Visual Portfolio & Impact Report
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

Who we are

In 2015, the Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) of the School of Public Health at Georgia State University set out to address the complex needs of Spanish-speaking families with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

In the past two years, we have co-lead in convening professionals and families to address existing concerns. The Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities brings together over 150 Latino-serving diverse, multi-sector professionals, family advocates, and partners from metro Atlanta and beyond.
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

What we do

We are a diverse, multi-sector consortium of professionals, family advocates and allies across the state of Georgia that meet on a quarterly basis and engage in community building and learning in areas of the intersection of intellectual and developmental disabilities and educational and health equity.

Our Latino Community of Practice consortium co-leads bilingual community education and engagement for and with Spanish-speaking and limited English proficient families with a partnership with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention LTSAE, Learn The Signs Act Early campaign. And provides technical assistance to co-founding and core consortium partners on how to best serve, including the use of our Community Health Workers/Promotoras de la Salud model, the ever growing Latino population in Georgia.
Why do we do it

**Mission:** Our mission is to translate research into sustainable community practices that contribute to independent, self-determined, inclusive, and productive lives for people with disabilities and their families.

**Vision and Values**

- We envision a Georgia in which all people, with and without disabilities, urban and rural, and of all races and ethnicities are full, contributing members of their communities.
- Our vision reflects our values of respect for all, recognition of essential human rights, appreciation of unique strengths and gifts, the importance of culturally competence in all programs and services, and an understanding of the positive contributions of individuals, families, and communities.
- We seek to be a bridge between the academic and disability communities, developing and sustaining mutually respectful partnerships, and building a legacy of leaders and programs that support our mission.
The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), a part of The Administration on Community Living (ACL), awarded National Training Initiative grants to University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) to develop diversity fellowship programs to support recruitment and retention of diverse trainees, and build cultural and linguistic competence within their centers.

**Designed as a pipeline grant, the goals of the diversity fellowship are to:**

- Improve the recruitment and employment of underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities, within the UCEDD and in the workforce
- Increase the diversity of leadership, staff and governing bodies across the DD network
- Build cultural competence capacity with the leadership, staff, and governing bodies across the DD network
- Increase the number of persons with disabilities from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged backgrounds who benefit from AIDD supported programs
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How we do it

In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 The Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), School of Public Health at Georgia State University was awarded Diversity Fellowship grants to co-create and scale-up the Latino Community of Practice in response to the growing numbers of Spanish-speaking and limited English proficiency families with children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the state of Georgia.
## LCPR in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over</th>
<th>Diverse, multi-sector professional stakeholders, family advocates and allies in metro Atlanta and beyond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td>Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Learn The Signs Act Early (LTSAE) materials, distributed and explained, in Spanish, to Hispanic/Latino parents in metro Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino parents with children or youth with intellectual or developmental disabilities were educated, in Spanish, on Positive Behavior Interventions, Autism Spectrum Disorders or parental rights</td>
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Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

Our Co-Founding Partners

- Welcoming Atlanta
- Latin American Association
- CDC
- Parent to Parent of Georgia
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
- Marcus Autism Center
- SPECTRUM Autism Support, Education & Resources
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)
Spinning tops are a cultural icon in the Caribbean, and Central and South America. And they come in all shapes, colors and sizes.

Albeit, it symbolizes child play, the metaphor is that *without intentional action it never spins*.

Since our model is based on Leading by Convening and Collective Impact, *it will take all of us to intentionally act to make it all spin, to create a movement of diverse, multi-sector professionals, advocates and allies that will transform systems of care in the state of Georgia for Hispanic/Latino individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.*
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

Organizational Model - Focus Areas

1. Professional capacity building and collective impact
2. Parent education and leadership development
3. Formal and informal advocacy in public policy and systems of care
The Latino Community of Practice (LCPR) meets on a quarterly basis in and around metro Atlanta, with most meetings taking place at Georgia State University campuses. *Photo: LCPR Team*
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

LCPR in metro Atlanta media outlets
Latino Community of Practice (LCPR)

Conferencia "Aceptar nuestras diferencias para entender el autismo" (Embedded video. Click to watch.)

"Accepting Our Differences to Understand Autism” in Spanish at Autism Conference & Expo
LCPR Impact

Who did (y)our Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities initiative inform, help, influence or impact? (UCEDD, individual, community, families or state) How?

One of the many benefits of the LCPR initiative has been its ability to create awareness about the needs of children and youth with disabilities among representatives of very diverse agencies and organizations. Many agencies have realized that the Latino community is hungry for information and advocacy opportunities and I believe the LCPR has played a major role in that realization, by bringing us together. Organizing the Autism Conference & Expo with a track for Latino parents was a major accomplishment and I am sure many parents benefited from the information and resources shared.

Ana Soler, BSW, MPH
Seso, Inc. (Interpretation/Translation Services)
LCPR Impact

Who did (y)our Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities initiative inform, help, influence or impact? (UCEDD, individual, community, families or state) How?

- By providing updated information, resources about issues relevant to our Hispanic/Latino families.
- By connecting families with organizations that provide service to children and youth with disabilities.
- By becoming an important voice in representing this community, advocating for better access to services.
- By promoting inclusion and diversity among the program available for children with disabilities.
- By providing a space to organizations that support such families to network, exchange important information, and keep growing.

Mayira Bunting
YMCA of Greater Atlanta
LCPR Impact

Who did (y)our Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities initiative inform, help, influence or impact? (UCEDD, individual, community, families or state) How?

Local government policies of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Through the wonderful information learned we were able to make more informed policy decisions.

Luisa Fernanda Cardona, Esq.
City of Atlanta/Office of Immigration Affairs/Welcoming Atlanta

Families - network of providers that can ask for help finding resources for Spanish speaking families.

Jennifer Zubler, MD
Good Samaritan Health Center/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

GSU students by providing them with an incredible internship opportunity.

Cathy Bushnell Amanti, PhD
Georgia State University, College of Education
LCPR Impact

Who did (y)our Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities initiative inform, help, influence or impact? (UCEDD, individual, community, families or state) How?

“Think Globally, Act Locally.” It is an old saying, but it has never rang truer in my mind and spirit than during the past few months at GALEO Institute for Leadership (GIL).

I’m about to finish the leadership program and I leave inspired more than ever to make a difference at a local level in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. I’ve even become inspired to consider running for office.

The personal connections that I made throughout this year at GIL are invaluable. I’m sure each one of my classmates will become friends and leaders in our community for the rest of our lives.

Together, we will make a difference. I feel that at GIL, I have a strong backbone of support. I can’t be grateful enough for the opportunity!

Viviana Fernández
Advisory Member, Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bilingual National Content Manager for Cox Media
Latino Community of Practice Team

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