**Latino Health Council**

**February 22, 2024**

Meditation and Introductions: 9:30-10:02

**Announcements**

*Fernando* – Open positions at RISE. Bilingual Family Support Specialist (direct services) and Respite Center Program Supervisor (24/7 Program): <https://risewisconsin.org/employment/current-opportunities/>

*Lucia* – Jhonatan Real Merino transitioned to a new legal role. They are hiring for a helpline supervisor (bilingual position). Women Survivor of Domestic Violence and Trafficking support group is starting and Sexual Health Awareness Month starts in April.

*Nick* – Sarah and Nick both attending LHC meetings in alternating months. Recent case win regarding Emergency Medicaid through the Well Woman Program – the State must provide emergency services under every Medicaid program and immigration status cannot be the only barrier to eligibility

*Shiva* – Primary care access available for all uninsured kids in MMSD. Every student is assigned to a clinic. Contact the school nurse to get assigned to a clinic. This covers urgent care, formulary/prescriptions, and emergency care.

Actual Emergency MA coverage differs vs. what is written. Continuing efforts to advocate for additional coverage.

UW Health has opened the Compass Clinic (above Wingra), which provides care for opioid addiction. It is a walk-in clinic, open to everyone regardless of insurance. Program is meant to help transition patients to longer term care/services, including detox facilities. Plenty of availability at the moment.

Financial Assistance is available across all UW Health facilities

*Kari* – Spanish live classes for expecting parents at UnityPoint. Covers childbirth, infant care, and breastfeeding over 4 weeks. First series will start next Thursday (2/29). They are looking to increase outreach and the number of participants. Tuition assistance is available. Spanish grandparent class (which provides updates on infant care guidelines – including on car seats, feeding guidelines, and safe sleep) to come. Dr. Tellez and Shiva want to connect to ensure materials are culturally appropriate. Other programs on this topic also exist, including the UW Health child safety team, RISE Welcome Baby, and Early Head Start: <https://www.unitypoint.org/patients-and-visitors/classes-and-events/madison/family-health>

*Tyson* – Clinica Latina has a new fulltime mental health bilingual mental health therapist, Jennifer. Open to referrals. Call intake line: 608-280-2720

*Laura* – Research project on describing the experiences of Latinos with Parkinson’s, their caregivers, and the impact of exercise/physical activity. Looking to recruit participants in WI, IL, MO. Involvement will include 2 remote interviews, lasting about 1-2 hours. Participants will be compensated a total $125.

Only 28 Latino patients with PD at UW Health in past 5 years implies there is a big access issue to PD care. Goal is to advocate for more physical activity programming within care plans for PD patients. Materials can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11Tl5RAkIy-mX1Kexfe16OB8T36uUKR3j>. Contact: [lprieto@wisc.edu](mailto:lprieto@wisc.edu)

Suggestions for recruitment included contacting Access to Independence and The ARC

Study is IRB approved so Shiva mentioned that local patients will be referred to UW Health and demographic info can be pulled.

*General* - Need more Presenters for upcoming LHC meetings (August and September still open)

**Updates**

*Covid* – reminder that the dashboard is a respiratory illness dashboard (not just covid). Flu and RSV are included. Covid numbers are currently low. “Take Action” option directs you to the CDC website. <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/dashboard>

PHMDC’s covid mobile vaccination clinics are wrapping as the last date is March 1. Covid is a year-round issue, not a seasonal virus. Flu season will end around April or May. Vaccines still available on South Park St. and East Washington Ave. UW Health also has drive through clinic option for all immunizations on the east side (John Wall Drive Thru Clinic)

*Air Quality* – First open house for Latinx community was held a couple weeks ago. About 40 people showed up and there will be 2nd open house in the future. The city displayed monitors and how they work. Only two are currently placed in Madison. Placement of future monitors was discussed. Community members were very engaged in giving feedback and asking questions.

*Collaboration* – LHC is working with NewBridge leadership to ensure elderly members of the community are getting the services they need.

*Mentorship* – PALMA and LMSA engagement is up, and students are increasing their involvement.

**Presentations**

*Martha and Access*

Creation of the Latino Patient Advisory Council. The Council meets every 2 months. Patients give their perspectives of how the community will receive proposed programs. Feedback goes to the Board of Directors and then the communication loop is closed to let the advisory council how Access will be moving forward.

500 new patients served in the past year - including dental patients through the Celebrate Smiles Program. Program has mostly been going to middles schools. This past month (in February) the program added one high school (Capital High).

They are attempting to address issues of provider turnover. Challenges of finding and retaining regular medical and dental assistants. They are offering an 8-12 week training to become a dental assistant (a high school diploma is required). This could be a pipeline for MA training.

Fernando has been on the Board of Access for almost 2 years. He says Access has realized the increased need for medical, behavioral, and dental health services. Access is one of the only care options for new arrivals to the country.

Future growth is expected. The current staff of 90 people isn’t enough to meet demand. Discussion currently happening with city about building facilities on the south side and maybe the east side

Current internal discussions happening on how Access can grow from within and promote staff and increase mentoring. Recently a behavioral health receptionist was promoted and trained to become a behavioral health coordinator. They are also supporting her to get her Masters degree.

Board is also working through internal DEI issues and creating new positions. Access just hired two new Latinx physicians. Both trained with Dr. Tellez. 3rd doctor also trained with Dr. Tellez and is bilingual. The Board is serious about how to retain residents. Fernando is pushing for bilingual staff to be paid more.

Older adults bringing children are also able to get care at Access for about $15-25. Dane county is unique in comparison to the rest of the state and country.

Celebration of Service at Access will be April 18. Donors invited as well as other contributors.

*Fernando and Latinx Mental Health Coalition*

Coalition came together around 2018/19 as a group of providers from different community organizations wanted to learn how to increase services and access to care in the community.

They meet monthly and advocate for the county to increase its investment in Latinx mental health. Asking questions such as: How are organizations providing services? How are they funded? Do they provide language access?

A language Access coordinator position at the county was recently created. They also pushed for a bilingual behavioral health resource center coordinator position (Julio).

The coalition is in the process of learning. It is currently a closed group that is limited to providers who focus on mental health. There is collaboration with Journey, Clinica Latina, and CPS – the goal is to coordinate efforts, not reinvent the wheel. It is also a place of peer support amongst colleagues and providers of mental and behavioral health. If you’re interested in becoming part of the coalition, reach out to Fernando or Martha.

Progress is being made as there are more Latinx providers than there used to be 20 years ago.

Goal is to have providers who understand/acknowledge the experience of trauma of new arrivals and able to create outlets for youths.

MMSD is choosing a new superintendent. 1/3 of MMSD students are Latinx. There is strong need for more mental health support in k-12 schools.

*BIPOC Mental Health Coalition* is a new initiative that was approved 2 weeks ago. It receives funding from Dane County (a 3-year grant administered through RISE). Similar to the Latinx Mental Health Coalition, it will together individuals from different organizations and develop an advisory group from 15-20 orgs. It was an uphill battle to get approval as a couple County Supervisors were against creating the coalition (some were also against granting Indigenous People’s Day as a holiday).

The first meeting will be in mid-March. Coalition will be open to join in the future if you work with BIPOC mental health patients.

There is a multi-cultural mental health conference in August and Fernando hopes to be able to present the coalition’s formation and work there.