

Valerie Maturino Lopez

Counselor, Department of Supportive Programs and Services (DSPS)

Objective

To actively participate as a Behavioral Health Commissioner for District 5. My goal is to work with other commissioners and the Board of Supervisors on helping our residents receive optimal mental health services within their community.

Skills & Abilities

- Fifteen years of professional experience working with students and adults from preschool through college.
- Multicultural competent and sensitive to the needs of our diverse communities
- Excellent communication skills with youth, parents, colleagues, and community agencies
- Enthusiastic, organized, creative, conscientious, and responsible
- Certified in Mental Health First Aid, 2018
- Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, 2019

Experience

DSPS Counselor, Hartnell College, Salinas, CA

June 2016-Present

- Work with students through an interactive discussion to determine their limitations in relation to their disability. Provide accommodations for the student based on the limitations discussed.
- Provide comprehensive counseling services including academic, transfer, career and personal counseling for students with disabilities.
- Stay current with Office of Civil Right cases pertaining to students with disabilities
- Stay current with laws pertaining to student with disabilities
- Provide referrals to appropriate resources: mental health, housing, food, scholarships.
- Assist students in clarifying their educational goals, select courses and develop student educational plans.
- Plan, organize, and deliver workshops related to student success, in person and virtually.
- Collaborate with Instructors to monitor student progress and promote student success.

Soledad Unified School District, Soledad, CA

September 2007-June 2017

Counselor (2010-2017), Community Resource Coordinator (2009-2010), Outreach Consultant (2007-2009)

- Provided individual and group counseling covering topics such as nutrition and exercise, relational aggression, anger, school anxiety, family issues, academic readiness, college opportunities, financial aid, suicide prevention, stress, divorce and other social and emotional issues.
- Advocated for student needs at school wide individual education plan meetings, student study team and 504 Accommodations
- Coordinated and managed school wide education plans for student study teams and 504 Accommodation Plans.
- Designed, delivered, and evaluated small group curriculum designed to give students strategies that promote positive behaviors and enhance their social emotional learning.
- Mediated conflicts and challenges amongst school-aged children
- Collaborated with teachers to develop classroom strategies for at-risk youth and their families
- Built trusting relationships with families in order to provide valuable community resources
- Served as the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Coordinator, a member of the District's PBIS Team.

Education

- Masters of Science Counseling University of LaVerne August 2009
- Bachelor of Arts, Psychology San Diego State University December 2004

Leadership

Academic Senator, Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Counseling Department Workgroup Co-Lead, Governance Redesign Task Force, Tri-Lead for College Redesign.