

**CRUZ, AREANA**

Dunedin, FL 34698 | 727-278-4328 | areanac20@gmail.com

**Education**

University of Miami- Coral Gables, FL  
**Masters in Mental Health Counseling** 2015

University of South Florida- Tampa, FL  
**Bachelors of Arts and Sciences with major in Psychology** 2012

**Professional Experience**

University of South Florida  
**Social and Behavioral Researcher** 2015 – current

Served as a principal investigator, project director, and qualitative researcher for projects relating to adolescent substance abuse, parental help-seeking behavior, child welfare systems evaluation, evaluation of managed healthcare, and statewide behavioral health integration initiatives.

Institute for Individual and Family Counseling – University of Miami  
**Staff Therapist** 2014 – 2015

Performed counseling sessions, maintained patient files, arranged treatment plans and diagnostic information, and executed various therapeutic techniques to provide the patient with the best possible care

Center on Aging - University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine  
**Research Intern** 2014 - 2015

Served as a research associate for the 'Caring for the Caregiver Network.' Responsible for conducting assessments with caregivers with the Miami-Dade Community. Served as a research associate for a NIH funded R01 Grant on Novel Detection of Early Cognitive and Functional Impairment in the Elderly. Responsible for conducting and scoring Neuropsychological assessments with participants, and

participating in the development of presentations regarding the study.

## Grants

### Florida Behavioral Health Provider Directory

2019

Title: Update of Statewide Directory of Behavioral Health Providers in FL for Children and Adolescents

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: FL Department of Health

Contract Number: B3BBC8

Amount: \$5,000

### Casey Family Program (CFP) – FIT Service Array

2018

Title: Children’s Service Array Capacity and Gap Analysis

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Casey Family Programs

Contract Number: CFP RY17-0953

Amount: \$28,635

### Gender Differences in Parental Help Seeking Behaviors

2012 – 2013

Title: Parental Help Seeking Behaviors

Role: Project Director

Funding Agency: Success for Kids and Families

Amount: \$500

## Publications

Armstrong, M. I., Johnson, M. H., Robst, J., **Cruz, A.**, Landers, M., & Vargo, A. (2019). Services Received vs Services Needed by Families in Child Welfare Systems. *International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy and Practice*, 2(3), 165-181.

## Technical Reports

- Johnson, M., Robst, J., **Cruz, A.**, Sowell, C., Vargo, A., Anderson, R., Carmona, Y., & James, S. (2020). Southern Region Gap Analysis: Final Evaluation Report
- Landers, M., **Cruz, A.**, Dollard, N., Abella, A., & Carmona, Y. (2020). Preserving Families and Protecting Children Year 2 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report.
- Landers, M., **Cruz, A.**, Dollard, N., Abella, A., Ismajli, F., & Carmona, Y. (2019). Preserving Families and Protecting Children Year 1 Annual Evaluation Report.
- Abella, A., Dollard, N., Armstrong, M., Robst, J., Landers, M., **Cruz, A.**, Shockley, C., et al. (2019). Sarasota County Child and Youth Mental Health Environmental Scan.
- Cruz, A.**, Dharmasena, C., & Armstrong, M. 2019. Florida Children's Service Array Capacity and Gap Analysis Report.
- Armstrong, M., Vargo, A., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2019). *Phase 9- Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Final Report (10/2013-09/2018)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/kb/GenIVE/Phase%209-Revised%20FL%20Title%20IV-E%20Waiver%20Demonstration%20Evaluation%20Final%20Report.pdf>
- Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Robst, J., Yampolskaya, S., Putnam, C., & Darnell, K.S. (2019). *Array of Behavioral Health and Parenting Services for Families in the Child Welfare System*
- Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2018). *Phase 8- Florida Title IV-E Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (04/2018-10/2018)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVERReport.shtml>
- Robst, J., Armstrong, M., Sowell, C., & **Cruz, A.** (2018). *The Family Intensive Treatment (FIT) Evaluation: Phase One Report*.
- Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Robst, J., Yampolskaya, S., Putnam, C., & Darnell, K.S. (2019). *Array of Behavioral Health and Parenting Services for Families in the Child Welfare System*
- Armstrong, M., Vargo, A., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2018). *Phase 7- Florida Title IV-E Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (10/2017-*

- 03/2018). Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- Sowell, C., Yampolskaya, S., Lentini, R., **Cruz, A.**, & Walker, C. (2018). *Florida Project LAUNCH Year 5 Evaluation Report, October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017*.
- Rohrer, L., **Cruz, A.**, Armstrong, M., & Keigher, C. (2017). *Pediatric Integrated Care in Florida: Needs Assessment Results*.
- Armstrong, M., Rohrer, L., Robst, J., Boothroyd, R., **Cruz, A.**, Teague, G., Anderson, R., & Madestin, V. (2017). *Assessment of Care Coordination and Health Indicators for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness Enrolled in the Managed Medical Assistance Program* Tampa, FL: Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. University of South Florida.
- Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2017). *Phase 6 - Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (04/2017-10/2017)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- Armstrong, M., Vargo, A., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2017). *Phase 5 - Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (10/2016-03/2017)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- McNeish, R., Yampolskaya, S., Sowell, C., **Cruz, A.**, Gilbert-Smith, T., Walker, C., Teague, G., & Hanson, A. (2016). *Access, Integration of Care and Service Utilization for Child Welfare Involved Children in Florida's Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Program* (Agency for Health Care Administration). Tampa, FL: Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. University of South Florida.
- Sowell, C., Yampolskaya, S., Walker, C., Lentini, R., & **Cruz, A.** (2016). *Florida Project LAUNCH Year 4 Evaluation Report, October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016*.
- Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2016). *Phase 4 - Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (04/2016-09/2016)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>

- Armstrong, M., Vargo, A., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2016). *Phase 3-Florida's Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver Interim Evaluation Report (10/01/2013-03/31/2016)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2016). *Phase 2- Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report (10/2015-03/2016)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- Armstrong, M., Vargo, A., **Cruz, A.**, Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J., & Yampolskaya, S. (2015). *Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project Semi-Annual Report #2*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/IVEReport.shtml>
- Sowell, C., Yampolskaya, S., Lentini, R., **Cruz, A.**, & Walker, C. (2015). *Florida Project LAUNCH Year 3 Evaluation Report, October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015*.

## Presentations

- Robst, J., & **Cruz, A.** (2018). The Evaluation of the Family Intensive Treatment Team (FITT) Model for Parents in The Child Welfare System [Conference Session]. The DCF Child Protection Summit, Orlando, FL
- Putnam, C., Darnell, K.S., **Cruz, A.**, & Allen, L. (2018). Families with Multiple Risks Require Multiple Partners - Part 1 [Conference Session]. The DCF Child Protection Summit, Orlando, FL
- Robst, J., & **Cruz, A.** (2018). The Evaluation of the Family Intensive Treatment Team (FITT) Model for Parents in The Child Welfare System [Conference Session]. Florida Behavioral Health Conference, Orlando, FL
- Johnson, M., & **Cruz, A.** (2016). The Use of In-Home and Out-of-Home Services for Child Welfare Involved Families: Findings from the Title IV-E Waiver Evaluation [Conference Session]. The DCF Child Protection Summit, Orlando, FL
- Riley, T., **Cruz, A.**, & Christmas, M. (2014). Gender Differences in Parental Help Seeking Behaviors [Conference Session]. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Mental Health, Research, and Policy Conference, Tampa, FL

**Cruz, A.** (2013). Youth's Status after Outpatient Drug Treatment: Stakeholder Perspectives [Poster presentation]. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Mental Health, Research, and Policy Conference, Tampa, FL

### **Awards**

Upcoming Researcher Award - USF Department of Child & Family Studies **2015**

### **Service**

Reviewer for Journal of Public Child Welfare **2019**

### **Memberships and Affiliations**

Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Affiliate **2016 - current**

### **Skills/Certifications**

- Trained in Motivational Interviewing
- CITI Certified for research at the University of South Florida
- Trained in conducting and scoring neuropsychological assessments
- Proficient in SPSS quantitative data analysis software
- Advanced knowledge of Atlas.ti qualitative data analysis software
- Advance knowledge of Microsoft Office applications