

Learn More About Koa Goode

Koa was first introduced to Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. (GLCAC) as a senior in high school in the year 2000. She was a participant in the agency's Teachers of the Future program. Upon graduation, she continued to work for the program until 2004.

Koa's cultural roots are deeply connected to the fabric of what makes the Greater Lawrence Community unique. Koa has been a long time resident of the Merrimack Valley. She attended the Arlington School in Lawrence, until her family moved to Methuen where she graduated from Methuen High School. Koa is bilingual and bicultural. The daughter of Irene Berroa and Melvin Caulton. She is first generation on her mother's side, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic who arrived in Lawrence in the 1976 and worked for over 20 years at Lucent Technologies. Her father was an African American educator from Newark, New Jersey who continued his career as a guidance counselor at Lawrence High School. Her father passed away when she was 9 years old. Her mother continued to raise her and her sister Joanne, to be hardworking, and compassionate individuals. She also has a large extended family on her maternal side who assisted in her rearing.

Koa graduated from Wheelock College with a Bachelors of Arts focusing on Education.

After graduation from Wheelock in 2005, she worked with agencies that focused on youth and families including the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Ohio Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services. In 2014 she returned to GLCAC as a case manager at the Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center (CFSC). In 2016 she became the Case Manager Supervisor. She relishes the opportunity to provide support to families.

Most of the families enrolled in the CFSC are involved with DCF. The program aims to support parents through the challenges they have encountered leading to their involvement with DCF. The program aims to strengthen a parent's ability to manage stress, learning about their child's needs, increase their social supports, and access resources and services in the community via one on one case management or groups. Koa's favorite part of her job is seeing the growth families experience when they are encouraged and supported. Her approach is strengths based, reminding families they are greater than their circumstances.

Koa considers herself privileged to have the opportunity to support parents and families daily. Although there are challenges, she embraces them as opportunities to be creative in partnering with families to address their needs. Koa shows up to work every day because she loves to teach. When clients express their appreciation for the work that she and her team do, it spurs them on to continue. A client recently sent her a text referring to the parenting class the client was enrolled in, "Thank you Koa. I'm really grateful it's you guys teaching the class or I wouldn't have signed up for another session. LOL. You can tell you guys teach from [your] hearts and not just a paycheck.

You guys are appreciated. " Comments like these make all the difference to Koa and her team.

The CFSC is a designated Child Abuse Prevention Center accredited by the National Exchange Clubs. The affiliation has enhanced the service delivery to families due to their parent aid model and financial support to meet families' critical needs.

Looking towards the future, Koa is now pursuing her goal to become a licensed social worker in the state of Massachusetts.