

Immigration—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Issues Raised include:

1. Proper and Adequate intake—comprehensive
2. There is a lot of confusion about the 245I and there is misinformation in the media.
3. What kind of lawyer does an immigrant need to go to?
4. Most people need a better understanding of the limits under the law.
5. There needs to be more information in communities about the process and availability of work visas and green cards.
6. Communities need to begin conversations with law enforcement—a dialogue.
7. There are issues of legal compliance with federal law requiring that organizations provided translation services for people with limited English skills (hospitals, schools, and others) that receive federal funds.
8. Can't get children to stay in high school and they don't see a positive future for themselves.
9. The Dream Act actually benefits the state—there is a need for lobbying (even by the children).
10. Lack of information for families about the legal issues, the law is complex and people don't have access to legal help or they don't seek it out.
11. Moniteau County needs to get better organized.

Projects last year include:

1. Adelante—a bilingual newspaper that is a collaboration with the University of Missouri School of Journalism. The paper has become better established and reaches a wide audience.
2. There was a “Know Your Rights” pamphlet published and is available on the Cambio de Colores website.
3. Alianzas has organized a forum to address drivers license issues.
4. A dialogue was begun with law enforcement regarding racial profiling.

5. Dissemination of profiling data.
6. In St. Louis a dialogue has begun with law enforcement around common issues from the perspective of how can we help each other.
7. In Sullivan County many new resources have been developed and they have done programs to help people become more aware of their rights.
8. In Marshalltown Iowa a video was developed called "Welcome to Our Town"

Immigration—where do we go from here?

Key Issues and Program Ideas

1. Latino vote campaign
2. In Milan they are organizing through the churches using newsletters/websites. They are translating these resources into Spanish.
3. In-Service training with law enforcement officials.
4. Find ways to "Humanize" immigration issues.
5. There is an issue of volunteering. Need people to get "involved" and help.
6. Training that "empowers" volunteers.
7. Need for a "Know Your Rights" pamphlet that can be distributed through schools and libraries.
8. Access to Spanish speaking attorneys in rural areas (this was expressed as important to southwest Missouri).
9. Access to Spanish speaking attorneys or those who have bilingual staff.
10. Create a system to do intakes in rural areas, coordinated with translation bureaus. Set-up appointments on designated days in underserved areas.
11. Need to enact a local dream act (similar to KS).
12. Drivers License initiative
13. Legislative advocacy involving youth.
14. Organizing/Networking

15. Voting

16. Naturalization process as a way to begin to build political power.

17. Election reform that makes the political process more accessible.

Social Services & Mental Health—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Projects since last year

1. Increased access to services provided by DFS.
2. More culturally sensitive forms working with Firm for translation etc.
3. There is a language line in place.
4. Some services are being provided in person.
5. Making some progress but there is still a long way to go.
6. Have hired a bi-lingual social worker

Issues Raised

1. Not enough mental health professionals available.
2. Many Latinos have post traumatic oppressive disorder (referring to the oppression they encounter while trying to live in this culture) and some are in real trouble. 26% of domestic violence cases are related to this phenomenon.
3. Lead poisoning in the St. Louis area
4. Latinos may not understand the few resources that are available to them.
5. There is a 2 to 3 year transitional period new immigrants go through
 - a. The system is not addressing the special needs
 - b. They may find themselves in a mental health facility where the workers can't help them understand their condition.
6. Lack of cultural competence leads to misdiagnosis and labeling.
7. Competence of mental health by interpreter in question.
8. Liability of physicians. Some cultures parents go with their daughters to the doctor. In some cultures a male doctor can only see a girl through a mirror.
9. Not utilizing bi-lingual skilled people and they are not paid appropriately for these skills.
10. There is not a good mechanism for bi-lingual people to market themselves.

11. Social workers are not considered professionals.
12. Need to improve access and outreach of community health centers.
13. Many working poor are not eligible for services, some are offered on a sliding fee but they are often overbooked.
14. Funding problems persist—many small communities are eliminating or losing their mental health services.
15. As part of an education program on campuses more training programs are needed to help professionals become bi-lingual. Responses may not work unless Latinos are recruited which is still a cultural issue.
16. Several Latinos who have been here for generations don't know the culture. They don't associate with the culture here.
17. There is a need to create diversity programs within the school of medicine and social work.
18. There was a feeling in this group that not much has changed since last year. We are still talking about the same issues.

Social Services & Mental Health—where do we go from here?

Action Areas

1. Create a statewide directory of Mental Health services/professionals that focus on Latino clients/community. (community connection.org, alianzas.org, united way, and La Lista)
2. Create alternative mental health services and modify the existing mental health structure to recognize/respond to the cultural needs of the Latino (identifying resources and organizations that will improvise).
3. Identify and utilize websites that offer employment opportunities for bi-lingual professionals (employment opportunities section on critical sites).
4. Enhance the general education of the Latino community on mental health issue utilizing the school structures as a vehicle to get information to Latino families. Another vehicle may be advocacy group that operate in different arenas. Media, health fairs, special events, and public service announcements may also help reach Latinos.

Partners to Achieve Action Areas

1. Guadalupe Center
2. El Centro
3. Northeast family health clinic
4. Alianzas and partners
5. COHO
6. Community Connection and University of Missouri—Columbia
7. Mattie Rhodes
8. St. Michaels and St. Benedicts
9. SAMHSA Grant Projects

What we will do

1. Maria Smith will involve outreach programs in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas to get resources.
2. Dennis Minzes will contact the Latino network through community connection.
3. Alicia Simmons will gather information for network development
4. Mattie Rhodes will be asked for help as well as other partners
5. Alianzas will be asked to add an “employment opportunities” section and develop a “situations wanted” location.

Employment & Financial Security—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Things we are doing Differently

1. Workforce Inv. Act (WIA) provides matching training money. Good documentation is needed (WIA does not work with seasonal workers.)
2. Sister city leadership exchange around Latino issues (include mayors, law enforcement, and community leaders). This may work well for corps. as well as cities.
3. Latino Center in Milan has gotten a lot of focus since last year's meeting
 - a. Holding multicultural events
4. Phone companies seem to have lots of bi-lingual people.
5. Providing English skills training with financial assistance coming from the area businesses.
6. Spanish lessons for business managers.
7. Construction trade—ESL options
8. Gateway to Financial Fitness (St. Louis).
9. Money Smarts (working with local volunteers in pairs).
10. Housing Assistance Program/Loan Program at Premium Standard Farms
11. Premium Standard Farms hired a community development person.

Issues Raised

1. Training and educational needs exist in Agricultural workforce.
2. Latino Center in Milan:
 - a. Schools need language help.
 - b. Transportation needs are high
3. Illiteracy is a problem. Stay at home mom's need English instruction also (St. Charles).
4. How do you access and use the economic infrastructure (set-up a bank account, do tax returns, buy a home, credit unions).

Employment & Financial Security—where do we go from here?

Issues and Program Ideas

1. Best practices—do not reinvent the wheel.
2. Create a website clearinghouse for information
 - a. Should include tax identification information and country Ids.
3. Cambio de Colores website should have identification information with searching capacity and it should also include.
 - a. Legislative day
 - b. Statewide calendar of events
 - c. Two-way bulletin board

The website should be kept simple, with links to information on housing and have onsite searchable categories.

4. Best practices recognition in banking and business in general.
 - a. Highlight programs that work—recent ones focusing on those without previous experience of a track record
 - b. Identify programs that didn't work or were false starts.
5. We need to get bank information on starting checking accounts, etc...
6. Banker education is needed on how to do outreach.
7. Migrant education
8. Workforce Investment Act—provides some access and benefits, can it provide these benefits for undocumented workers?
9. Housing programs need to be tailored to Latinos such as:
 - a. Money Smarts (use el centro as a template)
 - b. Gateway Curriculum
 - c. Legal pitfalls such as predatory practices
 - d. Educate concerning abuses in insurance, banking and consumer fraud.
10. Educational Assistance is necessary on issues such as nutrition. There are federal dollars available through the FNEP program which can provide grassroots educational assistants.

Health Care—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Projects since Last Year

1. Sedalia—growth in the free health clinic, received \$225,000 and primo grants and may be eligible for \$650,000.
2. Pilot Study was conducted using surveys and focus groups in Southwest Missouri.
3. WIC study was conducted through the Health Department Statewide using focus groups.
4. Milan Latino Center provides health options, education and support.
5. Through Primo we are recruiting youth for health careers in Missouri area.
6. University Outreach and Extension had an increased number of education programs on nutrition and diabetes with Latino audiences in the Kansas City area.
7. Sedalia has a domestic violence shelter grant based at the housing authority.
8. Bio-terrorism information has been translated into Spanish.
9. A health and welfare committee was formed.
10. Translation of documents and forms—provided translation for MC+ and conducted advocacy.
11. Department of Social Services Survey looking at health services for women, comparing Hispanic women and Anglo women (dissertation research).
12. Community Christ Church has a health education program.
13. “Access to Health Care for Low-Income Latinos the 1996 Welfare Act” (dissertation)
14. Federal Department of Health and Human Services
 - a. Education
 - b. Work with Other service providers
 - c. Latino health fair.
15. Columbia newspaper is investigating whether or not those receiving federal funds are complying with the regulations requiring them to provide translation services.

16. How is the conference helping?
 - a. Background information on Latino Issues
 - b. Networking
 - c. Ideas
 - d. Website is helpful

Issues Raised

1. Lack of statistics in emergency rooms
2. Unfunded federal mandates

Health Care—where do we go from here?

Policy Changes and Ideas

1. Health Insurance—MC+ kids
 - a. We need a “no child left behind” for health
 - b. Legislature is not active; budget is
 - c. Multiple users of insurance cards
 - d. Without social security number you can’t get health care
2. Emergency Rooms
 - a. 38% budget behind
 - b. Need for more health clinics for primary care
 - c. More federal funding for clinics
 - d. Most clinics don’t qualify for federal certification
3. Cultural Competency
 - a. More than a 20 year goal
 - b. Educate children to become Latino doctors and nurses, but these young people cannot get into college without residential status.
 - c. The residents who have been established longer forget about the newcomers.
4. Senior Citizens
 - a. Format to enroll for resources is complicated in Spanish—need and easier format.
 - b. Senior population is just beginning to grow.
5. Network with other states or within Missouri
 - a. Facilitate the acquisition and dispersal of materials without wasting time reinventing.
6. Legislative Day

7. Translated Materials
 - a. Continue the idea of Delita Williams to provide places that provide materials in the stat
 - b. Put together resources, booklets, on the De Colores website
 - c. Create an Alianzas listserve—through community connection.org
 - d. Register organizations at community connection and keep the information updated.
 - e. Must be held accountable for the information already established.
8. Parish Nursing Within Community
 - a. Health ministry can apply for grants
 - b. Send advocates to doctors with Latinos.
 - c. Every major denomination has volunteers
9. Young Girls
 - a. Program to teach young girls about their bodies.
 - b. Teachers/Schools are afraid to discuss sex.
 - c. Education needs to be more than providing brochures.
10. Interpreters
 - a. SEMO provides interpreters people in their region for a fee.
 - b. Children are being used as interpreters.
 - c. Standard certification for medical interpreters through Washington University and Jewish hospitals
 - d. Volunteersinhealthcare.org
 - e. National Association of Free Clinics

What Roles Can We Play

1. Take Materials to places that can implement them.
2. Work on research to identify the health care concerns of Latinos.
3. There is a bilingual clinic in St. Louis—we can change the model to fit the community.
4. Education— with a focus on prevention and self care and when they need to go, go to emergency room.
5. Get resources on community connection.org. We can contact by e-mail or by calling the 1-800 number.

Education—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Projects Last Year

1. Online course for professionals to help them learn Spanish
2. Civic Awareness Event for elected officials to provide conference information on Cambio de Colores
3. Hispanic Day in Jefferson City direct result of Cambio de Colores
4. ESOL (English for Speakers of other languages) certification courses were offered online and ITV through Southeast MO State University. They are also offering a Masters Degree (MATESOL) online.
5. Southeast Missouri State University is also working with DESE in five sites (Milan, McDonald County, Sedalia, St. Joseph, and in the Bootheel) to provide tuition assistance for K-12 teachers to obtain ESOL certification.
6. ESL workshop for the Ozark Teachers Alliance.
7. Monett—support group for girls 12 – 23, voluntary community outreach to schools.
8. GRA—4 educational festivals that brought people together to share culture (Carthage, Noel, Springfield, and Monett).
9. DESE has a project director for ELL programs project is regionally organized.
10. Schools are doing a monthly parents meeting. They did a survey to find out how often to meet and to direct the content of the meetings. Issues include rights and drivers test.
11. Writing contest, the winners are to be presented at the conference. The writing is in Spanish or English.
12. SEA—In Kansas City, Sedalia, and Springfield, Mexicans will be completing an basic education program.
13. Newton County HEP (High School Equivalency Program) and CAMP for migrant workers provides 1st year of school for free.
14. Pilot teacher program at SMSU which has 2 to 3 teachers visiting from Mexico.
15. Title 6a—Instructors take issue of Latin American incorporation in CURR.

16. State Department Forum (African American Teachers) John Miller Latinos Forum was linked to this program.

Needed Changes in Policy

1. Need access to post-secondary training for non documented students to include:
 - a. Grants/Entry/A+ is not available to ESL students
 - b. Lack of access to post-secondary education contributes to high school drop-out rate.
 - c. Without education will remain underemployed
 - d. Documentation is a long process—those in the process should be able to start school.
2. SEA—the U.S. should recognize a GED equivalent program because degrees/certifications are not recognized in the U.S.
3. Pre-school improvement programs.
4. Out of State Tuition Special School District never want testing—special education issues take many years. A system is need in Missouri.
5. Need Latinos involved in all area areas of schools (clubs, organizations).
 - a. More involvement is needed generally
 - b. Stress the importance of networking and getting involved
6. Cultural Practices are important—need education about rights and responsibilities in areas like DFS.
7. Need Spanish speaking versions of working organizations like Parents as Teachers.
8. The whole state needs to be up-to-speed on their rights and responsibilities and to establish some basic standards. Latinos working together—Unity—unity for representation.

Education—where do we go from here?

Key Issues and Program Ideas

1. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) with learning disabilities.
2. Group look at models for teaching children
 - a. Funding issues including availability and access.

3. Keeping Kids in School
 - a. Issues of truancy (if you miss 10 days you are automatically out of school). This is a community problem that needs a community solution.
 - b. Parents need to be aware of the consequences of their children missing school.
 - c. School Code Books—rules need to be in English and Spanish.
 - d. Is there a role for family values education?
 - e. Develop general infomercials in parents' language.
4. Teacher Certification
 - a. Diversity training for Teachers at college level. Currently, only CMSU and Lincoln offer this kind of training.
 - b. Link with DESE training for teachers.
5. Adult ESOL in DESE
 - a. DESE funded ESOL programs are very poor.
 - b. There are no universal standards.
 - c. Should not be used as a professional standard to certify professionals (vets, MDs, etc...).
 - d. Have a special session on certification at next year's conference.
6. Community Based Literacy programs (www.proliteracyworldwide.org)
 - a. Include non-formal/nontraditional programs with varied schedules.
 - b. Literacy councils.
 - c. Church
 - d. Outreach Adult Education.
 - e. Reach Mom's and Grandmas.
7. Active Outreach to all Latino communities in all parts of the State.
 - a. Attend Cambio de Colores
8. Require all staff in schools to have diversity training.
9. Establish realistic long-term and short-term goals
 - a. Figure out how to centralize some efforts and find focus.
10. Permit staff in schools to attend community training and resources.
 - a. Requires change in school policy and attitude at all levels.
 - b. Need a watchdog at DESE to make sure (a) happens.
11. Bring parents to the table/conference
 - a. Hold special programs and workshops at programs like Cambio de Colores for parents, in their language.

Resources Needed

1. All standardized DESE forms need to be translated and available in one location for schools and others.
2. Have a four track committee on education at the next conference.
 - a. Development of community leadership
 - b. American systems
 - c. Work together to build communities.
3. Court systems have a program for certifying Interpreters and we need the same thing for education (Interpreters are already available in some systems but we need them in all).
 - a. Take care to make sure people are at a 4th grade reading level or better.
 - b. Use typical language not education-eze.
4. Need some basic information available on tapes and CDs.
 - a. Health information.
 - b. School information.
 - c. Developed in a fashion that ensures understanding.
5. Think outside the box—offering training for all.
6. Corporate people should be at Cambio de Colores conference.

What role are you willing to play?

1. Ozark Regional Alliance
 - a. 90+ organizations plus individuals addressing issues such as health, education, leadership, domestic violence, etc...
 - b. The alliance will educate all newcomers.
2. St. Louis
 - a. Return to community and develop a leadership program.
3. Need a participants directory available on the website:
www.alianzas.us