

- My name is Maribel Castillon, RN, BSN, PHN

I am a Public Health Nurse for DPH's Child Health, Disability, and Prevention Program.

- The Exide battery plant in Vernon released toxic substances that contaminated Commerce, Bell, Huntington Park, Boyle Heights, and East LA for decades. The men, women, and children who live in the 10,000 homes in less than a two-mile radius of Exide were placed at risk, and would still be at risk, if we had not acted together.

Partnership and integration is about both the long-term plan, and the short-term strategy. As you know, it was important to act with a sense of urgency to canvass neighborhoods, educate community members, and move resources from the state level, down to individual members in vulnerable households. As you heard from our colleagues in the video, that the work was the result of different people and disciplines from our three departments coming together. But the long-term work of doing right by the mostly Latino and low-income families impacted, is just as critical and we are glad that we have people across the county system and our Board of Supervisors that cares.

- Whether we work at DHS, DMH, or DPH, I believe that we are in this because we want to be great public servants for the communities and people that we here to help serve. Patients and clients rely on us to provide the highest possible quality care both when things seem fine, and when parts of their lives are falling apart. Together, we can help put those different parts back in place by being the *provider or system of choice* at all times.

I believe that we have strengths and advantages in this new competitive health environment. Last week, I case managed a four-year-old child with a “borderline high lead level” diagnosis. After calling the provider office, Roybal Health Center, a DHS, facility, I learned that the family chose to leave the County network (can you share a reason, service was poor, too far away etc.), opting instead to use their power to choose a private care provider under the Affordable Care Act. Nothing against patient and client choice: I’m all for it. We want everyone to choose us not feel stuck with us.

- Like so many other nurses, I always wear multiple hats, one as care provider, one as educator, and one as a proud member of the Health Agency. When I spoke about the importance of his child getting a follow up testing, whether with their new medical provider, or back with. I informed him of some of the effects of lead intoxication, and flagged some warning signs for him to keep an eye out for I also talked about the benefits of being a patient, in our

integrated LA Health Agency. I invited him to return to Roybal Health Center for any and all services.

We agreed that what was most important, was for his child to get coordinated, high quality, and whole person care. Something now possible because of the work we have done on the frontlines to establish a new integrative Health Agency culture and partnership between labor and management, and knowing that DPH and DHS will be on the same electronic health record system which will make it easier for that child and family and also for people like me to work and support the family effectively.

I feel that we are moving in the right direction and as we become one system and have front-line staff involvement, we will get better and better with time.

Thank you.