

# 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.**, Greenfield, K. Challenges and Facilitators of a Pilot Virtual Co-Response Program to Support Officers in Addressing Mental Health Calls. (Submitted December 2024).

**Abella, A. D.**, Understanding Popular Conceptions of the “Good Parent” According to Early Child Development Ideology. (Submitted December 2024).

**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, F. *et al.* (2022). Stakeholder Perspectives on Implementing a Police-Mental Health Collaborative to Improve Pathways to Treatment. *J 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.” *Child Welfare: A Special Issue on Poverty and Child Welfare Services*, 99(4).

Callejas, L., **Abella, A.D.**, Ismajli, F. (2020). “Rapid Ethnographic Assessment of Pandemic Restrictions in Child Welfare: Lessons from Parent and Provider Experiences.” *Human Organization*, 79 (4). <https://doi.org/10.17730/1938-3525-79.4.304>

### In Preparation

Callejas, L., and **Abella, A. D.** (Eds). *Child Welfare in Times of Crisis* (working title). Routledge. (In preparation, under contract).

**Abella, A. D.**, Bales, T., Cruz, A., Shockley, C., Walker, C. Qualitative Assessment of a Statewide Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative: Insights from Providers and Care Coordination Teams (working title). (In preparation).

### Technical Reports

Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Walker, C., Shockley, C. (January, 2025). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative*, Year 5, Quarter 1. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Walker, C., Shockley, C. (October, 2024). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Formal Report*, Year 4. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & **Abella, A.D.** (July, 2024). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report*, Year 3, Quarter 3. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & **Abella, A.D.** (May, 2024). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report*, Year 5, Quarter 1. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

Cruz, A., Walker, C., Shockley, C., & **Abella, A.D.** (January, 2024). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report*, Year 4, Quarter 1. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

- 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., Monsalve-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-Led 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-RF-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 Semi-Annual 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, N. (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-RF-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 Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report*, Year 3, Quarter 1. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.
- Abella, A.D.**, Landers, M., & Joseph, R. (November, 2022). *Enhanced Jail Diversion (EJD) Annual Report*, Year 4. Submitted to Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Division and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). GAN: 19-0658.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, & Anderson, R. (November, 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.
- Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Johnson, M., Shockley, C., & Walker, C. (October, 2022). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Formative Report*, Year 2. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

- 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). *Cross-Site 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: 2020-RF-CX-0001.
- Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Shockley, C., & **Abella, A.D.** (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.D.** (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 Semi-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). *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 1. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice. GAN: 2020-RF-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.

Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Johnson, M., Ismajli, F., Shockley, C. (October, 2021). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Annual Formative Report, Year 1*. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

**Abella, A.D.**, Hordge-Freeman, E., Connor, K., Wilson, R., Landers, M., Armstrong, L. *Understanding Challenges to Engagement with Parent Education and Early Childhood Programming in a Historically Black Neighborhood*. (2021, September). Submitted to the Task Force for Understanding Blackness and Addressing Anti-Black Racism in Our Local, National, and International Communities.

Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Johnson, M., Ismajli, F., Shockley, C. (July, 2021). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report, Quarter 1, Year 1*. Submitted to the Florida Department of Health.

**Abella, A.D.**, Vargo, A., Johnson, M., Cruz, A. Massey, O., Von der Embse, N. (July, 2021). *Cross-Site Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation*. Research Performance Project Report, Interim Year 1. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice. GAN: 2020-RF-CX-0001.

**Abella, A.D.**, Landers, M., & Ismajli, F., (April, 2021). *Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Annual Report Year 3: Final Report*. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.

Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Dollard, N., and Carmona, Y. (April, 2021) *Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 3 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report*. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.

Callejas, L.M., Yampolskaya, S., **Abella, A.D.**, & Ismajli, F. (April, 2021). *Semi-Annual Local Evaluation Report. Parent Partners for Families of Miami-Dade County. Tampa, FL*. Submitted to Citrus Family Care. University of South Florida, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Child and Family Studies.

Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A.D.**, Dollard, N., and Carmona, Y. (April, 2021) *Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 3 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report*. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.

**Abella, A.**, Landers, M., Ismajli, F., and Carmona, Y. (October, 2020). *Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Annual Report Year 2*. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (September, 2020). *Evaluation of Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-*

- 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, Y. (April, 2020) *Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 2 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report*. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.**, Landers, M., and Carmona, Y. (April, 2020). *Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Annual Report Year 2*. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2020). *Evaluation of Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 2 Quarter 4 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2019). *Evaluation of Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 2 Quarter 3 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A.**, Dollard, N., Ismajli, F., and Carmona, Y. (2019) *Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5). Year 1 Annual Evaluation Report*. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2019). *Evaluation of Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 2 Quarter 2 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.**, Landers, M., and Carmona, Y. (2019). *Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Interim Report Year 2*. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.
- 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 4*. Submitted to Family Support Services of North Florida. 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-Service Training, Year 2 Quarter 1 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.

- 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, A.** (2019). *Utah IV-E 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-Service Training, Year 1 Quarter 4 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.**, Dollard, N., Armstrong, M., Robst, J., Landers, M., Cruz, A., Shockley, C., Anderson, R., Murrin, M., Tapanes, M., Khalil, D., Carmona, Y. (2019). *Sarasota County Child and Youth Mental Health Environmental Scan*. Submitted to Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and Gulf Coast Community Foundation. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2018). *Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 1 Quarter 3 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Abella, A.**, Armstrong, M., and Landers, M. (2018). *Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) Implementation, Interim Report Year 1*. Submitted to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2018). *Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 1 Quarter 2 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Menendez, P., **Abella, A.**, Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. (2018). *Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families Core and Specialty Track Pre-Service Training, Year 1 Quarter 1 Progress Report*. Submitted to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. University of South Florida.
- Armstrong, M. Johnson, M., Sowell, K., Vargo, A. **Abella, A.** (2018). *Utah IV-E Waiver Implementation Analysis Year 5*. Submitted to the University of Utah College of Social Work. University of South Florida.



Armstrong, M. Johnson, M., Sowell, K., Vargo, A. **Abella, A.** (2017). *Utah IV-E 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, A.** (2016). *Utah IV-E 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 Psychiatrists* by Kayla Jachimowski & Jonathon A. Cooper, *Criminal Justice Review*. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.usf.edu/10.1177/07340168231161763>

**Abella, A. D.** (2022). Review of *Parenting Empires: Class, Whiteness, and the Moral Economy of Privilege in Latin America* by Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 28(4). <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.usf.edu/10.1111/1467-9655.13837>

## Commentaries

**Abella, A. D.**, “How Florida’s Housing Crisis is Breaking Social Services,” *Tampa Bay Times*. February 18, 2023. <https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2023/02/18/how-floridas-housing-crisis-is-breaking-social-services-column/>

**Abella, A. D.**, Ismajli, F., Callejas, L. M. Exploring the Potential Benefits of Virtual Child Welfare Services. *COVID-19 and Child Welfare: Challenges and Responses*, 7-11. CWLA Press.

## CONFERENCES

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**Abella, A.D.**, On Demand Paper Presentation. “Associations Between School Mental Health Capacity and Implementation Readiness among Schools Implementing STOP Programs.” Advancing School Mental Health Annual Conference, December, 2024, Orlando, FL.

Callejas, L. & **Abella, A.D.**, Roundtable Session. “Learning from Communities and Provider Voices: The Importance of Using Community Knowledge to Understand Behavioral Health Disparities and Solutions.” American Evaluation Association Annual Conference, October, 2024, Portland, OR.

Callejas, L. & **Abella, A.D.**, Paper Presentation. “Re-Centering Advocacy in Child Welfare Using Peer Specialists and Health Care Coordinators.” Child Welfare League of America Annual Conference, April, 2024, Washington, D.C.

**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.” 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Non-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 Low-Income 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 Co-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 Series](#), 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 Conference Series, January 2021 (virtual).

**Abella, A. D.**, Landers, M. Think Tank Session, “Data in the Dark -- The Limitations of Capturing the Full Story in Human Services Evaluation.” American Evaluation Association Annual Conference, October 2020 (virtual).

**Abella, A. D.**, Landers, M. Paper Presentation, “Preliminary Evaluation Findings from a Police Mental Health Collaboration.” Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) Conference, November 2020 (virtual).

Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A. D.**, Cruz, C., Johnson, R. Invited Presentation, “Addressing the Needs of Families Affected by Substance Abuse through FAST—A Voluntary, Non-Judicial Program.” Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau, June 2020 (Virtual).

**Abella, A. D.**, Landers, M. (March 2020; Conference cancelled). Paper Presentation, “Collaborative Efforts to Reduce Jail Use among Individuals with Untreated or Undertreated Mental Illness.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

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### Current Grants and Contracts

Direct Contract – Evaluation	2024 - present
City of St. Petersburg	\$94,635
PI: Donna Burton	
Role: Co-Investigator	
<i>Evaluation of Ready for Life’s Youth Opportunity Grant</i>	

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the implementation and outcomes of a guaranteed income program for young adults transitioning out of foster care services. Methods include focus groups with program participants, interviews with program staff, outcomes and expense analyses, and a quasi-experimental study comparing outcomes to services as usual.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2024 - present

Florida Department of Children and Families

PI: Annette Christy, Baker Act Reporting Center (BARC)

Role: Lead Qualitative Analyst

*Evaluation of Repeat Involuntary Mental Health Examinations among Minors in Florida*

The purpose of this evaluation is to understand patterns and root causes related to repeat involuntary mental health examinations (“Baker Acts”) among minors through a policy and service array analysis and interviews with crisis services and administrative stakeholders.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2023 - present

ICF International

\$641,487

PI: Oliver Massey

Role: Co-Investigator

*National Evaluation of SAMHSA’s Project AWARE (Advance Wellness & Resilience in Education) and TISS (Trauma Informed support Services in Schools)*

This purpose of this mixed-methods evaluation is to assess the implementation of school mental health and trauma-informed services among a national sample of local and state education agencies funded by SAMHSA.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2020 – present

Florida Department of Health

\$358,363

PIs: Anna Davidson Abella and Areana Cruz

*Evaluation of the Florida Pediatric Mental Health Collaborative Evaluation*

This evaluation is an assessment of a statewide initiative to improve pediatric primary care providers’ ability and capacity to identify and treat children with behavioral health care needs. The collaborative is made up of regional hubs involving psychiatric specialists and a network of providers in seven regions throughout Florida. The evaluation consists of an implementation, partnership, and outcome analysis.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2018 - present

Citrus Family Care Network

\$457,286

Funded by Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children & Families: HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-CU-0809

PI: Linda Callejas

Role: Co-Investigator

*Parent Partners for Families of Miami-Dade County: Regional Partnership Grant to Increase the Wellbeing of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Substance Abuse*

This 3-year study evaluates the effectiveness of Parent Partners (e.g., peer specialists) in supporting families working to fulfill court-ordered child reunification requirements. In addition to the experimental study designed to build evidence for the use of peer support in family

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: Co-Investigator

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

This one-year 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 #19-0658

PI: Anna Davidson Abella

*Evaluation of the Hillsborough County Enhanced Jail Diversion Program*

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of a jail diversion initiative aimed at providing enhanced services to individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disorders charged with minor offences and provide treatment and intensive case management in lieu of criminal justice charges.

2020-RF-CX-0001 2021 - 2023  
National Institute for Justice (NIJ) \$478,553

MPIs: Anna Davidson Abella and Amy Vargo

*Cross-Site Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation*

The purpose of the proposed study is to inform ongoing implementation and improve program effectiveness for violence prevention and mental health training programs funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in response to the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2019-2021

Florida Support Services of North Florida \$519,553

Funded by the Administration for Children and Families: HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-CU-1382

PIs: Monica Landers and Anna Davidson Abella

*Preserving Families and Protecting Children (PFPC) Regional Partnership Grant (RPG 5)*

This study involved a process analysis, a partnership analysis, and a quasi-experimental outcomes study to assess the implementation of the FAST family preservation program to support families with substance use maltreatments whose children could remain in home. This study involved a comparison of FAST services as usual and an enhanced model through which families were provided a Peer Specialist and Health Care Coordinator as additional supports.

New Researcher Grant 2021 - 2022

University of South Florida Internal Awards Program \$10,000

PI: Anna Davidson Abella

*Evaluation of Officer Skill and Confidence in Addressing Mental Health Crises through the TRACE Program (Telehealth Remote Access to Crisis Evaluation)*

The purpose of this study was to assess the confidence and skill development of law enforcement officers involved in a telehealth co-response program to address individuals with mental health crises. Assessment of this pilot program involved 1) a process analysis using interviews with officers, counselors, and administrators, 2) a survey to assess officer confidence and competence, and 3) a secondary analysis of involuntary mental health examinations.

CBCS Internal Grant Program 2021-2022

USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences \$20,000

PIs: Linda M. Callejas and Anna Davidson Abella

*Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 Restrictions on Foster Care Services in the Florida Panhandle*

This rapid assessment used mixed methods to learn about the effects of COVID-19 restrictions in Northwest Florida's child welfare system to better understand their effects on service delivery and child protection indicators. The mixed methods study included policy reviews, interviews, focus groups, and an outcomes analysis to understand COVID-19 effects on system stakeholders, including workers, birth families, and foster caregivers.

Understanding Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism 2021 - 2022

USF Internal Grant Program \$30,000

*Challenges to Engagement with Parent Education and Early Childhood Programming in a Historically Black Neighborhood*

PIs: Anna Davidson Abella and Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman

The purpose of this study was to investigate factors that contributed to low engagement in an early child development center among Black families in Sulphur Springs. The study involved interviews with staff and participants of Layla's House programs and residents of Sulphur Springs with young children and an outcomes analysis comparing engagement before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Direct Contract – Evaluation 2014-2020

Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc. \$529,957

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

PI: Linda M. Callejas

Role: Qualitative Analyst

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

This 5-year mixed method study evaluated whether the Multi-Dimensional Family Recovery intervention increased engagement with substance abuse treatment for parents with children at risk of removal as compared to usual in-home family services. The study also included assessment of cross-system collaboration and implementation factors associated with the MDRF 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 family needs.

Direct Contract, Evaluation

2018 - 2021

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

\$150,000

PI: Anna Davidson Abella

*Evaluation of the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA)*

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the implementation and outcomes of a police/clinician co-response care coordination initiative led by the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Pinellas County Human Services, Pinellas County Health Department, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and PEMHS behavioral health agency. The initiative aimed to improve pathways to treatment for individuals with serious mental illness who were at risk for criminal justice involvement. This mixed-methods evaluation includes a qualitative analysis using interviews with partnership leaders, direct-service staff, and clients as well as an assessment of criminal justice and wellbeing outcomes (jail days, arrests, involuntary examinations, and mental health and adult functioning improvements).

Direct Contract - Evaluation

2018 - 2019

Charles & Marjory Barancik Foundation

\$199,070

PIs: Anna Davidson Abella & Norin Dollard

*Sarasota County Children's Mental Health Environmental Scan*

The purpose of this project was to assess the barriers and facilitators of children's mental health services in Sarasota County, including a needs assessment, a report card and comparison to national benchmarks, a qualitative assessment of barriers and challenges using interviews and focus groups with stakeholders and service users, an economic assessment of the impact of unmet need, and the development of a strategic framework to drive system changes.

Direct Contract – Evaluation

2017 – 2020

Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) at FSU

\$363,729

PIs: Amy Vargo and Mary Armstrong

Role: Project Director

*Evaluation of Florida's Child Welfare Pre-Service Training*

The main objective of this evaluation was to examine the impact of child welfare pre-service training for newly hired child welfare professionals in Florida by 1) Assessing the readiness of case managers (CMs) and child protective investigators (CPIs) to begin their job responsibilities, 2) Determining the effectiveness of pre-service training, and 3) Identifying environmental factors

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 – Evaluation

2013 - 2019

University of Utah

\$547,861

Funded via the Administration for Children and Families

*Utah IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation*

The Utah Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration was designed to increase the number of child welfare service recipients receiving in-home services and reduce the number of children entering foster care. This evaluation involved an Implementation Analysis, a Child Welfare Service Array Analysis, and a Fidelity Assessment. The Implementation Analysis included a Waiver demonstration logic model development, as well as tracking of the Waiver implementation process in terms of key variables such as staff, training, role of the courts, and several contextual factors.

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## TEACHING AND ADVISING

### Teaching

Co-Instructor, Professional Writing in Behavioral and Community Sciences (MHS 6900), PhD Program in Behavioral and Community Sciences, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida. Spring 2025 (pilot course).

Instructor, Evaluation of Clinical Practice in Diverse Settings (SOW 6438), Master of Social Work Graduate Program, School of Social Work, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida. Fall 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Instructor, Program Development and Implementation in Children's Mental Health. Master of Science in Child and Adolescent and Behavioral Health Program (MHS 6096), Child and Family Studies Department, University of South Florida. Spring 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Co-Instructor, Applied Leadership in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health (MHS 6626) Master of Science in Child and Adolescent and Behavioral Health Program, Child and Family Studies Department, University of South Florida. Fall 2019.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida. 2012.

### Advising

Co-Major Advisor, PhD Program in Community and Behavioral Sciences, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida. 2023 to Present.

Academic Advisor, Master of Science in Child and Adolescent and Behavioral Health Program, Child and Family Studies Department, University of South Florida. 2019 to Present.



## 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 Welfare Early Education Partnership. Florida Support Services of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL. Conduct Needs Assessment and provide consultation and technical assistance on assessing an initiative to improve enrollment in quality childcare center for children ages 0-5 involved in or at risk for involved in child welfare services. Funded by the Children's Bureau.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 2024 *Participant*. Faculty Success Program Bootcamp. National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development (NCFDD). Participated in small group, intensive, semester-long bootcamp to improve writing and research practices.
- 2023 *Participant*. USF Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning (CITL) Peer Observation Program (POP). Participated in a workshop and subsequent peer observation to improve teaching and receive feedback from an interdisciplinary team of other USF faculty.
- 2018 *Participant*. USF Research BootCamp. Participated in an intensive, in-person, week-long program designed for women to develop skills to thrive in academia. As a junior faculty member, I participated in group workshops focused on Research Question and Hypothesis Development, Literature Review, Conceptual Framework Development, Instrumentation, Methodology, and Data Analysis. Participants were also paired and worked individually with a senior scholar to help cultivate a mentoring relationship.

## SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

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- 2006-2011 Director of School Programs, Frameworks Tampa Bay (formerly The Ophelia Project and Boys Initiative or OPBI, Inc.), Tampa, FL.

## STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2016 – 2017 Principal Investigator (Dissertation), 2016 – 2017**  
[\*The Time to Love: Ideologies of “Good” Parenting at a Family Service Organization in the Southeastern United States\*](#)  
Department of Anthropology  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2016 – 2017 Research Assistant, 2016 – 2017**  
Dr. Mary Armstrong  
Department of Child and Family Studies  
College of Community and Behavioral Sciences,

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.snntv.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.yourobservers.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-davidson-abella>
- 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 Roundtable Participant, “Teens and Violence,” *It’s Your Turn*, Fox 13 Tampa, 5/27/09

## **SELECT CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS**

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- 2016-Present CITI Program Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Training
- 2021 Active Shooter Response Training, University of South Florida
- 2021 Title IX Responsible Employee Training, University of South Florida
- 2020 Online Instructor Certification Course, University of South Florida
- 2020 Kognito Mental Health Training, “At-Risk for College and University”
- 2018 Preventing Sexual Harassment on Campus Training, University of South Florida

## **SKILLS**

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**Methods and Practices:** Ethnography, Participant Observation, Community Based Participatory Research, Survey Design, Semi-Structured Interview, Focus Group Facilitation, Curriculum

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

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