

Raúl S. Vargas, LLMSW*

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Adaptable, dynamic Social Work Professional with over 7 years of experience working in coordinating programs, monitoring and evaluation, and providing administrative and program support. Effective bilingual communicator in both Spanish and English, and experienced advocate for social justice issues and vulnerable communities.

Professional Experience

Student Support Coordinator/Academic Advisor

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – LANSING, MI

Nov 2020 – Present

- **Develop and manage** student resource connections between the University, College of Social Science and the school.
- **Actively support** Student Advisors and MSW student group faculty advisors with student concerns professional development.
- **Plan, coordinate, direct, and evaluate** MSW student orientations, professional development opportunities and other student activities.
- **Participate in academic recruitment, outreach, admissions,** and University and School activities as assigned for the MSW program.
- **Teach** courses as assigned by the Associate Director for Teaching and Instruction within the Social Policy realm of social work at the masters level.
 - **SW 820** Social Work Policy and Services
 - **SW 822** Topics in Policy Practice and Advocacy
- **Provide mentorship and guidance** to MSW and BSW students in the Phi Alpha Honor Society-Beta Chapter.
- **Advise** weekend program students in navigating the school curriculum, resources, and issues that arise during their academic experience.
- **Collaborate** with webmaster to facilitate use of school website and update resources and information on the career services page and the Phi Alpha Honor Society-Beta Chapter page.
- **Develop and explore** communication strategies to increase student engagement and student awareness of resources and events.

Family Coach/Case Manager

FLINT HOUSING COMMISSION – FLINT, MI

Feb 2019 – Nov 2020

- **Conduct** Intakes to Flint residents through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Choice Neighborhoods Initiative People Plan.
- **Provide ongoing support,** active outreach, and creative engagement to families in targeted areas within the city of Flint in a case manager role.
- **Plan, implement, direct, and evaluates** the Choice Neighborhood Initiative People Plan with close collaboration of the Mott Workforce and Economic Development (WED) Program.
- **Collect and report** data related to Choice Neighborhoods metrics to Project Director.
- **Identify** the need for changes in policies and procedures and take initiative to implement changed within assigned area of responsibility and make recommendations for change.
- **Link** community resources and services to residents where they have reported a need in areas of personal improvement and family goals.

* Full licensure expected in Winter 2023

Neighborhood Project Assistant

AMERICORPS/NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT HUB – FLINT, MI

Feb 2018 – Dec 2018

- **Develop** workshops and events curated to the needs Flint residents increasing capacity in the areas of leadership skills, and digital literacy.
- **Design** action plans for neighborhood groups, which outline yearly neighborhood projects (i.e. coordinating neighborhood clean ups, neighborhood events, park projects, etc.).
- **Link** neighborhood groups to community resources that provide specialized services for residents.
- **Provide** digital literacy support to lower income residents accessing web based services and programs.

Administrative Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

Jun 2017 – Apr 2018

- **Interviewed** and screened prospective candidates who interview respondents participating in various studies conducted by the Institute and their partners.
- **Managed** and update resource database for military respondents requiring support in nationwide study.
- **Conducted quality control** for various reports and surveys monitored by the Survey Services Laboratory.
- **Connected** respondents of nationwide study to critical services in their home areas, such as vocational training, therapist with experience with veteran population, affordable housing, and transportation.

Social Work Resident, Office of the Associate Dean for Educational Programs

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

Aug 2015 – Jan 2017

- **Co-developed** 7 Latinx Heritage Month events with a MESA organized committee to increase visibility surrounding the complexities of the Latinx community.
- **Conducted** 12 focus groups and individual interviews to evaluate new social justice curriculum.
- **Created** surveys, **collected** and **analyzed** data to inform the unit's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.
- Expanded School of Social Work's online resources for undocumented/DACAmented students.
- Co-authored School of Social Work strategic plan on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- **Co-facilitated** a Spanish-speaking support group with Latinx social work students, while working with the participants in the creation of translated resources in Spanish.

Liaison for Dean's TBLG Matters Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

Aug 2014 – Aug 2015

- **Developed** programing that provided students, faculty, and staff with tools and basic knowledge related to the LGBTQ+ communities with the goal of creating a more inclusive climate at the School of Social
- **Managed** strict budget and allocated resources for monthly activities.
- **Publicized** events through social media platforms, targeted email communication and Dean's initiative website, which promoted events across campus that encouraged attendance to Dean's Initiative events.

Program Assistant

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK, BCC – ANN ARBOR, MI

Sept 2014 – Aug 2015

- **Served** as a Liaison between school staff, parents and students to develop plans to enhance students' behavioral and academic performance by using a **biopsychosocial** approach.
- **Monitored** the well-being and health of students (K-12) during the afterschool program to identify their needs in various dimensions, which includes their emotional, physical, and psychological needs. Saw an increase in attendance and improvement in student health.
- **Utilized motivational interviewing** strategies with 45+ clients enrolled in the After-School Teen Program to support the participants in building their agency to self-determination.
- **Mentored** youth on appropriate expression of emotions, daily behaviors, development of short term and long-term goals, and role modeled appropriate behaviors.

Mentor and Project Assistant

LGBTQ CENTER OF LONG BEACH – LONG BEACH

Aug 2013 – May 2014

- **Formulated** actions plans with the Youth Services Manager to resolve student concerns regarding their mental health, physical health, social supports, and their environment.
- **Collaborated** with Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment (MYTE) mentors in addressing the needs of the participants of the program.
- **Established** rapport with youth in the program and encouraged them to build the capacity to find alternate forms of social support outside of their family by using a **strength based approach and CBT**.
- **Administered** Intakes using **active listening** skills for participants of a SAMHSA funded research project aimed at gathering data from men of color who have sex with other men while providing them with support.

Mentor and Program Assistant

OLIVE CREST – LONG BEACH

Jan 2013 – July 2014

- **Tutored** 20+ participants (K-6) of the program to address the critical areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and cultural identity by using specialized strategies designed for each student.
- **Collaborated** in the creation of individualized service plans with agency staff members in addressing needs and required services for families.
- Assisted with the development of safety and crisis plans, identify client needs, and management of client case files.
- Maintained a high level of ethical conduct regarding confidentiality, dual-relationships, and professional stature with various stakeholders.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

Master of Social Work

July 2015

Concentration in Community Organization

Practice Area in Communities and Social Systems

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

May 2014

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies

May 2012

Skills and Highlights

- Motivational Interviewing
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Program Development and Management
- Operations and Administrative Support
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Curriculum and Resource Development
- Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement
- Supervision and Training
- Fluent in Spanish and English
- Active Listening Skills

Volunteerism and Leadership

Vice Chair/Board Member

LATINX TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY CENTER – FLINT, MI

Jul 2019 – Present

Volunteer Curriculum Developer for youth program, ESL Instructor

HISPANIC TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY CENTER – FLINT, MI

Jul 2018 – Dec 2018

President for Latinx Social Work Coalition – Student Group

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

Aug 2014 – Jul 2015

Interim President – OUTreach (formerly Queer Social Work Alliance) – Student Group

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

Aug 2014 – Jul 2015