

MICHAEL J. MELÉNDEZ, LMSW



Michael serves as the Associate Regional Administrator in the Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations (DMCHO) in the New York Regional Office of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The DMCHO has responsibility for working with the States of New York, New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. In his capacity as Associate Regional Administrator, Michael oversees plans, manages, and provides leadership to the federal team in the oversight of State agencies in program development, implementation, maintenance, financial reporting and monitoring of federal finances and execution of state agency activities regarding the Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Under Mike's leadership the division reviews, approves, waives, or recommends disapproval of the official Medicaid State plan and plan amendments for the Medicaid and SCHIP programs. DMCH implements Title XIX special initiatives and special or experimental programs such as Maternal and Child Health, statewide 1115 waivers, 1915(b) Freedom of Choice waivers, 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services waivers, and operation of major management initiatives such as the development and operation of State Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS).

Michael has dedicated many years of service to address the health and social service needs of the residents of New York City and the State of New York. For eight years, he worked as the Health and Human Services Director in the Office of Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer. When he joined the Borough President's office he was a staff member in the Health & Human Services unit. Michael quickly worked his way to becoming Director of the Health and Human Services division. Michael also formed a not-for-profit corporation that addressed health and human service issues in The Bronx that served as consultants to the Office of the Bronx Borough President, The Bronx Health & Human Services Development Corporation (BHSDC).

Throughout his career, Michael has held various positions in the Federal, State and City governments. Some of these positions are, Acting Associate Regional Administrator in the CMS Denver Regional office, Director of Public Information for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services within the Bureau of Communications and Community Relations, and as a Policy Specialist in the New York City Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy. Michael also has substantial clinical experience as an addictions specialist and supervisor for several alcoholism and substance abuse programs.

In 1995 Michael was nominated and selected to participate in CORO Leadership New York, a one-year fellowship for mid-career professionals in the public, private and non-profit sectors to examine and develop creative solutions for issues affecting New York City. Michael has served on several advisory boards, including the Bronx Information Network, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Fellowship in Urban Health at Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the

Women's Health Initiative of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Michael obtained a Masters in Social Work Administration from Fordham University and a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Psychology from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.