



# A Webinar Series for COVID and Beyond

School-Community Partnerships for the Whole child:  
Collaborate to Improve Teaching and Learning

## *Webinar 3: Partner with Families*

### *Panelist Biographies*

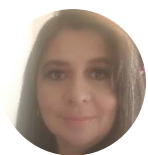


**Beatriz “BB” Otero** has extensive experience formulating and executing policy related to health and human services, early childhood education and community development. She is President of Otero Strategy Group, a strategic consulting practice that advises philanthropy, nonprofits and local governments. She currently serves as an advisor to the County Executive of Montgomery County, MD and is a Senior Fellow at the Center

for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP).

From 2011-2014, BB served as Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services for the District of Columbia where she oversaw policy and services strategy for the Departments of Health, Behavioral Health, Health Care Finance, Disability Services, Disability Rights, Human Services, Child Welfare, Youth Rehabilitation Services, Aging and Parks and Recreation. During her time as Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, she also developed and led several cross-agency and cluster strategies.

BB is the founder of CentroNía, a community-based, nonprofit organization providing a range of bilingual educational and family support services to children, youth, and their families in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. She served as CEO/President of CentroNía from 1986-2010, growing a small child care center into an award winning educational and community development organization. As part of this work she developed DC Bilingual Public Charter School CentroNía was selected by the Doris Duke Foundation as one of 21 exemplary early childhood programs in the nation. Along with her many years of local community service, BB has a wide range of international experience including disaster preparedness and humanitarian relief and advising local governments in Europe on immigrant conflict. She is bicultural and bilingual.



**Minerva Pardo** is the Family Engagement Coordinator in West Valley School District in Yakima Washington. She runs several programs that have increased the resilience of English Language Learner, Bilingual and migrant families in the district. These programs are supported by the “Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework”, and they have made a difference in the lives of families and students. Her team is part of the 3rd

Cohort as a Fellow for the Flamboyant Foundation which builds capacity on fellows to improve Family Engagement practices. Minerva is also a National Trainer for the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance. She facilitated “Trainer of Trainer” training for the Strengthening Families Framework. The goal of this work is to strengthen families, to promote optimal child development, and to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.





**Joe Vonderhaar** serves as the principal of Mari Sandoz Elementary, located in Omaha Nebraska. Sandoz Elementary is part of Millard Public Schools, a metropolitan district which serves more than 24,000 students. Sandoz is part of the Superintendent's Early Childhood Plan in partnership with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Mr.

Vonderhaar is passionate about the School as Hub model and meeting the needs of students and families, starting at birth.



**Mani Xaybanha** for Multnomah County in Portland, Oregon as a Program Specialist within the Youth and Family Services Division for the following programs: P-3 (pre-natal to 3rd grade), EKT (Early Kindergarten Transition) and PTHV( Parent Teacher Home Visits). All 3 programs are within Multnomah County's SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) Service System.

This is a system that partners with community agencies that are culturally specific or culturally responsive and has programs that are school based to better serve the needs of the community.

