

# Xonjenese Jacobs, DrPH, MPA, GCNM, BSW

College of Public Health, University of South Florida

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## **EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES**

December 2022	Doctor of Public Health University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Tampa, FL Concentration: Advanced Practice Leadership in Public Health
May 2021	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
May 2013	Master of Public Administration University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences, Tampa, FL
December 2009	Graduate Certificate Nonprofit Management University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
January 2005	Bachelor of Social Work Florida State University, College of Social Work, Tallahassee, FL

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Nov 2023-Present **Faculty Administrator/Director**

*Principal Investigator for Covering Florida Navigator Program*  
College of Public Health, University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL

- **Secured and manages more than \$36M in federal funding** as Principal Investigator, ensuring compliance and optimal resource allocation.
- Directs the **Florida Covering Kids and Families Program**, overseeing daily operations and strategic initiatives to expand healthcare access.
- **Mentors and teaches graduate students** in public health, fostering academic excellence and professional development.
- **Establishes strategic partnerships** with community organizations, resulting in improved healthcare access for underserved populations.
- Leads research and practice initiatives that **enhance health equity and strengthen community well-being** across Florida.
- **Developed curriculum** as part of the Disease Intervention Specialist Training Academy (DISTA) for the Florida Department of Health as the budgeting SME (subject matter expert) DISTA Faculty member.

July 2022-Nov 2023 **Executive Director**

Pace Center for Girls Inc., Hernando

- **Championed agency mission and advocated** for girls' needs, influencing policy and strategic priorities while fostering strong relationships with government, business, and child-serving agencies.
- **Delivered measurable results** aligned with organizational standards and modeled core values to inspire staff, clients, and board members.
- **Managed budgets** and financial operations within approved guidelines.
- **Ensure program compliance** with contracts and regulatory standards.

Jan 2021-June 2022     **Associate Director of Program Performance**

Pace Center for Girls Inc., National Office

- **Engineered predictive analytics tools** to forecast DJJ Accountability ratings, leveraging program performance metrics to drive improvements in assessments, academic progression, graduation rates, and post-enrollment employment across six Florida counties.
- **Elevated data integrity** at Pace Leon from 0% to 58% within two years through strategic planning and execution of a comprehensive action plan.
- **Digitally transformed key program resources**, adapting the *Understanding Our Girls* and *Uniformed Behavior Intervention Guide* into virtual formats to ensure continuity and scalability of program success.

Nov 2017-Jan 2021     **Social Services Manager**

Pace Center for Girls Inc., Hernando

- **Directed and optimized daily program operations**, ensuring strict compliance with all contractual and regulatory requirements.
- **Led and mentored a multidisciplinary team**, driving effective crisis intervention and case management strategies that fostered a collaborative, high-performing environment.

Sept 2013-Dec 2017     **Program Planner Analyst**

Florida Covering Kids & Families

College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Tampa, FL

- **Directed oversight of ACA Navigator programs** for five consortium partners across 34 Florida counties, ensuring compliance and optimizing program performance.
- **Procured strategic partnerships** to expand healthcare access in Leon and Monroe counties, strengthening community health infrastructure.
- **Boosted engagement among underrepresented populations** through targeted outreach and education initiatives, increasing program participation and awareness.
- **Cultivated statewide collaborations** to promote ACA and Marketplace eligibility, building trust and creating growth opportunities with local businesses.

Sept 2012-Sept 2013     **Program Manager**

Hillsborough County Public Schools Full-Service Center

Tampa, FL

- **Forged strategic partnerships** with 15+ community agencies and launched a referral system that improved access to essential services for East and West Tampa residents.

- **Leveraged data analytics** to produce insights for public relations and compliance reporting, strengthening community trust, increasing resource utilization, and driving engagement.

May 2007-Sept 2012 **Human Services Practitioner**

Florida Kinship Center  
University of South Florida, Tampa FL

- **Reduced emotional trauma** for children of incarcerated parents by implementing video conferencing to maintain family connections.
- **Delivered training** to incoming case managers on kinship care during quarterly pre-service sessions, strengthening program knowledge and consistency.
- **Secured thousands in grant funding** for local nonprofits, including Abe Brown Ministries, Compass Education, and Kinship Care Connection.
- **Designed educational experiences** for Social Work student volunteers through the Kinship Care Warmline, fostering practical learning and engagement.
- **Revitalized organizational web presence** by updating the Florida Kinship Center website with networking content, increasing brand visibility.
- **Coordinated Institutional Review Board research** for Kinship Navigator Program Evaluation, ensuring compliance and advancing program assessment.

Jan 2006 -May 2007 **Counselor I, Scholarship Chairperson**

Pace Center for Girls Inc., Hillsborough  
Tampa, FL

- **Educated and empowered families** by providing academic, social service, and therapeutic resources to strengthen family stability and improve outcomes for girls.
- **Conducted home visits and psycho-educational groups** in alignment with PACE program guidelines, ensuring compliance and quality care.
- **Prepared and standardized financial reporting** for Eckerd Family Foundation, documenting scholarship funds and streamlining disbursement processes.
- **Coached and mentored teen girls**, boosting self-esteem and fostering personal growth through psychological and self-actualization strategies.

May 2005 - Dec 2005 **BSW Intern, Program Aide**

Pace Center for Girls Inc., Hillsborough  
Tampa, FL

- **Maintained program integrity** by monitoring, recording, and documenting teens' progress through life transitions.
- **Mentored and guided participants**, providing ongoing support to help teens achieve individual goals outlined in intake plans.
- **Collaborated with caregivers and educators** to deliver aftercare service plans prior to discharge, ensuring successful home implementation.

**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

2025                   **Principal Investigator (Not Awarded)**  
**USF College of Public Health Internal Award**  
*“Florida Covering Kids and Families Statewide Coalition”*  
Amount: \$15,000

2025	<b>Principal Investigator (Not Awarded)</b> <b>College of Public Health Internal Award</b> <i>“Florida Covering Kids and Families Statewide Coalition”</i> Amount: \$50,000
2025	<b>Administrator/ Program Director</b> <b>Centers for Medicare &amp;Medicaid Services</b> <i>“Connecting Kids to Coverage HEALTHY KIDS 2025 Outreach and Enrollment Cooperative Agreement”</i> Grant amount: \$3,000,000
2024	<b>Principal Investigator</b> <b>Center for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services</b> <i>Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally Facilitated Marketplaces</i> Grant Amount: \$15,171,750
2023	<b>Principal Investigator</b> <b>Center for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services</b> <i>Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally Facilitated Marketplaces</i> Grant Amount: \$37,975,146

## PUBLICATIONS

**Jacobs, X.** (2022). Parenting and Depression in Black American Youth: A Review of the Impact. *Negro Educational Review*, 73(1–4), 123–160

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### Oral

2022 Supporting Black Girls- The Silent Victims of the Covid-19 Pandemic  
*Presenter*, Florida Behavioral Health Conference (BHCon)

2021 “Gender-Responsive Programming: Elevating the Voice of the Girl”  
*Presenter*, Florida Behavioral Health Conference (BHCon)

2021 “Behavior Transformation: Effective Practices for Behavior Management”  
*Presenter*, Pace Center for Girls- All About Girls Summit

### Poster

Garza, C., Davis, T., MacNevin, M., & **Jacobs, X.** (November 2025). Successfully navigating healthcare: Why setting matters. *2025 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo*, Washington, D.C.

**Jacobs, X.**, & Mincey, J. (July 2025). Navigating with Navigators - Health Belief Model to Healthcare Access. *2025 Florida Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo*, Orlando, FL.

**Jacobs, X.**, Miller, G., & Garza, C. (March 2025). Connecting kids to coverage: Reducing barriers in health insurance access for underserved populations in Florida. *2025 USF Health Research Day*, Tampa, FL.

**Jacobs, X.**, Miller, G., & Garza, C. (April 2025). Connecting kids to coverage: Reducing barriers in health insurance access for underserved populations in Florida. *2025 Annual Chiles Center Symposium*, Tampa, FL.

Garza, C., Silva, C., & **Jacobs, X.** (April 2024). Eating the Big MAC. *2024 Annual Chiles Center Symposium*, Tampa, FL.

Noonan, R., & **Jacobs, X.** (April 2024). Medicaid unwinding and implications to health coverage for families in Florida. *2024 Annual Chiles Center Symposium*, Tampa, FL

Miller, G., & **Jacobs, X.** (April 2024). Florida covering kids & families: Health insurance coverage barriers for the limited english proficiency (LEP) population. *2024 Annual Chiles Center Symposium*, Tampa, FL.

Garza, C., Kuzmin, N., MacNevin, M., Martinez, S., & **Jacobs, X.** (March 2024). Public health in practice: Navigating health insurance coverage options for children and families. *2024 USF Health Research Day*, Tampa, FL.

Rivera, G., MacNevin, M., Charles, B., Kuzmin, N., & **Jacobs, X.** (March 2024). An evaluation of the effects of developing and implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) on consumer interactions. *2024 USF Health Research Day*, Tampa, FL.

**Jacobs, X.**, Garza, C., Silva, C., Noonan, R., & Jacobs, X. (March 2024). Exploring consumer satisfaction insights from navigator survey. *2024 USF Health Research Day*, Tampa, FL.

## **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

Trauma Informed Care Lead Author Contributions

2022	Pace Spirited Girls! Sister Guide- <i>Gender-responsive curriculum to support domains of optimal health</i>
2021	Pace Uniformed Behavior Intervention Guide- <i>Strength-based behavior intervention system to promote prosocial behavior</i>
2021	<a href="#"><u>Pace Insight Blog: Improving Teen Mental Health is Critical for Healthy Long-Term Growth &amp; Development</u></a>

## **MEDIA FEATURES**

December 2025 [CNN This Morning Weekend - CTM-XONJENESE JACOBS](#)

December 2025	<a href="#"><u>The ACA's enhanced subsidies have expired. Here's what you need to know   CNN Politics</u></a>
November 2025	<a href="#"><u>Bracing for ACA spikes (Florida Matters)</u></a>
October 2025	<a href="#"><u>Open enrollment to marketplace insurance is soon, here are the changes you should know (Central Florida Public Media)</u></a>
April 2025	<a href="#"><u>Tax time triggers fraud alarms for some Obamacare enrollees (CBS News)</u></a>
December 2024	<a href="#"><u>DACA recipients can enroll in ACA while awaiting appeal of judge's ruling (WUSF)</u></a>
November 2024	<a href="#"><u>What to know about open enrollment amid uncertainty about ACA's future (WUSF)</u></a>
November 2024	<a href="#"><u>Costly mistakes Floridians should avoid during open enrollment (Insurance Newsnet)</u></a>
November 2024	<a href="#"><u>Floridians sign up for Obamacare unsure if program will survive under Trump (Tampa Bay Times)</u></a>
November 2024	<a href="#"><u>Anti-Fraud Efforts Meet Real-World Test During ACA Open Enrollment Period (KFF Health)</u></a>
October 2024	<a href="#"><u>USF Navigators ready to assist during health insurance open enrollment period (USF Public Health News)</u></a>
August 2024	<a href="#"><u>Major USF award helps Floridians better navigate health care (USF Public Health News)</u></a>
April 2024	<a href="#"><u>Assessing Jacksonville's health insurance campaign (Jacksonville Today)</u></a>
March 2024	<a href="#"><u>The FPRC and FL-CK&amp;F team up to create more accessible health insurance messaging (USF Public Health News)</u></a>
February 2024	<a href="#"><u>How parenting impacts the incidence of depression among Black youth (USF Public Health News)</u></a>
January 2024	<a href="#"><u>Why Florida set a record in ACA signups for 2024. And how you can still enroll (WUSF)</u></a>
January 2024	<a href="#"><u>Obamacare sign-ups hit record 21.3 million as Biden pushes his efforts to lower health care costs (CNN)</u></a>
January 2024	<a href="#"><u>Health Insurance Now! (WMNF 88.5 FM)</u></a>
October 2022	<a href="#"><u>Friends and Family Remember Arlana Miller (Essence Magazine)</u></a>
October 2022	<a href="#"><u>DrPH student makes "at-promise" adolescent girls her "population of choice" (USF Public Health News)</u></a>
September 2017	<a href="#"><u>Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment Brings New Questions (WGCU)</u></a>

November 2015

[Obamacare open enrollment gets off to a smooth start, but navigators still face challenges \(Tampa Bay Times\)](#)

### **INVITED SEMINARS, LECTURES, AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

2025 All Health TV "Your Health. Your Coverage. Your Guide. Town Hall"  
*Panelist*

2025 7@7 COPH Alumni Panel  
*Panelist*

2025 Florida Connecting Kids to Coverage Spring Convening "Connecting Families to Resources- Navigating the Maze of Our State"  
*Panelist*

2024 All Health TV "Your Health, Your Voice: An Affordable Care Act Town Hall"  
*Panelist*

2024 7@7 COPH Alumni Panel  
*Panelist*

2024 MCH Center for Excellence Leadership Seminar Series  
*Speaker*

2023 Pasco-Hernando State College Women's History Month "EmpowHer Hour"  
*Panelist*

2014 Gulf Coast State College Surviving and Thriving Through Healthcare Reform Affordable Care Act Symposium - "Covering the Young Invincibles: Effective strategies for getting young adults enrolled in the Health Insurance Marketplace."  
*Presenter*

2013 The Florida National Black Democratic Caucus  
*Speaker*

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Year	Semester	Number	Role	Course Title
2025	Fall	PHC 6104	Instructor	Managing Public Health Programs

### **DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

2024-2025 **Member, Advisory Board**  
Community Hub, College of Public Health

2023-2025 **Member, Steering Committee**  
Florida Black Maternal Health Initiative, College of Public Health

2015-2018      **University of South Florida Representative**  
Florida Coverage Kids and Families Covering Florida Consortium print  
newspaper, radio, and television interviews

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2021-2022      **Committee Member**  
Great Hernando Healthy Weight and Wellness Challenge

2018-2020      **Steering Committee Member**  
Hernando County Community Heath Improvement Plan

2014      **Chairperson**  
East Tampa Relay for Life Fundraising

2013-2015      **Executive Board Member**  
Compass Education Center

2010-2013      **Social Media Chairperson**  
Collaborative for Children in Hillsborough of Incarcerated Parents

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2025-Present      American Public Health Association

2023-Present      Florida Public Health Association