#### Charles R. Lerner

## **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

- 20 years of experience in child welfare and mental health, with a focus on equity, systems change, and youth advocacy
- 14 years of nonprofit executive leadership with demonstrated success in organizational growth, strategic planning, and fundraising
- Dynamic public speaker, trainer, and thought leader with media and conference experience
- Proven track record of revenue growth, program development, and cross-sector collaboration
- Recognized for advancing justice-centered practices and leading high-impact initiatives

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts CASA Association – Boston, MA State Director | June 2022 – Present

- Transformed the organization from a volunteer-run nonprofit with \$58K revenue (CY22) to a staffed organization with \$228K revenue (CY23)
- Led the successful launch of CASA of Bristol County (now The Advocacy Bridge), the first new CASA site in Massachusetts in over two decades; secured \$175K in startup funding
- Designed and launched a statewide multimedia equity-focused marketing campaign, reaching 1.5M+ people and doubling volunteer inquiries quarter over quarter
- Secured \$100K+ to expand recruitment and launch a statewide volunteer training program grounded in equity and justice, serving over 700 advocates
- Appointed to key statewide policy and advisory bodies: Court Improvement Program Task Force, Children's Justice Act Task Force, and the Child Welfare Coalition

At The Crossroads – San Francisco, CA Executive Director | May 2019 – May 2022

- Increased organizational revenue by 54% (from \$1.1M to \$1.7M), while raising staff salaries by 20% and growing reserves by \$1M
- Developed and implemented an <u>equity-centered compensation strategy</u> and pathways for employee economic mobility
- Partnered with Stanford University to complete the organization's first-ever client outcomes study
- Launched the high-visibility "<u>A Great City Would Do Better</u>" marketing campaign, featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*
- Expanded employee benefits, including wellness funds, dependent care, and commuting reimbursement

# **Boston CASA – Boston, MA Founding Executive Director** | January 2012 – April 2019

- Grew organization from a one-person operation to a 10-person team; expanded revenue from \$68K (FY12) to \$813K (FY18)
- Spearheaded CASA's strategic expansion into Middlesex County—Massachusetts' largest by population—enhancing statewide capacity to serve vulnerable children and families
- Increased the number of active volunteers 4x and boosted the number of children served by 280%
- Served as a core planning team member for Boston's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, helping secure a \$4.9M HUD award to launch targeted solutions for youth homelessness
- Partnered with the Boston Juvenile Court and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to launch the Older Youth Advocacy Project

#### CASA of Santa Cruz County – Watsonville, CA Program Director | August 2009 – December 2011

- Directed volunteer recruitment, training, and supervision for 170+ advocates; increased number of children served annually
- Supervised five staff and led cross-system coordination with child welfare, mental health, and youth services
- Developed a transition age youth (TAY) program for youth in foster care
- Organization named "Nonprofit of the Year" by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce (2011)

## Family Builders by Adoption – San Francisco/Oakland, CA Team Lead & Permanency Social Worker | May 2007 – August 2009

- Led permanency planning and child-specific family recruitment efforts for youth in foster care, in collaboration with San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth & Families
- Oversaw and expanded California's first LGBTQ foster-to-permanency program, increasing access to inclusive, affirming placements for LGBTQ youth
- Recruited, trained, and provided ongoing support to adoptive and foster parents; facilitated peer support groups to strengthen caregiver retention and placement stability

#### ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP

- Social Innovator Award, Social Innovation Forum
- Doing Justice Award, Massachusetts Judges Conference
- Catalyst for Change, Stand Together Foundation
- Member, San Francisco Mayor's Alternatives to Policing Steering Committee

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

H311: Issues of Diversity in Counseling and Advocacy CCP 561: Counseling Techniques with Families

CCP 754: *Multicultural Perspectives* 

Harvard University Cambridge College Cambridge College EPSY 6788: Domestic Abuse Counseling EPSY 6752: Cross-Cultural Counseling EPSY 6026: Psychopathology in Adulthood HDFS 229: Adult Development and Aging

HDFS 408: Family Diversity

California State University- East Bay California State University- East Bay California State University- East Bay Bowling Green State University Bowling Green State University

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (UNDUPLICATED)

*Intersectional Professionals: Putting Lived Experience to Work.* EMPath Disrupting Poverty Conference: Boston, MA (2024).

Intersectional Professionals: A New Vision for the Human Services Workforce. American Public Human Services Association Conference: Baltimore, MD (2023).

What is Preventing Us From Truly Re-envisioning Foster Care? Re-Envisioning Foster Care National Conference: Boston, MA (2023).

Community as the Key to Healing. Re-Envisioning Foster Care National Conference: Boston, MA (2023).

Achieving Greater Compassion & Justice in the Child Welfare System: An Intergenerational Panel of Foster Care Alumni Speak. National CASA Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO (2023).

The Legacy of Foster Care: An Intergenerational Panel of Foster Care Alumni. The Rudd-REFCA Conference: Amherst, MA (2016).

The Myth of the Unadoptable Child. National CASA Annual Conference: New Orleans, LA (2015).

Reforming the Foster Care System Through Permanency for All Youth. National CASA Annual Conference: Chicago, IL (2011).

Advocating for the Needs of LGBTQI Foster Care Youth. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference: Sacramento, California (2009).

#### **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

https://open.spotify.com/episode/2omevLb43mqSp5WfWgDgnx A More Expansion Definition of Family

https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/the-politics-of-harmony-montgomery-how-the-system-failed-in-two-states/2806083/

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/s2e2-you-cannot-get-kicked-out-of-our-program/id1606800988?i=1000559558559

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/12/08/opinion/there-could-have-been-different-path-harmony-montgomery/

 $\frac{https://www.bostonglobe.com/2014/02/27/hundreds-kids-may-missing-state-welfare-system/t5qc}{84Uzd8LWiphM15ecFP/story.html}$ 

 $\frac{https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2014/02/16/fresh-eyes-help-foster-children/VXegN9d5X}{Ez13nwJv9wfNM/story.html}$ 

### **BOARD SERVICE**

Board Secretary of the Network of Intersectional Professionals (NIP). Austin, Texas. (2024-Present).

## **EDUCATION**

M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy Syracuse University

B.A. in Psychology University of Minnesota