

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

March 19, 2014 summary minutes

The minutes from the January 15, 2014 meeting were approved. Representatives of three agencies working directly with the Utah Latino community, Comunidades Unidas, Consulate of Mexico and Centro de la Familia, attended the meeting and presented on the work they do.

Luis Garza, Executive Director of Comunidades Unidas, www.cuutah.org, provided an overview of the Latino community demographics: 13% of the state population is Spanish speaking, since 2000 the state has seen 80% increase in Latinos, 8% of the Utahns are foreign born, they contribute \$1.3 bln in the economy, and median age is 23. Main programs of the Comunidades are Community Well-Being Initiative that include Health Booth, Breast Cancer Programs, Multicultural Health Network, Prenatal Program, Public Benefits Enrollment, Resource and Referral Line; and Community Organizing Programs: Enriching Utah Coalition, Democracy Schools of Utah, My Vote Counts, Volunteer Program.

Consulate of Mexico in Utah, <http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/saltlakecity>, was represented by Nina Frias, Community Affairs Coordinator, and Arturo Parra, of Consular Protection Services. Consulate's activities are divided into: legal, administrative, immigration and labor issues. Community Affairs Department has a variety of programs under umbrella of Institute of Mexicans Abroad: Plazas Comunitarias, Health Window, preventive campaigns, cultural programs, and scholarship programs "IME Becas". The main constituency of the Consulate are Mexican nationals.

Gonzalo Palza reported on the projects of the Centro de la Familia. Founded in 1975, Centro is the largest Latino-based agency in the state and its mission is "to develop educational opportunities that empower Latinos" economically, socially and politically and addressing the community's social, cultural, and linguistic needs. Their largest program is Headstart that assists families with educational need of the elementary school children. Centro has been a recipient of the federal funding for the last 22 years. Other programs include rape prevention, workplace safety, entrepreneurial program, healthy relationship classes for stepfamilies, education classes for adults Plazas Comunitarias, life skills program for girls 9-12 Nuevo Dia, Comcast Digital Connectors and others.

The perspective of Latino community representatives on guardianship related issues and demographics was the following: mostly families take care of adults with impaired decision making capacity, frail elderly population mostly stays at home, 11,000 of aging Utah population are Hispanic. What is needed is: Hispanic outreach for effective engagement (not just translation of materials), centralized focus of inter-agency collaboration, line-item funding for guardianship efforts and systemic education program.

WINGS decided to extend invitation to participate in the Committee to both Comunidades Unidas and Centro de la Familia. Centro de la Familia has accepted invitation.

Curriculum development committee was formed and includes: Mary Jane Ciccarello, Kent Alderman, Karolina Abuzyarova, Holly Kees, Julie Rigby, and Carleen Kurip. Committee met on April 4, 2014 and identified training topics and training delivery methods.

Next WINGS meeting is on May 21, 2014.