



## **Brandee Izquierdo**

**Executive Director  
SAFE Project  
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Brandee Izquierdo is the executive director at SAFE Project. Her drive and determination are built on making an impact within behavioral health, promoting long-term recovery and ensuring that communities are educated and have the tools necessary to combat the addiction epidemic. Before leading the SAFE Project team, Izquierdo worked for Faces & Voices of Recovery as the director of advocacy and outreach. In addition, she served as the associate director of special populations with Behavioral Health System Baltimore and as the director of consumer affairs for the state of Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration. In these leadership roles, Izquierdo led advocacy efforts to expand access to behavioral health services and recovery support services while providing technical assistance both nationally and internationally, empowering others within the recovery movement. Her ability to build relationships and bridge gaps within behavioral health, community services and criminal justice have been a catalyst for global peer expansion. As a subject matter expert with Center for Social Innovation, Policy Research Associates, SAMHSA, and the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC), Izquierdo has made vast contributions within behavioral health and within the recovery movement around public policy, outreach and workforce development. Additionally, she has made a significant impact within the judicial system, advocating for access to treatment and recovery and is the principal investigator of Maryland and Virginia's Integrated-Forensic Peer Recovery Specialist curriculum. Izquierdo holds a bachelor's degree in government and public policy, a master's degree in public administration and a doctorate degree in public administration with an emphasis on organizational change management.