

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

PhD in Applied Anthropology, 2017

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Dissertation: *The Time to Love:
Organization in the Southeastern United States*

Joint MA in Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies, 2006

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
O cugt 01"Vj gulu "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:

Study Abroad Program, 2003

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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

Refereed Journal Articles

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). *Understanding 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

Abella, A.D., Greenfield, K. Challenges and Facilitators of a Pilot Virtual Co-Response Program to Support Officers in Addressing Mental Health Calls. (In Preparation).

Abella, A. D., *Child Development Ideology*. (In Preparation).

Callejas, L., and **Abella, A. D.** (Eds). *Child Welfare in Times of Crisis* (working title). Routledge. (Under Contract).

Technical Reports

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. (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 *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.

Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Shockley, C., & **Abella, A.D.** (April, 2022). *Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Collaborative Quarterly Summative Report*

Abella, A.D.

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.

Anthropological Institute 28(4). <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.usf.edu/10.1111/1467-9655.13837>

Commentaries

Abella, A. D., “J qy 'Hqtlf cø'J qwłpi 'Etkuku'ku'Dtgcnkpi 'Uqekri'Ugtxlegu.ö" *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

Abella, A.D. Qp'F go cpf 'Rcr gt' Rt gupvčvkqp 0đ Associations Between School Mental Health Capacity and Implementation Readiness among Schools Implementing STOP Programs 0đ Advancing School Mental Health Annual Conference, December, 2024, Orlando, FL.

Callejas, L. & **Abella, A.D.** 'Tqwpf včdrg' Ugułkqp 0đ Learning from Communities and Provider Voices: The Importance of Using Community Knowledge to Understand Behavioral Health Disparities and Solutions 0đ Co gtkecp' Gxcnčvkqp' Cuuqekčvkqp' Cppwcn' Eqphgt gpeg." October, 2024, Portland, OR.

Callejas, L. & **Abella, A.D.**, Paper Presentation. 0đ Tg-Centering Advocacy in Child Welfare Using Peer Specialists and Health Care Coordinators 0đ 'Ej kř' 'Y gñctg' Ngci wg' qh' Co gtkec" Annual Conference, April, 2024, Washington, D.C.

Abella, A.D., Paper Presentation. 0đ Dtgcnkpi 'vj g' 'Ur gm' qh' 'Dtckp' 'Uekppeg' qp' Gctn' 'Ej kř j qqf' " F g x g m r o g p v' Rtqi tco u 0đ 'Uqekg' 'hqt' 'Cr r rkgf' 'Cpj tqr qnqi { " : 6th Annual Conference, March, 2024, Santa Fe, NM.

Abella, A.D. & Vargo, A. Poster Presentation. 0đ Uej qqn' Tguqwtg' Qñhlegtu' cu' O gpvcn' J gcnj " Uwr qt w' Vtcpułqto čvkpcn' Eqmčdqčvkqp" qt' Eqpxgpłgp' Uqnwkqp' Ađ' Uqekg' 'hqt' 'Cr r rkgf' " Anthropology 84th Annual Conference, March, 2024, Santa Fe, NM.

Landers, M.D., **Abella, A.D.**, Revels, T., Thomas, C., Johnson, R., Paper Presentation. 0đ Rt gugt xkpi 'cpf' 'Uwr r qt vpi' 'Hco křgu' 'Chgevgf' 'd { 'Uwducpeg' 'O křwg' 0đ 'Hco kř' 'Hqewugf' " Treatment Association Annual Conference, July 2023, Columbus, OH.

Cruz, A. & **Abella, A.D.** Invited Presentation. 0đ Cr r n' kpi 'K r ngo gpvčvkqp' 'Uekppeg' 'v' 'Uej qqn' O gpvcn' J gcnj 'cpf' 'Xkqrppeg' 'Rt g x g p v k p p' Rtqi tco u 0đ '32th Annual Translational Research in Adolescent Substance Use Conference, University of South Florida, April 2023, Tampa, FL.

Abella, A.D. Rcr gt "Rt gupvcvqp. "ōRqneg'O gpvcnJ gcnj 'Eqmcdqtcvkgu<Ej cmgpi gu'vq'Uj kłpi " Itqo 'Etlo kpcnLwvkeg'vq'UqeknLwvkegō'Uqekv' hqt'Cr r rkgf "Cpj tqr qmī { ": 5rd Annual Conference, March 2023, Cincinnati, OH.

Abella, A.D. Ncpf gtu. 'O 0'Lqj puqp. 'T 0'T gxgn. 'V 0Rcr gt "Rt gupvcvqp. "ōWpf gtucpf kpi "j g" Impact of Additional Professional Supports for Families Involved in a Non-Judicial Rt gugtvcvqp'Rtqi tco ō'Hqt kf c'Dgj cxkqtcnJ gcnj 'Eqphgtgpeg. 'Cwi wuv'4244. 'Qtrmpf q." FL.

Abella, A.D. ('Ecmglcu. 'N 0Rcr gt "Rt gupvcvqp. "ōEcr wtkpi "Y qtngt 'T ghgevcvqp'qp'Uwr r qtvcvpi " Hco krgu'kpxqrgf 'lp'Ej kf "Y ghtg'vj tqwi j "Xqkeg'O go quō'Uqekv' hqt'Cr r rkgf " Anthropology Annual Conference, March 2022, Salt Lake City, UT.

Abella, A.D.,

Abella, A. D. "The Role of Family in the Development of Substance Use Disorder: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(1), 1-10. Conference Series, January 2021 (virtual).

Abella, A. D., Ncpf gtu. "The Role of Family in the Development of Substance Use Disorder: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(1), 1-10. Association Annual Conference, October 2020 (virtual).

Abella, A. D. "The Role of Family in the Development of Substance Use Disorder: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(1), 1-10. (TCOM) Conference, November 2020 (virtual).

Landers, M., Cruz, A., **Abella, A. D.** "The Role of Family in the Development of Substance Use Disorder: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(1), 1-10. 2020 (Virtual).

Abella, A. D., Landers, M. (March 2020; Conference cancelled). Paper Presentation, "The Role of Family in the Development of Substance Use Disorder: A Review of the Literature." 79th Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Current Grants and Contracts

Direct Contract ó Evaluation 2024 - present
City of St. Petersburg \$94,635
PI: Donna Burton
Role: Co-Investigator

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 ó 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 among minors in Florida. Methods include service array analysis and interviews with crisis services and administrative stakeholders.

Direct Contract ó Evaluation 2023 - present

ICF International \$641,487
PI: Oliver Massey
Role: Co-Investigator

National Evaluation of 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 ó Evaluation 2020 ó 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. 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 ó Evaluation 2018 - present
Citrus Family Care Network

interviews with DCF and partner leadership and staff, an outcome analysis using administrative

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 P qtvj y guv'Hnqt kf cœ'ej kf 'y grctg'u{ uvgœ 'vq'dgwgt'wpf gtucpf 'vj gk'ghgew'qp'ugt xleg'f grkxgt {" 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 kpvgtxlg y' y kj 'uvchi'cpf 'r ctvek cpw'qh'Nc{ œœ'J qwug'r tqi tœœ u'cpf 'tgukf gpw'qh'Uwr j wt" Springs with young children and an outcomes analysis comparing engagement before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Direct Contract ó Evaluation 2014-2020

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

Funded by Ej kf tgpœ'Dwtgw:'Cf œœ kœœtœœqp'hqt'Ej kf tgp(' 'Hœœ kœœgu"

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 Rkpgrcu'Eqwpv{ 'Uj gkhu'Qhheg."cpf 'RGO J U'dgj cxkqtcn] gcmj "ci gpe{0Vj g"lpkklvkg"clo gf "vq" 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

Vj g'r wtr qug"qh'v] ku'r tq]gevy cu'vq"cuuguu'y] g'dcttkgtu"cpf 'hcekkcvqtu"qh'ej kf tgpau'o gpwn] gcmj " 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 ó Evaluation 2017 ó 2020
 Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) at FSU \$363,729
 PIs: Amy Vargo and Mary Armstrong
 Role: Project Director

-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 ó 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

SERVICE

University Service

2023-Present Committee Member, PhD in Behavioral and Community Sciences, USF

2022 & 2024 Co-Mentor, USF Summer Research Institute

2021 Guest Lecturer, δ EQXK

- 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

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

STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2016 – 2017 Principal Investigator (Dissertation), 2016 – 2017

[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

- 2019 S wqvgf "Kp. "öUwf { "qwrkpgu'qduxcergu'vq"o gpwclj gcnj "ectg'hqt"Uctcuqvc" { qwj .ö"Suncoast News Network, 3/26/19: <https://www.sntv.com/story/40200387/study-outlines-obstacles-to-mental-health-care-for-sarasota-youth>

2019

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