

August Newsletter



A Quick Look:

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International Overdose Awareness Day

International Overdose Awareness Day takes place on August 31st of every year. It is an event intended to raise awareness of overdose, honor those who have passed due to overdose, and break the stigmas surrounding substance use disorders.

Our Vision:

To build a behavioral health system that is inclusive, organized, centered on the individual and family, and is committed to advocating for and providing comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services for people across Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Contact Information:



Javier Guerrero, MPA (He, Him)
ICS Strategist
jguerrero@fyinm.org
575-202.6987

Our Next Meeting

Sept. 16th (Tuesday)

11:30AM-1PM

In-Person Only

August Highlights

August General Meeting



We are grateful to Lan Sena, Policy Director at the Center for Civic Policy, for leading our New Mexico Legislature 101 Training at the August LC3 General Meeting. Lan guided us through the structure and process of the New Mexico Legislature, including how bills move through committees and chambers, the roles of leadership in both the House and Senate, and how laws are enacted or vetoed.

She also highlighted the importance of public engagement, sharing ways community members can get involved from giving testimony and providing public comment to connecting with legislators and following interim committee work. Lan walked us through navigating the NM Legislature website, accessing agendas, and tracking legislation. Her clear explanations and practical insights gave our members the tools to better understand and participate in the legislative process. Thank you, Lan, for empowering LC3 with knowledge that strengthens our collective advocacy

Learn more about Lan and the Center for Civic Policy Below!



Lan Sena
Center for Civic Policy

Lan Sena was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is the daughter of Vietnamese refugees that settled in Albuquerque in 1975 and 1981. She received her Baccalaureate degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico and her Master of Health Administration from the School of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico.

Lan Sena was diagnosed with Stage 4, Hodgkins lymphoma in 2011 and is currently undergoing treatment for her third relapse. Since her diagnosis in 2011, she has advocated for policy changes to help fellow cancer patients and their families. Sena advocated for pre-existing conditions protections at the New Mexico state legislature and Medicaid Buy-In. She is a Founders Council member with United States of Care, a bipartisan group advocating for Healthcare policy changes that stop families from questioning bankruptcy or their care. Sena was appointed to Albuquerque City Council in March 2020, where she championed policies that help working families like zero fares for transit, language access, and paid sick leave. She served on Council until the end of 2021. Lan joined the Center for Civic Policy in January 2022 and serves as their Policy Director.

Learn more about the Center for Civic Policy at
<https://civicpolicy.com/>

See Lan's Legislative 101 Training at LC3:
<https://tinyurl.com/LC3CVCSlides>



August Highlights

August General Meeting cont.



We extend our gratitude to Erika Materne, Program Director at Casa de Mi Alma, and Alexa Taylor, LMSW, Mental Health Therapist and Clinical Supervisor with the Open Wings Program, for presenting at our August LC3 General Meeting. They shared the vital work of Casa de Mi Alma in providing residential treatment and therapeutic support for youth, with a focus on creating safe, healing environments. Their insights highlighted the importance of strengthening behavioral health systems for young people and families. We are grateful for their time and commitment. Learn more at casademialma.org or view their presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/LC3CDMA>.



Alexa Taylor, LMSW
Mental Health Therapist / Clin.
Supervisor
Casa De Mi Alma (Open Wings
Program)

Alexa is a vibrant Mental Health Therapist and Clinical Supervisor at Open Wings, a program within Casa De Mi Alma. With 8 years of experience, including 3 years in clinical practice, Alexa is an EMDR therapist and Integrative Trauma Practitioner. Her work is fueled by her deep passion for connection, empathy, and the belief that real healing happens through meaningful relationships. Specializing in trauma-informed therapy, Alexa focuses on the powerful mind-body connection to guide her clients toward healing and growth. She's also a passionate advocate for affirmative therapy, ensuring that every person feels seen, respected, and celebrated for who they truly are. Alexa is on a mission to create spaces where people can feel safe, understood, and empowered to embrace their fullest potential. Outside of her work, Alexa is all about heavy lifting and CrossFit. She loves pushing her physical limits, believing that strength—both mental and physical—is key to flourishing in life. With her infectious energy and deep dedication, Alexa helps others heal, grow, and embrace their full potential.



Erika Materne
Program Director
Casa De Mi Alma

Erika Corrales Materne Program Director, CCSS - A passionate community advocate and leader, Erika brings a rich, culturally diverse background and a wealth of experience across early childhood development, workplace health and safety, office management, and community health. Her broad expertise allows her to bridge gaps across industries, uniting diverse sectors around shared challenges and solutions.

With 15 years in advocacy, community partnership, creative problem-solving, and business strategy, Erika is now proudly calling New Mexico home. She is deeply committed to making a meaningful impact in the lives of young mothers on their recovery journey through the Open Wings program. As Program Director, she brings a unique blend of passion, energy, and relentless drive to everything she does, ensuring that every step of the process is infused with care and dedication. When she's not out camping under the stars or off-roading, she's diving into history, exploring new places, or getting lost in a good book. Erika is always finding ways to fuel her curiosity and love for life.

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT HERE:

Help Shape Behavioral Health Services in Doña Ana County!

We want to hear from you! Your feedback is essential in identifying the behavioral health needs, challenges, and opportunities in our community. By completing this survey, you'll help improve access, quality, and coordination of care for youth, veterans, and underserved populations. Your input will guide future programs and local initiatives.



**Take the survey today and make a
difference!**

All responses are confidential.

Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes (to be announced).

To take the survey, click or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/2025LC3CNS>



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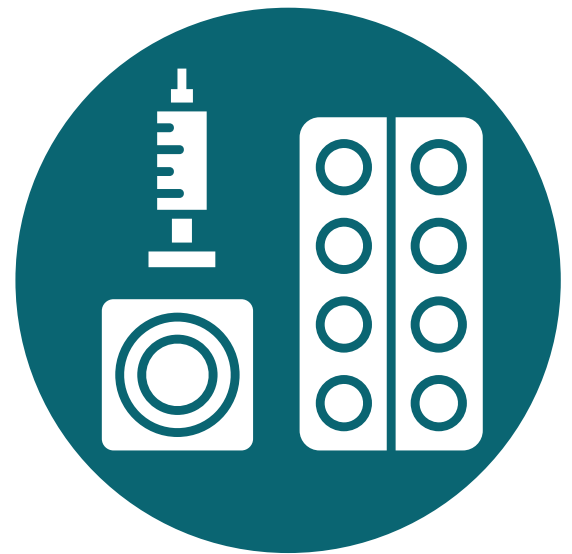
In-Person Only **4**

Substance Use Disorder, Addiction, Harm Reduction

VIRTUAL TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

NO COST - BROUGHT TO YOU BY LC3

3 CEUS



RSVP REQUIRED - VIRTUAL ONLY

VIRTUAL - ZOOM

SPOTS LIMITED - 3 CEUS

THURSDAY
SEP 23
9A-12P

RSVP AT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/LC3TR25](https://tinyurl.com/LC3TR25)

OR SCAN QR CODE
FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING
SPOTS LIMITED

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT JAVIER GUERRERO,
ICS STRATEGIST AT
JGUERRERO@FYINM.ORG



About the Training

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, ADDICTION, HARM REDUCTION

THIS TRAINING PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) AND ADDICTION THROUGH A CLINICAL, SOCIAL, AND COMMUNITY LENS. PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE THE SCIENCE OF ADDICTION, THE IMPACT OF STIGMA, AND EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES. THE SESSION EMPHASIZES HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES, OFFERING PRACTICAL TOOLS AND INTERVENTIONS THAT PROMOTE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND RECOVERY WITHOUT JUDGMENT. DESIGNED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, CASE MANAGERS, AND COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS, THIS COURSE EQUIPS PARTICIPANTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO BETTER ENGAGE AND SUPPORT THOSE IMPACTED BY SUBSTANCE USE.

CEUS: 3

About the Trainer



DR. J ROCKY ROMERO, LMSW (HE, HIM)
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (NLBHA)

DR. J ROCKY ROMERO IS A SEASONED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, EVALUATION, AND TRAINING. HE IS CURRENTLY A PROGRAM DIRECTOR WITH THE NATIONAL LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (NLBHA) AND CEO OF JR ROMERO & ASSOCIATES. DR. ROMERO HAS SERVED AS A CONSULTANT AND TRAINER FOR NUMEROUS NATIONAL INITIATIVES, INCLUDING SAMHSA-FUNDED PROGRAMS AND THE NATIONAL HISPANIC & LATINO MHTTC. HE IS A LEADING TRAINER FOR THE CLARE|MATRIX MODEL OF SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT, SPECIALIZING IN WORK WITH TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY. A FORMER PROFESSOR AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY LEADER, DR. ROMERO BRINGS DEEP EXPERTISE IN EQUITY-CENTERED LEADERSHIP AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS.

RSVP REQUIRED - VIRTUAL ONLY

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SPOTS LIMITED - 3 CEUS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT JAVIER GUERRERO,
ICS STRATEGIST AT
JGUERRERO@FYINM.ORG



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

9th Annual Recovery Celebration

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Young Park, Las Cruces

Hosted by the Las Cruces Suicide Prevention Task Force, this family-friendly celebration is dedicated to promoting recovery from mental health and substance use conditions.

Activities include:

- Sound Bath & Yoga in the Park
- Live DJ and Family Activities
- Free Childcare
- Local Resources and Community Vendors
- Community Altar

Download Flyer:

<https://tinyurl.com/SPTFARE25>

FREE

9th Annual Recovery Celebration

YOUNG PARK

Las Cruces Suicide Prevention Task Force

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2025 **10:00AM - 2:00 PM**

Dedicated to promoting recovery from mental health and substance conditions.

Come as YOU are!



- SOUND BATH & YOGA IN THE PARK
- LIVE DJ
- FREE CHILDCARE!
- LOCAL RESOURCES
- COMMUNITY VENDORS
- FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- COMMUNITY ALTAR

Las Cruces Suicide Prevention Task Force

9th Annual Recovery Celebration

AT YOUNG PARK

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2025 **10:00AM - 2:00 PM**

We are seeking vendors who would like to participate in an event focused on promoting recovery from mental health and substance use conditions. Vendor fees and sponsorships will help us provide this event free of charge to the community. Thank you for your support!

Sign up here!



<https://bit.ly/4J0bis>

Mutual Aid Groups	Non-Profit Org	Corporation/ Company
Free/ No Fee	\$50 Vendor Fee	\$100 Vendor Fee

For inquiries email elite events at mrs.joneselltevents@gmail.com

LC3 THANKS YOU & ...

its supporters, Families & Youth Innovations Plus, the Paso del Norte Foundation & the Health Care Authority & its training partners



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