

## **Emily D. Iland, M.A.**



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**Independent bilingual consultant offering  
trainings, presentations, materials and project development  
in autism, safety, underserved communities,  
and numerous other topics**

### **Education**

- California State University, Northridge. Post-Master's Certificate in Educational Therapy, 2012.
- California State University, Northridge. Master's Degree in Special Education with distinction, focus in Educational Therapy, May, 2007.
- Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. B.A. degree summa cum laude. Double Major: Political Science and Spanish, year at the University of Madrid.
- Certified PATH and MAPS planner, June 2016.
- Santa Clarita/College of the Canyons Community Leadership Program, 2003.

### **Employment**

- President of Emily Iland, Inc., 2003-present. Independent contractor providing consultation, curriculum development, program development and training for parents, organizations, and government agencies.
- President, Camino Cinema, 2013-present. Creator of BE SAFE The Movie and BE SAFE Teaching Edition that teach teens and adults with special needs how to interact safely with the police.
- Part-time Faculty, 2010-2012. California State University, Northridge Department of Special Education.
- Professional Speaker, 2003-Present. Presents conference sessions and full-day trainings on a variety of topics in Spanish and English, in the U.S. and abroad.
- Educational Advocate, 2003-2009. Specializing in autism spectrum disorders, bilingual advocacy services, and family support.

## **Major Projects**

- ***Come to Life: Your Guide to Self-Discovery.*** (July, 2017). Book that helps teens and adults with disabilities discover important truths about themselves. This prequel to formal transition planning helps youth actively participate in the process and shape their futures. Co-authored by self-advocate Tom Iland.
- ***iVen a la Vida!*** Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento (October, 2017) in print and e-book. Spanish version of ***Come to Life: Your Guide to Self-Discovery.***
- **BE SAFE The Movie,** 2013. Author and producer of video modeling DVD that shows teens and adults how to interact safely with the police
- **BE SAFE Teaching Edition,** 2014. Author and producer of companion curriculum for BE SAFE The Movie, which includes more than 300 pages of differentiated activities, materials, goals and resources to help a wide range of learners master the key safety skills of BE SAFE.
- **CUÍDATE: Guía de Enseñanza,** 2014. Author/lead translator of the Spanish-language edition of BE SAFE Teaching Edition.
- **Experience Autism®,** 2013-present. Created unique hands-on experiential learning workshop to help police and first responders understand and respond to individuals with ASD, now validated as an evidence-based, effective practice by independent researchers in 2015. Inspired by custom training designed for the Los Angeles Police Department in 2006. Available via consulting contract to other agencies.

## **Major Consulting Contracts**

- **Uniquely Abled Project, Upcoming-** Create curriculum for social skills training and job readiness skills for uniquely abled youth with ASD. Co-produce training videos for employers and instructors.
- **University of Texas, Austin, 2020-** Edit and assist with the dissemination of the Parents Taking Action Curriculum in English and Spanish.
- **Parents Taking Action,** 2014-present. Assistant to Primary Investigators in randomized, controlled study funded by the US Department of Education testing the effectiveness of a new autism education protocol for Spanish-speaking parents of newly diagnosed children with autism. Co-author of curriculum and lead trainer of parent mentors.
- **Uniquely Abled Academy, 2018.** Provided social skills training and job readiness skills to youth with ASD. Curriculum is based on the book, *Come to Life! Your Guide to Self-Discovery* by Iland & Iland, along with other specially developed content.
- **Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG),** 2016-2019. Developed and implemented integrated training program for the AACOG law enforcement academy. The program includes self-advocates who assist in training officers, mentorship by trained officers who help youth and adults with disabilities in the community learn to interact safely with police.
- **Mission Possible,** 2010-2016. Project manager for the Autism Society of Los Angeles, partnering with the Los Angeles Police Department. Created experiential learning activities and materials to teach young people with autism how to interact safely with the police. Project awarded City of Los Angeles 2013 Quality and Productivity Improvement Award.

- **Tierra del Sol Foundation**, 2010-2013. Developed and presented ongoing training for 230 staff working with adults with autism and developmental disabilities across the spectrum in home, community, and academic settings. Provide consultation and recommendations for specific client needs.
- **University of Wisconsin, Madison**, 2009-present. Co-author of curriculum for Spanish-speaking parents, *By Understanding Autism, I Can Better Understand My Child*. This project, using the culturally-competent promotora model, raises awareness of child development milestones and provides personalized autism support to an underserved community.
- **National Inclusion Project**, 2009-2010. Developed curricular material for inclusive service learning in camp and recreation settings, *LEAP Forward: Learn. Experience. Achieve. Play. A Service Learning Curriculum to Foster Greater Inclusion*.
- **Fiesta Educativa**, 2006-2013. Developed and presented autism education curriculum for parents of newly-diagnosed children, in English and Spanish.
- **Bubel-Aiken Foundation**, 2006-2008. Development of *Together We Make a Difference* Inclusive Service Learning (ISL) curricula for elementary, junior high and high school students.
- **University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration**, 2001-2005. California State Representative of the *Yes I Can* Program for Social Inclusion. Provided support and training to junior high and high school staff to implement the model inclusion program.
- **Custom Webinars 2007-present** include Cultural Competence for Easter Seals National Office, Play Development for Lekotek, Safety Skills for Autism Now.

### Experience

- **Public Member, LA Found Task Force (previously BOLOH Task Force, Bring Our Loved Ones Home), Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**, 2017-Present. Provide input and expertise for committee formed at the behest of the LA County Board of Supervisors to address wandering and vulnerable missing persons.
- **Senate Select Committee Taskforce on Equity and Diversity**, 2012-2013. Statewide leader making policy and legislative recommendations promoting equity for underserved communities and cultural competence to work with diverse families in the Regional Center System.
- **Senate Select Committee on Autism**, 2009-2012. Chairman of the North Los Angeles work group on education and employment for adults with autism spectrum disorders. Also addressing issues of diagnosis, insurance, eligibility and access to appropriate services and supports.
- **Subject Matter Expert, State of California POST Autism Awareness Training Video**, Spring 2009 (Peace Officer Standards and Training). Selected as 1 of 8 civilians to help create the law enforcement training materials on autism for the state of California, mandated by SB1513.
- **California Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism**, 2007. Member of the Transition Task Force drafting state legislative recommendations for teens and adults with autism, including SB1513 mandating creation of autism awareness materials for law enforcement organizations.

- **Program developer, project manager, and lead trainer** of the Autism Society-Los Angeles Police Department Autism Awareness Training, 2007-2014. Providing training for Los Angeles Police Department Officers, to recognize and respond effectively to individuals with autism. More than 4,000 trained to date.
- **Board of Directors, Autism Society of America Los Angeles Chapter.** President 2007-2013. Leadership position from 2006.
- **Founding member and Chairman of C.L.E.A.R., Community and Law Enforcement Aware Response,** 2003-present; Project Manager effective 2008. Created a computerized Special Needs Registry to assist the public served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, Santa Clarita Station, recognized in 2011 as a ***national model*** by the Department of Homeland Security. Train Santa Clarita Valley Sheriffs to recognize and respond to individuals with autism.
- **Founding Member, Board of Directors, Santa Clarita Autism Asperger Network (SCAAN).** Leader and advocate in local autism support group, 1995-present. Provide support for families and encourage collaboration with autism groups, and support organizations and service providers.
- **Volunteer Consultant** 2004-2012, to the City of Santa Clarita Parks and Recreation Department regarding the inclusion of children with disabilities in Parks and Rec programs.
- **Grant writer** for non-profit groups 2000-present; awarded more than \$120,000 for educational projects, safety training, and social inclusion initiatives.

### **Books**

- ***Come to Life! Your Guide to Self-Discovery Helping Youth with Autism and Learning Differences Shape Their Future*** by Thomas W. Iland and Emily D. Iland. This engaging, interactive books helps youth discover important truths about themselves to help them drive their lives forward. Includes an explanation of Tom’s mantra: Know Yourself. Love Yourself. Be Yourself. (Porterville Press, 2017).
- ***iVen a la Vida! Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento: Ayudar a los jóvenes con autismo y diferencias de aprendizaje labrar sus futuros*** by Thomas W. Iland and Emily D. Iland. Spanish translation of ***Come to Life!***, translated by author Emily Iland (Porterville Press, 2017).
- ***iVen a la Vida! Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento: Ayudar a los jóvenes con autismo y diferencias de aprendizaje labrar sus futuros*** ebook version, by Thomas W. Iland and Emily D. Iland. Economical format for worldwide distribution to the Spanish-speaking community. (Porterville Press, 2017).
- ***Drawing A Blank***, scholarly and practical information on reading comprehension and autism (Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2011).
- ***Autism Spectrum Disorders from A to Z***, with Barbara T. Doyle (Future Horizons, 2004).
- ***Los Trastornos del Espectro de Autismo de la A a la Z*** (Translator and publisher of the Spanish version of *Autism Spectrum Disorders from A to Z* (Emily Iland, Inc., 2005).

### **Book Chapters**

- ***Padres en Acción: A parent education program for Latino parents of children with ASD.*** Co-author with Magaña, Machalicek & Lopez of chapter in

*Evidence-based Parent Training for Parents of Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism* (Jessica Kingsley, 2018).

- **Meeting the needs of students with autism spectrum disorder.** In W. W. Murawski & K. L. Scott (Eds.), *What really works in elementary education: Research-based practical strategies for every teacher.* (Corwin Press, 2015).
- **Meeting the needs of students with autism spectrum disorder.** In W. W. Murawski & K. L. Scott (Eds.), *What really works in secondary education: Research-based practical strategies for every teacher.* (Corwin Press, 2015).

### **Publications**

- Magaña, S., Lopez, K., Salkas, K., Iland, E., Morales, M. A., Garcia Torres, M., Zeng, W. & Machalicek, W., A Randomized Waitlist-Control Group Study of a Culturally Tailored Parent Education Intervention for Latino Parents of Children with ASD. (Jan 1 2019, Accepted/In press) In: *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.*
- Lopez, K., Magaña, S., Morales, M., & Iland, E. (2019). Parents taking action: Reducing disparities through a culturally informed intervention for Latinx parents of children with autism. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work.*
- Magaña, S., Machalicek, Lopez, K. & Iland, E. Padres en Acción: A Parent Education Program for Latino Parents of Children with ASD in *A Guide to Programs for Parenting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disabilities or Developmental Disabilities: Evidence-based Guide for Professionals* (2018, Jessica Kingsley Publishers).
- Iland, E. No more Asperger's? What educational therapists need to know about the changes in the DSM-V. *The Educational Therapist Journal* (Spring 2013).
- Iland, E., Weiner, I., & Murawski, W.W. (2012). Obstacles Faced by Latina Mothers of Children with Autism. *Californian Journal of Health Promotion, Special Issue: Health Disparities in Latino Communities* (10), 25-36.
- Magaña, S., Iland, E., Wroblewski, N., Paradiso, R., & Machalicek, W. (2010). By understanding autism I can better understand my child: Manual for Latino families of children with ASD. (University of Wisconsin-Madison, Waisman Center).
- Contributing author (2004 to the present) to multiple autism-related publications such as *The Advocate* (Autism Society of America), *The Autism Perspective*, and *Autism Asperger Digest*.

### **Thesis**

- *Half a Chance is Not Enough- Obstacles Faced by Latina Mothers of Children with Autism*, 2007. Largest study to date in the US asking Latina Mothers about the challenges they personally experienced after the diagnosis of their child.
- Presentation of thesis, National Social Science Association Conference, Las Vegas, and Autism Symposium, Universidad del Este, San Juan Puerto Rico, April 2009.

### **Awards and Recognition**

- Marquette University National Alumni Award Nominee, 2020
- Autism Hero Award from the Anna Kennedy Online Charity, October 2018

- Foreward Book Awards Book of the Year for *Come to Life! Your Guide to Self-Discovery Helping Youth with Autism and Learning Differences Shape Their Future*, March 2018.
- National Parenting Products Award for *Come to Life!* and *¡Ven a la Vida! Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento: Ayudar a los jóvenes con autismo y diferencias de aprendizaje labrar sus futuros*, March 2018.
- Mom's Choice Award for Excellence, for *Come to Life!* and *¡Ven a la Vida! Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento: Ayudar a los jóvenes con autismo y diferencias de aprendizaje labrar sus futuros* (book and ebook), February 2018.
- International Latino Book Awards, 5 awards for *¡Ven a la Vida! Tu guía al auto-descubrimiento: Ayudar a los jóvenes con autismo y diferencias de aprendizaje labrar sus futuros* including Most Inspirational Young Adult Book, Nonfiction Best Self-help Book, Best Young Adult eBook, Best eBook – Nonfiction and Best Chapter/Young Adult Book Translation - English to Spanish, April 2018
- Helen Putnam Award of Excellence from the League of California Cities recognizing outstanding achievement and innovative solutions for the Santa Clarita Special Needs Registry, June, 2016.
- Los Angeles Police Department Recognition for creating the Department's Autism Awareness Programs and eight years of service to LAPD, April 2015.
- Autism Society of America, "Spirit of Supporting Autism Understanding Award" (with Autism Society of Los Angeles) for Mission Possible/ Los Angeles Police Department Training, 2013.
- California State Legislature, Recognition for leadership and contribution to the Senate Select Committee Taskforce on Equity and Diversity, 2012.
- Vista del Mar Award for "Creating programs that promote community awareness of autism," 2012.
- California Emergency Services Association, Southern Chapter Diamond Award for the Santa Clarita Special Needs Registry, September, 2011.
- Department of Homeland Security, Recognition of the SCV Special Needs Registry as a national model, March, 2011.
- Centers for Disease Control Know the Signs. Act Early. Partner Spotlight, 2008.
- Los Angeles Police Commission Recognition Award May, 2008.
- Nathan O. Friedman Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, California State University Northridge, 2007.
- International Latino Book Awards- Best Health Book 2006 (*Autismo A-Z*).
- Exceptional Parent Magazine Symbol of Excellence 2007(*Autismo A-Z & ASD A-Z*).
- Outstanding Literary Work of 2006, Autism Society of America (*Autismo A-Z*).
- City of Santa Clarita Community Service Award, 2005.
- William S. Hart District School Board Recognition Award, 2002.
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1979.

### **Professional and Non-Profit Affiliations**

- Uniquely Abled Academy Project, College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita CA
- Lifetime member, ISLA, International Society of Latino Authors (Spanish-language author)
- Association of Educational Therapists
- Autism Society of America

- Autism Society of Los Angeles
- Council for Exceptional Children

### **Community service**

- City of Santa Clarita Human Relations Forum, 2000-2013.
- Stakeholder, City of Santa Clarita Emergency Mass Care & Shelter Plan.

### **Media**

- Extensive coverage of BE SAFE on radio, press and internet, including National Public Radio, see Media at [www.BeSafeTheMovie.com](http://www.BeSafeTheMovie.com).
- Live interviews on Spanish-language television for autism awareness on Telemundo, Univision and Mexican television.
- Radio Host for Autism One Radio, 2004-2014, in English and Spanish.
- Subject of numerous newspaper articles profiling projects and contributions to the field of autism, including the *Los Angeles Times*.
- Websites: [www.BeSafeTheMovie.com](http://www.BeSafeTheMovie.com), [www.asdAtoZ.com](http://www.asdAtoZ.com)  
[www.ReadingAutism.com](http://www.ReadingAutism.com) [www.emilyiland.com](http://www.emilyiland.com) and [www.elAutismo.org](http://www.elAutismo.org)