



LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS

2012 annual program summary report

ON THE COVER: LORENA BORJAS AND LIAAM WINSLET, FORMER CLIENTS OF THE COMMISSION WHO NOW WORK AS OUTREACH EDUCATORS. THEY VISIT PLACES FREQUENTED BY POPULATIONS AT HIGH RISK IN NEW YORK CITY TO INVITE THEM TO USE THE COMMISSION'S SERVICES.

THIS PAGE: A WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE "FACE TO FACE" EVENT HELD BY JUNTOS CONSTRUYENDO, A PROGRAM OF THE COMMISSION. AT THE EVENT, DIFFERENT MSM PROVIDERS WHO SERVE LATINOS IN NEW YORK STATE SHARED SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS TO ENGAGE CLIENTS.

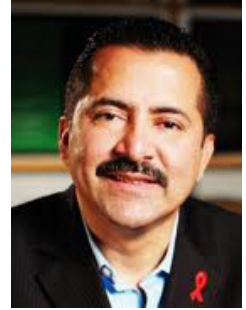
ON THE BACK: MEMBERS OF MPOWERMENT, THE MSM LATINO COMMISSION PROGRAM, DURING AN INFORMAL OPEN GROUP DISCUSSION.

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Welcome!
Bienvenid@s!





TWO DECADES OF WORK

impacting thousands of lives

The Latino Commission on AIDS is pleased to share this report on our many achievements in 2012 and our goals for 2013. The continued, generous contribution of our supporters equips us to respond promptly and effectively to the ever-evolving needs of Hispanic/Latino communities, and brings us closer to fulfilling our mission: *“To end the HIV and AIDS epidemic and build healthy communities.”* Through your generosity, in 2012 we’ve: provided more than 2,665 individual clients with direct support services (individualized counseling, ongoing support services, and HIV and Hepatitis testing); presented more than 70 educational workshops, conferences and community events for more than 1,260 community members; provided more than 150 capacity building assistance services (trainings, webinars and consultations) and partnered with more than 250 organizations nationwide through community mobilizations events, to ensure Latinos and other groups have access to culturally competent care.

In 2012, the Commission marked the 10th Anniversary of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) on October 15th and launched the first-ever National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (NHHAD) on May 15th. After six years working in the South, we opened a satellite office in North Carolina, expanding outreach, training, research, and organizing opportunities to ensure new Hispanic leadership advocates for the health

needs of our communities. We added free Hepatitis testing alongside our HIV testing service. We developed and implemented in Puerto Rico a year-long, seven-part training institute based on our Island-wide Assessment of Capacity Building Needs. We reached a record number of young people through five core programs that provide intensive HIV prevention and support services for gay and bisexual Latino men, maintaining our 22-year record guarding the health of one of the most at-risk groups in our community.

For 2013, we have big plans to have an even greater, broader impact on Hispanic health in the years ahead. We are expanding our work by partnering with local Hispanic/Latino communities in the states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to overcome urgent challenges like the impact of viral hepatitis, ensure access to Spanish-language HIV treatment education and culturally competent care, and end discrimination against immigrants in need of healthcare. In 2013, we will begin a strategic planning process to address organizational sustainability and ensure continued program excellence so we may have the greatest impact to meet the needs of the communities we serve, while achieving greater synergy between our programs and initiatives.


Guillermo Chacón
President

2,665 Number of direct clients who received services such as HIV testing, Hepatitis testing, counseling, referrals, support groups, education on risk reduction, and others in 2012.



Las primeras Producto

"El producto" es un comportamiento particular que usted está tratando de implantar.

- Producto Central
 - ¿Qué le estamos ofreciendo a nuestros consumidores?
- Producto Aumentado
 - Objetos tangibles o servicios
 - No es material educativo

PUERTO RICO

bringing education. building leadership.

The Commission has undertaken a special commitment to address the disproportionate impact of HIV&AIDS and improving the quality of prevention and care in Puerto Rico.

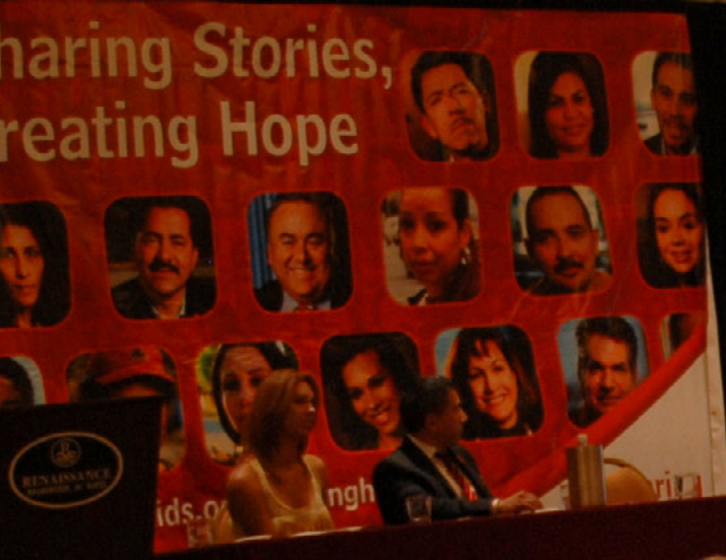
In early 2012, the Commission conducted a three-month regional needs assessment and designed the Puerto Rico Training Institute, a seven-part series conducted via webinar, on-site trainings, and events across the island. Our Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) program began the year by conducting an island-wide assessment of local community based organizations that receive funding through the state health department. During this assessment we visited eight local agencies where we collected 62 surveys from the staff, as well as conducted interviews with executive directors, mid-level managers, and direct service staff at each agency. This assessment was compiled into a report and a training institute based on the organizations' needs will be implemented August through November 2013. The Commission will facilitate webinars and face-to-face meetings of the International AIDS Conference (IAC) hubs where we will screen recordings of key IAC events and end with face-to-face skills-building trainings.

In 2012, the Commission also brought a leadership training capacity building program to Puerto Rico.

The main goal of the program is to provide the skills and tools needed to integrate HIV&AIDS treatment information in Spanish to providers' existing services. In March 2012 this program implemented trainings on leadership, community mobilization and biomedical interventions with local people living with HIV&AIDS. This three-day training, *Asamblea Permanente de Personas Infectadas y Afectadas por VIH y SIDA* (APPIA), was attended by 48 activists living with HIV&AIDS.

In June and November 2012 the Treatment Now/ Tratamiento Ahora program returned to Puerto Rico to work with another People Living with AIDS (PWA) organization known as Poder Positivo, located on the western coast of the island, which is an area often overlooked since most trainings take place in San Juan. Twenty-four case managers, sociologists, dentists, doctors, nurses and people living with HIV attended the fundamentals of HIV training. Also in June, the Commission served as co-sponsor of the second Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Transsexual Health Summit, a major health summit in Puerto Rico. Commission staff co-presented a half-day training on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Transsexual (LGBT) cultural sensitivity for health care providers to better serve LGBT health needs, and moderated the closing plenary session.

62 Number of surveys completed by executive directors of organizations that work in Puerto Rico to further develop a training based on real needs of the community.



LAUNCHING OF THE "SHARING STORIES, CREATING HOPE" VIDEO IN WASHINGTON, D.C. DURING AND EVENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE 2012. THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHOSE STORIES WERE FEATURED IN THE VIDEO.

PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCK

sharing stories, creating hope.

The Commission, in partnership with Merck & Co., created a DVD-based video training curriculum and a facilitation guide that serves as a companion to the video series. The discussion guide is for use by agencies that deliver HIV&AIDS services to Latino/Hispanic communities. The DVD is a comprehensive training tool made up of seven different videos that portray the Latino/Hispanic experience by interviewing real community members from across the nation to discuss strategies to navigate care, build support networks, communicate with providers, and advocate for personalized care.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission and Merck launched Sharing Stories in four major cities impacted by the HIV&AIDS crisis: San Juan, Puerto Rico; Atlanta, Georgia; Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina; and Washington, DC. More than 1,500 DVDs were distributed at the International AIDS Conference, the United States Conference on AIDS, and through direct website distribution to local health departments, community organizations, college campuses and activist groups. Additionally, the series has had 642 combined unique views of all seven videos streamed directly from our website.

2013 goals: In 2013, The Commission will target distribution to three groups of people: physicians, people living with HIV and/or AIDS, and, providers. We will work to enhance our focus on the states and territories most impacted by the HIV&AIDS epidemic for Latinos, specifically looking to New York, California, Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. We will also begin to evaluate the effectiveness of the DVD as a tool for improving access to care in Hispanic communities nationwide.

1,500 Number of “Sharing Stories, Creating Hope” DVDs distributed in Washington, D.C. at the International AIDS Conference.

CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE (CBA)

The Commission works with organizations and communities across the United States and Territories to provide health departments, faith-based organizations, media, universities, businesses, and coalitions with capacity building assistance (CBA) to enhance HIV prevention/health promotion programs in both urban and rural settings.

MANOS UNIDAS/ HANDS UNITED assists organizations to develop organizational infrastructure and implementation, adaptation, and evaluation of effective behavioral HIV prevention interventions for at-risk populations **across all ethnicities**.

COMUNIDADES SALUDABLES AHORA/ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES NOW assists communities to increase access to and utilization of HIV prevention services **among Latinos** nationally through the implementation and dissemination of community mobilization models.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission had a very strong and active presence at the International AIDS Conference (IAC) held in July in Washington, DC. Commission staff delivered six workshops to IAC representatives from around the world and presented five posters based both on internal Commission (Latinas por la Salud; Crystal Meth prevention) and CBA work (CDC CBO assessments presented in partnership with CDC, data from a review of our CBA requests, and the National

Latino AIDS Awareness Day subway testing campaign in collaboration with HHS). Our **Texas Training Institute** included seven webinars that reached 245 participants, four full days of training in three cities (San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston) for 179 participants, and a Community Forum in Austin. We conducted a regional needs assessment and designed the **Puerto Rico Training Institute**, a seven-part series conducted via webinar and on-site events across the island. We also received 40 new CBA requests from 12 states and territories, and completed 39 outstanding requests. We provided 13 CBA trainings, 16 tailored coaching sessions, and 30 technical assistance services. We also held proactive trainings and webinars for 284 participants throughout the year, and held 41 webinars with approximately 580 participants representing 37 states.

2013 goals: The Commission will implement the remaining components of the Puerto Rico Training Institute by March 2013, including skills-building trainings and community mobilization sessions for CBOs and health departments. We will provide customized CBA services to organizations throughout the island, and are planning a national readiness assessment survey to gather information about how community-based organizations are adapting to “new directions” in the HIV field. We will use this data to inform a national series of regional Town Hall Summits regarding community readiness in the Northeastern, Southern, Midwestern and Western regions.

40 Number of requests in 2012 from organizations nationwide to receive capacity building assistance.

LATINOS IN THE DEEP SOUTH PROJECT

Latinos in the Deep South conducts on-going needs assessment and develops grassroots community organizing and leadership skills among local organizations in seven states (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) so that they can effect policy change and advocate on behalf of constituents.

2012 accomplishments: In September 2012, The Commission completed the second Dennis deLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute in Atlanta, launched a new multi-year partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin to investigate how HIV criminalization affects testing and care among Latino immigrants in North Carolina and Tennessee, and participated in the *Empower US Mississippi* State AIDS Conference, where we worked directly with local HIV+ individuals.

2013 goals: In 2013, The Commission will begin an updated needs assessment report on the state of Latinos in the Deep South, commence a third cohort of the Dennis deLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute, and establish and strengthen new organizational partnerships in Kentucky and the Florida Panhandle.

EL PUENTE PARA LA SALUD/ BRIDGE TO HEALTH

El Puente Para la Salud (PPLS) is designed to support and enhance the work of other health and social service organizations and other entities that seek to reduce disparities in health services provided to members of the Latino LGBT population through culturally competent curricula.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission provided capacity building assistance (CBA) training to 491 staff/health service providers and people living with HIV&AIDS in the five boroughs of New York City. Our staff delivered CBA trainings to a myriad of partnering organizations that range from communities of faith, harm reduction programs, hospitals, clinics, CBO's and higher education institutions, on topics ranging from New Biomedical Strategies for Prevention, ABCs of Hepatitis, Nutritional Management, Co-morbidities, Gender Identity, and Anti-Stigma Training.

2013 goals: The Commission is developing new curricula on Self-Image & Ageing in the Latino LGBT Community, Acculturation, and HIV & Latino LGBTs Aged 40+.

491 Number of participants in New York City who received training on HIV and hepatitis. Trainees included people living with AIDS, health care providers, nurses, outreach educators, among others.

TAPING OF A PSA TO BE USED AS A SOCIAL MEDIA TOOL TO FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA AND TO START THE CONVERSATION OF ACCEPTANCE, TOLERANCE AND RESPECT TOWARDS THE LGBT COMMUNITY.



TRATAMIENTO AHORA/ TREATMENT NOW

Tratamiento Ahora is an intensive three-day program offered locally, regionally, and nationally, and is the only HIV treatment education training institute conducted in Spanish for Spanish-speaking healthcare professionals, to ensure the latest advances are rapidly disseminated to the community.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission provided comprehensive training in Puerto Rico for doctors, nurses, medical students, social workers, and case managers through partnerships with local agencies. We reached areas of the island that usually don't receive this type of training, including the west coast in Mayagüez and the center north in Vega Baja, training 146 providers.

2013 goals: The Commission will continue promoting these important training sessions for Spanish-speaking providers around the nation, with trainings planned in Chicago, Ponce Island (Puerto Rico), and for the San Juan Association of HIV Specialists.

JUNTOS CONSTRUYENDO/ BUILDING TOGETHER

Juntos Construyendo fosters a New York state-wide Latino Gay, Bisexual Men who have Sex with Men

(MSM) Network, building leadership and capacity to promote communication and networking among Latino MSM-serving organizations and grassroots groups.

2012 accomplishments: In 2012, The Commission launched the Juntos Construyendo website and social media campaign, and through distribution of mini grants supported a diverse array of community projects to the Brooklyn AIDS Taskforce 'Brooklyn Men (K)onnect' program; Hudson River HealthCare's UPWORDS Voices; and Hetrick-Martin Institute's JC: CHAT. We also launched the "*Juntos Construyendo un Futuro sin VIH/SIDA*," in collaboration with Be the Generation Bridge project, and conducted Town Hall forums in Puerto Rico and are currently engaging in knowledge assessments with CBOs and communities. The Juntos Construyendo program also joined a forum on *HIV and the LGBT Community*, held by the Office of Public Engagement at the White House.

2013 goals: The Commission will implement the Dennis deLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute in New York State with the Latino MSM community and foster intra-agency MSM leadership, foster an interagency MSM staff leadership development group, and host a third Juntos' annual meeting with members (coinciding with NYC LGBT Pride in June).

146 Number of providers in Puerto Rico who took "Treatment Now", a three-day program in Spanish with the latest information in HIV.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION INITIATIVES

NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY (NLAAD): OCTOBER 15

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) is a community mobilization/ social marketing campaign implemented at local levels, which seeks to draw attention to the critical roles that HIV testing and prevention education play in stemming the spread of HIV&AIDS in the Latino community.

2012 accomplishments: Uniting the Latino community under the theme of *Hispanos Unidos Para Derrotar al SIDA* (Hispanics United to End AIDS), NLAAD solidified support from 240 partners who together organized 113 events in 81 cities across the United States and Territories. Through a partnership with OraSure Technologies, 5,000 HIV testing kits were donated to NLAAD partners that were CLIA-waived HIV testing certified sites, thus providing counseling and testing services to thousands of Latinos and helping them learn their HIV status. In addition, electronic copies of the 2012 campaign kits were distributed to partners across the country via email and made available for download from our website.

2013 goals: The Commission will develop a leadership committee of representatives from across the United States and Territories, enhance capacity building provided to organizing bodies to help with influencing change in our communities, and, launch a redesigned

website that is easily navigated by partners and community members to ensure the timely availability of electronic resources, in order to reach more Hispanics nationally.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY (NHAAD): MAY 15

National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (NHHAD) is a national community mobilization and social marketing campaign to draw attention to the critical roles that viral hepatitis awareness, prevention, testing, treatment education and referral-to-care play in stemming the spread of hepatitis in Hispanic communities.

2012 accomplishments: This year The Commission launched the first-ever National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day, with collaboration and events in 15 US cities involving more than 500 participants, and launched the national NHHAD website with resources for local sponsorship of NHHAD events.

2013 goals: In 2013, The Commission will expand NHHAD to 25 participating cities and secure new strategic resources to launch a major Hispanic hepatitis initiative in New York State. We aim to test more than 100 people for Hepatitis C and see more than 50 get vaccinated for Hepatitis A & B.

5,000 Number of OraSure testing kits donated to NLAAD partners across the nation to facilitate HIV testing at their local events.

CLOSING OF "BAILANDO POR UNA CAUSA", A DANCE SHOW HELD EVERY YEAR IN OCTOBER TO CREATE HIV AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH AND TO PROMOTE NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY. THE EVENT IS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE.



HEALTH ADVOCACY

The Commission builds collaborations across party lines to meet the needs of our constituents and educates policymakers at the federal, state and local levels.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

2012 accomplishments: The Commission organized a Congressional briefing on September 20, titled *“The Impact of HIV&AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Among Hispanics in the United States and the Territories”*, co-chaired by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Mike Honda (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), and Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR). This briefing was cosponsored by 20 national organizations, and speakers included staff from The Commission, the CDC, Rep Lucille Roybal-Allard and Rep Mike Honda. More than 50 people attended, with 11 different elected offices represented, including representatives from Sen. Lieberman (I-CT) and Sen. Franken (D-MN)

2013 goals: The Commission will expand efforts to educate a bipartisan group of policymakers about the urgent concerns of Hispanics across the nation related to HIV, Hepatitis, and access to care, giving a national voice to the experience of Latinos in local communities around the nation.

NEW YORK STATE LATINO AIDS ADVOCACY NETWORK

2012 accomplishments: This year marked the second annual New York State Latino AIDS Albany Advocacy Day. Advocates from across the state convened in March to hold over 30 meetings with elected officials from

the Governor’s office, Senate, and Assembly, as well as meetings with the New York AIDS Institute and the NY State Department of Health.

2013 goals: In March 2013, in conjunction with the third annual New York State Latino AIDS Advocacy Day, The Commission will hold our first-ever legislative briefing for New York State legislators, entitled *“The Impact of HIV, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis on Hispanics in the State of New York.”*

NEW YORK CITY AIDS ADVOCACY NETWORK

2012 accomplishments: Following cuts to NYC HIV prevention contracts, The Commission created and organized a partnership of more than 60 organizations to educate policymakers about the impact such deep cuts would have had on services, and succeeded in having funding restored. We organized a community forum for 60 providers, advocates, and people living with HIV to discuss how NYC needs to respond to the changing environment of HIV&AIDS, as well as two community teach-ins to educate community members on how policy changes will affect care in the future.

2013 goals: In 2013, The Commission will work with our partners to develop and disseminate an agenda of community concerns related to HIV and related issues, to educate the public and municipal candidates about issues affecting the health of Hispanics and other marginalized groups in NYC.

GUILLELMO CHACON AND MIRIAM VEGA RECIEVE A PROCLAMATION FROM THE HANDS OF NEW YORK CITY MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG. THE RECOGNITION WAS IN MERIT TO THE COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELLBEING OF THE COMMUNITY.



A COMMISSION STAFF PROVIDES THE HIV TEST TEST TO A CLIENT, WHO ALSO RECEIVE A COUNSELING SESSION AND REFERRAL IF NECESSARY.

PLEASE REFILL ALL CONDOM TRAYS IN THE COUNSELING ROOMS



HIV & HEPATITIS TESTING & ACCESS TO CARE

2012 accomplishments: The Commission provided 2,226 individuals with HIV testing and counseling services on-site as well as in the community, at colleges, senior centers, food pantries, gay bars, churches and substance abuse treatment programs. We identified 37 new HIV cases and linked 26 HIV+ individuals to medical care. We provided HIV testing and HIV prevention workshops to hundreds of Latino gay men, and to more than 100 seniors who attended workshops at 10 senior centers city-wide. We provided workshops on STIs and HIV to over 500 individuals in substance abuse treatment centers. In August we started providing Hepatitis C testing and counseling services with linkage to care services for those who come out positive, and have provided 26 individuals with Hepatitis-C testing and counseling.

2013 goals: The Commission's goal is to get all newly diagnosed individuals both for HIV and Hepatitis C into linkage to care services, and to continue to improve our testing numbers and increase funding for additional staff and case management services.



It's free, come on!
¡Animate, es gratis!

No more guessing!
¡No más dudas!

Takes no time!
¡Es rápido!

You never know...
¡Uno nunca sabe!

We did it together!
¡Lo hicimos juntas!

HIV & HEPATITIS C TESTING HOURS
MONDAY-THURSDAY
9:30AM-5:00PM
AFTER 5:00PM BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

HORARIO DE LA PRUEBA DEL VIH & HEPATITIS C
LUNES-JUEVES
9:30AM-5:00PM
DESPUES DE LAS 5:00PM
SOLO CON CITA



2,226

Number of individuals who received HIV testing and counseling by the Commission in New York City. This number includes more than 100 seniors.

HEALTH PROMOTION & PREVENTION PROGRAMS

MUJERES UNIDAS/ WOMEN UNITED

Mujeres Unidas (Women United) is an adaptation of the evidence-based WILLOW intervention (Women Involved in Life Learning from Other Women) model for providing educational and support group sessions for women living with HIV&AIDS. This program provides them with ongoing supports and primary/secondary prevention programming to increase their condom use and knowledge about other STDs.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission served 160 HIV positive women during 2012, with 52 completing the entire program and 23 receiving referrals to care.

2013 goals: The Commission will continue our innovative program to provide HIV+ women and seek ways to eliminate barriers to participation, such as childcare and other major or logistical concerns. We also aspire to add a bilingual monthly support group.

PODER LATINO/ LATINO EMPOWERMENT

Poder Latino unites and raises the voice of Latinos living with HIV&AIDS through bilingual education/training on HIV policy and advocacy, as well as personal and community empowerment to improve self-esteem and reduce HIV-related stigma among Latinos through peer support, positive role models and increased community dialogue.

2012 accomplishments: Poder Latino continues to thrive with many new clients joining and learning strategies for responding to the systemic issues affecting them.

2013 goals: The Commission will begin planning for an annual immersion retreat for Poder Latino participants to educate the general public and government officials on issues affecting people living with HIV/HCV, in order to raise awareness and promote change.

PARA AYUDAR / TO HELP

Para Ayudar provides education on risk reduction and prevention through individual sessions around the use of alcohol or other drugs. We also offer referrals to other agencies for medical, legal, and social needs. Our target population is Latino Spanish speaking immigrants who are part of the gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission served 210 new clients, providing 603 individual counseling sessions and program staff made a total of 168 referrals to complement and address needs identified by our clients. We successfully completed more than 400 hours of outreach made by a team of five peer educators. At the community level, our intervention spread awareness regarding alcohol abuse and drug consumption through

168 Number of clients who identify as gay, bisexual or transgender, who received counseling sessions around the use of alcohol and drugs. Many of these clients are also Latino immigrants.

WORKSHOP ON HIV, HEALTH EDUCATION, SEX NEGOTIATION,
SELF-ESTEEM, FINANCIAL LITERACY, IMMIGRATION, AND
OTHER ISSUES THAT AFFECT LATINAS.



use of social media such, as Facebook and YouTube, flyers and poster in both English and Spanish, and workshops in collaboration with partner agencies and prevention programs within the Commission.

2013 goals: The Commission is planning to reach at least 254 new clients, and increase the numbers of workshops that are offered in Spanish.

MPOWERMENT PROJECT/ LATINOS D

Mpowerment is a peer and network based community level intervention that seeks to reduce new HIV infections among young-adult Latinos and uses a combination of informal and formal outreach, discussion groups, creation of safe spaces, social opportunities, and social marketing to reach a broad range of HIV+ and HIV negative gay and bisexual men between the ages of 20 and 35 who are sexually active. This initiative places particular emphasis on reaching out to recently-arrived immigrants and migrant workers who are monolingual or Spanish-language dominant.

2012 accomplishments: During 2012, the program recruited more than 600 new, unduplicated clients through educational and social events, conducted 47 educational sessions called *“Punto de Encuentro”* (Meeting Place) attended in average by 30 participants per session, and organized 18 social events attended

by 930 people. The leadership component has more than 50 volunteers between core group members and volunteers. The **Mr. Latinos D** Contest has become a major community event (gathering 450-500 attendees at the October 24 third annual event), the Annual Retreat in December of 70 Latino gay men, and the *Dimension D* educational magazine have become valued community resources.

2013 goals: In 2013, The Commission will develop creative new ways to continue this urgently needed program for building community, visibility and leadership among the LGBT Latino community.

REUNIÓN LATINA TRAINING INSTITUTE

Reunion Latina is The Commission’s annual Albany training institute for providers, advocates and people living with and affected by HIV&AIDS, designed to disseminate strategies for building a comprehensive approach to the healthcare needs of Latinos in New York State.

2012 accomplishments: In 2012, Reunion Latina Institute included presentations and workshops that explored the impact of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hepatitis and access to health care for Latinos and Latinas. While HIV&AIDS is still an issue affecting our communities, the focus now is on the management

50 Number of volunteers who donated their time to organize 18 social events and attract new clients for the Mpowerment Project, a program that targets gay Latinos in New York City.

OPENING PLENARY AT THE ANNUAL REUNION LATINA WHICH TAKES PLACE IN ALBANY AND GATHERS MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT, HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, MEDIA, AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS.



of HIV&AIDS as a chronic disease. By doing so, The Commission can provide a more realistic view and focus on the health of our communities that is reflected in our response to this disease. In 2012, Reunion Latina introduced new prevention tools such as PEP, PrEP and other biomedical interventions currently being researched.

2013 goals: Reunion Latina will continue expanding its reach to conditions affecting Latino Communities in New York State by including information and data on viral hepatitis, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and asthma. We will also focus on new realities of HIV prevention and treatment, with emphasis on biomedical intervention, access to HIV testing and interventions designed to work with populations at high risk and continue to educate the community about new realities of access to health care, Medicaid redesign implementation, and the Affordable Care Act implications in our state.

LATINO RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Latino Religious Leadership Program provides HIV prevention education to more than 36 communities of faith directly engaged in the program, reaching over 3,000 congregants annually. Member churches and communities of faith provide health education

workshops, participate in trainings and forums on AIDS-related issues, distribute prevention literature, and arrange for on-site HIV testing and other health screening activities for their members.

2012 accomplishments: Major events held in 2012 included: the Latino Religious Anti-Stigma Training Institute, attended by 135 religious leaders from numerous denominations; the Latino AIDS Memorial 2012, hosted this year by the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Simon Stock—which also included more than 100 Episcopal, Methodist, Pentecostal and Muslim community members; and the City-Wide Latino Religious Training Institute, which continues a tradition to promote health education and healthy living habits in Latino communities of faith.

2013 goals: In the upcoming year, the Latino Religious Leadership Program will: expand outreach to new communities of faith in the NYC metropolitan area in order to expand the network of participant communities of faith; continue promoting information and activities about the innovative HIV prevention initiatives that are re-shaping HIV prevention and Testing in NYC; and promote and provide Hepatitis-C testing as part of the scope of services provided by communities of faith.

36 Number of communities of faith that belong to the Religious Leadership Program and receive HIV prevention education to be disseminated among their congregants.

A PARTICIPANT OF A COMMUNITY OF FAITH LEARNS THE
TECHNIQUE TO PERFORM AN HIV TEST IN AN EVENT ORGANIZED
BY THE LATINO RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

The Research and Evaluation Department promotes scientific exchanges in the area of Latino health disparities through original and secondary research, literature reviews, a seminar series, interactive workshops, and an annual mini-grant competition. Our research provides critical information to key stakeholders, including community based organizations, health departments, and policymakers.

2012 accomplishments: The Commission sponsored the *first-ever Hispanic Community Research Forum*, a pre-conference at the International AIDS Conference (IAC) in July 2012. With 22 panelists and almost 200 attendees, this was a major accomplishment and involved key national partners in research, government, community, and service providers. During the Conference we also produced a daily newsletter that was disseminated throughout the country and a daily video digest of the activities at IAC. We understood that many of our consumers could not attend the conference and wanted to ensure that they would still be able to access the information.

In 2012, Commission staff **published two articles in peer-reviewed journals** and one book chapter. We strengthened the evaluation infrastructure of the Commission, program by program, including producing high-quality reports and customized evaluation. Additionally, our intern program graduated 14 interns

who worked on building their client-interaction skills, community assessment data analysis skills, as well as critical thinking and research skills. Finally, we shared lessons learned at multiple national and international conferences and published our first Hispanic Health Brief, *“A growing crisis among Hispanic/Latinos: the HIV and Hepatitis co-infection epidemic”*, which was disseminated to legislators and media at our national Congressional Briefing in September. Our Turning Research into Prevention (TRIP) initiative completed and submitted a manuscript for review to the CDC. The manuscript, entitled *Lessons Learned While Preparing a Tailored, Self-Help Intervention for National Dissemination*, will be submitted to public health journals upon completion of review.

2013 goals: Key areas for the coming year include: [1] Building on our expertise in issues relevant to Latino gay men, such as resiliency in the face of stigma and immigration; [2] Supporting the Commission’s policy advocacy work through timely research and analysis of data surrounding health system change and new prevention methods; [3] Providing expanded oversight for Commission programs through assessments and innovative evaluation, such as community and service provider readiness surveys for the various changes in both the HIV arena and the health arena as a whole; and [4] Continuing to develop new leaders of tomorrow by honing our internship program.

14 Number of panelists who participated in the first-ever Hispanic Community Research Forum, held as a pre-conference at the International AIDS Conference.

AUDITED FINANCIALS

For the years ended June 30	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 10,970	\$ 1,261
Receivables - Governmental/Other Contracts	577,532	654,334
Pledges Receivable	124,520	242,893
Security Deposit	-	16,675
Prepaid Expenses	41,260	8,969
Fixed Assets	17,555	24,489
Total assets	\$ 771,837	\$ 948,621
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 519,322	\$ 645,291
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	100,151	159,084
Line of Credit Payable	99,291	99,619
Due to Fiscal Conduits	-	2,155
Contract - Advance Payments	20,837	71,608
Unrestricted Net Assets	32,236	(29,136)
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 771,837	\$ 948,621

MANAGEMENT TEAM & BOARD

Management Team



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President



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CONCLUSION

In 2013, the Latino Commission on AIDS will continue providing national, regional, and local leadership regarding the unique healthcare, social service and community concerns of Hispanics/Latinos and other disenfranchised communities. With your loyal and steadfast support, we are able to meet the challenges ahead through dedicated service and innovative, groundbreaking programs that address the evolving needs of our constituents.

We know 2013 will be a challenging year and that there will be key issues that we must carefully monitor. These include: the impact that the state of the US economy may have on our communities, the continued implementation of state-level anti-immigrant legislation; state implementation of healthcare reform; and the 2013 New York City Mayoral election. Special engagement needs to be undertaken to support the goals of reaching a humane and fair immigration reform process in the coming two years.

2013 will also be a year of tremendous opportunities for the Latino Commission on AIDS. Now more than ever we need to take the lead on innovative initiatives, program integration, and fostering strategic partnerships in order to attain our ambitious goals and secure the resources necessary to support our groundbreaking work.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT STRENGTH OF THE LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS IS THE WAY IN WHICH WE CONDUCT OUR WORK, AND THAT EVERY PARTNER AND SUPPORTER BELIEVES IN OUR MISSION AND VISION. WORKING TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE CHANGING HEALTH NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

Your support and commitment to our cause equips us to mobilize community leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders to inform HIV&AIDS and other health policies and decision-making, give voice to local leaders and communities, and create sustainable and innovative partnerships to meet the health challenges of underserved and marginalized populations in the face of continued funding restraints and service reductions.

In 2013, The Latino Commission on AIDS will embark in a mid- and long-term strategic planning process, and consider new investments in our infrastructure that will be necessary for us to continue developing a non-traditional community based organization that has a transformational impact in our local, regional and national work. Our commitment will always aim to help create a society in which we can enjoy a culture of peace with dignity, among healthy communities.



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