



CENTER FOR REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities (CRHD), the US Mexico HCOE Border Consortium, and the UCSF-Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, we would like to extend our most sincere thanks for your participation in the “Reducing Mental Health Disparities in Latino Communities” convening held in Los Angeles, CA, May 3, 2010 to discuss community-defined, strength-based services and programs aimed at reducing disparities in mental health services for Latinos. We are grateful for your wide-ranging expertise and your thoughtful discussion of critical themes in Latino mental health disparities research. Your participation was of critical importance to us and we appreciate your valuable input. We welcome your continued interaction with us.

As a follow-up to our discussions regarding the *California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)* and the development and composition of the *California Latino Mental Health Concilio (The Concilio)*, on behalf of Ambrose Rodriguez, President and CEO of the Latino Behavioral Health Institute and myself, I would like to formally invite you to be a member of the *Concilio*. The role of the *Concilio* will be to plan and oversee the project, with the ultimate goal of attaining consensus on the recommendations that will result from the strategic planning process. The *Concilio* will establish an agenda for the regional workgroups, and will recruit participants for the workgroups. The role of the regional workgroups will be to propose specific community-defined, strength-based strategies for reducing disparities in mental health services for Latinos in the region. The strategies will be assembled into a final report by the project team, which will be then reviewed and approved by the *Concilio*. The final report will be presented to the CRDP’s Strategic Planning Group for incorporation into the aggregate strategic plan for reducing disparities in mental health services among target populations.

The work of the *Concilio* will begin with a full-day retreat sometimes towards the end of July or August, 2010. The group will meet monthly for the first project quarter, and will meet quarterly, thereafter, by teleconference.

Recognizing that you are a key leader within the Latino community, your participation in the *Concilio* will be crucial the success of this project. Please let me know of your interest to be a member of the *Concilio* by sending an e-mail to sergio.aguilar-

gaxiola@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu Please, do not hesitate to contact me at 559-779-1797 should you need further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Reducing Health Disparities
Project Director, DMH Reducing Disparities Project Latino Focus