

# Virginia Olivas, MSW

APU: (626) 804-2720 Email [volivas@apu.edu](mailto:volivas@apu.edu)

---

## Personal Summary

- A qualified bicultural/bilingual social worker and manager with over twenty-five years of experience
- Twelve years of experience as a supervisor, program manager, mediator, and practicum instructor providing high quality bilingual support services within public child welfare
- Twelve years of experience as a practicum instructor to MSW students at the various LA area universities
- Specialization in working with the Latinx community and permanency.
- Eight years as MSW practicum faculty Liaison at Azusa Pacific University developing and preparing Generalist Foundation Year and public child welfare students.

## Education

1995–1997 MSW CSULB: California State University Long Beach

1988–1992 BA UCLA: University of California Los Angeles, *Communication Studies*

## Academic Appointments

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.

August, 2016 – Present

- Practicum Faculty, Assistant Professor & LA DCFS Workforce Academy of Excellence, Stipend Program Coordinator, MSW Program

## University Service

- GFY Curriculum Committee, GFY Practicum Lead, MSW Admissions, HRSA Mentor, Spanish OSCE Rater, CW OSCE Coordinator, Phi Alpha Advisor, APU CW Advisory Board Chair, Liaison to BSW DCFS Interns

## Teaching Assignments, Azusa Pacific University

- 2025-2026 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 517 & SOCW 518 Generalist Practicum I & II, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2025-2026 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year ~ DCFS Cohort
- Fall 2025 BSW Program, SOCW 351, Child Welfare
- 2024-2025 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 517 & SOCW 518 Generalist Practicum I & II, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2024-2025 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year ~ DCFS Cohort
- 2023-2024 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2023-2024 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2022-2023 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2022-2023 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year
- 2021-2022 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2021-2022 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 515 & SOCW 525 Field Seminar, Generalist Foundation Year

- 2020-2021 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2019-2020 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2019-2020 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year
- 2019 Spring, BSW Program, SOCW 351 Child Welfare
- 2018-2019 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2018-2019 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year
- 2017-2018 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year
- 2017-2018 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, Child Welfare Supplemental Seminar, Foundation Year
- 2016-2017 MSW Program, Fall & Spring, SOCW 534 & SOCW 544 Child Welfare Field Seminar, Specialization Year

## Professional Presentations

- Olivas, V. (2024, January). Cultural and Diversity Considerations for Student Success. Presentation at the Annual Practicum Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V., Waters, D., Tran, D. Shelby, A. (2023, October). Overcoming Barriers to Preparing Child Welfare Students for Anti-racist Practice Using Simulation. Council on Social Work Education CSWE, Atlanta, GA.
- Olivas, V. (2022, September). Effective use of Process Recordings.. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Rawlings, M., Olivas, V., Waters, D., Tran, D. (2020, October). Engaging Diverse Clients in Public Child Welfare: Using Simulation to Prepare Students. Council on Social Work Education, Virtual.
- Rawlings, M., Olivas, V., Waters, D., Tran, D. (2020, February). Using simulation to prepare MSW students for public child welfare: Findings from an inter-university collaboration. Southern Region Child Welfare Workforce Development Conference, Riverside, CA
- Olivas, V. (2019, September). Cultural Considerations for Student Success. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. (2019, September). Student Supervision, Opportunities & Challenges, Self-Care. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. , Waters, D., Tran, D. (2019, April). The Utilization of Simulations to Promote Resiliency and Self-Care in Public Child Welfare Workers. CalSWEC Summit Workshop, Long Beach, CA
- Olivas, V. (2018, September). Cultural Considerations for Student Success. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Olivas, V. (2017, September). Student Supervision, Opportunities & Challenges. Presentation at the Annual Field Instructor Training at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Legal, Emotional, and Psychological Aspects in Adoption. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2015, August). Our Ideals and Experiences as Latino Adoptive Families. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2011, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
- Quintanilla, M, Olivas, V. (2009, August). Raising your Latino Adopted Child with Cultural Pride. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

## **Professional Training and Qualifications**

- *A.C.T –Adoption Clinical Training, Kinship Center 2002 (48 hour training)* Core Clinical Issues in Adoption
- *PS-MAPP –Certified Trainer, 2005 (48 hour training)*
- Certified and trained through the Community College Foundation to teach Permanency & Safety, Model Approach to Partnerships & Parenting (PS-MAPP) courses. This training curriculum is designed to train prospective foster and adoptive parents.
- *Field Instructor Training Course, 2005 Cal State Long Beach & 2016 Azusa Pacific University* Certified and trained for Field Instruction.
- *Permanency Planning Mediator, 2006* Mediate and create post-adoption contact agreements for children being adopted through the public child welfare system.

## **Trainings Facilitated for Certified Resource Parents (2006-2016)**

- P.S. MAPP Training to Prospective Adoptive Parents
- Adoption Pre-Placement Process & Preparation Trauma & Children, Effects & Interventions Preserving Connections
- Managing Challenging Behaviors
- Brain Development and Regulation (*based on work of Dr. Bruce Perry*) Non-Violent Communication & Discipline Technique
- 20 Things I wish my Adoptive Parents Knew (*based on book by Sherrie Eldridge*) Formalizing Families Ties Through Adoption
- Adoptive Parenting: Self-Regulation & Legal Challenges
- Parent & Child Resiliency
- Understanding Adoption & Kinship Adoption
- Dynamics in Kinship Adoption
- Antecedents to Lying and Teaching the Truth
- Child Developmental Trauma, Effects & Interventions
- Strategies to Strengthen Attachment
- An Inside Out Approach to Parenting (*based on work of Dr. Dan Siegel*)
- 7 Core Livelong Issues in Adoption (*based on work of Kaplan/Silverstein*)
- 15 Discipline Techniques (*based on PS-MAPP*)
- W.I.S.E-Up! (*based on C.A.S.E workbook*)

## **Career History**

*August 2016 – present*

*GFY Lead & LA DCFS Child Welfare Program Coordinator* *Department of Social Work*  
*Assistant Professor, Practicum Faculty*

*Azusa Pacific University, California*  
*MSW Program*

◆ Responsible for the coordination and implementation of the UCCF (University Consortium for Children & Families) stipend program ◆ Teach practicum seminar and practicum liaison activities for UCCF and other students ◆ Evaluation of students, practicum instructors, and program outcomes ◆ Liaise with the Department of Children & Family Services and UCCF partners ◆ Ensure compliance with UCCF contract ◆ Provide supplemental instructional support, curriculum development, and coordinating with MSW Faculty regarding training needs and support of child welfare content.

*May 2011 – Present*

*Permanency Planning Mediator*

Mediate and create post-adoption contact agreements for children being adopted through the public child welfare system.

*Consortium for Children, San Rafael, California*

*December 2016- August 2025*

*Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California*

***Contracted Consultant/Program Manager      Adoption, Foster Care & Kinship Programs***

Reviewed and approved RFA home studies. Provided staff training, supervision, and consultation as needed.

***July 2008 – December 2016***

***Program Manager***

***Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California***

***Adoption, Foster Care & Kinship Programs***

Managed Adoption, Foster Care, and Kinship Adoption programs. Supervised staff within all three programs. Collaborated with Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange Counties as a partner private, non-profit agency partner. Oversaw Quality Assurance of county contracts and statement of works and implemented Corrective Action Plans as needed. Attended Foster Family Agency cooperative meetings designed for adoption/foster family agencies. Reviewed, developed and implemented new agency policy and forms. Home study review and approval. Supervision of contract workers Overview of certification process for incoming and parents Review & approval of quarterly Needs & Service Plans for all children suitably placed. Facilitated quarterly trainings and support groups for certified families in English and Spanish. Facilitated Weekly staff and monthly group supervision. Case management supervision for Kinship Adoption Program Supervision of outreach and recruitment. Workshop presentations at national conferences for issues dealing with Latino culture as it pertains to child welfare. Practicum Instructor for MSW interns from 2005 to 2016, for APU, CSULB, CSULA, and USC

***July 2006 – June 2008***

***Adoption & Foster Care Social Work Supervisor***

***Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California***

Provided supervision to social workers, case managers, and interns. Attend Foster Family Agency Coop adoption/foster family agency meetings. Conducted staff meetings, trainings and group supervisions.

***October 2000 – July 2006***

***Senior Social Worker***

***Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California***

Supervised an adoption and foster care caseload, provided case management (progress notes, Quarterly Reports, Needs & Service Plans, attend IEP's & TDM's), monitored birth family visitation, provided support for children and LFI families, crisis management (after-hours assessment and intervention), child safety - oversee adherence to Title XXII regulations, designed and implemented various LFI case management forms. Provided training to new LFI staff, monitor birth family visitation, facilitated foster parent education & support groups, certification and re-certification of foster/fost-adopt families. **Matching coordinator** (identified prospective matches, pre-placement conferences, presentations, transitional visits, placement in the fost/adopt home, adoptive placement, finalization). **Home Studies** wrote S.A.F.E. and Regular Home Studies and addendums. **Practicum Instructor** for MSW student, completion of Practicum Instructor training. Completion of **Adoption Clinical Training** (ACT Training -Kinship Center), **Interim Supervisor**: supervised 4 social workers and an overall caseload of 30 children. **Certified PS-MAPP Trainer** (Oct. 2005) – facilitate classes and trainings for prospective adoptive foster/adoptive parents.

***May 2000 – October 2000***

***Home Study Contract Social Worker***

***Latino Family Institute, W. Covina, California***

Conducted S.A.F.E. and regular Adoption home studies for Spanish-speaking prospective adoptive families.

***May 1997– June 1999***

***CSW II, Children Social Worker– Adoptions Division***

***L.A. County Dept. Children & Family Services, Covina, California***

Supervised adoption caseload (110 cases weighted- 96 children), majority of caseload was Spanish speaking

and consisted of foster children in prospective adoptive homes; *CHILD SAFETY*: conducted home visits with focus on child safety & adoption process, replaced children into prospective adoptive or foster homes, oversaw children's adjustment in home, assisted parents in meeting children's psychological, social, medical and academic needs; *COURT-RELATED ACTIVITIES*: wrote RPP - Review of Permanent Plan reports, 366.26 Permanent Placement reports often requesting termination of parental rights in order to proceed with adoptions, testified in court, maintained ongoing contact with minor's attorney & DCFS County Counsel; *ADOPTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES*: conducted pre-placement conferences to match children, participated in recruitment events, transitioned children into prospective adoptive homes, completed adoption home studies, adoptively placed children, initiated adoption assistance payments, and initiated adoption finalization process.

## **Skills**

**Technical** ❖ *SPANISH/ENGLISH*: Fluent in written and spoken Spanish ❖ Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Power Point, and Publisher ❖ Able to monitor, supervise, and coach social workers and students ❖ Ensuring adherence to standards and statements of work ❖ Strong experience in public child welfare

**Interpersonal:** ❖ Ability to organize and prioritize according to importance ❖ Strong influencing and mediation skills ❖ Can deal with sensitive issues confidentially

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Association of Latina/Latino Social Work Educators
- Council on Social Work Education