

Vanessa A. Martin
DIRECTOR OF REENTRY DIVISION

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Los Angeles County Department of Health Services,
Office of Diversion and Reentry**
Los Angeles, CA

The Office of Diversion and Reentry was created by the Board of Supervisors in September 2015 to develop and implement county-wide criminal justice diversion for persons with mental or substance use disorders and to provide reentry support services.

Director of Reentry Division, November 2017 to present

- Director of division that oversees the design and implementation of social, health, housing, employment, and education services for people with justice involvement throughout Los Angeles County. Responsible for overall strategic direction, staff development, and division oversight. Lead collaboration with administrators from the Los Angeles County Probation Department as well as other County agencies, community partners, and stakeholders to discuss new and innovative programs.
- Manage the contract procurement, implementation and monitoring of community-based programs for all reentry services and recommend program modifications. Develop processes to ensure that program services are being implemented with fidelity to the design, and comply with policies, procedures and regulations; provide recommendations and corrective action plans when necessary.
- Lead a rigorous and systemwide evaluation effort of all reentry services funded by Senate Bill 678 and Proposition 47, and report findings to project partners and stakeholders.
- Lead a community advisory board of County and community partners, as well as those involved in and impacted by the justice system to solicit feedback into the design and development of reentry programs.

Public Policy Consultant, Los Angeles, CA
July 2016 to November 2017

Independent consultant to private and public sector firms, specializing in the development, management, and evaluation of new and innovative projects within the public policy field. Provided operational and management support during all stages of project implementation. Worked with the following organizations/agencies: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority on the *Airport Metro Connector* project and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on the *On-Call Economic Advisory and Outreach Services* project, with The Robert Group, a public affairs firm in Los Angeles; California Partnership Academies on the *Next Generation* evaluation and Jumpstart Southern California on the *Foster Grandparents* program evaluation, with MDRC, a nonprofit social and education policy research firm.

MDRC, New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA

April 2001 to July 2016

MDRC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social and education policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect the poor.

Senior Associate/Project Director, July 2012 to July 2016

Operations Associate, October 2008 to June 2012

Research Associate, January 2005 to March 2007

Research Analyst, April 2001 to December 2004

- Oversaw the design and management of medium- to large-scale national research projects focused on increasing the employment, earnings and education of low-income individuals, including justice involved individuals, welfare recipients, low-income fathers, disconnected youth, community college students, and others
- Led site operations for several subsidized and transitional employment demonstration projects, including the Transitional Jobs Reentry Demonstration (TJRD), which tested whether transitional jobs connect returning citizens to unsubsidized jobs, increase their earnings, and lower their rates of recidivism, and the Subsidized and Transitional Employment Demonstration (STED), which tested innovative, subsidized employment models for a variety of low-income populations.
- Provided technical assistance on program operations, from the quality and effectiveness of the service delivery to the data collection and outcomes reporting; designed protocols to assess the strength and sustainability of programs; coordinated and conducted interviews with program staff and administrators as well as focus groups with program participants.
- Collaborated with administrators and key stakeholders from federal, state, county and city agencies, such as workforce development, welfare and child support, adult and juvenile justice, and parole and probation; and acted as the liaison with project partners, such as community-based organizations, community colleges, and employers.

New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), New York, NY

March 2007-October 2008

The Department of Small Business Services improves economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting them to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building thriving neighborhoods.

Director of Career Pathway Initiatives

- Directed a team responsible for developing and implementing workforce development initiatives aimed at helping low-income workers retain and advance in their careers. Managed initiatives such as Advance at Work, a career advancement program for low-income working adults that provided occupational skills training, job placement, career coaching, work retention incentives, financial capacity building, and supportive service referrals, and a Retention and Advancement Center, providing participant and employer-based career retention and advancement services.

- Established program operations and performance management standards in partnership with the management team at the Workforce1 Career Centers. Spearheaded efforts to streamline program and system integration processes through the use of innovative communication and feedback tools. Worked closely with City Hall officials and evaluators to report on the progress and outcomes of the initiatives.

Edison Schools Inc., New York, NY

April 2000-April 2001

EdisonLearning Inc., formerly known as Edison Schools Inc., is an international educational services provider and the country's largest minority-owned education services company.

Assessment Analyst

- Collected and analyzed test score data at the national, state, and district level and for charter schools within the Edison network. Created relational databases, conducted statistical analyses, and prepared continuous assessment reports.

New York City Criminal Justice Agency (CJA), New York, NY

August 1998-April 2000

The mission of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency is to assist the courts and the City in reducing unnecessary pretrial detention.

Research Assistant

- Provided comprehensive analyses of case processing and outcomes in the New York City criminal courts. Conducted special studies of alternative to incarceration programs and assisted in the design of a risk assessment survey. Created and maintained a database consisting of New York City arrest and sentencing data, and analyzed data using a variety of statistical methods.

EDUCATION

City University of New York Baruch College, New York, NY

2004

Marx School of Public and International Affairs

Completed coursework in the Masters of Public Administration program

Fordham University, Bronx, NY

1998

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Political Vice President, Heart of L.A. Democratic Club, Los Angeles, CA
March 2017-present

Elected Delegate for California's 54th Assembly District, Los Angeles, CA
2017-2018

Grassroots Organizer, Trainer, and Fundraising Volunteer, Heart of L.A. for Hillary, Los Angeles, CA
2016

Board member, The Financial Clinic, New York NY
2009-2011

Member, New York City Workforce Leaders Academy, New York, NY
2008-2009

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Testimony provided at public hearing of Select Committee for Incarcerated Women, California State Assembly, Chaired by Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove. October 16, 2019.

A Career Approach to GED Instruction: A Case Study. MDRC, 2016.

GED Bridge to Health and Business Program at LaGuardia Community College: A Promising New Approach to GED Instruction. Video, MDRC, 2013.

Enhancing GED Instruction to Prepare Students for College and Careers: Early Success in LaGuardia Community College's Bridge to Health and Business Program. MDRC, 2013.

Findings for the Cleveland Achieve Model: Implementation and Early Impacts of an Employer-Based Approach to Encourage Employment Retention Among Low-Wage Workers. MDRC, 2009.

Four Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Employment: An Introduction to the Enhanced Services for the Hard-to-Employ Demonstration and Evaluation Project. MDRC, 2007.