

Meet the MOPD Career Center Staff



Christina McGleam serves as Deputy Commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). She was appointed in April 2021 by Commissioner Rachel Arfa.

In her role as Deputy Commissioner, McGleam oversees MOPD's Employment Unit, Training Unit, and its youth initiatives, all of which are aimed at reducing barriers to employment and

increasing awareness of people with disabilities. As part of MOPD's employment work, McGleam is charged with leading the development of MOPD's Career Center, which launched in July of 2022. McGleam also manages all City of Chicago disability-related employment initiatives, including, but not limited to the establishment of the City of Chicago's first Employee Resource Group focused on employees with disabilities and their allies.

McGleam also oversees MOPD's Disability Resource Unit, encompassing the department's Information and Referral Unit and the Independent Living Program, which provide access to meals for Chicagoans with disabilities and many other types of assistance and resources. As MOPD's Access Officer, another leadership role within the City of Chicago, McGleam serves as the main contact for City departments and sister agencies on issues related to communication access.

McGleam is a graduate of John Carroll University (B.S. Business Administration) and Roosevelt University (M.S. Human Resource Management). In December 2022 McGleam was recognized with the Kathy Oserman Award by The City of Chicago for Outstanding Leadership.



Carly Englander is a Career Placement Counselor at the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) Career Center. Carly works with job seekers throughout their job search, including assisting them in identifying their career goals, providing interview preparation, navigating disability disclosure and requesting Reasonable Accommodations.

Prior to joining MOPD, Carly worked at the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind. She worked with each to identify their vocational goals, providing job training and placement services. Before moving to Chicago, Carly was an Employment Counselor at the Queensborough Public Library. She developed a staff training on appropriate ways

to assist library patrons with disabilities and educated staff on disability laws and policies, improving relations between the library and the public.

Carly uses her knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act to advocate and educate in a friendly and professional manner. She advocates on behalf of clients, ensuring access to services and resources, including benefits from social service and government agencies. Carly received her Bachelors in Sociology from New Paltz University and her Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from Hofstra University.



Esteban Amaro is the American Sign Language Interpreter for Career Center with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). Esteban is a native of Chicago, Illinois- he grew up in the Little Village neighborhood. He has been interpreting professionally since 2005. Esteban has worked as a freelance interpreter throughout the Chicagoland area and has had previous staff ASL Interpreter positions in secondary, post-secondary and medical settings. Esteban holds a bachelor of the arts in ASL-English Interpretation from Columbia College Chicago and has National Interpreter Certification (NIC).



Jeanne McGill is a Career Placement Counselor for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. Jeanne has been working in workforce development or career services for the last seven years with experience in job coaching and employer engagement.

Jeanne started as the Employer Outreach Coordinator for the Youth Job Center (YJC) in Evanston where they assisted young people ages 16 to 24 with employment services. After YJC, Jeanne went to work as a Career Services Advisor at Lincoln College of Technology working with students pursuing careers in automotive technology and other trades. Just prior to joining the Mayor's Office for Disabilities Career Center, Jeanne worked as a Career

Advisor at National Louis University where she helped pilot an internship requirement for the undergraduate college, which serves a largely first-generation college student population.

Jeanne enjoys working as a Career Placement Counselor at MOPD because she is passionate about helping job seekers improve their confidence and market themselves effectively.



Jocelyn Romasanta has been working at the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) since 2002. She provides benefits counseling to individuals that receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to help them make a successful transition to work and greater financial independence. She holds a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC).

Prior to MOPD, she was employed as a Vocational Coordinator at El Valor, an agency serving primarily Latino families with intellectual disabilities. She was an Adjunct Instructor at Northeastern Illinois University, College of Education Department, where she taught rehabilitation counseling courses. She brings valuable knowledge and expertise in counseling individuals with disabilities. She has formed long-lasting partnerships with many agencies we currently work with. She is of Asian descent and bilingual (fluent in Tagalog - Philippine language).



Johanna McMahon comes to the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) with experience as an Employment Specialist advocating for individuals with intellectual disabilities as well as substance use and/or mental illness. Johanna attended Fordham University for her master's degree in Social Work; while there, she had an internship in which she worked with chronically homeless men and women. Johanna met with each individual to set up goal plans and monitor their progress. Most importantly, Johanna was there to listen and affirm their life experiences.

Prior to coming to MOPD, Johanna was a Career Coach at North Lawndale Employment Network where she managed a diverse caseload of READI Chicago program participants, which serves individuals who have been impacted by gun violence. Johanna understands the complexities that people face when seeking employment, including barriers due to racism and classism. She is a strong communicator, compassionate, and driven to do well for the people she serves.

Since working at the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Johanna has helped job seekers find meaningful employment, write resumes, and cover letters, and helped job seekers advocate for themselves. She has assisted her colleagues with challenging scenarios and participated in presentations about job seekers and the services offered at MOPD.



Lauren Hooberman is the Program Director of the Career Center for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). MOPD's Career Center opened in October 2022 with the goal of preparing individuals with disabilities for successful and meaningful career opportunities. Lauren oversees the career readiness programs and activities, ensuring equitable and accessible resources for individuals in communities throughout Chicago, including historically underserved neighborhoods. We seek to elevate and support the clients we serve through dedicated partnerships with employers, community organizations, educational institutions and City agencies.

Prior to her role at MOPD, Lauren was the Director of the Career Bridge Program at City Colleges of Chicago. The Bridge Program enables Adult Education students to complete their high school equivalency while obtaining an industry credential for entry into the workforce and career pathways.

Lauren holds a Master of Secondary Education from DePaul University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin.



Will Gevirtz has 10 years of experience as an Employment Specialist at Thresholds, a social service agency that provides assistance for individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders. He supports clients in job search strategies and career planning, focusing on the needs and interests of each individual. In his role, Will has collaborated with Thresholds' Clinical Teams, other community-based organizations and Counselors from the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide his clients with resources and supports. Will has worked with employers to ensure that his clients have the accommodations needed to be successful in their roles; he understands the importance of creating strong employer

relationships and collaborating with those who are open, committed and receptive to hiring people with disabilities. In addition to Will's experience working with clients, he has facilitated training around various aspects of mental health and has planned events for both clients and employer partners.