

Gina Vanegas Martínez, M.Ed., Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology (2020) - University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

M.Ed. – School Counseling (2012) - Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

B.A. – Psychology (December 2008) - Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

UNIQUE SKILLSET

- A bilingual and bicultural professional, adept at bridging cultural divides and fostering effective communication.
- Skilled in both qualitative methodologies and quantitative analysis, with a particular expertise on using qualitative approaches to extract meaningful patterns and insights.
- Well-versed in the scientific literature surrounding the access to and utilization of social services, particularly among underserved populations.

EXPERIENCE

2021 – Present - Health & Inclusivity LLC - Founder/Research & Principal Consultant

- Provide evaluation & research services to organizations who aim to increase the engagement of underrepresented groups in quality social services.
- Provide consultation to organizations in the areas of program evaluation, research, engagement, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion across various sectors (i.e., nonprofit, for-profit, education, and health).
- Facilitate professional development opportunities for program staff in the areas of program evaluation, engagement, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.
- Partner and collaborate with organizations who serve Spanish-speaking immigrant communities to provide bilingual psychological services for children and their families through psychoeducation, psychotherapy, and psychological assessments.

2023 – Present - Editorial Board Member - American Journal of Evaluation

- Contribute to the co-development of inclusive and empowering evaluation practices by actively participating in the peer review process for research articles being considered for publication in the journal.

2023 – Present - Continuing Education Instructor - Antioch University

- Design and lead a dynamic leadership curriculum that embraces inclusivity and is specifically crafted to empower female and womxn leaders in the for-profit sector, fostering growth, equity, and organizational transformative impact.

12/2020 – 2021 CALM – Child Abuse Listening Mediation - Mental Health Consultant

- Create synergistic partnerships with various educational institutions to identify organizational needs and develop interventions that can help better serve students and communities.
- Design and implement a data-driven evaluation of the school climate at an early childhood center in order to identify strengths and areas of improvement in promoting a positive school climate.

**08/2019 – 09/2020 - Miami-Dade County Community Action & Human Services
Department - Mental Health Consultant**

- Design and implement a Logic Model data-driven evaluation of two programs within the social services department to improve their effectiveness and the consumer's experience.
- Provided feasible recommendations based on a data-driven evaluation for program administrators to improve treatment effectiveness and facilitate resource allocation.
- Provided consultation services to program managers and administrators overseeing various social services throughout Miami-Dade County to identify staff training needs in order to better serve their diverse clientele.
- Design and implement evidence-based professional development opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse group of stakeholders including program administrators, clinicians, and community members on a variety of topics (e.g., service engagement, allyship, race-related stress, etc.).

SELECT PAST PROJECTS

Community Needs Assessment Among Older Adults & Those Living With Disability

A coalition of organizations across the county, including health officials, nonprofit leaders, and county government representatives, came together to conduct a community needs assessment aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the needs of older adults, individuals living with disabilities, and their caregivers.

Key Outcomes Client Gained:

- Identified critical gaps in services, resources, and information that are essential for minoritized populations, such as Black and African American communities, within the aging and disability communities.
- Developed community-driven recommendations for systemic changes to enhance the socio-emotional health and well-being of residents, based on a comprehensive analysis of key client identified environmental and sociodemographic factors that influence community health.
- Provided deep insights into five client-identified domains of livability—Health, Housing, Inclusion & Belonging, Caregiving, and Affordability—and their profound impact on the well-being of community members.
- Gained a nuanced understanding of how participants' identities shape their lived experiences in Santa Barbara County, offering a richer perspective on the unique challenges faced by diverse populations.
- Delivered an accessible and actionable report that synthesizes findings in a format easily shareable across the community, ensuring broad dissemination and engagement.

Farmworker Food Security

A coalition of food banks across two large counties partnered to evaluate their food distribution programs with the aim of identifying barriers to food security for farmworkers, uncovering opportunities for more culturally relevant services, and assessing program assets and areas for improvement. This project was designed to engage the Mixteco farmworker community—an often underrepresented group in research and evaluation efforts. Through our community-based approach, we leveraged a network of community health workers (promotores) to support the data collection process. Our team provided expert guidance and training on best practices in data collection to ensure the success of this expansive initiative, all while maintaining a strong focus on cultural responsiveness

and community engagement.

Key Outcomes Client Gained:

- Clear insights into the strengths of the food distribution services and their direct impact on enhancing food security for farmworkers across both counties.
- Actionable community-based recommendations aimed at fostering greater equity in food distribution programs, with a specific focus on increasing the cultural relevance and accessibility of services for farmworkers.
- Identification of utilization patterns within food distribution services, accompanied by recommendations for expanding access through strategically placed distribution points to improve accessibility and service uptake.
- A comprehensive, accessible report and a dissemination slide deck designed to effectively communicate findings to a diverse group of stakeholders, regardless of expertise. Additionally, our team shared these findings with community partners, promotores, and funding partners, reinforcing engagement, building synergy, and ensuring transparency throughout the assessment process.