

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Anna Davidson Abella, PhD  
Assistant Research Professor  
Department of Child & Family Studies  
College of Behavioral and Community Sciences  
University of South Florida  
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## EDUCATION

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PhD in Applied Anthropology, 2017  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
Dissertation: The Time to Love: Ideologies of “Good” Parenting at a Family Service Organization in the Southeastern United States

Joint MA in Anthropology and Women’s & Gender Studies 2006  
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Master’s Thesis: Youth Gender Violence Prevention Programs

BA in Anthropology (Minors in Women’s Studies and English Literature), 2004  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
Honors Thesis: Finding Balance: Women’s Challenges Combining Work and Family

Study Abroad Program, 2003  
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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Assistant Research Professor, 2017 to present  
Department of Child and Family Studies  
College of Community and Behavioral Sciences  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Refereed Journal Articles

Abella, A.D., GU /TTnd(l)-2(e)4 Cl. Cd(l)-2 ng Png46 opulllelll. “1 (.e)-6 ood Png46 (l)-2(e-7)4 (s)-

Abella, A.D., Hordge Freeman, E., Conner, K., Armstrong, A., Wilson, R., & Landers, M. (2024). Parent and Staff Insights to Understanding Challenges with Engaging Black

Families in Early Childhood Programs. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-024-02883-2>

Abella, A.D., Landers, M., Ismajli, Fet al. (2022). Stakeholder Perspectives on Implementing a Police-Mental Health Collaborative to Improve Pathways to Treatment. *Behav Health Serv Res* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11414-021-09782-0>

Callejas, L.M., Jayaram, L., & Abella, A.D. (2021). 'I Would Never Want to Live That Again:' Exploring Mothers' Experiences with Child Welfare Prevention Services to Better Understand their Acquired Knowledge of Child Welfare: A Special Issue on Poverty and Child Welfare Services

- Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., & Anderson, R. (December 2023) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Final Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., & Anderson, R. (November, 2023) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 5 Annual Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida.
- Callejas, L., Monsalves, Serna, M., Shockley, C., Joseph, R., Abella, A.D., Gamache, P., & Martin, J. (November 2023) Section 3. Operationalizing Equity and Measuring the Impacts of Using and “Equity Lens.” In, Callejas, L., (Ed) (2023) Evaluating and Measuring Equity Report. (Report No. 2). Statewide Evaluation: Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction Health Equity Initiative. Department of Child & Family Studies, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida.
- Callejas, L., Abella, A.D, Jarvis, J., Lindsey, L., Gamache, P., & Burrus, T. (November 2023) Section 2. Interviews with Grassroots and BIPOC Organizations: Understanding Community Behavioral Health Needs and Responsive Approaches. In, Callejas, L., (Ed) (2023) Evaluating and Measuring Equity Report. (Report No. 2). Statewide Evaluation: Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction Health Equity Initiative. Department of Child & Family Studies, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida.
- Callejas, L., Abella, A.D, Jarvis, J., & Lindsey, L. (November 2023) Section 1. Provider Perspectives on Behavioral Health Equity in Indiana. In, Callejas, L., (Ed) (2023) Evaluating and Measuring Equity Report. (Report No. 2). Statewide Evaluation: Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction Health Equity Initiative. Department of Child & Family Studies, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.D., Landers, M., & Joseph, R. (November, 2023). Enhanced Jail Diversion (EJD) Final Cumulative Report Submitted to Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Division and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). GAN: 19-0658.
- Cruz, A., Abella, A.D, Walker, C., Shockley, C. (October, 2023). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Formal Report Year 3. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & Abella, A.D. (July, 2023). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report Year 3, Quarter 3. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Abella, A.D., Vargo, A., Cruz, Coy, L., A. Massey, O., Von der Embse, N., Martin, J. (June, 2023). Cross Site Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on

- Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation Final Research Report. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice and Archived with the National Archive for Criminal Justice Data. GAN: 2020-F-CX-0001.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., & Anderson, R. (April, 2023) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 5-Semiannual Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida.
- Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & Abella, A.D. (April, 2023). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report Year 3, Quarter 2. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Abella, A.D., Landers, M., & Joseph, R. (April, 2023). Enhanced Jail Diversion (EJD) Quarterly Report, Year 5, Quarter 1. Submitted to Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Division and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). GAN: 19-0658.
- Abella, A.D., Vargo, A., Cruz, A., Coy, L., Massey, O., Von der Embse, J. (January 2023). Cross Site Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation Research Performance Project Report, Annual Year 2. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice. GAN: 2020-F-CX-0001.
- Abella, A. D., Landers, M., Reeves, V. (February, 2023). Preliminary Study of the Telehealth Remote Access Crisis Evaluation (TRACE) Program Submitted to Directions for Living and Largo Police Department. USF New Researcher Internal Award.
- Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & Abella, A.D. (January, 2023). Florida Pediatric

- Abella, A.D., Landers, M., & Joseph, R. (October, 2022). Enhanced Jail Diversion (EJD) Quarterly Report, Year 4, Quarter 3. Submitted to Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Division and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). GAN: 19-0658.
- Abella, A.D., Vargo, A., Johnson, M., Cruz, A. Massey, O., Von der Embse, N. (July, 2022). CrossSite Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation Research Performance Project Report, Semi-Annual Year 2. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice. GAN: 2020RF-CX-0001.
- Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Shockley, C., & Abella, A. (July, 2022). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report Year 2, Quarter 3. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Abella, A.D., Landers, M., & Joseph, R. (July, 2022). Enhanced Jail Diversion (EJD) Quarterly Report, Year 4, Quarter 3. Submitted to Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Division and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). GAN: 19-0658.
- Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Shockley, C., & Abella, A. (April, 2022). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report Year 2, Quarter 2. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., & Anderson, R. (April, 2022) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 4 - Annual Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.D., Vargo, A., Johnson, M., Cruz, A. Massey, O., Von der Embse, N. (January 2022). CrossSite Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation Research Performance Project Report, Annual Year 1. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice. GAN: 2020RF-CX-0001.
- Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., Johnson, M., Shockley, C. (January, 2022). Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report Year 2, Quarter 1. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A.D., Dollard, N., and Ismajli, F. (November, 2021) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 3 Annual Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.



Service Training, Final Report Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare.  
University of South Florida.

Landers, M., Cruz, A., Abella, A., Dollard, N., and Carmona, April, (2020) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 2 SemiAnnual Evaluation Report Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida.  
University of South Florida.

Abella, A., Landers, M., and Carmona, April, (2020). Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Annual Report Year 2. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Submitted to South Florida (te)6VAbruella, e-1.15 TD Ht5 TD

Landers, M., Armstrong, M.I., Cruz, A., Abella, A., Dollard, N. (2019) Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Quarterly Report of Evaluation Activities, Year 1 Quarter 3. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.

Abella, A., Armstrong, M., Landers, M., and Carmona, Y. (2019). Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Annual Report Year 1. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.

Armstrong, M. Johnson, M., Sowell, K., Vargo, A. Abella, (2019). Utah IVE Waiver Implementation Analysis Final Report Submitted to the University of Utah College of Social Work. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Menendez, P., Abella, A, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2019). Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre (or)-1 4u1.S-1 ( 3)JTJ -2



Armstrong, M. Johnson, M., Sowell, K., Vargo, A. Abella, (2017). Utah IVE Waiver Implementation Analysis Year 4 Submitted to the University of Utah College of Social Work. University of South Florida.

Armstrong, M. Johnson, M., Sowell, K., Vargo, A. Abella, (2016). Utah IVE Waiver Implementation Analysis Interim Report Submitted to the University of Utah College of Social Work. University of South Florida.

## Book Reviews

Abella, A. D. (2023). Review of Police Response to Mental Health Calls for Service: Gatekeepers and Street Corner Psychiatry. By Kayla Jachimowski & Jonathon A. Cooper, Criminal Justice Review

- Abella, A.D., Paper Presentation. "Breaking the Spell of 'Brain Science' on Early Childhood Development Programs." Society for Applied Anthropology 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, March, 2024, Santa Fe, NM.
- Abella, A.D. & Vargo, A. Poster Presentation. "School Resource Officers as Mental Health Supports: Transformational Collaboration or Convenient Solution?" Society for Applied Anthropology 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, March, 2024, Santa Fe, NM.
- Landers, M.D., Abella, A.D. Revels, T., Thomas, C., Johnson, R., Paper Presentation. "Preserving and Supporting Families Affected by Substance Misuse." Family Focused Treatment Association Annual Conference, July 2023, Columbus, OH.
- Cruz, A. & Abella, A.D. Invited Presentation. "Applying Implementation Science to School Mental Health and Violence Prevention Programs." Annual Translational Research in Adolescent Substance Use Conference, University of South Florida, April 2023, Tampa, FL.
- Abella, A.D. Paper Presentation, "Police Mental Health Collaboratives: Challenges to Shifting from Criminal Justice to Social Justice." Society for Applied Anthropology 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, March 2023, Cincinnati, OH.
- Abella, A.D., Landers, M., Johnson, R., Revels, T. Paper Presentation, "Understanding the Impact of Additional Professional Supports for Families Involved in a Judicial Preservation Program." Florida Behavioral Health Conference, August 2022, Orlando, FL.
- Abella, A.D., & Callejas, L. Paper Presentation, "Capturing Worker Reflections on Supporting Families Involved in Child Welfare through Voice Memos." Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference, March 2022, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Abella, A.D., & Armstrong, L. Paper Presentation, "Using Ethnographic Methods to Understand Barriers to Program Engagement among Black Families in a Home Neighborhood." Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference, March 2022 (virtual).
- Abella, A.D., Paper Presentation "Parental Negotiation of Professional Advice on Early Childhood Development." American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, November 2021 (virtual).
- Abella, A.D., Landers, M. Webinar, "Police Mental Health-Responder Programs in Florida: Considerations for Different Models." [Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center Quarterly Webinar](#), June 2021 (virtual).
- Abella, A. D., Callejas, L. M., Ismajli, F. Panelist, "COVID-19 and Child Welfare: Challenges and Responses." [Child Welfare League of America Webinar](#), March 2021 (virtual).

Callejas, L. M., Abella, A. D, Ismajli, F. Paper Presentation, "I feel like COVID was just an excuse...I'm doing everything but it's always something." Applying Anthropology to Understand the Implications of COVID-19 Restrictions on Miami-Dade's Child Welfare System. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 2021 (virtual).

Abella, A. D. Panelist, "Strategies for Adapting Implementation Frameworks to Program Evaluations in the Behavioral Health Field." Invited Panel Discussion Implementation Science Principles in Behavioral Health Practice: Implementation, Evaluation, and Community Practice. 2021 Institute for Translational Research Education in Adolescent Drug Abuse, March 2021 (virtual).

Abella, A.D. Panelist, "Maternal Health and Family Life." [Institute for Black Life Annual Conference](#) February 2021 (virtual).

Abella, A. D. Roundtable Paper, "Work Hesitancy Among Mothers with Preschool Children: The Influence of Attachment Parenting." Work Family Researchers Network Virtual



reunification, this study also includes process evaluation activities to assess system collaboration and implementation elements that facilitated integration of peer support.

### Completed Contracts and Grants

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2024 -2024  
Florida Department of Children and Families \$1,658,492

Funded by the Administration for Children and Families

PIs: Amy Vargo and Pam Menendez

Role: Qualitative Analyst

Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-based Services

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the implementation and fidelity of evidence-based services selected for use by the Florida Department of Children and Families as part of the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Initiative. Methods involved stakeholder interviews with DCF and partner leadership and staff, an outcome analysis using administrative data, and the development of dissemination materials.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2022 -2023  
State of Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction \$857,534

PI: Linda Callejas

Role: CoInvestigator

Statewide Evaluation: Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction Health Equity Program

This oneyear evaluation study aimed to assess how well statewide equity efforts have worked to reduce behavioral health disparities, particularly those experienced by racial/ethnic, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities within the state.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2022 – 2023  
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners \$337,309

Funded by SAMHSA, GAN #19658

PI: Anna Davidson Abella

Evaluation of the Hillsborough County Enhanced Jail Diversion Program

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Funded by Children's Bureau, Administration for Children & Families

PI: Linda M. Callejas

Role: Qualitative Analyst

IMPACT Project: Regional Partnership Grant to Increase the Wellbeing of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Substance Abuse

This 5-year mixed method study evaluated whether the Multidimensional Family Recovery intervention increased engagement with substance abuse treatment for parents with children at risk of removal as compared to usual home family services. The study also included assessment of cross-system collaboration and implementation factors associated with the MDFR intervention, as well as in-depth interviews with families that participated in the study to better understand structural conditions placing them at risk of greater involvement in child welfare and system challenges to adequately addressing child and T\* [(s)-1 (hi)- (de)-6 (qua)(nd T\* [ua)4 (t)-2

and individual coping strategies of workers that facilitate and hinder knowledge acquisition and skill development while in the roles of case manager and child protective investigator. This mixed-methods study included staff observations, stakeholder interviews, and survey assessment.

Direct Contract



## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- Recipient, Women's Leadership Award, University of South Florida, 2009
- Recipient, Anthropology Graduate Research Grant, Brandeis University, 2006
- Recipient, Women's Studies Graduate Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2004

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- Scholar Strategy Network, 2021 to Present
- Society for Applied Anthropology, 2020 to Present
- American Evaluation Association, 2019 to Present
- American Anthropological Association, 2019 to 2022

## SERVICE

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### University Service

- 2023-Present Committee Member, PhD in Behavioral and Community Sciences, USF
- 2022 & 2024 Co-Mentor, USF Summer Research Institute
- 2021 Guest Lecturer, "COVID-19 Restrictions in Child Welfare: Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Lessons Learned." Applied Anthropology, Troy University, Fall 2021.
- 2018 Guest Lecturer, "Gender and Parenting in a Cross-Cultural Perspective." Gender in Global Perspectives, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, October 4, 2018.

### Professional Service

- 2025-2027 Chair, American Evaluation Association Behavioral Health Topical Interest Group (TIG)
- 2019-Present Peer Reviewer (2019 to Present), Journal of Child and Family Studies, Ethos, Human Organization, Journal of Behavioral Health Sciences and Research, The Journal of Primary Prevention, Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research, The Milbank Quarterly, The Police Journal

### Community Service

- 2023 Research Advisor, Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE), Tampa, FL

2019-2022 Member, Product Development and Research Committee, Frameworks, Tampa, FL

2018-Present Community Grants Reviewer, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL

**PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION**

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2023-present Evaluation Consultant Child W2 (I)-2 (d4 (m2 (I)2 (I)2 fs)-1 ( R)r-11 (c( R) Ea)4 (, F)ount)

Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2015 - 2015 Graduate Assistant, 2015  
Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman  
Sociology Department  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2011 – 2012 Graduate Assistant, 2011 – 2012  
Drs. Linda Whiteford and John Napora  
Anthropology Department  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

#### SELECT MEDIA EXPERIENCE

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2019 Quoted In, "Study outlines obstacles to mental health care for Sarasota youth," Suncoast News Network, 3/26/19: <https://www.sntv.com/story/40200387/study-outlines-obstacles-to-mental-health-care-for-sarasota-youth>

2019 Quoted In, "Mental health scan seeks to transform mental health care in Sarasota County," YourObserver.com, 3/27/19: <https://www.youobserver.com/article/mental-health-scan-seeks-to-transform-mental-health-care-in-sarasota-county>

2017 Guest Speaker, AnthroAlert Podcast  
<https://anthroalert.tumblr.com/post/164465944553/guest-anna-davida-la>

2009 Quoted In, "Hillsborough County School Board Seeks Advice on Bullying," St. Petersburg Times, 6/10/09:  
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/k12/article1008717.ece>

2009 "Hrttirrr.t8(i)-2 ( ET T)-5 (se-1 (o)-4 (r) )-1 (o)t

Development, Rapid Ethnographic Assessment (REA), Electronic Voice, Direct Listing, Thematic Analysis, Content Analysis, Bivariate and Multivariate Statistical Analysis

Technical: Atlas.ti, IBM SPSS Statistics, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office, Otter.ti, Temi