

Adilene Marquez's Biography

Adilene Marquez is the Inspire Youth Connections Program Specialist for Boulder County Public Health. In this role, she works with local school districts to implement and facilitate a suicide prevention program called Sources of Strength (SOS). She acts as a resource to the community in implementing positive youth development (PYD) strategies. Adilene engages adults who are committed to creating strong, consistent, trusting and caring relationships with youth by leading the Coordinated Youth Systems coalition in her community. She also helps develop and implement frameworks to increase health equity for populations that are adversely impacted by mental health and substance use. Before this work, Adilene gained amazing experience working at Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Non-violence (SPAN), where she worked with domestic violence victims, in AmeriCorps engaging in disaster preparedness and in Public Achievement & University of Colorado Boulder's Aquetza program working with underserved youth. She hopes to continue her career in Public Health in dedication to lessening the burden that mental health and substance use disorders have on the health of individuals, families and communities while maintaining an equity lens and engaging as a cultural broker. Adilene believes that everyone deserves equal opportunity to a healthy life, and we must actively disrupt the systematic barriers that were created to exclude marginalized communities.

Lessons Learned:

As a graduating fellow from the first cohort of Latinx Emerging Leaders, Adilene learned so much over these past months. She learned about systems thinking, cultural competence, equity informed prevention strategies and how to develop a Logic Model and Action Plan. However, one of the most important things learned is that she already has the skills and qualities that people in current leadership positions contain. She needs to embrace that and use them positively to empower her community because she already has influence in her current role. To summarize, Adilene knows that a leader needs to keep growing and learning like Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."