

Forensic Behavioral Health Program Development

Nina Acosta, LCSW
Briana O'Daniel, ACSW

Level

Introductory

Track

Clinical/Legal

CE

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER/MCLE

Bio

Nina Acosta, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, currently working as the Forensic Division Manager (Program Director) for Sacramento County Department of Health Services Behavioral Health Services. Nina has worked as a Master's level social worker for diverse government agencies for over sixteen years, holding positions with the Department of Children and Family Services, California Department of Social Services, the Program Director for the Victim Witness Program in the Sacramento District Attorney's office, and Behavioral Health. In addition, Nina has worked in the Family Law field since 2011, providing consultation and co-parenting psychoeducation for divorcing families where domestic violence has occurred, providing child custody recommendations to the Court. Nina has provided presentations in each of her positions to various counties throughout the state of California on program development, how to prepare for a federal program review and how to develop programs with fidelity to evidence-based practices while implementing new legislation. Through program collaboration, direct practice with those involved with the criminal justice and court systems, and experience advocating for appropriate supportive services and funding for forensically involved individuals, Nina has helped many partners, agencies and counties develop successful programs. Nina graduated from California State University Sacramento in 2006 with a Master's Degree in Social Work and obtained her License in Social Work from the Board of Behavioral Sciences in 2019.

Briana O'Daniel, ACSW is an MSW Social Worker currently working as a Program Coordinator with Substance Use Prevention and Treatment in Sacramento County Department of Health Services. Briana has experience working directly with sex offenders on either county probation or state parole, as well as foster youth at risk for CSEC. More specifically, Briana has specialized in working with perpetrators of sex trafficking both in individual as well as group settings and has developed curriculum to provide treatment specific to perpetrators of sex trafficking - this includes recognizing the risk factors and psychological characteristics of the perpetrators and how to address the issues within this population and get to the root of the cause. She also has direct services working with clients in a variety of other forensic settings including county jails, youth detention facilities, courts, community, in-patient and out-patient. She has significant

training and experience in CSEC assessments, sex offender risk assessments, suicide risk assessments, individual, family, couples and group therapies, as well as experience in working with clients who have co-occurring disorders, and physical/development disabilities. Briana graduated from CSU East Bay with her MSW in 2016 and graduated from Sonoma State with her Bachelor's in Human Development and Psychology in 2012. Briana works closely with law enforcement agencies, and has provided an array of trainings, as well as being a guest speaker for multiple agencies working with perpetrators as well as victims of sex trafficking.

Narrative

Are you curious about forensic mental health? Do you need to expand or develop a forensic behavioral health program? What IS a forensic behavioral health program? Come for the chocolate, stay to learn how to develop a forensic program for your county! The presenters will provide an interactive and engaging look at the Sacramento Behavioral Health Forensic Program development. Dive in with us and learn about evidence-based practices, research, community engagement, pitfalls, solutions and partnerships as we navigate through building a program while running it. The presenters are a dynamic duo here to guide you in creating a successful Forensic Behavioral Health Program.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify two evidence-based practices in program development
2. Analyze two assessment tools to determine the best evidence-based practice tools to utilize
3. Explain the difference between Collaboration Courts, Law Enforcement, Probation and Behavioral Health roles and responsibilities in program implementation
4. Describe the process of program development with a forensic lens
5. Identify three challenges and opportunities the community may have around developing supportive services for forensically involved persons
6. Describe how to assess the program needs, community needs and resources available to determine what gaps need to be filled