

Latino Health Council Meeting – Thursday, February 23, 2023
9:30 am to 11:30 am

Members present: : Juan Carlos Cabrera, Tehmina Islam, Sheila Olk Martin, Stacey Baik, Judith Rasmussen, Kenton Zink, Alexandra Carrasco, Nazka Serrano, Lourdes Shanjani, Patricia Tellez-Giron, Anne-Louise Plesh, Elizabeth Ringle, Holly Krook Casteneda, Carola Gaines, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Fernando Cano Ospina, Victor Petrusevicius, Julio Molina, Kristi Jones, Nikeya Bramlett, Ze Ramirez, Rodrigo Valdivia, Amanda Martinez, Christian Pelayo, Maria Mora Pinzon, Kenton Zink, Sachin Gupte, Araceli Nord, Moranda Medina-Lopez, Ana Karina Cuellar Montes, Alexandra Carrasco, Laura Larracilla, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Julia Olsen

Minutes: Fernando moved to approve the January 2023 LHC meeting minutes. Lourdes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

- Fernando announced that RISE is hiring for a few positions; a few bilingual positions including a baby welcome position and a respite center supervisor.
- Lourdes wanted to thank Fernando to opening up the space to hold an affinity group in Dane County for a 1-day retreat. RISE is a great place to host a meeting in their beautiful space.
- Julio announced a Case Manager position open at the Behavioral Management center and work with the public, substance use, and behavioral needs
- Rodrigo announced a Language Access Coordinator position that requires fluency in Hmong or Spanish; this position closes on March 10, 2023.
- Fernando thanked Patricia, Shiva, Rodrigo and other colleagues to push for this position. The community really needs this position in the County.
- Kenton announced the Elder Benefits specialist program and put on a Welcome to Medicare seminar – this is free and at the Senior center.

Old Business:

2023 schedule of presentations and minute takers: Juan Carlos looking for one more organization to present in July so please contact Juan Carlos if you're looking to present.

MHCC 4/22/23: Patricia and Fernando announced that our Mental Health Community Conference will be happening on 4/22/23. Please attend, come help, advocate for mental health services. This will be held at the church on Wisconsin Ave. Some of the members of the Mental Health Coalition will participate in this conference and we do need a small group of volunteers to carry out this conference. Luther Memorial Church – 1021 University Ave.

Covid 19 updates: Shiva announced that the end of the public health emergency is coming up. LHC will be bringing in a speaker at the next meeting to talk about the impact on benefits that were available during the emergency. Stay tuned.

Consulting: We will table this update for the interest of time.

Mentoring: We will table this update for the interest of time.

New Business:

Public Health: Drug Harm Reduction: This program is attempting to reduce harms from substance use in the community and to individuals. Julia shared more about the program that is raising awareness about tobacco commercial products that are targeting communities of color. 2020 had the highest number of recorded deaths from overdose – the problem is not improving or going away. This program provides Narcan kits, safer use gear, fentanyl test strips, and can provide trainings and resources for organizations. Their website, brochures and text messages are available in Spanish with links to partner organizations.

Well Badger Resource Center: Moranda presented about First Breath before to LHC and today would like to speak about the Well Badger Resource Center. This is a statewide program to connect people with resources and social services that they need, managed by the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. They collaborate with 211; they don't replace them. Their goals include increasing utilization of existing health and social services, improving health literacy, reduce barriers to care, improve navigation of services, and ensure basic needs are met (advancing health equity). The Center makes about 8,000 – 12,000 referrals each year from the 2000 to 2500 calls they receive. An individual can email, text, call, and facebook message.