

Rosa Julia Garcia Rivera, MA, LCPC

Success-driven visionary with over 30 years of experience driving significant results in the Mental Health and Non-Profit Sectors.

Executive Profile

Strategic, results-driven leader with proven ability to spearhead change, conceptualize, and execute innovative initiatives. Significant experience in leading and managing Mental Health, Child, Youth and Community Engagement program strategies.

Areas of Expertise

- Building and retaining exceptional staff and creating excellent work environments.
- Developing and implementing innovative programs, services, and marketing material.
- Coalition builder with exceptional interpersonal and communication skills including public speaking.
- Executing critical programs that further community engagement and organizational mission.
- Advocacy work and constituency building.
- Extensive experience in the areas of child & adolescent mental health and early childhood education as they relate to economic and social development.

Professional Experience

Co-Owner and Founder of Chicago Growth Mindset LLC, Therapist, Coach, Consultant Trainer/Public Presenter, Chicago, Illinois 2020 – Present

- Provide comprehensive clinical services through a racial and social equity lens for individual, families, and couples.
- Head Start /Early Head Start /Home Visiting / Home Day care Mental Health Consulting and supervision
- Provide holistic mental health services that support professionals in high stress work environments.
- Provide services for early childhood thru adolescents, adulthood, and aging.
- Development and implementation of professional training and treatment interventions for a variety of profit and nonprofit organizations across the country.
- Provide mental health needs assessments for organizations.
- Design and implement and train on restorative practices that include, conflict resolution and racial healing circles.
- Provide crisis trauma response services as well as trauma debriefing for a variety of workplace settings
- Trained employees and volunteers in more than 100+ organizations.
- Conducted public workshops for 1,000+ attendees.
- Presented technical papers and keynote addresses at numerous professional conferences, nonprofit, and community meetings and special events.
- Design of linguistically and culturally relevant innovative social service models to support the mental health of families and organizations.
- Provision of leadership development, executive coaching, and clinical support for professional and community leaders across the country.

Gads Hill Center, Chicago, IL 2010- July 2022

Chief Program Officer April 2020- July 2022

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Programs Officer, July 2018 – April 2020

Director of Programs, April 2017 – July 2018

Director of Mental Health and Youth Services and Community Initiatives, January 2016 – April 2017

Director of Mental Health, September 2014 – January 2016

Primary Mental Health Consultant 2010 - 2014

- Successfully developed the model “*Healthy Minds Healthy Schools*”, a multi-tiered model utilizing a *Whole Child Lens* and an Intergenerational Approach to school based counseling
- Development of programs targeting hard-to-reach populations, marginalized, and otherwise disadvantaged communities.
- Responsible for the implementation, management, and evaluation within educational, health and community programs in accordance with contracts and funding guidelines.
- Design and management of quality improvement for all programs, creation of a data-driven culture within the organization.
- Analysis of trends in the program, identifying issues and developing and recommending solutions to the CEO.
- Establishment of fundraising goals to meet the operational budget of all programs as well as identification of funding sources and oversight of program goals.
- Provision of leadership and training in quality early childcare and school-age services, with an emphasis in meeting the child care needs of families via a racial equity lens.
- Preparation and execution of annual operating strategies for the department and collaboration with other department executives in syncing annual plans and cross-departmental initiatives.
- Identification and establishment of strategic partnerships within mental health, early childhood, youth development, parent involvement, and student support programs to increase resources for families and increase program enrollment.
- Recruitment, hiring, and supervision for all licensed and non-licensed staff in compliance with the standards of county, state, and federal regulatory agencies.
- Facilitation and participation in national and local public speaking events.
- Responsible for supporting fundraising efforts within the organization, including the research and cultivation of the narrative for foundation grants, the design and the execution of special events and the cultivation of donors.

Owner of Rivera Consulting Inc, Consultant/Clinician/Presenter, Chicago, Illinois 2004 – 2016

Operator of Mental Health firm providing comprehensive mental health strategies to early childhood programs, Chicago Public Schools, and the social service sector across Illinois.

- Early Head Start, Head Start Home visiting mental health consultant for over 20 partners.
- Management and clinical supervision of highly qualified mental health specialists.
- Development and Implementation of training and treatment interventions for a variety of Early Childhood Education, Health, and Law Enforcement agencies across Illinois.
- Design of linguistically and culturally relevant training/psychoeducational programs.
- Design of clinical intervention programs for children and adults identified as diverse learners.
- Provision of leadership training, coaching and clinical support for early childhood education and mental health staff across a variety of organizations/schools in the Chicagoland area.
- Crisis management with professional, solution-focused interventions.
- Trained employees and volunteers in more than 50+ organizations.
- Conducted public workshops for 1,000+ attendees.

- Presented technical papers and keynote addresses at numerous professional conferences, nonprofit, and community meetings.

Clinical Supervisor, Presence Health Care at Saint Mary's of Nazareth Hospital, Children's Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic, Chicago, Illinois October 2001 – December 2014

- Designed the child and adolescent out-patient treatment programs for clinic, led the design of assessment tools, policies, and psychotherapy interventions for high-needs intensive populations.
- Provision of clinical supervision and leadership for clinical therapists and interns.
- Development and facilitation of community-integration group for adolescents and adults with mental illness deemed "severely violent".
- Provision of evaluations, diagnostic presentations, development of treatment plans, and execution of comprehensive mental health services for clients across the developmental life span.
- Extensive experience with Cognitive Behavioral, Solution Focused, Expressive and Relational Therapies.
- Supported fundraising and event planning for outpatient clinic.

Adjunct Professor:

- **Erikson Institute**, Chicago, Illinois August 2016 – May 2018, Graduate Seminar, Child Development
- **Saint Xavier University**, Chicago, Illinois, May – August 2008 Graduate Course, Multi-Cultural Counseling
- **Columbia College**, Chicago, Illinois August 2002 – May 2003 Undergraduate Introduction to Psychology
- **Roosevelt University**, Chicago, Illinois May – August 2000 Undergraduate Child Development

Clinical Supervisor, Streamwood Child and Youth Behavioral Health, St. John of God/St. Mary's of Scotland, Chicago, Illinois April 1999 – October 2001

- Supervision and management of clinical programs for two residential shelters servicing over 200 children and adolescents who were wards of the state and suffered from severe behavioral and emotional disorders.
- Development and implementation of comprehensive mental health department for organization including all assessments, client criteria and administration policies for clinical team.
- Provision of comprehensive mental health services to 40 adolescent males who were wards of the state and in the judicial system for violent offenses.

Staff Therapist/Child and Adolescent SASS Worker Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois September 1996 – April 1999

- Assessment of children, adolescents, and adults in crisis for psychiatric hospitalization.
- Crisis and de-escalation specialist.
- Provided brief intensive therapy for clients addressing suicidal and homicidal ideations.

Generalist Clinician, Uhlich Children's Home (UCAN), Chicago, Illinois May 1994 – September 1996

- Provision of clinical services to severely behaviorally and emotionally disturbed girls (ages 6-15) who had suffered ritualistic abuse via development of play/expressive therapy groups.
- Facilitation of behavior management, crisis intervention, and individual counseling.

Gang Certified Specialist /Consultant, State's Attorney's Office, DeKalb, Illinois January 1992 – May 1994

- Provision of community outreach in various settings to increase prevention and intervention techniques to address community gang issues including media.
- Conducting of fieldwork with gang members on the streets focused on decreasing violence within their culture through intensive, comprehensive mental health services.

Education

Master of Education in Community Counseling, August 1998 (APA Accredited)
Northeastern University, Chicago, Illinois. GPA 3.9 (Full scholarship)

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Sociology, May 1994
Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois.

Georgetown School of Nonprofit and Prosperity Now 2016-2018

Racial Wealth Divide Initiative Building *High-Impact Nonprofits of Color*. Two-year initiative, where leaders increased their capacity to address racial wealth disparities in their communities.

- Capstone Project – *Communication Strategies: A Distinct Approach to Fundraising*.

Bridgespan Group 2017-2019 (Chicago IL)

2-year initiative focused on augmenting organizational capacity, developing tools designed to help agencies build strong leadership teams and increasing impact within the communities they serve.

- Project lead with executive team in developing *Theory of Change, Impact Rubrics, and Logic Models* to increase program alignment and service impact.

Illinois Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, 2000 – Present

180.003919, State of Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation

References are available upon request.