

Lazara G. Paz-Gonzalez, MPH

Public Health Educator, Organizer, Collaborator, and Strategist



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Consultant

FACENTE CONSULTING, Richmond, CA, 2021 – Present

- Lead game-changing projects for health departments, community-based organizations, and academic institutions, including strategic planning processes, needs assessments, evaluations, and coaching regarding organizational and program development

Adjunct Professor, Public Health/Health Sciences

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY, West Long Branch, NJ, 2017– Present

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY, Wayne, NJ, 2016 – 2017 | **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**, Reno, NV, 2010-2012

- Provide semester-based instruction to 25 students in various entry level and upper-class public health courses utilizing various technologies and methodologies to identify learning goals, develop lessons, and assess knowledgebase

Experience Advisor

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH, JERSEY SHORE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, Neptune, NJ 2019– 2021

- Actively supported patients, internal team members, and community in an epicenter-based, 600-bed trauma center to ensure patient satisfaction and uncompromised quality of care during global COVID pandemic
- Collaborated with seven in-patient hospital units to develop strategic plan improving the patient experience and leading towards achieving 75th percentile performance and patient satisfaction in CMS HCAHPS score utilizing performance improvement tools; coached unit leaders and teams on identifying process improvement opportunities by providing meaningful, real-time, service excellence standards and coaching

Task Lead/Program Coordinator

HEALTHCARE QUALITY STRATEGIES, INC., East Brunswick, NJ, 2017– 2021

- Developed and managed strategy plan for Care Coordination and Transitions Project for NJ-funded Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Quality Improvement Agency with 93 healthcare and supportive agencies throughout Hudson County
- Provided technical assistance, resources and educational opportunities to over 35 statewide clinical healthcare agencies focused on Adult Immunization and Cardiac Health quality improvement efforts, including conduct three national webinars on the topics
- Developed training, curricula, and instruction for three (3) NJ healthcare systems on Motivational Interviewing; implement English and Spanish-language evidence based Diabetes education programming to over 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries

Director, Youth Engagement | Assistant Director, Health & Wellness

HETRICK-MARTIN INSTITUTE, New York, NY, 2014 - 2017

- Implemented effective staffing and management structure for the overall operations of diverse program environment supporting over 2000 youth annually, including supervision of day-to-day program operations, management of agency-wide youth communication procedures, and immediate risk-management issues related to youth incidents
- Managed a team of 15 full- and part-time health and wellness staff, as well as 5 youth engagement staff, including hire, train and evaluate, with a \$1.9 million dollar budget throughout 9 grant-funded contracts, including report writing, data analysis, budget development and management; additional program development and implementation support provided

Capacity Building Advisor – Organizational Infrastructure and Program Sustainability

HARM REDUCTION COALITION, New York, NY, 2012 -2014

- Worked with 43 diverse community based organizations throughout the nation to develop operating framework and roadmap to operationalize strategic planning initiatives, assess organizational objectives, and identify clients' training needs to support development of restructured functional 5-year operational goals meeting the needs of the community and funder; provided follow-up program evaluation, along with moderated training and discussion panels
- Expanded breadth of substance-use focused programs and community partners to include LGBTQ, Sex Work and Latino communities

State STD/Hepatitis Prevention and Control Manager | Epidemiology Coordinator, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION, Office of Epidemiology, Las Vegas, NV, 2010 - 2012

- Prepared and wrote CDC grants and progress reports for 5-yr continuation grant totaling \$1.75 million, including development of grant goals and objectives, program performance assessment; Conducted programmatic process evaluation and regulatory compliance with Nevada statutes, CDC STD/Hepatitis prevention and control policy's and codes
- Served as central repository for STD/Hepatitis surveillance data and HIV/AIDS epidemiological data subsets, as well as national guidelines and other clinical/educational information, including providing technical assistance, special case investigations, and training resources

Supervisor, Translational Research Office | Translational Research Coordinator

Department Manager/Program Coordinator/Health Educator

NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE (NVCII), Las Vegas, NV, 2005 - 2010

- Assembled budgets for 2 federal projects, totaling over \$3 million, including all documentation for regulatory and IRB submissions, development and maintenance of electronic research databases, internal QA of data, and assessment of monitor inquiries
- Hired, trained and managed 18 operational program staff and budgets totaling up to \$2.5 million to implement Institution's health and wellness activities; developed Institution's internal health policies; monitored relevant governmental contractual reports; conducted research and documented data to support demographics and narrative for data, including state epidemiological reports
- Defined, coordinated and implemented 10-week bi-lingual/bi-cultural employee-wellness nutrition and physical activity curricula program to local Casino Union based on social/behavioral research project implemented among 200 participants; pilot program included 23 participants, with 19 completing 10-week participation

Teaching English Foreign Language Instructor

NEXT LEVEL LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, Prague, Czech Republic, 2004

- Developed, implemented and instructed multi-level classroom-based and 1:1 English-language skills and lesson plans to 23 native students

Program Coordinator of Youth Initiatives & Capacity Building

NATIONAL LATINA HEALTH NETWORK, New Brunswick, NJ/ Washington, DC, 2001 - 2004

- Provided oversight for Latino and LGBTQ Peer Youth HIV prevention community mobilization project in 5 US-based cities, including NJ's statewide initiative supporting 13 youth on cross-task work with the NJ HIV Prevention Coalition and 6 non-profit agencies, leading to implementation of first *NJ Youth HIV Prevention strategies*
- Participated in various HIV and minority youth of color panels/conferences; coordinated NJ statewide Youth Health Forum; Collaborated on management of statewide *First Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day* celebrated in 2002 with 113 individuals in attendance; Organized and coordinated NJ-statewide Latina 56-person contingency for 2004 *March for Women's Lives*

Solution-oriented and versatile public health professional with experience in diverse models of strategizing, community building, research, and health education with demonstrated success in operations management, process improvement and program development

KEY SKILLS

- Organizational and program development, management and capacity building
- Grant, budget and contract development and management
- Qualitative and quantitative research and evaluation at community and program levels
- Event planning and coordination
- Public speaking, health education & training
- Tailored workshops development and facilitation
- Advocacy, community outreach, leadership, mentoring
- International contextualization of social issues
- Ethnically Bi-cultural/Fluent in Spanish-language (read/speak/write)

EDUCATION

- MPH, Health Promotion, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV, 2007
- T.E.F.L Certification, Next Level Language Institute, Prague, Czech Republic, 2004
- BS, Community Health Education, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ, 2001

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & AWARDS

- Leadership & Organizing in Action Distance Learning Program - LOA 3.0 (2018)
- Lead The Way Fellow (selected), Center For Research & Policy In The Public Interest @ the New York Women's Foundation, NYC (Aug 2015)
- LGBTQ Scholar of Color Fellow, selected by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies @ the City University of New York (May 2015)
- UCLA Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR), Graduate, Los Angeles, CA (May 2010)
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Training (April 2010)
- National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES), (April 2007)
- Emergency Medical Technician – B Certified (1999-2002)