/lirr/ for more information regarding train and bus schedules. Taxi service is available from all of these train stations. See Taxi Service below for further information.

BY TAXI: Taxi service is available from the Greenvale, Hicksville, Great Neck and Manhasset train stations. Call All Island Taxi prior to your arrival at 516-486-6666 or Arena Taxi at 516-671-1848 for information regarding service and rates. Call Oyster Rides Taxi at 516-922-2222 for information regarding service and rates from the Hicksville train station.

Greenvale is closest and fastest by Taxi Service. Give yourself half an hour by bus service at the other stations.

For additional instructions, go to LIU post site: <http://www.liu.edu/post/directions>