



The Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia (HHCGA) recently hosted a Latino Health Summit which featured national and state key leaders in healthcare. The event successfully brought together a wealth of expertise and commitment and included almost 100 providers, academics, agency and governmental representatives and community grassroots leaders. Funded by a grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, the Summit agenda was guided by recommendations from a National Council of La Raza (NCLR) report describing obstacles faced by Latinos seeking healthcare in the state. The two-day event was facilitated by two dynamite volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Sonia Alvarez-Robinson and Ariella Dominguez.

These two days in February, 2009 were full of energy and passion as key leaders took on the challenge of writing a three year action plan for health which addresses the myriad challenges of serving a population that is both vibrant and marginalized.

Over the next year, HHCGA will report back to the membership on the progress of the Action Plan. Opening the "healthcare door" to Latinos ensures their fuller integration into our community and their optimal capacity to contribute to the future growth and prosperity of our state.

*We express our sincere appreciation to our Latino Health Summit sponsors:*

Lilly USA, LLC; American Cancer Society; PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC; St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services; American Heart Association; The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory Rollins School of Public Health

## GANGS AND LATINO YOUTH IN GEORGIA

Georgia is the ninth most populous state in the nation (<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/09s0013.xls>) with approximately 9,363,941 residents (<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/13000.html>). The Atlanta metropolitan area is one of the country's leading destinations for immigrants and has become a city of ethnic diversity. Consequently, it is easier for members of foreign drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and criminal groups to blend with the population to avoid law enforcement detection.

According to law enforcement estimates, there are 58 gangs with over 1,950 members in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Hispanic and African American gangs are the most prevalent in and around Atlanta. Generally, gangs in Georgia are not affiliated with large, nationally recognized street gangs in other U.S. cities; however, some gangs in Georgia including Bloods and Crips are two of the largest and most violent associations of criminal street gangs in the U.S. The membership of both gangs is primarily African American. Gangster Disciples is the largest of the Chicago-based street gangs and its membership is primarily African American; Latin Kings (also known as Almighty Latin Kings Nation) is a predominantly Hispanic street and prison gang with two major factions, one in Chicago and one in the northeast. Vice Lords, one of the largest and most violent associations of criminal street gangs in the United States, is based in Chicago. Its membership is predominantly African American do have national affiliations.

Two of the most important groups in the Atlanta area are:

Sureños 13 - is a major Hispanic street gang in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Its members distribute cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine. They also commit assault, auto theft, drive-by shooting, and homicide. Law enforcement reports indicate that Sureños 13 in Atlanta identifies itself as a gang rather than an alliance of gangs, as is the case with Sureños 13 in Southern California. There are no reports to indicate that Sureños 13 in Atlanta is associated with the Sureños 13 alliance of gangs in Southern California.

La Gran Familia is one of the primary Hispanic street gangs in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Its members distribute cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine and engage in violent criminal activity including assault, auto theft, drive-by shooting, and homicide. In Atlanta La Gran Familia is an alliance of predominantly Hispanic street gangs. Gangs identified with La Gran Familia alliance in Atlanta include Vatos Locos, Pachucos, Latin Kings, Riverside, 18th Street, East Side Locos, La Raza, Aztecas, and Matildos 13.



Source: U.S. Department of Justice – National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) - <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3669/overview.htm>

## HHCGA "Salud Hispana" AWARD CEREMONY 2009

Under the framework of the Latino Health Summit, HHCGA was proud to honor **Dr. Pierluigi Mancini** with the "Salud Hispana 2009" Award for his tireless dedication to helping people in Georgia seek help from mental illness and recover from addiction, bringing awareness and understanding to the Latino community and the community in general regarding these devastating illnesses through prevention and education programs, direct counseling services, and advocacy.

Since the inception of the HHCGA, Dr. Mancini has been a strong supporter and member, and he currently serves on the Board of Directors as Vice-President. He is the founder and Executive Director of CETPA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable, linguistic and culturally appropriate behavioral health services to the Latino community in Georgia. CETPA is the only Latino behavioral health agency in Georgia to earn state licensing and national accreditation for providing integrated services in both English and Spanish. He also serves on the Governor's Advisory Council for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Disease; is the current Chairman of the State of Georgia Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council; and has recently been appointed to the Grady Health Systems Board of Directors.

The HHCGA is extremely fortunate to have such a passionate and effective advocate for those in the community who struggle with these mental health issues. The organization is thrilled to be able to honor Dr. Mancini and his incredible efforts over these many years for the HHCGA and the community.

**April 2009**

**World Health Organization Anniversary**

**Global Health Celebration**

**Minority Health Month**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday, May 11, 2009**  
11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Literacy: How Literacy Affects Your Health & Community**

DeKalb County Public Library  
215 Sycamore Street  
Decatur, GA 30030

## GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE—March 2009

Georgians for a Healthy Future, a new 501(c)(3) formed to address the healthcare policy issues of the state, is the result of 2 years of conversation and discussion among a diverse group of healthcare advocates across the state. The purpose of the organization is to build and mobilize a unified voice, vision and leadership to achieve a healthy future for all Georgians through research, education and advocacy. The organization has been incorporated, has received start-up funds of \$250,000 from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, and will soon receive additional funding from the Public Welfare Foundation. They are currently embarking on the search for an Executive Director. The initiating board is composed of:

**Mindy Binderman:** Advocacy Director for Voices for Georgia's Children

**Sylvia Caley:** Director and Lead Attorney of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP)


**Julie Edelson:** Public Policy and Legislative Consultant

**Jeffery Graham:** Executive Director of Georgia Equality and the Equality Foundation of Georgia

**Susy Martorell:** Social Worker for Grady Health System and President of the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, Inc. (HHCGA)

**Scott Mathews:** Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society in Georgia

**Patricia Nobbie:** Deputy Director, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities



**NEW MAILING ADDRESS!**

**HHCGA**  
P.O. Box 450005  
Atlanta GA 31145

To become a member of HHCGA, go out website at [www.hhcga.org](http://www.hhcga.org)