

XI Binational Health Week

- Inaugural Event-



XI Binational Health Week Inaugural Event and Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health

San Antonio, Texas, 2011

The 11th Annual Binational Health Week Inaugural Event and the Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health took place in San Antonio, Texas on October 3rd and 4th. Over 300 participants – 102 from 11 Mexican states and 203 from 14 U.S. states- came together to discuss the challenges facing migrant communities and to explore unique opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of this population. These participants represented 155 organizations including government officials, members from community agencies, foundations, and 30 universities from Mexico and the U.S. The governments of Peru, Colombia and Honduras were also represented by some of their consuls.

The forum presentations were conducted by 69 speakers – 37 from the U.S. and 32 from Mexico – and discussions were based on five main topics that affect the health of the Latino migrants: Chronic Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Women's Health, Mental Health and Access to Health Care Services.

This two-day event was organized and co-sponsored by the Secretariat of Health and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Health Initiative of the Americas from UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, the University of Texas at San Antonio, YWCA San Antonio, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador.



Welcoming Reception



The forum kicked off with a welcoming reception on October 3rd where the newly appointed Secretary of Health of Mexico, Mto. Salomón Chertorivski Woldenberg gave the welcoming remarks, in conjunction with Mr. Armando Ortiz Rocha, Consul General of Mexico in San Antonio; Ms. Alma Smith, CEO of YWCA San Antonio; Dr. Javier Diaz de León, Executive Director, Institute for Mexicans Abroad; Dr. Ricardo Romo, President UTSA; Commander James Dickens, Region VI Minority Health Consultant, Office of Minority Health, HHS; and Xochitl Castañeda, Director of the Health Initiative of the Americas.

Inaugural Event

On October 4th the inaugural ceremony of Binational Health Week opened in the auditorium of the University of Texas at San Antonio, with the participation of key figures who included the Mayor of San Antonio, Julian Castro; the Executive Vice-Provost of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Julius Gribou; the Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Cándido Morales; the Director of the UTSA Mexico Center, Hariett Romo; the Consul General of Perú in Houston, Carlos Rafael Polo – representing the seven Latin-American countries; and the Mexican Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion, Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila.

A Plenary Session followed the inauguration where an overview of the migration from Latin America to the U.S. was presented, as well as the main efforts that the U.S. government and the Mexican government are undertaking to address the health issues that affect the migrant populations. The key note speakers were Dr. Stephen Waterman, Senior Medical Officer, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila, Undersecretary, Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexican Secretariat of Health.

Lunch Time Interventions

During lunch at the Double Tree Hotel, California Assembly Member Gil Cedillo and the Deputy of the Mexican Commission on Health, Oralía López, gave a short intervention and reiterated their commitment to continue working on political initiatives to improve the health of the migrant populations. After these interventions, the unveiling of the XI Binational Health Week mural and poster took place where the artist “Maya” Ramirez Schwarz, presented the original painting and offered it to Xochitl Castañeda for her invaluable leadership and commitment with Binational Health Week.



Working Sessions

The last part of the morning and the afternoon were dedicated to the working sessions, divided by topics.

1. Chronic Diseases:

Moderators: *Gudelia Rangel Gómez, Mexican Secretariat of Health and Ma. Teresa Cerqueira, PAHO*

Panelists: Javier E. García de Alba, IMSS-Jalisco; Fidelia Sillas, UCLA; Sandra Orozco, Reiter Affiliated Companies; Armando Barriguete, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Gabriela Palos, INSP; Yvonne Flores, UCLA

2. Infectious Diseases:

Moderators: *Thomas Donohoe, UCLA and Alfonso Rodriguez-Lainz, CDC.*

Panelists: Steve Waterman, CDC; Emilio German, CDC; José Antonio Izazola, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Jesús Eduardo González, COLEF; Karl Klose, UTSA; Ietza Borjorquez, COLEF; Nesly Muñoz, Universidad Veracruzana

3. Women's Health:

Moderators: *Marc Schenker, UC Davis and Mario Gomez Zepeda, Mexican Secretariat of Health*

Panelists: Gisela Lara, IMSS-Oportunidades; Georgina Aquino, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Félix Velez, CONAPO; Alicia Tinoco García, UAEM – México; Jill Fleuriet, UTSA; Javier Mancilla, Instituto Nacional de Perinatología, Mexico; Ivette Tinoco Garcia, UAEM, Mexico.

4. Mental Health:

Moderators: *Carlos Campillo, Mexican Secretariat of Health and Veronica Sanders, YWCA.*

Panelists: Andrés Sciolla, UCSD; Carolyn García, University of Minnesota; Rosa Ma. Aguilera Guzmán, Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatría; Norma González, UAEM – México; Marcela Sotomayor-Peterson, Universidad de Sonora; Griselda Villalobos, University of Texas El Paso; Carmen Fernández, CIJ; Carlos Tena, CONADIC, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Javier López-Zetina, CSU Long Beach; Ron Morales, Family Service Association; Margo de la Garza, Healthy Futures

5. Access to Health Care Services:

Moderators: *Gil Ojeda, CPAC and Javier Díaz de León, IME*

Panelists: Yul Ejnes, American College of Physicians; Juan H. Flores, La Fe Policy Research and Education Center; Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, UC Davis; Julio Sotelo, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Miguel Ángel González Block, INSP; Arturo Vargas Bustamante, UCLA; David Warner, UT Austin; Irma Calzada, Seguro Popular, Mexican Secretariat of Health; Gonzalo de la Torre, MEDCUIDA; Adela González, UT Health Science Center; Oralia López, Diputada, Comisión de Salud, México; Janet García, INSP

Dinner and Closing

The event closed with a beautiful dinner offered by the Mexican Secretariat of Health at the Double Tree Hotel. During the dinner Dr. Maria Teresa Cerqueira, Chief of the US-Mexico Office of PAHO and Lic. Javier Diaz de León, Executive Director of the Institute for Mexican Abroad offered some closing remarks. After dinner attendees to the XI Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health were treated to a night boat trip on the famous San Antonio River Walk, a lovely way to finish an intensive day of work.

