NAME: ANABELEN DIAZ  
DISCIPLINE: FAMILY TRAINEE

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:
My little sister is diagnosed with a learning disability and ADHD. The experiences my family and I have had with the nonexistent mental health system led me to take psychology classes in undergrad to get a better understanding of mental health. I have never worked directly in the field of disabilities but I took a class called From Madness to Mental Illness. This class taught me the policies behind the mental health system and reassured me that going down the social work path is my ideal career.

Goals for your LEND training experience:
I am looking forward to learning about the other trainee’s experiences and their passion for the field of disabilities. I am also hoping to learn more about how we can work collaboratively to continuing advocating for mental health especially under the current administration. My dream is to give mental health the attention it deserves and to provide services and resources for communities of color.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as a professional/family member in the field:
I will be applying to graduate school for my MPH/MSW degree. I would like to continue advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities and get more involved in the policies that affect these individuals. I am also hoping to bring mental health awareness and resources to the Westside of Chicago.