



El Futuro's spokespeople



David Lucas "Luke" Smith - Psychiatrist and Executive Director, MD

Luke Smith was raised in Arkansas and moved to North Carolina for training in child and adult psychiatry. After volunteering in the community and perceiving a great need for Spanish language services, Dr. Smith mobilized the community to create El Futuro. He is the Executive Director and Medical Director, and provides psychiatric care to both children and adults. Each year, he and his staff provide services to 1,500 – 1,700 children and families who come for help. He is double board certified in both adult psychiatry and in child and adolescent psychiatry. In addition to being active with direct services and shaping policy at the local and state level, Dr. Smith leads the organization in research efforts through projects funded by the NIMH and PCORI with a focus on creating evidence based practices that are especially targeted to help the North Carolina Latino Community.



Kerry Brock - Associate Director

Kerry was born and raised in a small town in East Tennessee, where she learned to appreciate the free feeling of running through pastures and wading in creeks. She developed a passion for working with underserved populations while in high school, which ultimately led her to earn a BA in Sociology from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville, and then a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University – Bloomington. Over the last 15 years, she has had the opportunity to support the fundraising efforts of a variety of nonprofits serving diverse populations and needs, from Native American education in South Dakota to community health clinics in Chicago, and has been extremely fortunate to work with phenomenal colleagues at every step along the way. She is excited to continue this tradition with El Futuro, with a keen interest in supporting the mental health needs of our community.



Dr. Lucy Vidal - Clinical Director, DDS, MHA

Lucy is El Futuro's Clinical Director and is responsible for all clinical services and operations. She is originally from Venezuela and is fully bilingual (Spanish) and bicultural. She holds a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and a Doctor in Dentistry from Venezuela Central University. An accomplished, goal-oriented leader with more than 20 years of experience, Dr. Vidal has demonstrated success providing direction to organizations' strategic priorities, operations, healthcare quality initiatives, expansion, and business improvement programs. She has also served as a Trustee/Member in several Community and Professional Boards.



Mary Jones - Manager of Client Care and Engagement

Mary Jones is from Urireo in Salvatierra, Guanajuato and moved to the United States in 2005 (December 12, to be exact). The first time she left her small hometown was to attend university at Instituto Tecnológico de Celaya, where she graduated with a degree in computer systems engineering. After arriving in the U.S., Mary was touched to see that she was still surrounded by all her people — she felt at home. She decided she wanted to do everything she could to help the immigrant community here, because not only had she grown up hearing about all the struggles immigrants faced, but she herself then experienced how hard it was to adjust after immigrating. At her previous job at Orange County Head Start — Early Head Start as an ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) Coordinator, Mary focused for 11 years on being in touch with families, working with community agencies, coordinating referrals and making sure the program met all performance standards.



Pablo Silva - Substance Use Program Lead, MS, LCAS

Pablo Silva joins El Futuro as a Substance Use Counselor. Originally from Puerto Rico, his first career was in electronics. When his supervisor at the time realized his potential to help others, he recommended he pursue a degree in Business Administration. Eventually, Pablo decided he wanted to pursue his Masters in Counseling Psychology. Pablo started his work in foster homes and has now been doing substance use counseling for the past 4 years. Since substance use can be a product of larger problems, Pablo tries to be an agent of change for the people he sees.



Courtney Crawford - Therapist, MSW, LCSW

Originally from California, Courtney began learning Spanish during her time pursuing her undergraduate degree at UCLA. Upon graduation, Courtney moved to Argentina, where she spent seven years working with university students and helping to develop projects to benefit rural Andean communities. During her time in Argentina, Courtney's interest in mental health and social advocacy grew. Relocating from South America to the American South, Courtney obtained a Masters's degree in Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been part of the El Futuro team since 2013 and is grateful for the time that she is able to spend with clients and colleagues as a therapist and a clinical supervisor. With advanced training in treating trauma in children and adults, she serves clients who are facing many different difficulties. She has described her time with clients (and the trust that they give her) as a unique gift, one that impacts and influences her every day. Courtney's favorite hobby is exploring, particularly when mountains are involved.