



Maureen Dee

Maureen was born and raised in Uruguay, South America, and has dedicated her career to serving and strengthening the Hispanic community. She earned a Master's in Social Science Administration (MSSA) from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (CWRU/MSASS) in 1978 and an MBA from Cleveland State University (CSU) in 1985.

Maureen spent 41 years with Catholic Charities Services in Cleveland, retiring as Executive Director in 2019. Throughout her career, she developed and led programs serving adolescents and adults with alcohol and other drug concerns. She became a recognized expert in substance use treatment and prevention and ultimately oversaw Catholic Charities' behavioral health programs throughout Cuyahoga County, including four Matt Talbot residential treatment centers and nine outpatient sites.

A strong advocate for culturally responsive services, Maureen helped establish Ohio's first Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (Hispanic UMADAOP), initially housed within Catholic Charities and later established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization under the leadership of Miguel Prieto. She also helped launch Hispanic Alliance, Inc., a consortium of Hispanic-serving organizations dedicated to collaboration and strengthening resources for the Hispanic community. In addition, she was instrumental in securing the zoning and funding for Hispanic UMADAOP's Casa ALMA residential treatment center for Latinos, the first of its kind in Ohio.

Maureen has served on numerous state and county strategic planning and advisory committees. Her service has included the Ohio Recovery Council under Governor Richard Celeste, which helped lay the groundwork for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS); eight years on the Ohio Chemical Dependency Credentialing Board, now the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board; and participation in the development of adolescent criteria for determining appropriate levels of treatment care, a precursor to the ASAM criteria. She also served on the Cuyahoga County Service Coordination Team under the Families and Children First Council, coordinating child placements for the Department of Children and Family Services and Juvenile Court. Her extensive committee and collaborative work has focused on advancing alcohol and other drug addiction and mental health treatment and prevention, particularly for adolescents and minority populations.

Maureen currently serves on the Hispanic Roundtable and on the governing boards of Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center (NLURC), LATINA, Inc., The MetroHealth Foundation, the Brittingham Memorial Medical Library at MetroHealth, and the CWRU Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Alumni Board. She volunteers at the CWRU School of Medicine, mentors MSASS students through its Leadership Fellows Program, and mentors a first-generation, college-bound Hispanic student through College Now who transitioned from the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD).

Maureen's career reflects a lifelong commitment to leadership, advocacy, and expanding access to culturally responsive health and social services for the Hispanic community and other underserved populations.