

# 2023 Expanding Opportunities Project Virtual Colloquium

Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4 pm-6 pm

Graduate Students, School-Based Mental Health Professionals, Universities, and other Stakeholders welcome!

This colloquium will highlight the school based mental health experience in rural schools. Hear from 2 amazing New Mexico school based mental health providers willing to share their experiences and discuss hot topics in mental health. You will also have an overview of the NMEOP program and a chance to ask questions.

Register here to reserve your spot. Recordings will be available as well.

<https://forms.gle/IqcqQWA5u6LtiXRG6>

The first 150 people who attend the live event and fill out the survey provided at the end will receive a complimentary copy of the book, *What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing* by Oprah Winfrey & Bruce D. Perry.

## Presenters:

Keynote Presenter: Florence Miera



Florence is a licensed clinical mental health provider who is committed to helping individuals, families and groups of people improve their quality of life, using various therapy models including EMDR for Trauma. Florence has worked in rural areas in Northern NM for the past 20 years. Florence has experience in a multitude of areas. She's written policy briefs; mediated staff, parents, and administrators, she's been a Crisis Prevention Institute Instructor, conducted alternative assessments for children who could not test in a regular setting, participated in restorative justice circles and more.

Presenter: Soña Saiz



Magdalena Soña Alaniz Saiz is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration. She has over 20 years of experience with school systems as an educator, social worker, and administrator across elementary, middle school, high school, and higher education. Currently Dr. Saiz serves students and families as the Behavioral Health Coordinator of the New Mexico Public Education Department. In this role Dr. Saiz supports social and emotional learning (SEL) strategies, suicide prevention, and bullying prevention in schools, postvention supports for safe schools, and serves as the liaison between agencies and School-Based Health Centers to increase access to behavioral health services for students. She also supports school district administrators, school personnel, and outside agencies through training and technical assistance on SEL, suicide and bullying prevention.

Presenter: Deborah Chavez, MSW

Deborah Chavez is the Expanding Opportunities Project manager. She is the Mental Health Services Coordinator for the Safe and Healthy Schools bureau, New Mexico Public Education Department. Deborah has been with the bureau since January 2022 and previously worked supporting Expecting and Parenting Youth/GRADS as well as Attendance. Deborah started working for the state of New Mexico, Department of Health as a Contact Tracer/Investigator in 2020. Prior to working for the state, she worked for the Questa School District for 10 years in various positions, including Youth Mentorship Program Director (in partnership with Taos Behavioral Health), Truancy Coach, and Homeless Liaison. Deborah holds a master's degree in social work from Western New Mexico University.