



PATTY RAMIREZ, DSW-C, MSW

“Healing Justice and Culturally Competent Approaches to Advocacy at the Intersections of the Criminal and Immigration Legal Systems”

Patty Ramirez, DSW-C, MSW was born and raised in East Los Angeles. She is of Salvadoran and Mexican descent and has a Master of Social Work and is completing her Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California. Patty's doctoral focus is in innovating the Healing Justice Transformative Leadership Institute and a healing- leadership model that proposes a process for healing, transformation, and liberation in social justice organizations and movements. She is a Steering Committee Leader of Trauma Informed Los Angeles where she provides strategic planning, program development, and supports content curation around trauma informed and healing justice approaches. She is also the creator of her own micro-enterprise, Wild Luna Botanicals, a self-care and wellness brand where healing and bruja magic come together.

Patty is an intuitive healing coach, bi-lingual and bi-cultural and uses various modalities in her practice including trauma-informed, culturally competent, and healing-centered approaches. She is a transnational social worker and for nearly a decade, Patty has dedicated her work to serving immigrant victims of crimes, and justice-impacted folks. Patty's experience ranges from working with the immigrant and refugee population, violence prevention, criminal justice policy advocacy, and reproductive justice.

Patty recently transitioned from her role as the Director of Migrant Family Services where she directed the daily operations of family-based services at the JFS led asylum seeking shelter for families in San Diego. Patty is now working as a project-based consultant committed to advancing social justice-oriented and advocacy organizations. Patty is passionate about integrating multi-disciplinary approaches to best serve trauma-impacted communities. She is committed to helping transform harmful organizations, systems, and movements and innovate to those that are equipped to support the development, healing, transformation, and liberation of trauma-impacted leaders driving social change. Patty is a distinguished Rockwood Building Power Fellow, a statewide cohort of social justice leaders committed to advancing racial and health equity. No matter what hat she is wearing, Patty's goal remains the same— to empower and uplift trauma-impacted communities.

"HEALING JUSTICE AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT APPROACHES TO ADVOCACY AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL SYSTEMS"

DR. PATTY RAMIREZ

Immigrant and justice impacted folks experience many barriers to accessing services, opportunity, safety, and justice. Lack of cultural competence, implicit bias, racial trauma, and harmful anti-immigrant rhetoric, along with multi-level systemic barriers produced by the unjust immigration and criminal court systems exacerbate these barriers. Collaboration between law enforcement and ICE through heavy-handed policing known as "poli-migra" enforcement which refers to the multi-layered federal-state-local collaborative immigration enforcement practices has created the conditions of chronic stress and fear that prevent immigrant victims of crimes from reporting and accessing support services.

Institutional racism within the criminal and immigration legal systems, child welfare systems, and public education continue longstanding practices resulting in inequitable treatment and racialized outcomes. The field of Healing Justice refers to an evolving political framework shaped by economic, racial, and disability justice that re-centers the role of healing inside of liberation that seeks to transform, intervene and respond to generational trauma and violence in and to regenerate traditions of liberatory and resiliency practices that have been lost or stolen. The Healing Justice Transformative Leadership Institute

This workshop lays the groundwork to understanding the intersection between the criminal and immigration legal systems and offers practical healing justice and cultural competence strategies that can be used to improve program development, advocacy, and service delivery integration. Participants will learn about the gap between the criminal and immigration legal service systems and how this gap can be bridged. This workshop also explores how assumptions about others can affect access to opportunity and justice for populations impacted by the criminal and immigration legal systems and how services sometimes fail black, indigenous, people of color, refugees and immigrants, and justice-impacted individuals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

#1 Participants will understand and be able to describe the principles of healing justice and cultural competence frameworks.

#2 Throughout many systems of care, black, indigenous, people of color experience inequitable treatment and racialized outcomes. Participants will determine how racial or cultural biases can impact interaction with trauma survivors and populations impacted by the criminal and immigration legal systems.

#3 Participants will be able to identify how healing justice and cultural competence can improve advocacy efforts on behalf of those impacted by the criminal and immigration legal systems. Participants will develop a vision for their own advocacy.