

Working Title: Latino Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities and Barriers to Accessing Services

Brief Explanation of the project:

My capstone consists of a literature review. Databases including *PsychINFO*, were searched for articles describing barriers to accessing services for Latino families in the United States. Also, journals such as *Disability and Society* and *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities* were also manually searched to find articles. I searched for different barriers that may prevent Latino families with a child with a developmental disability from getting the services they need. The review found that lack of knowledge about services that stemmed, in part, from a lack of awareness about their child's disability was one prominent barrier. In addition, lack of translators and a lack of practitioners that spoke Spanish were also seen as a major barrier for them in obtaining services. Language barriers also prevented them from forming strong and trusting relationships with their service providers. Moreover, another barrier that was seen in the literature was lack of insurance, which usually resulted from having low income and lack of education. The family's immigration status also affected their ability to obtain services and support. Lastly, their own cultural health beliefs such as attributing their child's behavior to family rearing or family problems were also seen as a barriers because they believed that only family members could solve the problem. Interestingly, the literature review also demonstrated that even though many Latino families come to the United States to provide their child with more opportunities to services that were not available in their home country, their lack of documentation makes it difficult for them to access the services available to their children here. By being aware of the barriers these families face we can work together with them to provide adequate support.