

Ijeoma Achara, PsyD
President
Achara Consulting, Inc

Dr. Achara has worked extensively in the behavioral health field. Currently she consults with state and local government entities as well as provider organizations regarding the provision of recovery oriented care and the development of recovery oriented systems of care. Prior to her consultation activities, Dr. Achara served as the Director of Strategic Planning at the Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services (DBH/MRS) where she was responsible for leading the transformation of Philadelphia's behavioral health system into a recovery oriented system of care. Her responsibilities were broad in scope, and in addition to managing the change process, she developed strategies to increase the leadership of people in recovery, changed clinical practices in the system, developed peer based recovery support services, identified and modified policies that were inconsistent with a recovery orientation and developed new initiatives that advanced the transformation process.

Before her work in Philadelphia, Dr. Achara served on the faculty at Yale where she worked with Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to conduct research targeting health disparities, cultural competency and the provision of recovery oriented care. Dr. Achara also supported DMHAS' recovery transformation efforts and the development of culture specific substance abuse treatment programs in Connecticut.

Dr. Achara has extensive experience in both child and adult behavioral health. In addition to the systems level work that she currently engages in, Dr. Achara has worked as a provider in various settings including hospitals, community treatment centers, and schools across the country.

Eugenia Argires, MSS, MFA

Short Bio

Eugenia Argires is a social work professional with over 20 years' experience creating and directing a broad range of pioneering outreach, education and service linkage programs designed to reach highly marginalized urban populations. These have included, chronically homeless individuals, substance-involved pregnant women and teens, HIV/HCV infected individuals, among others. She has demonstrated success obtaining large federal, state and foundation grants and securing city contracts.

An inclusive leader, Ms. Argires' participatory management practices inform her supervision of project managers and direct service staff while ensuring that the persons served drive all aspects of program design and service delivery. She is committed to building upon the recovery capital present in the even the most imperiled communities by forging collaborative partnerships with residents, neighborhood businesses, faith groups, providers, among others. Ms. Argires is a passionate expert in and advocate for, the implementation of public health programs within a trauma-informed, recovery-oriented framework.

Ms. Argires earned her Masters of Social Work degree from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work. Prior to her social work profession, Ms. Argires was a fine arts painter earning her Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Amelia Murphy

Director of Recovery Support Services

Short Bio

Amelia Murphy is a southern native, but was born in Oakland, California. She relocated with her parents to Houston, Texas and currently resides as a Houstonian. Amelia is a woman in long term recovery with a strong advocacy for the Peer to Peer model in the recovery community. She was among the first graduates of Santa Maria Hostel, Inc. in 1990 and became a member of Santa Maria Hostel, Inc. Alumni Association. Amelia is currently completing online studies for BA in Psychology with Walden University. Amelia has completed two Recovery Coach Trainings and Train the Trainer Certificate in Houston & Austin Texas. Amelia passed the Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals Exam for the State of Texas in 2015 and currently applying for the International status in June 2015.

Currently, Amelia is a member of the Recovery Oriented System of Care-Houston or ROSC and joined the Recovery Advocacy Committee and Criminal Justice Committee. She is involved with The Department State Health Services Texas Recovery Initiative with the Criminal Justice and State Recovery Rally Committee to market a State campaign for September Recovery Month celebration. Amelia has been a committee member of Santa Maria Hostel "Run for Recovery Project" to promote recovery awareness in the local and surrounding communities for over 5 years.

She has accomplished the following:

- 2014 Director of Women Recovery Community Center for Women and Children where her team provides recovery support services and sober housing for women and children.
- 2014- Award recipient for "The Distinguished Advocate of the Year" recognized by Texas Association of Addiction Professionals- Houston Chapter.
- 2014-Harris County Sheriff's Office Recognition for "Outstanding Service as a Community Partner"
- 2013-First recipient of the 7th Annual Houston-Harris County Regional Candlelight Vigil Award as the Recovery Advocate of the Year for 2013.
- 2013-First Peer Recovery Support Specialist to facilitate a CEU session for Women Recovery Support Services.
- 2012 Recovery Coach Trainer for Department State Health Services with the State of Texas

Amelia has been working in many capacities with the drug and alcohol treatment field for women and their children. She has a passion for people who need recovery coaching as part of the continuum of care. She focuses on chemically dependency, trauma support, mental health support, dual recovery support (DRA) incarcerated, indigent and homeless individuals. Today, she serves as the active member with The Reentry Coalition, The National Council for Community Behavioral, Houston Super Neighborhood Council and is successfully fostering relationships among a wide range of various Coalition Partners, Criminal Justice Practitioners, Harris County Drug Court, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Harris County Jail, law enforcements groups, and other community committees that serve recovery efforts.