

Emerging Issues around COVID-19 and Social Determinants of Health for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and recovery Workforces

Strategic Discussion 2: Strategies to Support the LatinX community.

Thursday, April 30: 2-3:30pm



Facilitator: Alex Barajas Muñoz, PhD

Psychologist

University of Kansas Counseling and Psychological Services

Alex Barajas Muñoz has a PhD in Counseling Psychology, a Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance, and a Master's Degree in Neurosciences. Dr. Barajas is currently employed as a staff psychologist at the University of Kansas (KU) Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and also serves as adjunct professor at the Counseling Psychology doctoral program at UMKC. He worked for over ten years as a Research Associate, Evaluator and Trainer with Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center at UMKC. His areas of expertise include: evaluation and research (development of evaluation instruments, data collection, data analysis and technical report writing); counseling; training, editing and translating (English/Spanish) professional literature in the areas of psychology, neuroscience and substance use disorders; psychotherapeutic medications; and counseling special populations (Hispanic, LGBT).



Panelist 1: Haner Hernández, Ph.D., CPS, CADCI, LADCI

Dr. Hernández is originally from Puerto Rico, is bilingual and has worked for 32 years in the health and human service field developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally and linguistically intelligent youth and adult health prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support programs. Also, Dr. Hernández has many years of experience in delivering addiction counseling and clinical supervision to professionals in the field. Furthermore, he is a professional trainer and facilitator and provides individualized technical assistance and support to organizations that provide addiction prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery supports.

Haner is a person in long-term recovery from addiction and is committed to eliminating health disparities by working at the national, state, and local levels. He is currently a Senior Consultant to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, with a focus on disparities, building health equity, addiction treatment, recovery supports, and the Recovery Support Centers located throughout the Commonwealth. He also consults and teaches a number of courses at the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) at Brown University and the National Latino and Hispanic Mental Health TTC. Dr. Hernandez was appointed to SAMHSA Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale

Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) steering committee in 2014 and the Criminal Justice Policy Committee in 2018. He has served a consultant to several federally-funded initiatives in the areas of behavioral workforce development, HIV/AIDS, Substance Use Disorders prevention and treatment, military service members, their families and TBI and PTSD, and pediatric asthma. Dr. Hernández serves as faculty at the New England School of Addiction Studies since 1998, has taught a number of undergraduate and graduate courses, and has presented at several national and state conferences. Dr. Hernández serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Board for Voluntary Certification of Drug and Alcohol Counselors, is a member of the Board of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR), was appointed to the Springfield Public Health Council in 2006, and served on the Massachusetts Governor's Latin American Advisory Commission in Massachusetts from 2000-2004.

Haner earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Springfield College and a Master of Education with concentrations in Counseling Psychology and Addiction Studies from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. His doctoral degree was earned at the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His major was Community Health Education and his minor was Social Justice Education. In addition, Mr. Hernandez holds an advance Certification in Drug and Alcohol Counseling at the reciprocal level, is licensed in Massachusetts, and is a Certified Prevention Specialist.



Panelist 2: Pierluigi Mancini, PhD, MAC

Project Director,
National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center
National Hispanic and Latino Prevention Technology Transfer Center

Pierluigi Mancini, PhD, MAC is the Project Director for the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the National Hispanic and Latino Prevention Technology Transfer Center. Both SAMHSA funded centers are housed at the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (www.NLBHA.org) located in New Mexico. With over 30 years of experience in culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health treatment and prevention, Dr. Mancini is one of the most sought after national and

international consultants and speakers on mental health and addiction, his areas of expertise is immigrant behavioral health and health disparities. Dr. Mancini founded Georgia's first Latino behavioral health program in 1999 to serve the immigrant population by providing cultural and linguistically appropriate services in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



Panelist 3: Troy Montserrat-Gonzales, MA, NCC, LPC

Troy Montserrat-Gonzales is the Tribal Liaison for CareOregon, (an Oregon-based nonprofit, community benefit company) and also runs her own consultancy providing training and technical assistance in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings.

Troy is an anthropologist and licensed counselor of mixed-race Chicana and American Indian (Lumbee) descent. She has over ten years' experience working in the behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment field. She has worked in program management in a wide array of settings including American Indian / Alaska Native healthcare programs, in large metropolitan health departments, in integrated primary care clinics and maximum-security corrections health.

Troy considers herself a neuroscience-informed practitioner and in her consultancy, she specializes in motivational interviewing training, trauma-informed workplaces, promoting human services worker resiliency, culturally honorific treatment and programming, dual diagnosis and integrated program assessment and coaching, and recovery-oriented systems of care.

Troy is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), is a certified AMSR (Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk) trainer and is a consultant with the Opioid Response Network (ORN).

Prior to her behavioral health career, Troy studied medical anthropology and holds master's degrees in social science and anthropology from the University of Chicago and Harvard, respectively. Her areas of research included transcultural psychiatry (specifically the intersection of western medicine and culturally-specific treatment in Indian Country) as well as the trauma-informed application of federal policies specific to American Indian / Alaska Native people such as the Native American Graves Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).



Panelist 4: Gabrielle Rodriguez

Founder & Co-Creator of La Conexión

Gabrielle Rodriguez (she/her/hers), Founder & Co-Creator of La Conexión, Recovery Coach, student, and community organizer. Gabrielle is a sober, queer, first-generation Latina passionate about co-creating sobers spaces where Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) can practice individual and collective healing for us, with us, by us.