

Where are they now?
Francisco Lopez, Ph.D.

By Jeff Vanderploeg

Francisco Lopez, Ph.D., was placed at CHDI from July 2011 until June 2012 as part of his Clinical Psychology Predoctoral Fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. During that time, Francisco worked closely with Jeff Vanderploeg on the Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services Performance Improvement Center, where he analyzed and reviewed data, contributed to report writing and EMPS training development, and met with sites to help them use data to improve access, quality, and outcomes. Jeff and Francisco met for lunch in Wallingford on December 1, 2015 to catch up, talk about what Francisco has been doing these last few years, and discuss how his time at CHDI has influenced his career.

What have you been doing since your time at CHDI?

Following my Predoctoral Fellowship and placement at CHDI, I completed my postdoctoral training at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, in West Haven CT. I currently have a clinical position in the Behavioral Health Department at Fair Haven Clinic in New Haven. The Fair Haven Clinic is a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive and integrated health and behavioral health care to children and adults in the greater Fair Haven community. In my role there, I work in collaboration with Yale on a clinical-research grant called the Latino Behavioral Health Network. The goal of this grant is to ensure that monolingual Spanish-speaking adults across the state have access to Spanish-speaking behavioral health clinicians. As a result, I conduct nearly all of my clinical work in Spanish. In addition to all of this, I conduct forensic evaluations for juveniles and adults in a private practice setting. I live in Wallingford with my wife and three children.

How did CHDI influence your career trajectory and prepare you for what you're doing now?

My time at CHDI helped me to think about behavioral health at the systems level, the role of data in supporting organizations to deliver effective care, and how policy and systems factors influence the way clinics function and how clinical work is conducted. Although I spend most of my time providing direct clinical care, I also spend some time working to develop effective behavioral health delivery systems for youth and adults, primarily Spanish-speaking individuals and families.

What's next for you in your career?

I'm passionate about ensuring that traditionally underserved populations have access to integrated health and behavioral health care. Fair Haven Clinic has just recently opened up another location at 50 Grand Avenue in the Fair Haven community to ensure all families in our community can access services, as we've noticed that some individuals that really need services access them only at our main location due to transportation issues. I'm looking forward to moving to that location soon, and will also continue to take on additional leadership and responsibilities within the clinic.



Given Francisco's work on the Latino Behavioral Health Network, which is adult-focused, we were able to discuss the possibility of a similar initiative for children and families. In fact, the next day Francisco emailed me and had already discussed the idea with the Principal Investigator's at Yale! We also talked about CHDI's role in promoting integrated health and behavioral health care across the state. We had a great time together and it looks like there may be additional opportunities for CHDI to continue collaborating!