



Status Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia

By Olga L. Jimenez



Dear Coalition Members:

Perhaps you are wondering about what is going on since my last communication with you earlier this year. This past year has been extremely difficult in general for the state, corporate sector and not to mention the non-profit organizations. We all in one way or the other have been touched by these rough times.

I would like to brief you on some of the happenings of the coalition:

- We were able to secure a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation to build the coalition's capacity in the amount of \$60,000.
- We also received notification from the Kaiser Foundation to conduct a pilot to increase the number of Latina women who obtain prenatal care on or before the 12 weeks of pregnancy by 10%.
- We successfully complete the work that we agreed to do

through the Healthcare Georgia Foundation and the final report is being sent to the organization.

- Our Organization Development and Fundraising Committee have taken the first steps to approach the corporate sector seeking support. They have taken the first in approaching Diaz Foods, the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and will continue to do so. Both Diaz Foods and the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are lending their resources to support us. More of this later.
- We have engaged Mr. Daniel Vargas from Dan Vargas & Amigos and Mr. Roberto Gomez from Vertis Communications to help us put an innovative Marketing Plan that will give the organization the visibility it deserves. Both Mr. Vargas and Mr. Gomez come with great knowledge and experience to lend us the support that we need to make the work we are doing known. We are thrilled that they have agreed to serve in our Advisory Board.
- Through the Pro-Bono Lawyers of Georgia we were able to get a lawyer to review our By-Laws and assist us with the development of some important organizational policies. We will present and vote on the new By-Laws in our quarterly meeting in July.
- Despite the new grant awards, we are continuing to operate on low maintenance while we deal with some chal-

lenging staff issues. Even though this was not in our plans, it has provided us with the opportunity to strategically make some changes to better position our organization.

The Board of Directors has had to deal and made tough decisions to keep afloat the organization. The Board is working really hard to evaluate the situation, to take the necessary steps to make sure the organization's work will continue.

So as your President, I want to reassure that the organization will come through bright and shiny. More than ever before, we need your support, your talents and time. Please get involved! Ask a board member or our Executive Director how you can be involved. Together we can make this organization to soar to new seas!

Olga Lucia Jimenez
President, Board of Directors
Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia

HISPANIC HEALTH COALITION OF GEORGIA, INC.
HHCGA QUARTERLY WRAP UP

HHCGA Medical Director Received an Award

Dr. Flavia Mercado, Co-Founder and Medical Director of the Department Of Multicultural Affairs at Grady Health System and also the Medical Director of the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia was honored with the "Outstanding Community Leadership, Service and Commitment" Award given by the Latino American Association at a luncheon this past April 22. Her dedication and commitment to the community, to her patients and to the coalition makes her the best recipient for this award. Congratulations Flavia! We are very proud and grateful to have you as part of the organization!

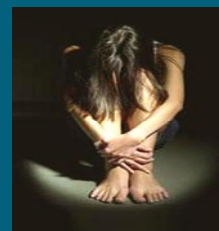


Elaborated by
HHCGA Advocacy
Committee

The Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia's vision is to empower the Hispanic/Latino community to achieve optimum health and well-being.

MAY IS

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



JUNE IS

MEN'S HEALTH MONTH



OUR MISSION

To promote health policies in Georgia that improves access to health services for all Hispanic/Latino children and adults.

HHCGA Latino Health Action Plan

by Mayira Buiting, MS

A Collaborative effort to Improve Access to Healthcare Services for Latinos in Georgia

April is here and with that is the end of our last quarter period of the first year of the Latino Action Plan as well as the end of our Healthcare Georgia Foundation Grant, which we hope is only a temporary end and that we would be able to reapply for and to receive a new grant to proceed with the activities we initiated and start new ones.

I also don't want to pass this opportunity to express on behalf of the HHCGA and myself, our appreciation for all our collaborators and partners for your support, sharing of knowledge and ideas, energy, and dedication carrying out the many actions in the implementation of this first year of the Action Plan. We feel so honored to be working with you and look forward to continuing to have your support and collaboration in this effort to improve access to healthcare services for Latino/Hispanic in Georgia.

The following is a summary of the activities accomplished during February-April period:

WG1 - Cultural and Linguistic Access

HHCGA partnered with The National Center for Primary Care, Morehouse School of Medicine in the development of *Diversidades: Caring for Hispanic/Latino Patients*© workshop; favorable commentary will likely lead to a repeat workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to sensitize clinicians to various cultural issues, values, and health-seeking behaviors which may influence the provider-patient interaction when caring for a diverse mix of Hispanic or Latino patients.

WG2 - Health Equity Advocacy

During this legislative session House Bill 955 was introduced, sponsored by Rep. Pedro Marin and Rep. Pat Gardner. HB 955 was entitled an act to amend Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, so as to authorize the Department of Community Health to seek federal funds to provide medical assistance and health care bene-

fits to lawfully qualified resident children and pregnant women under Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program; and to provide eligibility for lawfully qualified residents under Medicaid and PeachCare. http://ga.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009_10/su/m/hb955.htm

This bill is related to the HHCGA policy agenda to eliminate the 5 year waiting period for medical assistance for lawfully qualified children and pregnant women in GA. Even though due to budget restrictions this bill didn't advance very much, WG2 will continue educating Georgian constituents and decision makers on the importance of the elimination of this 5 year waiting period.

In partnership with Georgia Legal Services Program and with additional funding from a grant from the Fund for Southern Communities, and AstraZeneca, HHCGA organized and held the Dialogue on Health Equity in Hall County, where we shared with a group of local advocates, community educators, physicians, and health providers some of the successful examples of collaboration of the Action Plan and heard about their efforts to improve access to health services for Latinos in Hall County.

The Birth Certificate Initiative has revamped its commitment and is meeting again this month with Ken Bramlett, State Director of the Office Vital Record (OVR).

WG3 - Resources, Data, and Research

HHCGA maintains ongoing collaboration with the Department of Community Health's Reducing Low Birth Weight Rates Project.

WG4 - Development of "Promotoras de Salud" and Patient Medical Home Model

HHCGA is excited to announce that our

Executive Director received two HHCGA grants:

1- A Kaiser Permanente Foundation grant to create incentives and promote Prenatal Care Services to Latinos/Hispanics in Gwinnett County using *Promotoras de Salud*.

2- A one-year general support grant from the Public Welfare Foundation to "lend even more credibility with other funders and support the very fine work of the HHCGA, as it implements its Latino Health Action Plan within the community, and as it begins to serve as a statewide voice for Hispanics and Latinos", in particular keeping "progress in promoting medical homes and coordinated care, which should not only produce better health outcomes but also lower health care cost."



Public Welfare Foundation Grant Awarded to HHCGA

We will continue to serve as the statewide voice for Hispanics and Latinos in Georgia and focus on better outcomes with medical homes and coordinated care.



We Invite New Members to Join The Hispanic Health Coalition

Visit our web page to become a
member

<http://www.hhcga.org>

NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

Our new mailing address is:

HHCGA

P.O. Box 450005

Atlanta GA 31145