

Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge

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Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



Zoraida Diaz is a New York University graduate with a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Bachelor's degree in Public Justice from the State University of Oswego. She is a licensed Mental Health Counselor by the New York State Department of Education and previously a nationally Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Ms. Diaz has extensive experience in the field of Substance Use Disorder Treatment. She has worked in the field of Chemical Dependency Services for 21 years working in varied modalities ranging from residential care to outpatient services, and Opioid Treatment Programs. Ms. Diaz career has concentrated on serving the needs of people within chemical dependency services having worked as a counselor, coordinator, program manager, director and serving as part of the executive management team within the service provider network. Currently, Ms. Diaz is the New York City Regional District Director for NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services(OASAS). In

this position, she is responsible for oversight and management of the provider based activities for the region. The position has the responsibility of overseeing providers from Prevention, Treatment, Recovery as well as other new and innovative services to engage, treat and assist New Yorkers in gaining recovery. Previously, Ms. Diaz was the Coordinator of Crisis and Ambulatory Withdrawal Management Services for OASAS Practice Innovation and Care Management Bureau (PICM). In this position, she oversaw withdrawal management services and led in-person trainings and other stakeholder meetings which aimed to improve and build the comprehensive chemical dependency treatment delivery systems throughout New York State. Ms. Diaz has also worked part-time as an instructor at Bronx Community College in the Workforce Development Continuing Education Department. Additionally, she served as an Addiction Program Specialist II/Contract Manager where she managed state and federal funding for the Manhattan Region of NYS OASAS. Her biggest accomplishment and the one that gives her the most joy and pride is being a mother to 5 beautiful adult and teen children who are the sunshine of her life.