

NAMI Sponsors LBHI 9th Annual Conference: *Promoting Effective Behavioral Health Care for Latinos*

By LBHI and NAMI

The Latino Behavioral Health Institute (LBHI) is a non-profit corporation founded by its President Ambrosio Rodriguez, M. P.A., and incorporated in 1996. LBHI's mission is to enhance skills of persons interested or involved in providing behavioral health services to the Latino community. The Institute is dedicated to eliminating discrimination against persons in need of behavioral health services, human services or health care.

LBHI accomplishes its mission by providing training, education (interactive and dyadic) and experiential opportunities to persons involved in human services with the Latino community. The Institute's activities are intended for consumers, family members, professional care providers, administrators, educators, researchers and trainers.

LBHI has held annual national conferences since 1995, addressing Latino behavioral health issues. The Conference has grown from 450 participants in 1995 to 1,200 in

2001. The Conferences addressed issues of children, adults, older adults and explored contemporary issues of policy, training, research, clinical and education as related to Latino substance abuse, mental health, health and other human services.

LBHI is pleased to announce it's 2003 Ninth Annual Conference - "*Promoting Effective Behavioral Health Care for Latinos*", to be held on September 23 - 25 at the Universal City Hilton and Towers, Universal City, California.

The Conference will provide **48 workshops and 3 plenary presentations** that will address education and training, public policy, research, administration, mental health, substance abuse and clinical services as related to the Latino community. Two of the Plenary Speakers are Nora Volkow, M.D., Director of NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) and Gloria Molina, Supervisor, 1st District, County of Los Angeles.



For more information about the Latino Behavioral Health Institute and the conference visit their web site at www.lbhi.org.

NAMI is co-sponsoring this important event and organizing a NAMI track in Spanish. In the words of NAMI's Executive Director, Dr. Rick Birkel, "We are glad to partner with LBHI and to offer a NAMI track during this conference. During the last year, we have increasingly experienced the great commitment and passion the Latino community brings to NAMI. Their numerous contributions to the organization are ones that are greatly valued. This prestigious conference is an ideal venue to bring these leaders together and to strengthen and promote our NAMI Latino Leadership."

(For more information about the NAMI sessions contact Majose Carrasco at majose@nami.org.)

Future Events:

NAMI Annual Convention
June 28th - July 1st.
Minneapolis, MN

NAMI's American Indian & Alaska Native Mental Health Care Symposium
June 28th
Minneapolis, MN

NCLR Annual Conference
July 12 - 15th
Austin, TX

Proyecto Vision conference:
"Bridges to Employment for Latinos with Disabilities"
August 6 - 9th
New York, NY

LBHI Annual Conference
September 23 - 25th
Universal City, CA

National Indian Health Board
Annual Consumer
Conference
September 29 - October 2
St. Paul, MN

Mental Illness Awareness
Week
October 5-11

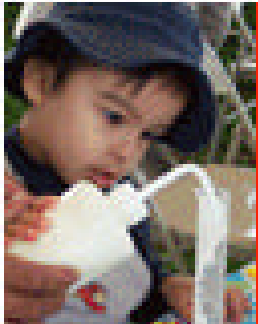
55th Institute on Psychiatric
Services
October 29 - November 2
Boston, MA

BPA Annual Transcultural
Conference
November 6 - 10th
Bahia, Brazil

Partner Highlights



The Self Reliance Foundation Brings Public Education to Latinos By Ellen Alderton, SRF Project Officer



A young boy learns about chemistry at a Self Reliance Foundation science festival.

For more information on the Self Reliance Foundation, visit our website at www.selfreliancefoundation.org, or call our bilingual help-line at: 1-800-473-3003.

By almost any indicator you choose to employ, Latinos remain one of the most disenfranchised groups in America today. America's Hispanics experience the lowest levels of education, average salary levels, homeownership, and access to health care and social services of any ethnic group in the country. Poverty, cultural and language barriers conspire to keep these 38 million Americans from living out the full benefits of the American Dream.

The Self Reliance Foundation (SRF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established in 1979 to empower America's Latinos by disseminating public educational information and by facilitating access to community services. Currently, SRF offers a range of informational and educational services to Hispanics across the country:

Mass Media Services

Since 1982, SRF has worked in close partnership with its sister organization, Hispanic Radio Network (HRN), to produce educational and informational programs for Spanish-language radio listeners throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. HRN's comprehensive network of over 161 affiliate stations

reaches 89 percent of U.S. Hispanic radio listeners. Additionally, SRF and HRN provide weekly Spanish-language newspaper columns for 91 newspapers with a combined circulation of 3.2 million copies. Our mass-media programming covers issues such as health, social services, immigration, education, science and technology, arts and culture, and social justice.

Information and Referral Services

The Self Reliance Foundation complements its educational programming with a national toll-free information and referral help-line. This valuable national resource is promoted through HRN's radio programming and newspaper columns, and links callers to over 12,000 local community organizations offering a range of services from healthcare to legal assistance to social services.

Festivals

The Self Reliance Foundation also provides bilingual informational and interactive exhibits on health and science at Latino community festivals at six sites across the country. At our exhibits, children can learn how to build a bridge or how to excavate for sharks' teeth, and adults can receive information on healthcare or can find referrals to local service providers in their communities.

Cultural Competency

Most importantly, we realize at SRF that serving the Latino community means more than just providing information in Spanish. SRF's predominantly Latino staff works to insure that all of our services are appropriately tailored our clients' cultural norms and values.

Coalition Members:

- Alianza Nacional de Salud Mental (Mexico)
- American Psychiatric Association
- APOIAR (Brazil)
- American Society of Hispanic Psychiatry
- Asian Community Mental Health Services
- Asociación Argentina de Ayuda a la Persona que Padece de Esquizofrenia y su Familia (APEF)
- Asociación Maníaco Depresivos (Colombia)
- Asociación Salvadoreña de Familiares y Amigos de Pacientes Esquizofrénicos
- Black Psychiatrists of America
- Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
Boston University
- Fundación Contener (Argentina)
- Fundación Luz y Vida (Paraguay)
- Health Watch Information and Promotion Service
- INGENIUM, Monterrey (Mexico)
- INGENIUM, Morelos (Mexico)
- Latino Behavioral Health Institute
- Massachusetts Mental Health Services Program for Youth

International Coalition

Latin America



Mental Illness has no borders. Across North, Central, and South America, different organizations are fighting for the rights of people with these illnesses.

The World Health Organization's 2001 Report on Mental Illness, *New Understanding, New Hope*, underscored the critical importance of moving beyond the boundaries of nation in confronting the myriad barriers to treatment faced by persons with mental illness and their families.

“Only a few countries have adequate mental health resources. Some have almost none. The already large inequalities between...countries in terms of overall health care are even greater for mental health care...There is a clear need for global and national initiatives to address these issues.” (1)

Recognizing the need of creative international partnerships to share resources and perspectives to meet the challenge of a world in which at least a quarter of all its inhabitants will be affected by mental illness at some point in the life-cycle (2), NAMI has been working with different international organizations. Many of these organizations are from Latin American countries. We currently have Latin American partners from

Mexico, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil, and El Salvador.

These relationships have proved to be enriching and mutually beneficial. For example, INGENIUM Monterrey has been instrumental in the development of new NAMI fact sheets in Spanish. INGENIUM has provided professional translation of many NAMI materials which are now used throughout the country.

The Asociación Salvadoreña de Familiares y Amigos de Pacientes Esquizofrénicos and three Mexican organizations, Alianza Nacional de Salud Mental, Chihuahua, INGENIUM-Monterrey, and INGENIUM Morelos are already successfully using NAMI's Family to Family Education Program. This year, at the NAMI Annual Convention, we will highlight the success of Family to Family in other countries in a workshop session: *NAMI International Partnerships: Working Together to Help Consumers and Families Around the World*. This session will explore the success of F2F in Mexico and the possible implementation of the program in Taiwan by the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Taiwan, ROC.

Partnerships allow us to share struggles, challenges, and most of all success from around the world. The most important lesson we have learned from these international partnerships is that mental illness can bring all countries and cultures together and that each of us can learn from the others.

(1) *New Understanding, New Hope*, p. 109.

(2) *Ibid.*

Coalition Members:

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Council of La Raza

National Latino Behavioral Health Association

National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide

Nebraska Office of Minority Health

New Jersey Asian Association for Human Services

New Jersey Mental Health Institute

Self Reliance Foundation

Student National Medical Association

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of R.O.C., Taiwan

The Depression and Anxiety Support Group (South Africa)

Zenkaren (Japan)



If you would like to share any comments, questions or news, contact us at:

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