



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2021

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CPWD Welcomes Gisela Hernandez to the Board of Directors

The Center for People with Disabilities (CPWD) is proud to welcome Gisela Hernandez to its Board of Directors.



Gisela works for Boulder County Housing and Human Services in the Child Protection department. Previously, Gisela worked for CPWD as a bilingual Independent Living Advisor for two years, during which time she assisted people with disabilities in acquiring the education, skills training, and resources needed to set and achieve independent living goals. During her time at CPWD, she was also a committee member of the Supporting Action for Mental Health in Longmont. She is currently working towards her Master's Degree in Social Work with an anticipated graduation date of May, 2022.

A lifelong resident of Longmont, CO, Gisela was born in Mexico, moved here as a child, and considers Colorado, and more specifically Longmont, her home. "I love living in Colorado for many reasons," she explains. "One reason is the strong sense of community here in Longmont. I also love the outdoors, and spend my free time to hiking, running, and walking outside. My daughter – who is in 5th grade – and I make it a priority to go for a walk every evening."

Gisela says she joined the board in part because of her past work as an Independent Living Advisor, her understanding of and appreciation for CPWD's mission, and her awareness of the challenges and barriers that people with disabilities face in the community.

"Barriers to independent living include housing, accessibility, applying for benefits, transportation, isolation, accessing mental health services, and more," she says. "I learned how hard it can be to navigate community resources and other systems, and I wanted to continue to be part of the great work CPWD does. I hope to bring what I learned and my experience to CPWD's board."

The Board welcomes Gisela and also recognizes its other amazing members: Deborah Conley, Board President and Assistive Tech Product Developer; Julie Aird, Board Vice President and Community Advocate; Geoffrey Doctoroff, Board Treasurer and Risk Management Professional and Certified ADA Coordinator; Ruth Arnold, Board Secretary and Retired Mental Health Administrator; Jason Konzak, Board Member and IT Consultant; Dale Gaar, Board Member and Attorney; Michael Stone, Board Member and Local Business Owner; Samantha Summers, Board Member and Scientist; and Kristen Erby, Board Member and Autism and Neurodiversity Advocate.

For more information about our Board of Directors, its activities or initiatives, or information about CPWD, please visit our website www.cpwd.org or call us at (303) 442-8662.

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