



## Latino Health Council Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021 | Zoom

9:30-11:30

Present: Patricia Tellez-Hiron, Martha Saucedo, Juan Carlos Cabrera, Chris Chapman, Tehmina Islam, Anne Plesh, Lucy Cid, Kirsten Norslien, Fernando Cano, Evelyn Storto, Garrett Tusler, Julio Molina, Marcela Kyngesburye, Shiva Bidar, Jeremy Williams, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Wendy Sun, KF Jones, Ana Karina, Jhonatan Real, Saulo Castellano, Claudia Bustilo Rivas, Eveyln Cruz, Faatima Khna, Hannah Flanagan, Katie Hensel, Judith Rasmussen, William Parke-Sutherland, Lourdes Shanjani, Rodrigo Valdivia, Andre Biscaye,

### **Mindfulness exercise**

- Martha lead the group in a grounding exercise.

### **Introductions**

- Members introduced themselves and shared one or two words that come to mind when we think of Latino Health Council.

### **Minutes (approval/corrections)**

- The Council approved the August minutes. Fernando moved and Kirsten seconded.

### **Announcements**

- Katie Hensel – Katie will be leaving Tri 4 Schools in the next six months. Looking forward to welcoming a new Executive Director after 12 years. She will forward info to the group. Link to job description - <https://tri4schools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Tri-4-Schools-Executive-Director-Job-Description-2021.pdf>
- Evelyn Cruz – Esperanza bilingual, collaborative funded by WPP that will increase access to culturally appropriate mental health services with training and intervention and strengthen family-centered community programming that addresses social determinants of health. Esperanza Bilingual Certificate approved by UW Madison. UW Psychology Programs (Dr. Alyssa Ramirez) will be starting recruitment soon.
- Fernando Cano –Seven position opportunities open at RISE people are encouraged to apply. Please contact Fernando to learn more about RISE. <https://risewisconsin.org/employment/current-opportunities/>
- Marcela Kyngesburye – Rape Crisis Center is changing its name and would like members to answer a survey to help decide new name. Link to survey - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13gnYGGtV6s7mfp1td4gSsHbOvT83lDb0frQuZ-\\_PhSU/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13gnYGGtV6s7mfp1td4gSsHbOvT83lDb0frQuZ-_PhSU/edit)
- Dr. Tellez-Giron – Thanked Agrace for starting the grief support group for Spanish speakers. Amazed by the power and comments of people in the group. It's a healing experience. Would like more people to take advantage of the sessions. It's free, more educational, and community-focused. There are three more sessions. Faatima is very pleased and hopes to continue and expand group in the future. If any organizations would like to

join this last session and share resources that their orgs have to offer in terms of support, therapy, grief, etc., please email Faatima or Fernando.

- La Movida is going to give LHC an award on October 13 at their luncheon. Will share more info with LHC when we get it.
- Department put a presentation together about what's happening with children at the border. Hopefully this opens minds and hearts and sheds more light. Dr Tellz-Giron will do another presentation on Oct 6 with Dr. Suarez – Immigrant Health: An Insider's View

### **COVID updates**

- Dane Co 87% of Latinx adults have received at least one dose of vaccine, more than non-Latinx people and possibly highest rate of any county in the nation.
- All ages – 65% of Latinx people received at least one dose, 67% of non-Latinx
- Need to increase vaccination to children 12-18. Doing much better than other counties in WI, but still more work to do.
- FDA has approved Pfizer booster for people 65+, people with underlying health conditions, or work/live in higher risk areas.
- Believe this is the highest number of vaccinated people in any county vaccinated in the US, would not be possible without work of LHC and others.
- Lourdes stressed the importance of people continuing to get tested, keep social distancing, and mask up when they can. Testing and vaccination are still widely available, especially in Madison. Go to <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing> but sites outside of Madison need more language access and hours outside of business hours.
- Face mask order is in effect until October 8. If outside where you can't social distance, please also wear face covering. Will keep LHC updated.
- Still waiting for more information on schools. Some cases have been reported, but things seem to be going fine. Schools are planning to have testing kiosks outside of their buildings for students, personnel, and parents to get tested. Link to press statement - <https://publichealthmdc.com/news/testing-capacity-in-dane-county-continues-to-grow>
- Got short-term extension through October for grant funded responses to COVID.

### **Gilda's Club presentation**

- Gilda's Club provides emotional or psychological support for people going through a cancer diagnosis, whether their own or someone else's. Very excited to finally have a bilingual staff member working with Gilda's. A series of three workshops will be available in Spanish and on-demand for anyone to access them.
- Had over 2,000 participants come to Gilda's last year. Have been almost entirely virtual and will remain through January 2022
- Serve all cancers, all genders, all HC systems, all immigration statuses. Services are always free. Programs are designed for people after diagnosis.
- Fernando complemented the Spanish language materials and would be happy to share on the LHC social media.
- Location can be challenging (in Middleton, without good public transit), but now that we're on virtual platforms, we're getting to serve people throughout the state of Wisconsin. Recognize that Zoom platform is also a barrier. Some activities will be continued online and others will be in person.

### **UW Health HIV Care and Prevention Program**

- Chris Chapman, Katie Childs, and Norah Boynton shared information about unusually large diagnoses of HIV.

- MSM - men who have sex with men (MSM). Black and Latinx MSM and others have higher rates of diagnosis compared with White MSM.
- People living with HIV (PLWH). HIV remains a global pandemic and impacts WI, especially Milwaukee and Dane Co. Estimate that about 1,100 people are living with undiagnosed HIV in Wisconsin. Undue burden on BIPOC people in Wisconsin, but there are people in all communities living with HIV.
- Presentation included basic facts and reiterated that there is no risk of transmissibility.
- 2021 marks 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first diagnosis of HIV.
- PLWH can have a near normal lifespan. There are much better, more effective treatment with fewer side effects.
- PLWH can become parents and live normal lives. There are many ways to prevent HIV. Undetectable equals untransmittable – Scientific data shows that people with undetectable viral loads can't transmit HIV through sexual contact. More info in presentation.
- Getting people tested and linked to care is a very important.
- Working together to combat stigma will help keep everyone as healthy as possible. Stigma is very real. Will share a short document on what health care stakeholders can do to combat stigma.
- Presenters reviewed many ways to prevent HIV and specifically PrEP. PrEP website is available in both English and Spanish. <https://prepitup.org/es/>
  - PrEP is for people who are HIV negative. PrEP is one prevention way, but not the only way. More info, please contact: Katie Childs- PrEP Navigator  
kchilds2@uwhealth.org 608-576-1537
    - What is UW doing to make it easier for all providers to prescribe PrEP? Provider education is one of our most important activities. Working to increase number of providers who provide PrEP.
      - UW health is surveying providers to see who is most comfortable in race, gender, language care and will use that information to improve access to services.
- Perinatal transmission is possible but with new medication and other measures it is very rare.
- Everyone 13-64 should be tested, not just people who think they might be at risk. This is good practice, but doesn't happen often enough.
- **Overview of clinic – resources and services.**
  - Norah shared info about how she connects people to care. Can give people quick access and offer emotional support. Please reach out.
- Working to improve diversity among patient population and include patient voice. Presenters summarized ongoing effort to improve DEI. Program and clinic have Spanish speaking staff and peer mentors and patient newsletter is available in Spanish, UW health interpreter services is also available.

Meeting adjourned

**Next meeting:** October 28, 2021

**Presenter:** UW Health Breast Center/planning meeting

**Minutes:** Tehmina Islam