

Denver's Great Kids Head Start
Dr. Al Martinez
201 W Colfax Ave # 1107
Denver, Colorado 80202

July 28, 2016

Dear Committee:

"Young children deserve nothing less than our full commitment to their well-being."
Gaye Gronlund

Swift, engaging and compassionate early intervention was critical to my son's later success. Nothing compels commitment to early childhood support and engagement more strongly than personal experience. I was thrilled to learn of the volunteer position now open on the Denver's Great Kids Head Start Policy Council. With enthusiasm, I am submitting my resume for your consideration.

My interest is an extension of my life-long work with families and children as noted on my resume. I have a proven track record of inspiring, motivating and mentoring fellow professionals, families and children. As a licensed social worker with experience in program management, volunteer support, and early intervention, I am pleased to offer my skills and experience to help children in Denver. The following highlights how my background may serve the council:

- Extensive knowledge of family engagement, support, and on-going education.
- Demonstrated proficiency in fostering professional relationships with complex systems including transdisciplinary teams, teachers, medical professionals, volunteers and social service agencies.
- Outstanding teamwork and leadership skills, where I have demonstrated my ability to both contribute and motivate others.

Based on my experiences and strong commitment, I am confident that I can make a meaningful contribution to the children and families served by your Head Start Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Halpern, LSW
720-724-0000

MARILYN HALPERN, MSW, LSW

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WORK EXPERIENCE

ANCHOR CENTER FOR BLIND CHILDREN, DENVER, CO

Social Worker, Family Services Supervisor, 2016 – Present

- Provides case management to families in the area of child development and early intervention
- Collaborates with classroom teachers, therapists and developmental psychologist regarding goals for students and family intervention
- Supervises staff on the family services team
- Educates and counsels parents regarding their child's visual impairment and appropriate services
- Plans and implements a monthly respite program for parents and caregivers
- Organizes resources for families, teaching staff and therapist
- Provides crisis management for families experiencing difficulties with housing and basic needs
- Manages the Family Services program aligning with the confines of a fiscal budget
- Maintains a family-friendly library for parents
- Collaborates with community partners for program development

GOOD SHEPHERD FUND, DENVER, CO

Social Worker, Colorado Guardianship Care Manager, Aug 2005 – Present

- Founded the Colorado Guardianship Program as a start-up in cooperation with Good Shepherd Fund.
- Provided compassionate care and extensive case management services to individuals who are blind including access to recreational activities and adaptive resources such as Talking Books.
- Coordinated all aspects of the referral process, intake and management of services.
- Intensive and extensive knowledge of developmental and genetic disabilities.
- Acted as a liaison with community agencies, governmental entities, hospitals and schools.
- Completed accurate and up-to-date HIPAA compliant, electronic medical records.
- Formulated a respite care program to address the needs of parents and host providers.
- Managed care plans to eliminate duplication, fragmentation and gaps in medical services.
- Completed comprehensive, risk assessments for individuals who had frail health conditions.
- Coordinated family-to-family connections, support and outreach
- Developed annual service plans with multidisciplinary teams and community outreach.

CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS, HONOLULU, HI

Social Worker, Mar 2001 – Dec 2004

- Collaborated with team members to formulate educational plans with asset-based recommendations.
- Managed conflicts and resolved grievances with open communication and excellent negotiation skills.
- Provided individualized services including assistance to pregnant teens, students in foster home care and those under court-mandated treatment plans.
- Oversaw counseling services to address issues of grief, depression and anxiety.
- Spearheaded and promoted innovative programs including parent engagement and family outreach.
- Developed a life skills training curriculum for teens including a section on Substance Abuse Prevention.
- Worked in partnership with community agencies to develop a Guest Speaker Bureau for parents and youth. Many topics were covered including wellness, nutrition and family meetings.
- Completed extensive intake assessments and evaluations to formulate on-going care plans.
- Created a literacy program to address the underdeveloped reading skills of children and teenagers. The program was a collaboration with the University of Hawaii - Manoa.

POSITIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, CLEVELAND, OH

Clinical Social Worker & Supervisor, Aug 1992 – Jun 2000

- As a member of the interdisciplinary team, implemented and monitored Individual Education Plans.
- Worked in collaboration with the PEP Early Intervention Center to ensure that children 0-3 were receiving excellent care to maximize their development and well-being
- Maintained up-to-date computerized student records.
- Provided in-home evidence-based therapeutic services in a culturally responsive manner.
- Participated in a longitudinal study to address cost effectiveness of interventions.
- Provided ethical, flexible and seamless service delivery to promote best practice in instruction.
- Addressed mental health conditions and behaviors to maximize educational outcomes.
- Provided orientation, in-service training and mentoring for staff and volunteers.
- Collaborated with physicians and nurses to ensure all aspects of health care were addressed.
- Provided supervision and leadership to a team of social workers in a day treatment educational facility.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA, COLUMBIA, MO

- Magna Cum Laude
- Bachelor of Science - Counseling Psychology

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, CLEVELAND, OH

- Summa Cum Laude
- Mandel School of Social Science - MSW

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Capable and personable clinician with experience in complex case management along with result-oriented resource management. Excels in crisis situations requiring critical decision-making skills and problem solving. Quickly adapts to new situations. Cares deeply about children and families.
- Solid, focused, professional.

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- Interdisciplinary Team Collaboration
- Counseling , coaching and teaching
- Problem-solving skills
- Teamwork with results
- Flexible and adaptable
- Creative and innovative
- Vision along with perseverance
- Community outreach and service
- Self-starter
- Sense of humor