



VANESSA GUERRA

LEADERSHIP SPEAKER

Vanessa Guerra is a project management professional with eight years of industry experience in developing safe and sustainable affordable housing for the Sacramento region.

Her involvement in housing development started in 2007, in which Ms. Guerra was selected to participate in the Rural West Internship Program, which is designed to increase the diversity of staff in the Affordable Housing and Community Development field. She began her internship work in housing by working alongside experienced project managers for her host agency, Mutual Housing California, a non-profit corporation that develops, owns and operates affordable multi-family housing in Northern California. Upon receiving her Bachelors of Science in engineering—construction management from CSU, Sacramento (Sacramento State) in 2008, she was hired by her host agency and now serves as project manager in the Housing Development Department.

Her current responsibilities include the coordination of feasibility studies and site evaluation, real estate acquisition of vacant land and existing buildings, obtaining local jurisdiction approvals, securing development financing, and overseeing the construction and rehabilitation of project operations for multifamily housing developments. She also plays a key role in identifying innovative Green building practices to be integrated as standard building measures for Mutual Housing's developments, in order to provide sustainable healthy homes and communities for low income families



SONIA SATCHELL

LEGAL SPEAKER

Sonia Satchell is an assistant attorney for Sacramento County. Her parents are immigrants from El Salvador. Sonia studied at the University of San Francisco. She received her law degree from the University of New York. After law school, she began working for the District Attorney Office in Sacramento. In her nine years in office, Sonia has prosecuted a number of cases of serious crimes, and specializes in child abuse and has most recently been focusing on human trafficking.



Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola

HEALTH/EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER

Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola is an internationally renowned expert on mental health in ethnic populations. As on-site principal investigator of the Mexican American Prevalence and Services Survey – the largest mental health study conducted in the United States on Mexican Americans – he identified the most prevalent mental health disorders in the Mexican-origin population in California’s central valley; showed that the rate of disorders increases the longer the individual resides in the United States; and demonstrated that children of immigrants have even greater rates of mental disorders. From this study, he developed a model of service delivery that increased access to mental health services among the Central Valley’s low-income, underserved, rural populations.

Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola conducts cross-national epidemiologic studies on the patterns and correlates of psychiatric disorders in general population samples. He is the coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Health Organization’s Mental Health Survey, and coordinates the work of the National Mental Health Institute surveys in Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica and Portugal. He also develops culturally and linguistically sensitive diagnostic mental health measures, and translates mental health research into practical information for consumers and their families, health professionals, service administrators and policy makers.