

Janelle Torres-Groover, MPH, MSW, LCSW

Professional Summary

Experienced public health and social work leader with over 20 years managing statewide programs, outreach, and community education initiatives. Skilled in grant and contract management, strategic planning, team supervision, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven program evaluation. Adept at building community partnerships, enhancing service delivery systems, and ensuring regulatory compliance in complex healthcare and disability services environments.

Education & Licensure

Master of Social Work, New Mexico State University, Albuquerque, NM

Master of Public Health, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, GA

BA in Communications, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of New Mexico, License #SWB-2022-0254

Honors & Awards

University of New Mexico Dean's Staff Award – School of Medicine (2020)

Betty Jean & Thomas James Shinas Jr. Endowed Scholarship Recipient (2018)

Florida Child Welfare Professional of the Year – Northwest Region (2014)

NCAA Division I College Student Athlete – University of New Mexico

Professional Experience

New Mexico Highlands University – School of Social Work

Field Consultant (Adjunct Faculty Appointment)

Current

- Provide supervision and evaluation for graduate-level social work students enrolled in field practicum courses.
- Serve as a liaison between NMHU and field placement sites to ensure learning objectives align with professional competencies.
- Support students in applying theoretical knowledge to real-world practice through reflection, coaching, and professional feedback.
- Maintain detailed documentation and communicate regularly with NMHU faculty to assess student progress and program alignment.

- **University of New Mexico – Center for Development and Disability**

Education and Outreach Manager Mi Via Waiver, Supports Waiver, and Information Network

Dec 2014 – Present

- Lead three statewide programs serving approximately 8,000 individuals monthly, multiple employees and student interns.
- Manage all aspects of Medicaid fee-for-service and grant-funded programs, including fiscal oversight, stakeholder collaboration, data analysis, and policy compliance.
- Develop and implement staff training, community outreach, and quality assurance initiatives to meet state deliverables.
- Foster strategic partnerships with state and community partners including, HCA, DOH, MCOs, FMA, TPA, and DDPC.
- Supervise BSW and MSW interns from multiple universities including NMHU, WNMU, NMSU—integrating real-world public health and disability systems practice into student learning.

- **Child Protective Investigations Supervisor**

State of Florida: Department of Children and Families / Children's Advocacy Center

Mar 2004 – Aug 2014 40+ hours per week

- Managed the physical and sexual abuse investigative unit focused on the most serious cases, including children in foster care, children with disabilities, medically fragile children and institutional abuse.
- Supervised a team of 15 investigators; responsible for staff training, performance plans, quality assurance, and critical case review.
- Participated in death reviews and collaborated with state attorneys and law enforcement; provided courtroom testimony.
- Developed policies and training modules for special-handling cases (e.g., domestic violence, DJJ, and group homes).
- Conducted home visits, safety assessments, forensic interviews, and community education presentations.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Department of Veterans Affairs – Raymond G. Murphy
Suicide Prevention Program (2017 -20018)
Completed outreach to Veterans at high risk of high risk of suicidal ideation, provided essential support and therapy, and connected them with VA services. Additionally, ran an inpatient suicide support group for veterans in crisis, fostering a safe and empathetic environment for veterans to share their experiences and support one another.
- Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Fellow (2016-2017)
LEND is a comprehensive program that empowers participants with leadership skills and knowledge in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, person-centered care, research, public policy, cultural diversity, and interdisciplinary practice. Through seminars and hands-on activities, trainees spend 300 hours over two semesters and learn the principles of person and family-centered care, delve into research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practices, explore public policy and health equity, and become proficient in cultural and linguistic responsiveness and diversity.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Foster Care and Child Welfare Services – Evaluating the service delivery and outcomes of children involved in public welfare systems and using research to support child welfare systemic change.
- Health disparities, medical home model for children with special health care needs, impacts and outcomes of interdisciplinary training in neurodevelopmental disabilities.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Volleyball Coach, Hiking, Reading, and Yoga