

# Virginia Olivas, MSW

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## Personal Summary

- A qualified bicultural/bilingual social worker and manager with twenty-five years of experience
- Twelve years of experience as a supervisor, program manager, mediator, and field instructor providing high quality bilingual support services within public child welfare
- Twelve years of experience as a field instructor to MSW students at the various LA area universities
- Specialization in working with the Latinx community and permanency.
- Seven years as MSW field practicum faculty Liaison at Azusa Pacific University developing and preparing Generalist Foundation Year and public child welfare students.

## Education

1995–1997 MSW CSULB: California State University Long Beach

1988–1992 BA UCLA: University of California Los Angeles, *Communication Studies*

## Academic Appointments

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.

August, 2016 – Present

- Field Practicum Faculty, Assistant Professor & LA DCFS Workforce Academy of Excellence, Stipend Program Coordinator, MSW Program
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## University Service

- GFY Curriculum Committee, GFY Practicum cc-lead, MSW Admissions, HRSA Mentor, Spanish OSCE Rater, CW OSCE Coordinator, Phi Alpha Advisor, APU CW Advisory Board Chair, Liaison to BSW DCFS interns

## Teaching Assignments, Azusa Pacific University

- 2023-2024 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2023-2024 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2022-2023 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2022-2023 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2021-2022 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2021-2022 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2020-2021 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2019-2020 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2019-2020 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year
- 2019 Spring, BSW Program, SOCW 351 Child Welfare
- 2018-2019 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2018-2019 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year

- 2017-2018 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2017-2018 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year
- 2016-2017 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year

## Professional Presentations

- Olivas, V. (2022, September). Effective use of Process Recordings.. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Rawlings, M., Olivas, V., Waters, D., Tran, D. (2020, February). Using simulation to prepare MSW students for public child welfare: Findings from an inter-university collaboration. Southern Region Child Welfare Workforce Development Conference, Riverside, CA
- Olivas, V. (2019, September). Cultural Considerations for Student Success. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. (2019, September). Student Supervision, Opportunities & Challenges, Self-Care. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. , Waters, D., Tran, D. (2019, April). The Utilization of Simulations to Promote Resiliency and Self-Care in Public Child Welfare Workers. CalSWEC Summit Workshop, Long Beach, CA
- Olivas, V. (2018, September). Cultural Considerations for Student Success. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. (2017, September). Student Supervision, Opportunities & Challenges. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Legal, Emotional, and Psychological Aspects in Adoption. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Our Ideals and Experiences as Latino Adoptive Families. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2011, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2009, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

## Professional Training and Qualifications

- *A.C.T –Adoption Clinical Training, Kinship Center 2002 (48 hour training)* Core Clinical Issues in Adoption
- *PS-MAPP –Certified Trainer, 2005 (48 hour training)*
- Certified and trained through the Community College Foundation to teach Permanency & Safety, Model Approach to Partnerships & Parenting (PS-MAPP) courses. This training curriculum is designed to train prospective foster and adoptive parents.
- *Field Instructor Training Course, 2005 Cal State Long Beach & 2016 Azusa Pacific University* Certified and trained for Field Instruction.
- *Permanency Planning Mediator, 2006* Mediate and create post-adoption contact agreements for children being adopted through the public child welfare system.

## Trainings Facilitated for Certified Resource Parents (2006-2016)

- P.S. MAPP Training to Prospective Adoptive Parents

- Adoption Pre-Placement Process & Preparation Trauma & Children, Effects & Interventions Preserving Connections
- Managing Challenging Behaviors
- Brain Development and Regulation (*based on work of Dr. Bruce Perry*) Non-Violent Communication & Discipline Technique
- 20 Things I wish my Adoptive Parents Knew (*based on book by Sherrie Eldridge*) Formalizing Families Ties Through Adoption
- Adoptive Parenting: Self-Regulation & Legal Challenges
- Parent & Child Resiliency
- Understanding Adoption & Kinship Adoption
- Dynamics in Kinship Adoption
- Antecedents to Lying and Teaching the Truth
- Child Developmental Trauma, Effects & Interventions
- Strategies to Strengthen Attachment
- An Inside Out Approach to Parenting (*based on work of Dr. Dan Siegel*)
- 7 Core Livelong Issues in Adoption (*based on work of Kaplan/Silverstein*)
- 15 Discipline Techniques (*based on PS-MAPP*)
- W.I.S.E-Up! (*based on C.A.S.E workbook*)

## **Career History**

*August 2016 – present*

*GFY Liaison & LA DCFS Stipend Program Coordinator  
Assistant Professor, Field Practicum Faculty*

*Azusa Pacific University, California  
Department of Social Work  
MSW Program*

♦Responsible for the coordination and implementation of the UCCF (University Consortium for Children & Families) stipend program ♦Teach field seminar and field liaison activities for UCCF and other students ♦Evaluation of students, field instructors, and program outcomes ♦Liaise with the Department of Children & Family Services and UCCF partners ♦Ensure compliance with UCCF contract ♦ Provide supplemental instructional support, curriculum development, and coordinating with MSW Faculty regarding training needs and support of child welfare content.

*December 2016- present*

*Contracted Consultant/Program Manager*

Review and approve RFA home studies. Provide staff training and consultation as needed.

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California  
Adoption, Foster Care & Kinship Programs*

*May 2011 – March 2020*

*Permanency Planning Mediator*

Mediated and created post-adoption contact agreements for children being adopted through the public child welfare system.

*Consortium for Children, San Rafael, California*

*July 2008 – December 2016*

*Manager*

♦Mange Adoption, Foster Care, and Kinship Adoption programs. ♦Supervise staff within all three programs. ♦Collaborate with Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange Counties as a partner private, non-profit agency partner. ♦Oversee Quality Assurance of county contracts and statement of works and implement Corrective Action Plans as needed. ♦Attend Foster Family Agency cooperative meetings designed for adoption/foster family agencies. ♦Review, develop and implement new agency policy and forms. ♦Home study review and approval. ♦Supervision of contract workers ♦Overview of certification process for incoming and parents ♦Review & approval of quarterly Needs & Service Plans for all children suitably placed. ♦Facilitate quarterly trainings and support groups for certified families in English and Spanish. ♦Weekly staff and monthly group supervision. ♦Case management supervision for Kinship Adoption Program ♦Supervision of outreach and recruitment. ♦workshop presentations at national conferences for issues dealing with Latino culture as it

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California Program  
Adoption, Foster Care & Kinship Programs*

pertains to child welfare. ♦Field Instructor for MSW interns since 2005, for APU, CSULB, CSULA, and USC

*July 2006 – June 2008*

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California*

**Adoption & Foster Care Social Work Supervisor**

Provide supervision to social workers, case managers, and interns. Attend Foster Family Agency Coop adoption/foster family agency meetings. Conduct staff meetings, trainings and group supervisions.

*October 2000 – July 2006*

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California*

**Senior Social Worker**

Supervised an adoption and foster care caseload, provided case management (progress notes, Quarterly Reports, Needs & Service Plans, attend IEP's & TDM's), monitored birth family visitation, provided support for children and LFI families, crisis management (after-hours assessment and intervention), child safety - oversee adherence to Title XXII regulations, designed and implemented various LFI case management forms. Provided training to new LFI staff, monitor birth family visitation, facilitated foster parent education & support groups, certification and re-certification of foster/fost-adopt families. **Matching coordinator** (identified prospective matches, pre-placement conferences, presentations, transitional visits, placement in the fost/adopt home, adoptive placement, finalization). **Home Studies** wrote S.A.F.E. and Regular Home Studies and addendums. **Field Instructor** for MSW student, completion of Field Instructor training. Completion of **Adoption Clinical Training** (ACT Training -Kinship Center), **Interim Supervisor**: supervised 4 social workers and an overall caseload of 30 children. **Certified PS-MAPP Trainer** (Oct. 2005) - facilitate classes and trainings for prospective adoptive foster/adoptive parents.

*May 2000 – October 2000*

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California*

**Home Study Contract Social Worker**

Conduct S.A.F.E. and regular Adoption home studies for Spanish-speaking prospective adoptive families.

*May 1997- June 1999*

*L.A. County Dept. Children & Family Services, Covina, California*

**CSW II, Children Social Worker- Adoptions Division**

Supervised adoption caseload (110 cases weighted- 96 children), majority of caseload was Spanish speaking and consisted of foster children in prospective adoptive homes; **CHILD SAFETY**: conducted home visits with focus on child safety & adoption process, replaced children into prospective adoptive or foster homes, oversaw children's adjustment in home, assisted parents in meeting children's psychological, social, medical and academic needs; **COURT-RELATED ACTIVITIES**: wrote RPP - Review of Permanent Plan reports, 366.26 Permanent Placement reports often requesting termination of parental rights in order to proceed with adoptions, testified in court, maintained ongoing contact with minor's attorney & DCFS County Counsel; **ADOPTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES**: conducted pre-placement conferences to match children, participated in recruitment events, transitioned children into prospective adoptive homes, completed adoption home studies, adoptively placed children, initiated adoption assistance payments, and initiated adoption finalization process.

**Skills**

**Technical** ♦SPANISH/ENGLISH: Fluent in written and spoken Spanish ♦Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Power Point, and Publisher ♦Able to monitor, supervise, and coach social workers and students ♦Ensuring adherence to standards and statements of work ♦Strong experience in public child welfare

**Interpersonal:** ♦Ability to organize and prioritize according to importance ♦ Strong

influencing and mediation skills ❖ Can deal with sensitive issues confidentially

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Association of Latina/Latino Social Work Educators
- Council on Social Work Education

### **Hobbies and Interests**

- Proud parent to four children, biological & adopted
- Married over thirty years to an educator who teaches instrumental music
- Hobbies: sewing, RV-camping, attending band competitions
- My goal is to be a positive influence for adult learners within the university setting