

Candace Diep, Executive Director

Candace brings a wealth of experience in consulting, project management, and operations to her role as Executive Director at the BIST. With an educational background in commerce, learning development, and grant writing, she applies her skills and knowledge to help BIST continue to aid survivors of brain injury and their families.

As a caregiver herself, Candace has seen firsthand the positive and life-changing effects of programs that support brain injury survivors and their families, and she understands the importance of advocacy and education during the recovery process.

Ruby Loñoza-Barbonetti, RSW, MSW

Ruby is a registered social worker who leads service navigation and program planning at the BIST. She has worked across various sectors of social services, but her true passion lies in community organizing and working alongside community members with hidden disabilities.

Ruby is dedicated to working with individuals to identify their goals and strengths, while also helping to reduce barriers and social isolation. She is committed to connecting people with resources and programs so they can focus on what matters most: recovery, quality of life, and meaningful social connection. Her approach is grounded in a strong commitment to intersectional social justice.