

Research Forum Bios

Eddie Bocanegra

Eddie Bocanegra is the Executive Director of the YMCA of Metro Chicago's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention initiative. He has pioneered many community-based programs to address trauma and build resiliency among those most impacted by violence, including LuchARTE, Grupo Consuelo, and Urban Warriors.

Prior to joining the Y, Eddie served as a congregational organizer for Community Renewal Society where he led FORCE (Fighting to Overcome Records and Create Equality), a coalition that advocates for increased opportunities for ex-offenders. He also worked as a violence interrupter for Chicago's Ceasefire. He currently serves on Chicago Mayor Emanuel's Commission for a Safer Chicago and Chicago's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Cabinet. He has spoken at the United Nations in New York City, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, and at many universities throughout the country on the topic of trauma and its relation to community violence. He was featured in the Independent Spirit Award winning documentary, "The Interrupters."

Eddie has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Northeastern University and a Master of Arts in Social Work from the University of Chicago.

Mark Kammerer

Mark has been the Supervisor of Alternative Prosecution/Sentencing Unit for the Cook County, Illinois, State's Attorney's Office for over 14 years, addressing a large percentage of cases which are disposed of utilizing alternative prosecution/sentencing initiatives, including coordinating the State's Attorney's Office's role in the County's six Drug Courts, serving as the only coordinator in the history of the County's Mental Health Court System (seven separate courts), the only coordinator in the history of the County's Veterans Court System (six separate courts), and is the Coordinator of the SAO's numerous Deferred Prosecution Programs, including the Drug School Diversion program for both felony and misdemeanor offenders, the Felony Deferred Prosecution Program, the Misdemeanor Deferred Prosecution Program, and the Prostitution/Human Trafficking Diversion Court. In total, these alternative prosecution and sentencing initiatives involve over 2,700 individuals in any given month. He has been integrally involved in the expansion of the Cook County Treatment Court System from a total of three Treatment Courts in 2004 to the current total of twenty such Courts countywide, with additional ones in the planning stage. He is one of the 2011 recipients of the Bishop Sheil Award, awarded by the Illinois State Crime Commission. He has been on the faculty of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals/Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative since 2010. Prior to his current position, Mark served in the behavioral healthcare field his entire career, in direct service

provision, as well as supervisory and administrative positions. He served in various positions at Evanston (Illinois) Hospital in the fifteen years immediately prior to his present position, most recently as the clinical coordinator of ambulatory behavioral healthcare. He earned two undergraduate degrees from Loyola University of Chicago and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Rebecca Levin

Rebecca (Becky) Levin, MPH, Director of Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) has worked in the violence and injury prevention field for over 13 years. In addition to her role with SCY, Becky is also the Strategic Director of the Injury Prevention and Research Center and the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. IVDRS is operated by Lurie Children's as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System. Becky is on the Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago and the Board of Directors of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence and the Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance. Before coming to Lurie Children's in 2011, Becky worked at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for 12 years, overseeing all violence and injury prevention efforts. She was one of the lead staff on development of the AAP violence prevention program Connected Kids: Safe, Strong, Secure. At the AAP, Ms. Levin served as Project Director/Principal Investigator for numerous federally and privately funded injury and violence projects and held leadership positions on several federal expert groups addressing community-based violence prevention, injury prevention, and parenting. Becky received her bachelor's degree in Integrated Science and Biology from Northwestern University and her master's degree in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is also a trained Peace Circle Keeper.

Arthur J. Lurigio

Arthur J. Lurigio, a psychologist, is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, and a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology and of Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. He is also a member of the Graduate Faculty and Director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training, and Education (CARTE) at Loyola University Chicago. In 2003, Dr. Lurigio was named a faculty scholar, one of the highest honors bestowed on senior faculty at Loyola University Chicago. In recognition of his continued scholar productivity, he was named in 2013 a Master Researcher in the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago. And in recognition of the overall outstanding contributions of his research to practices in the fields of psychology and criminal justice, Dr. Lurigio was conferred the University of Cincinnati Award in 1996, the Hans W. Mattick Award in 2003, the Champion for Recovery: Excellence in Research Award in 2009, the University of Illinois: Distinguished Contributions to Criminal Justice Research and Practice Award in 2010, and the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Career Award in 2010.

Jill Reich

Ms. Reich is the Program Manager of the Wells Center Dual Diagnosis Unit at Logan Correctional Center. Ms. Reich currently carries a caseload, facilitates group therapy, and supervises counseling staff. Prior to working for Wells Center, Ms. Reich managed inpatient units for detox, crisis stabilization, and residential rehab. Ms. Reich has worked with mental health and substance abuse populations, in an inpatient and outpatient setting, throughout central Illinois. Ms. Reich earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Quincy University and her master's degree in human services from University of Illinois at Springfield.

Jessica Reichert

As Manager of the Research and Evaluation Center at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Ms. Reichert oversees staff and research on criminal justice trends and issues. Recently, she has conducted research in the areas of violence prevention, corrections, prisoner reentry, and human trafficking. She has published in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals such as the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* and *Women and Criminal Justice* and in the forthcoming *Journal of Human Trafficking*. Her research won the Justice Research and Statistics Association annual award for outstanding effort in applying empirical analysis to criminal justice policy-making. She has conducted numerous national and state presentations on criminal and juvenile justice issues. Ms. Reichert has served as part-time instructor at Loyola University Chicago in the Criminal Justice Department. She was previously employed at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and in 2005 received the "Distinguished Service Award" for her work on behalf of citizens of Illinois. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bradley University and master's degree in criminal justice from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Dawn Ruzich

Dawn Ruzich is the Executive Director of Business Development for Gateway Foundation's Corrections Division. Prior to joining Gateway at the end of 2015, she served as the Director of Evaluation & Quality for the WestCare Foundation for eight years. She co-authored *Community reentry after prison drug treatment: Learning from Sheridan Therapeutic Community Program participants* (2011) and *The Prevalence of Probable Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Psychiatric Problems in a Sample of Urban Jail Detainees* (2013). Dawn holds a Master of Public Policy from The University of Chicago, where she graduated with honors.

Elena Quintana

Elena Quintana, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Institute on Public Safety & Social Justice at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Quintana was trained in both Clinical and Community Psychology at DePaul University. Currently her work entails creating programs, research, and events that promote socially just solutions to public safety problems. Some of these projects include work in the juvenile justice system, restorative justice research, jail staff

re-education, violence prevention, immigration policy and detention reform, and addressing the mental health needs of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. Dr. Quintana works collaboratively with community members and agencies, law enforcement, detention facility staff and inmates, as well as universities and government in an effort to implement socially just policies and practices that are beneficial to all.