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Certified Training Associate
Christina M. Villatoro

Christina M. Villatoro (nee Cicero), MS, is currently the Program Director for a transitional, independent living facility for adolescent females in the care of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Ms. Villatoro received her BA from the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT, and her MS at the University of New Haven. In addition to her residential work, Ms. Villatoro is a part-time adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of New Haven, where she teaches Child and Adolescent Development courses. She also is actively involved in developing and facilitating various training programs on the topics of trauma, female and adolescent development, psychology, and domestic minor human sex trafficking for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Court Support Services Division, and other nonprofit facilities.

For over 10 years, Ms. Villatoro has been supporting youth and their families through crises and mental health challenges in both residential and community-based settings. She strongly believes in the philosophy of a strength-based and relational approach, along with gender responsiveness, as key components to success when working with clients of various demographics.

Ms. Villatoro is a certified trainer in Dr. Stephanie Covington's *Voices* curriculum. In addition, she is a certified trainer for the TIER (Trauma Informed Effective Reinforcement) Model – a trauma-informed, behavioral-motivation system that provides a strategic approach to assist women and adolescent girls and boys to develop cognitive, emotional, and behavioral awareness and which supports the development of positive, safe, and pro-social behaviors. She also provides quality assurance and technical assistance to programs to ensure model fidelity.

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