

Luz Marquez-Benbow
351 Taylor Court, Troy, New York 12180 (518) 326-2537

Professional Experience

9/03- present **Co-Founder and Associate Director**, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA), Canton, Connecticut. As Co-founder of SCESA I assist the Executive Director in executing all duties of the organization. Ensure effective collaboration with organizational partners and oversee all systems change advocacy on a national level.

4/97-2003 **Director of Outreach and Education**, New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA), Albany, New York. As part of the Management Team I was responsible for agency decision-making, supervision of staff, and liaison to the NYSCASA's nominating committee for the Board of Director's. Ensured outreach and systems advocacy with other statewide organizations, such as NYS Empire Pride Agenda, statewide youth groups, NYS ARC; and provided technical assistance to NY's 76 Rape Crisis Centers on reaching diverse communities. Also administered 2 federal collaborative grants to help build capacity, encourage networking and Women of Color leadership on a national level. Coordinated regional meetings, conference calls, and participated on Statewide and National planning committees.

9/95-3/97 **Training and Development Specialist**, Community Inclusion Project, Rensselaer County ARC, Troy New York. Responsible for building partnerships between individuals with developmental disabilities and their communities, through meaningful participation with local community organizations and social gatherings. Daily duties consists of networking within the community, accessing natural supports, building on already established relationships, exploring diverse community development, coordinating and teaching time management skills, as well as on and off community site supports. Also responsible for educating community organizations regarding the needs of people with disabilities, document quarterly and annual progress reports and participated on individual services planning for the entire caseload.

90-95 **Program House Manager**, Camary Statewide Services, Albany, New York. I was responsible for all functions of an intercare facility home, which provides services for dually diagnosed and autistic adults. Ensured staff compliance with NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and OSHA regulations. Collaborated with the clinical team and families to ensure implementation of goals for all adults living in the facility. Updated and reconciled all personal accounts, and the overall facility budget. Responsible for all managerial aspects of the home, including but not limited to: hiring, supervising and terminating staff. Participated in all multi-disciplinary team meetings, investigated abuse allegations for the entire agency and interface with state auditors. Shared responsibility for all on-call emergencies for the entire agency. Coordinate and provide in-house staff trainings. Previous to this position I worked as a direct care staff at Camary from 1988-1990.

Education

1987-1988 State University at Albany, Albany, New York
1985-1987 Siena College, Loudonville, New York

Extracurricular activities

5/96-5/99 Volunteered at the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York.
11/99-12/01 Served as a grants review panelist for the Arts Council of the Capital District.
2001- 2003 Board member for Family Planning Advocates in NYS.
2004-2005 Board member for In Our Own Voices, (upstate LGBT People of Color organization)

2001- Present Board member for Center for Women Government and Civil Society (mentors high school, undergrad and graduate women and girls)

2005- 2007 Member of the Troy School District Diversity Committee