

José R. Ortiz Ortiz, LCSW

Biography

José R. Ortiz Ortiz is the Executive Director of the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES, a not for profit organization dedicated to addressing the unmet needs of Hispanic, Black, and low income families, seeking to improve their quality of life through advocacy and direct provision of targeted services with work across the generations and a particular emphasis on the needs of older adults.

Mr. Ortiz Ortiz is experienced in program development, fiscal management, policy development and administration. He is well known and respected in the field of aging and mental health. He is a member of The Brookdale Center on Aging Social Work Advisory Committee, served as the Budget Chair for the State Society on Aging from 1985 to 1987, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sunset Park Health Council of Lutheran Medical Center, and is the President of the Board of B.H.R.A.G.S Home Care, Inc.

Mr. Ortiz Ortiz has been invited to lecture on issues relating to ethnogerontology by the Consortium of New York Geriatric Centers, The James N. Jarvie Commonwealth Service, The Long Island University's Intercultural Institute on Aging, at the 20th Annual Grant Makers in Health Conference and The Brookdale Center on Aging's Seminar Series and also collaborated with the Center for Medicare Rights in developing culturally appropriate Medicare education materials. In 1995, the South Brooklyn Neighborhood Area Partnership for a Drug Free Community recognized Mr. Ortiz Ortiz for his work in the Red Hook Community and more recently he received the Community Star Award from N.Y.S. Senator Velmanette Montgomery in 2003; the Latino Social Work Task Force Leadership Award in 2005 and VISIONS' Community Service Award in 2007.

Mr. Ortiz Ortiz is a founding member of the New York City Latino Alzheimer's Coalition. Mr. Ortiz Ortiz was instrumental in the coordination of each of the Coalition's annual conferences. His expertise has helped guide and shape the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES' congregate sites, as well as, develop Raíces Casa BienEstar, the first licensed Latino Outpatient Geriatric Mental Health Clinic in the borough of Brooklyn.

Born on May 21, 1955 in Aibonito, Puerto Rico, where he attended grammar school, he migrated to New York City in 1966 and has been a resident of Brooklyn for a total of 37 years. He received an Associate Degree in Applied Science from the College of Staten Island in 1978, and Bachelors in Science from the University of Puerto Rico, Cayey campus in 1981. Mr. Ortiz Ortiz holds a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from the Hunter College School of Social Work and is licensed to practice as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the State of New York.

Mr. Ortiz Ortiz is married to Ada Enid Santiago Alicea, RN. Together they have two children, Julio Enrique and Juan Carlos who are 27 and 25 respectively.