

YAHAIRA LOPEZ



On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 8:01 AM Yahaira Lopez <iamaemir@gmail.com> wrote:

I am excited to submit a letter of interest for the District 1 Randolph Town Council open seat. My background in advocacy and proven commitment to the disability community is why I am the right candidate for the position. I will not only lead with passion, dignity, and transparency, but will utilize my experience in communication, finance, education, and social services to move this important work forward. My model has been and will always be to put our community needs first, as stabilizing households create a better village for engagement and outcomes.

I have demonstrated my unwavering commitment to the community as a proud parent, a Massachusetts resident, and as a certified parent consultant. Most notably, families may recognize me as the “mom advocate” and founder of Autism Sprinter, a non-profit that serves children and their families with autism. My work through the organization has helped countless Randolph families advocate for their children in the realm of special education and it’s through this work that I have built strong relationships with many stakeholders in the community.

As the founder of a non-profit, I know how to work in collaboration with various members of the community making sure that the people in power hear their voices. As a former employee of a Public School, I know how to navigate complicated administrations and put children first. I have experience in managing a tight budget and have partnered with other non-profits in the past. I have worked with the Turner Free Library, Randolph intergenerational Community Center, Randolph Foundation for Education and the Randolph Youth Council, and will continue those partnerships to provide equitable access to valuable resources for all Randolph students.

The Randolph Town Council deserves someone who is well versed in policies , community engagement and statewide education achievement to lead this position as the legislative affairs. I possess that knowledge. I will listen to clients and to all members of the community. I’ll push for a participatory community and town partnership, where constituents of the Town of Randolph can work on building an equitable community for all.

I have and continue the zealously advocacy for the disability across the State and as a parent of two boys, I’m most dedicated to focusing that advocacy here in our state. I am devoted to using both community and professional expertise, skills, and experience to benefit the Town of Randolph.

Yahaira Lopez  
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Randolph, MA 02368





# YAHAIRA LOPEZ

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTERS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
9/2020 - 5/2022  
BOSTON, MA

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
**LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENT**  
**DISABILITIES PROGRAM**  
CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY AND HEALTH POLICY  
9/2020 - 6/2021  
WORCESTER, MA

**SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE - SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN SERVICES**  
09/2004-05/2006  
BOSTON, MA

**SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK**  
09/1997-05/2002  
SALEM, MA

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

MS Office, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook, Access, OneNote

Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Forms, Slides

Planning

Presenting

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Bilingual	=====
Critical Thinking	=====
Organization	=====
Adaptability	=====
Management	=====

## LANGUAGES

English	=====
Spanish	=====

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.

## SUMMARY

A dedicated individual and the founder of Autism Sprinter, Inc: a parent-led grassroots organization building parents as partners in special education. I have twin boys on the Autism Spectrum as well as ADHD. I have a Master's degree in Human Service Organizational Management and a Bachelor's in Social Work. I have over 15 years of experience working with children, youth and families in many different capacities. I have worked at Boston Public Schools, DCF, and Boston Center for Youth and Families. My work is dedicated to improving the lives of families and their loved ones presented with unique abilities navigating systems that seem impossible to understand. I believe that parents are more than just caretakers, they are experts too.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### VINFEN

#### AUTISM SUPPORT BROKER

8/2021 - Present  
Boston, MA

- Meets with families in their homes a minimum of once a month, and often more frequently to meet the needs of the family. Will schedule and attend quarterly progress review meetings for each waiver participant on their caseload
- Meets at least monthly with DDS Autism Clinical Manager and/or other relevant DDS staff to review individual cases.
- Remains available, accessible, and flexible to respond to and meet family needs on a regular basis; is flexible to meet the needs of families on their caseload including weeknights and week-end days as needed; may also need to be available by phone, text, or other forms of communication on flexible hours.
- Facilitates the development of the child's person-centered Autism Support Plan and participate in the development and implementation of the Autism Plan of Care, including entering and maintaining data in the consumer databases used by DDS.
- Supports the family in developing a budget based on the Autism Support Plan and Plan of Care.
- Assists the family to review on a monthly basis the waiver participant's budget with support from the Fiscal Employer/Agent (FEA) website and the monthly reports it produces.

### AUTISM SPRINTER, INC

#### FOUNDER

3/2014 - Present  
Boston, MA

- Ensure ongoing local programmatic excellence, rigorous program evaluation, and consistent quality of finance and administration, fundraising, communications, and systems; recommend timelines and resources needed to achieve the strategic goals.
- Actively engage and energize Autism Sprinter, Inc volunteers, board members, event committees, alumni, partnering organizations, and funders.
- Develop, maintain, & support a strong Board of Directors: serve as ex-officio of each committee, seek & build board involvement with strategic direction for both ongoing local operations.
- Lead, coach, develop & retain Autism Sprinter, Inc high-performance senior management team.
- Ensure effective systems to track scaling progress, and regularly evaluate program components, so as to measure successes that can be effectively communicated to the board, funders, and other constituents.
- Expand local revenue-generating & fundraising activities to support existing program operations.
- Deepen and refine all aspects of communications - from web presence to external relations with the goal of creating a stronger brand.
- Use external presence and relationships to garner new opportunities.
- Design the national expansion and complete the strategic business planning process for the program expansion into new markets.
- Begin to build partnerships in new markets, establishing relationships with the funders, and political and community leaders at each expansion site.
- Be an external local and national presence that publishes & communicates program results with an emphasis on the successes of the local program as a model for regional & national replication.



# YAHAIRA LOPEZ

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CARE**

#### **FAMILY PARTNER**

**4/2017 - 5/2020**  
**Norwood, MA**

- Participate in maintaining a network of services and resources for families with children receiving early childhood mental services. Assists with accessing and providing linkages to other services based on the needs of the family.
- Provides support to assist parents in their understanding of their role as their child's first teacher and their role as their child's secure base. Helps to develop these concepts within the family through a variety of methods including training, mentorship and being a role model.
- Assists families developing their own support network on behalf of their child's individual needs.
- Working with the mental health provider assists in the ongoing development and evaluation of the child's treatment plan.
- As an advocate for the families with children receiving mental health services participates in mental health treatment teams engaging with.

### **QUINCY AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE**

#### **TEAM LEADER**

**8/2016 - 4/2017**  
**Quincy, MA**

- Perform regular headcounts of children in care and assist with planning activities to meet the needs of school-age children.
- Keep the site clean and organized and maintain program equipment and supplies.
- Conduct a quality, interdisciplinary program, which includes the social, emotional, psychological, and physical development of the child.
- Uphold rules of the program fairly for all children and provide both positive and corrective guidance as necessary.

### **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL - EDWARD EVERETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

#### **PARAPROFESSIONAL (SELF-CONTAINED PRESCHOOL CLASS)**

**9/2013-3/2014**  
**Boston, MA**

- Works with individual students or small groups of students to reinforce learning of material or skills initially introduced by the teacher.
- Assists the teacher in devising special strategies for reinforcing material or skills based on a sympathetic understanding of individual students, their needs, interest, and abilities.

### **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JOHN W. McCORMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

#### **ASSISTANT DEAN OF DISCIPLINE**

**09/2011-6/2013**  
**Boston, MA**

- Assist middle school principal in the resolution of discipline problems and maintain records.
- Collaborate with the faculty in the enforcement and implementation of the rules and other regulations of the student code of conduct to effect positive student behavior in the school.

### **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JOSEPH LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

#### **PARAPROFESSIONAL**

**09/2008-6/2011**  
**Boston, MA**

- Operates and cares for equipment used in the classroom for instructional purposes.
- Helps student master equipment or instructional materials assigned by the teacher.

### **DEARBORN CLUB (DEARBORN MIDDLE SCHOOL) - BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

#### **TEAM LEADER (AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM)**

**8/2008-06/2009**  
**Boston, MA**

- Help coordinate group activities for approximately 30-75 6th-8th Grade students, such as recreational, academic support, snack and field trips.
- Track behavioral & homework issues, monitoring sign-in & signed-out visitors & members in order to secure the safety of our club participants.

### **CAMP HARBORVIEW - BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

#### **COUNSELOR IN TRAINING DIRECTOR (SUMMER CAMP)**

**07/2008-08/2008**  
**Boston, MA**

- Provided direct supervision to 25 adolescents between the ages of 15-16 in the program to ensure that literacy, life skills, and work ethics are aligned with camp mission.
- Provided one to one weekly meetings with CIT (Counselor in Training) to discuss positive and negatives of their work ethics/responsibility.

### **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JOHN W. McCORMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

#### **PARENT LIAISON**

**09/2007-06/2008**  
**Boston, MA**

- Establish formal/informal partnerships with community and corporate agencies.
- Collaborated with Student Support Services to address attendance, academic/behavioral concerns as well as parent-teacher conferences.

### **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT (PARK STREET OFFICE)**

#### **SOCIAL WORKER (A/B)**

**03/2006-09/2007**  
**Boston, MA**

- Assess, develop, evaluate, monitor client service plans programs and constant risk assessment for at-risk families.
- Track and monitor individual caseloads by coordinating monthly/weekly visits between children, involved family members, foster children, schools, DYS, community organizations, and medical facilities.

### **CITY OF BOSTON/BCYF - THOMAS JOHNSON COMMUNITY CENTER**

#### **YOUTH WORKER/STREETWORKER**

**09/2005-03/2007**  
**Boston, MA**

- Establish a relationship with the youth and their families in the Mission Hill community.
- Implemented programming for youth & their families all year round to help educate & stimulate their environment by assessing community needs.