

MEGAN STRAUSS, LMSW

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Fourteen years' experience overseeing multiple streams of Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) programs. Ability to develop systems to effectively manage programmatic, financial and administrative components of CNCS programs. Excellent organizational skills that will ensure timely, accurate, and complete submission of grantee requirements. Substantial experience facilitating technical assistance trainings for current and potential CNCS grantees. Formal education and professional experiences focused on interpersonal communication. Focused on providing tangible solutions and support in a consulting capacity.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- AmeriCorps planning grants
- Strategic Partnerships
- Outcome Reporting
- Mission Development
- Cultural Inclusivity
- Staff Development
- Systems Development
- Group Facilitation
- Training Initiatives

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ALPINE ACHIEVERS INITIATIVE

Monte Vista, CO

Founder & Executive Director

Aug. 2012 - Present

- Directed launch and operations of nonprofit organization with \$1.4 million annual operating budget, with mission of enhancing academic and professional opportunities for youth in rural Colorado.
- Coach partner organizations on developing high impact programs.
- Train staff on CNCS compliance requirements and expectations
- Facilitated leadership trainings for partner organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, highlighting youth development strategies, cultural inclusivity and neurodiversity issues for executive administrators, educators and public health staff.
- Cultivated partnerships with community-based non-profit organizations, local school districts and government agencies.
- Coordinated placements for over 100 AmeriCorps members contributing 200,000+ hours to date, serving as intermediary to connect youth with opportunities across 30 partner organizations while maintaining 92% retention rate.
- Devised inaugural Board of Directors and secured non-profit status, establishing foundation for favorable social impact.
- Incorporated evidence-based approaches when developing new programs, leveraging protective factors amongst youth.
- Tracked and evaluated program outcomes, administering surveys to determine socio-emotional health of participants.
- Successfully secured more than \$2.6 million in grant funding during tenure including multi-year awards, interfacing with federal, state and private entities including the U.S. Department of Social Services and Department of Education.

CHAFFEE CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

Salida, CO

Founding Member & Interim Director

Oct. 2018 - Apr. 2020

- Founded non-profit, community-based childcare center serving 20% of families across the region, working with local government agencies throughout development of new facility based on local needs.
- Successfully secured 501(c)3 status, establishing Board of Directors, submitting 1023 application and organizational bylaws.
- Received \$120,000 grant for initial start-up costs, serving as interim director throughout planning of new facility.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

HOLISTIC MOMS NETWORK

Salida, CO

Board Member

Apr. 2021 - Present

Contributed to development of strategic plan on behalf of non-profit organization with mission of expanding education and resources for parents, operating across 50 chapters nationwide, fostering community networks to support local families.

CENTRAL COLORADO SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Central Colorado, CO

Founding Member and Leadership Team

June 2020 - Present

Worked with a small group of community leaders to organize a local Showing Up for Racial Justice Chapter that centers Black voices and organizes white people for racial justice.

SAN LUIS VALLEY YOUTH COALITION

San Luis Valley, CO

Co-Founder and Organizer

May 2019 - Present

Organize collaborative meetings for youth serving organizations throughout the San Luis Valley to minimize duplicative services among providers and promote resource sharing.

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Master of Science - Social Work Community Administration and Leadership Focus

Austin, TX

June 2008

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Bachelor's Degree - Psychology

College Station, TX

May 2006

TRANSFORMATIVE ALLIANCES

Community Leaders in Health Equity Program

Colorado

Aug. 2020 - Present

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program

Colorado

Feb. 2016 – Dec. 2016

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Saguache, CO

Mathematics Instructor/Student Services Coordinator

Aug. 2012 - May 2015

- Provided multi-tiered, strengths-based academic and behavioral interventions to youth across entire school district.
- Successfully secured funding from Department of Social Services to launch preventative programming for students at risk, reporting directly to District Superintendent.
- Introduced new attendance policies which were rolled out school-wide, incorporating incentives which led to significant improvements in student punctuality and engagement.
- Provided mathematics instruction for nearly 150 students each year in grades K-12, covering topics including pre-calculus.
- Created curriculum for 50+ math classes each week and facilitated 35+ weekly sessions, incorporating a growth mindset while promoting student comprehension of complex academic topics.
- Responded to diverse student needs, worked closely with school administration and families to close achievement gaps.
- Coordinated logistics of parent education workshops highlighting importance of protective factors.

SAGUACHE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Saguache, CO

Prevention Specialist

Jan. 2013 - Aug. 2015

- Contributed to launch of free after-school program aimed at fostering positive social, academic and physical development, developing social-emotional curriculum to increase student awareness and success.
- Oversaw 120+ AmeriCorps interns working across regional schools and non-profit organizations, maintaining highest rate of participant success statewide, with 90% retention.
- Managed all data collection, grant reporting and budgeting activities, ensuring accuracy of information and adherence to outcome reporting specifications.
- Worked closely with teachers, families and regional social service agencies to coordinate wrap-around services, identifying and executing appropriate referrals and interventions based on participant needs.
- Facilitated trainings on effective teaching strategies, increasing participant abilities to motivate and instruct others.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

Positive Youth Development Trainings for Saguache County Public Health: Facilitated Positive Youth Development (PYD) trainings for community. Certified trainer for PYD via Colorado Department of Public Health.

Developing Effective Salary Matrix: San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days and Colorado Nonprofit Association's Colorado Nonprofit Conference, to create a meaningful and equitable salary matrix.

Developing & Implementing Strategic Plan: San Luis Valley (SLV) Pride to prioritize the LGBTQIA+ community needs and strategic plan for implementing action items, culminating in first inaugural SLV Pridefest.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Morgan & Rushton Consulting: Developing Anti-Racist Community Leaders, Embracing Inclusiveness & Equity

WorkSmart Partners: Management Strategies for Small Nonprofits

The Denver Foundation: Grants, Individuals, Earned Income & Planning, Mentorship, Tools, Management Challenges

The Avarna Group: Foundations of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Unconscious Bias, Planning for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

National Outdoor Leadership School: Risk Management & Crisis Response Training for Administrators