

2016

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright yellow jacket, is shown in profile, smiling and looking upwards. She is holding a clipboard and a pen. In the background, a man in a white lab coat is blurred, suggesting a professional or medical setting. The overall tone is positive and professional.

ANNUAL REPORT

LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS



Health Fair and HIV testing in San Diego, CA organized by San Ysidro Health Center as part of the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

Message from the President

Our staff shares a common vision:
to reach an AIDS-free generation

As we share our work during this period, it is important to reflect on the impact we have had and to outline the challenges and opportunities for 2017. Each of our programs has worked tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of Hispanics/Latinos affected by and at risk for HIV&AIDS. The Latino Commission will continue to work with our partners nation-wide to build our community's leadership and prepare for further integration of HIV, HVC and STIs in the context of access to health care in general.

At the organizational level the Latino Commission welcomed new staff to our leadership team, as well as expanded staffing for many of our programs. We began the initial assessment process of an organizational integration and collaboration plan, in order to achieve even higher impact in our work across all programs and departments of the agency. Our goal is to complete this assessment and begin implementation of the plan in 2017.

We recognize the contributions of our Board of Directors and Special Events Planning Committees, all of whom play a huge role in the fundraising and management success of the organization. Special recognition goes to our staff, whose quality performance, creativity, positive energy, passion, and unbreakable commitment to our mission and vision is our most valuable asset.

The Commission recognizes that the most important part of our organization is each and every one of us that share a common vision to reach an AIDS-free generation. We value our partners' efforts, our team's dedication, and the leadership of Latinos working to bring our voice to the table.

Guillermo Chacón, born in El Salvador, is president of the Latino Commission on AIDS since 2009 and founder of the Hispanic Health Network



Al compartir nuestro trabajo durante este período, es importante reflexionar sobre el impacto que hemos tenido y esbozar los desafíos y oportunidades para 2017. Cada uno de nuestros programas ha trabajado incansablemente para tener un impacto positivo en la vida de los hispanos / latinos afectados por y en riesgo de VIH y SIDA. La Comisión Latina continuará trabajando con nuestros socios en todo el país para fortalecer el liderazgo de nuestra comunidad y prepararse para una mayor integración del VIH, la HVC y las ITS en el contexto del acceso a la atención de la salud en general.

A nivel organizacional, la Comisión Latina dio la bienvenida al nuevo personal de nuestro equipo de liderazgo, así como la ampliación de personal para muchos de nuestros programas. Comenzamos el proceso de evaluación inicial de un plan de integración y colaboración organizacional, con el fin de lograr un impacto aún mayor en nuestro trabajo en todos los programas y departamentos de la agencia. Nuestro objetivo es completar esta evaluación y comenzar la implementación del plan en 2017.

Reconocemos las contribuciones de nuestro Consejo de Administración y de los Comités de Planificación de Eventos Especiales, todos los cuales desempeñan un papel importante en la recaudación de fondos y el éxito de gestión de la organización. Un reconocimiento especial va a nuestro personal, cuyo desempeño de calidad, creatividad, energía positiva, pasión y compromiso incansable con nuestra misión y visión es nuestro activo más valioso.

La Comisión Latina reconoce que la parte más importante de nuestra organización es cada uno de nosotros que comparte una visión común para alcanzar una generación libre de SIDA. Valoramos los esfuerzos de nuestros socios, la dedicación de nuestro equipo y el liderazgo de los latinos que trabajan para llevar nuestra voz a la mesa.



Oasis Latino LGBTs Wellness Center

A safe space for Latinxs LGBTs youth in New York City

The OASIS – Latino LGBTs Wellness Center aims to reduce new infections, increase access to care and promote health equity in our communities. Oasis is a safe space for all members of the Latinx LGBT community and their allies to gather and create community mobilization efforts to create a healthy Latinx community in NYC. Oasis engages in health education and promotion, social events, advocacy and mobilization awareness, PRIDE events and community building.

The Center is powered by four direct service programs that address HIV prevention with people living with HIV and at high-risk for HIV: 1) Access to Care, 2) P4, 3) Vida Positiva, and 4) LEAD.



2017 Goals: OASIS is looking to the future of the field and proactively adopting strategies and groundbreaking initiatives. We will integrate HIV/STI testing services as new technologies that test for multiple STIs, including HIV and HCV, become available. We will increase our reach outside the first generation immigrant community, to the 2nd and 3rd generation communities. We will work to enhance our partnerships within high quality networks to ensure streamlined social and clinical services. And finally we will strengthen our mobile-based capacities with cellphone based apps and other tools in order to reach youth on the platforms that speak to them best.

Since its foundation in 2016, Oasis has become a one stop shop for the many needs of the LGBTs community in New York City.

Leandro Rodriguez, born in Puerto Rico, has worked at the Commission since 2007 and is the Director of Programs and the Manager of Oasis.

The Commission provides HIV, Hep C and STIs testing for free at both of our locations. HIV testing is also performed at many off-site outreach activities.



Access to Care

Testing our community for HIV, HCV & STIs and linking & retaining them in medical care

The Access to Care and Services department of the Latino Commission on AIDS is tasked with providing behavioral and biomedical interventions to both individuals living with HIV and those at risk of infection. Access to PrEP, nPEP, HIV and Hep-C testing, delivering the community intervention: Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Access to Services (ARTAS), Personalized Cognitive Counseling (PCC), navigation to clinical and supportive social services, are driven by dedicated staff who interact on a day to day basis with the community. Our HIV testing efforts follow two important approaches: 1) community wide testing events to enhance awareness and normalize HIV testing, and 2) targeted HIV testing focused on population most impacted by HIV.

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Gustavo Morales, born in Puerto Rico, has worked at the Commission since 2009 and is the Director of Access to Care Program.



Highlights: During this period we conducted 810 HIV tests, which included a pre and post counseling session along with delivery of HIV status results. The average seropositive for the agency overall is 2% across all individuals who are testing with us. For our target populations, this seropositivity rate increases to 6.9% seropositivity for Latino MSM 18-30 years old and 7.25 seropositivity

for Latino MSM 30 years and older. We have made referrals and linked over 200 HIV positive individuals to services such as ADAP, mental health counseling, NYC ID, sex education, and employment services. We have made referrals and linked over 200 individuals at risk for HIV infection to services such as shelters and emergency housing, insurance enrollment, behavioral interventions, and STI screenings. Through our partnership with Summit Program we were able to provide emergency nPEP linkage during weekends and late night hours to 6 clients who were exposed to HIV. Our M-Group workshop successfully graduated 16 HIV positive and 82 high risk HIV negative young men. 5,640 condoms and lubes were distributed, and 37 outreach events took place, impacting up to 1,614 individuals.

2017 Goals: Build on the success of the OASIS model to link high risk young MSM to culturally responsive prevention and treatment services.

P4 Working to make PrEP accessible to our communities

P4 stands for PrEP + Paratoin + Prevention = PrEP/PEP. This program is part of the New York Ending the Epidemic (EtE) Network in New York City and a new addition to the OASIS LGBT's Wellness Center. The program provides PrEP Education, Counseling and Linkage/Navigation to PrEP, PEP and social support services such as mental health, housing, employment, substance abuse services, etc. as needed. The primary goal of P4 is to help our clients design their own realistic prevention plan, based on their own lifestyle in order to improve their adherence to medication and have a healthy sexual life.

Highlights: During this period we worked with 89 clients to provide PrEP screening, education and counseling. 75% of our clients were successfully linked into PrEP via New York Presbyterian Hospital's Project Stay (PlaySure Clinic). On May 26, 2016 we hosted our first PrEP Rally which gathered



approximately 100 individuals. Dr. Demetre Daskalakis participated in the PrEP Rally, where he brought us a live version of his Social Marketing Campaign, #AskTheHIVDoc. The P4 Rally also included a health fair with Ending the Epidemic partners and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

2017 Goals: In 2017 P4 will host its second PrEP Rally and Health Fair with our PlaySure partners in order to increase awareness and reduce stigma around PrEP. We will also work to increase access to PrEP and other complementary services our community needs.



← **Ruben Rios**, born in Venezuela, manages the P4 program and coordinates the work of the peers.

Vida Positiva

A positive life workshop to support those living with HIV

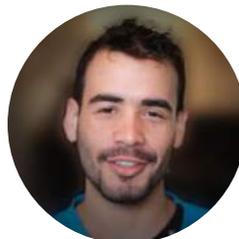
Vida Positiva, also known as the Positive Life Workshop, is designed to support anyone in the community living with HIV or AIDS. The workshop has been primarily implemented in Spanish and is meant to provide a safe and completely confidential space for people living with HIV to receive information about issues affecting their lives.

Highlights: During this period Vida Positiva graduated over 100 clients from the workshop. We reached these clients through successful collaborations with partner agencies such as AID for AIDS, Casa Betsaida, Montefiore Medical Center, Jacobi Medical Center, Mount Sinai Hospital, and GMHC. We also participated in various events this year to support the community and inform them of our Positive Life Workshop. These included Queens Gay Pride, Puerto Rican Pride, New York Pride,



Health Fairs at the Gay Center, Latex Ball and New York City AIDS Walk. Finally, Vida Positiva staff participated in the 2016 Creating Change Conference for the first time.

2017 Goals: Vida Positiva will work to increase enrollment in the program and collaborate with more partners throughout the city and boroughs. We also plan to expand our participation in the 2017 Creating Change Conference by playing a role in the Latino Institute and presenting during conference sessions.



← **Danny Ochoa**, born in Colombia, leads the program together with 4 other outreach workers.

LEAD uses social media to promote services and recruit clients.



LEAD

Leadership, empowerment, action and diffusion

Lucciano Reberte, born in Argentina, manages the LEAD intervention and organizes the *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal* retreat.

LEAD provides linkage to HIV, STD testing and HCV screening to young Latino MSM. We also offer *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal*, a 3-day retreat addressing self-esteem and internalized homophobia. This high impact retreat engages hard to reach Latino MSM in a culturally competent and fully bilingual environment designed for the specific needs and cultural expectations of Latino populations, including new immigrants. Finally, CLEAR: Choosing Life: Empowerment! Action! Results!, which is a one-on-one intervention for people living with HIV/AIDS which provides skills necessary to make healthy life choices.



Highlights: During this period we worked hard to improve our *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal* retreat. We finalized the retreat curriculum and developed a promotional video with the help of former retreat participants and staff. In addition, we formalized our *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal* retreat Volunteer Program.

2017 Goals: In addition to reaching clients through our CLEAR program and young MSM through *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal* retreats, our primary goal of 2017 will be to implement the first *Construyendo Tu Yo Ideal* retreat specifically for transgender men and women.



Maduros y Sabrosos, an initiative of Puente para la Salud, provides lgbt age 50+ with important health resources.

Puente Para La Salud

A bridge to health providing capacity building to better serve the Latino LGBT community

The main objective of Puente Para La Salud (Bridge to Health) is to increase community based and Latino LGBT organizations' capacity to improve their services by providing cultural competency trainings. Maduros y Sabrosos is an initiative of Puente Para La Salud. The main objective of Maduros y Sabrosos is to provide a safe space in which participants Latino Gay, Bisexual and Transgender age 50+ can discuss issues relevant to them. All the workshops and presentations are tailored according to the needs of the participants and aims to reduce their feelings of isolation.

Highlights: During this reporting period we had a total of 460 encounters. These included workshops and activities on the following topics: 1) Bacteria's and the Gut (bacteria's are your friend), 2) Hepatitis C update, 3) Addictions, 4) Colors and Your Personality, 5) Exercise and Your Heart, 6) Marriage and Immigration, 7) Are Poppers a drug?, 8) Accepting Your Age, 9) Maduros Sabrosos Movie Night, 10) PrEP and STI's, 11) Peter Pan Syndrome, 12) Andropause, 13) Diabetes, 14) Debate between young and mature GBT Latinos, 15) Internalized



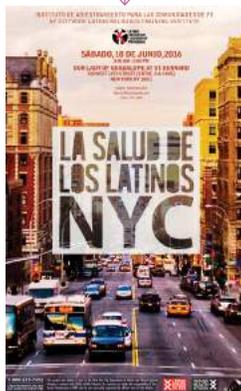
Homophobia, 16) Libido, 17) Masturbation in the Mature Gay Men population, 18) Mind and Health, 19) Spirituality and Exercise, 20) Sleep Problems, 21) Mental Health, 22) Anal Sex, 23) Using Facebook, 24) Super virus and HIV infection, 25) Vocabulary (new Gay terminology), 26) HIV Vaccine Development, 27) Sexuality in Mature Men. We have also worked to increase our social media presence.

Over 950 people visited and interacted with Maduros y Sabrosos via our Facebook page.

2017 Goals: Our primary goal for 2017 is to formalize the Maduros y Sabrosos curricula and expand our evaluation plan to capture impact of the initiative. This will enable us to secure funding to increase the program's activities and to duplicate the initiative throughout NYC and national with other communities.

Carlos Maldonado, born in Puerto Rico, is a longtime activist and health educator. He manages the Puente para la Salud program.

The Latino Religious Leadership Program empowers and trains community faith leaders so HIV/HCV prevention and health care messages become a mainstay with their parishioners.



Latino Religious Leadership Program

Building health ministries in communities of faith throughout New York City

Since 1995, this program has engaged faith based leaders as gatekeepers to their congregations and communities in order to alter community norms and attitudes about HIV&AIDS and other health conditions. Understanding the centrality of religious institutions within the Latino community, we have been able to promote health education through faith based networks as a means to preventing the spread of HIV and to promote overall wellness and preventative health in our communities.

Highlights: In 2015 and 2016 the program worked with 27 faith based organizations. During this time we provided them 12 capacity building trainings on topics such as ebola, HIV, Hepatitis, mental health, dental health, nutrition, PrEP, Zika virus, and stigma. Over 600 duplicated participants participated across the 12 trainings, with the Stigma training gathering nearly 100 participants each year. In addition, the program hosts a Latino AIDS Memorial annual on World AIDS Day in collaboration with participating faith based organizations. In 2015,

two services were held, gathering over 170 individuals to the memorial. Participating faith based organizations also organized workshops for their congregations where they shared information about HIV/AIDS, mental health, various cancers, ebola, healthy cooking, infant development, respiratory diseases, hypertension, dental health, alzheimer, addition, sexual assault, and more. 362 workshops were held across the 27 participating faith based organizations during this period.

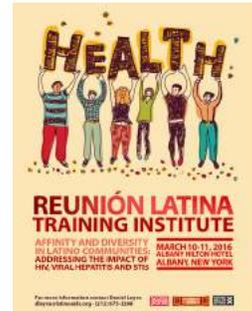
2017 Goals: In the upcoming year the Latino Religious Leadership Program will develop several formalized training curriculum, expand outreach to new communities of faith in the NYC metropolitan area in order to expand the network, , promote and provide services to empower the health ministries formed through this program, and work to secure funding and expand educational services to include cancer awareness, cardiovascular disease, organizational management skills, and more.

Maria Luisa Miranda, born in Ecuador, is the Senior health educator of the Latino Religious Leadership Program. She has been an activist and HIV health educator for 20 years.





During Reunion Latina's open forum, participants voice their concerns around the health of the community.



Reunion Latina Training Institute

Convening providers, advocates and people living with HIV & AIDS from across New York State

The annual event is New York's largest statewide skills-building and leadership development forum for Latinos working in the field of or affected by HIV/AIDS. Reunion Latina has served as a place for providers and stakeholders to discuss ways to improve services, share strategies on how to overcome health challenges, unify our efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and craft a vision to eliminate health disparities.

Highlights: Reunion Latina held its 2016 training institute with over 150 participants. Over half of these are repeat participants who had attended in the past and returned for further trainings. The largest participation was from New York City and the Albany area. Reunion Latina, although focused on Latinos and HIV/AIDS in New York State, has been working to expand our reach and include information about health disparities affecting the Latino community. Our opening plenaries featured key speakers from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, The New York State Department of Health

AIDS Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, followed by a space for attendees to speak out and ask questions about issues relevant to them. We offered 50 scholarships for people living with HIV/AIDS to attend the training institute. Workshop topics included information regarding health disparities among Latinos, needs of Latinos over 50, reproductive justice for Latinas, working with youth, information about PrEP, Latinos and cancer, Latinos and Hepatitis C, combatting stigma, strategies for implementing the New York State plan to end AIDS, grant writing, evaluation, program sustainability, social advocacy strategies, and more.



2017 Goals: We will expand outreach in order to include a wider range of participants from across New York State and surrounding states. We will work to expand the program contents to address a broader issues affecting Latinos in the US, as well as address the most needed staff and organizational development skills needed in the field.

← **Daniel Leyva**, born in Mexico, has been managing Reunion Latina for the last 14 years

The capacity building program of the Commission provides training to the HIV workforce across the U.S.



National Capacity Building

Building the skills of community based organizations to provide effective and relevant HIV services across the United States and territories

The Hands United capacity building assistance (CBA) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides assistance to community based organizations (CBOs) across the US, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, to strengthen their HIV Testing, Prevention with Positives, and Organizational Development & Management.

Highlights: During this period, Hands United successfully implemented 6 national institutes: HIV Prevention 2.0 in partnership with JSI in Miami and 2 Social Network Strategy Institutes in Miami and Los Angeles. The team also partnered with JSI and ETR for the “Get (In)Formation: High-Impact Prevention in the South” institutes in the Deep South cities of New Orleans, Birmingham, and Jackson. Overall, the team completed 41 CBA requests: 18 were trainings, 11 one-on-one coaching sessions, others included the facilitation of effective behavioral interventions, and public health strategies in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas,

Washington DC, and Wisconsin. Proactively, Hands United provided 3 grant writing and organizational development trainings, as well as webinars on topics that included Holistic Sexual & Reproductive Health, Sex Positivity, Updates to The National HIV/AIDS Strategy, Engaging Latinos in Medical Care, Latinx Explained, Effective Partnerships, and Social Marketing. Lastly, the team participated and presented at the following conferences:

The Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit, the Latino HIV and Hepatitis C Conference, The American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists Conference, The Stonewall National Education Symposium, the United States Conference on AIDS, and the National Sex Education Conference.

2017 Goals: In 2017 we will continue to collaborate with funded CBA sites to provide services across the country. We will expand our CBA department to provide local capacity building to New York City based Transgender organizations as part of the NY State Ending the Epidemic 2020 initiative. Our final goal for 2017 will be to update our long standing CBA model.

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David Garcia, born in the U.S. (Mexican descent) leads the capacity building activities at the Commission.

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Bolivar Nieto, born in Ecuador, customizes CBA services to meet clients’ particular needs.





The program curricula is constantly update to better reflect the changes in the medical field.

Tratamiento Ahora

Bilingual HIV treatment education for service providers and people living with HIV/AIDS

Our bilingual treatment education program provides treatment updates and clinical advances about HIV and Hepatitis in a simple, yet medically accurate language, increasing the capacity of participants to become their own advocates and become a partner in health care decision-making. We accomplish this by training front line staff-peer educators, case managers, counselors, social workers, nurses and consumers. The training also facilitates partnerships amongst service agencies and local Health Departments. Tratamiento Ahora (Treatment Now) training curricula was developed and is regularly updated to include medical advances and promote the need for Spanish and English information.

Highlights: This program year we provided trainings in cities across Florida, New York,

North Carolina and New Jersey reaching a total of 75 individual service providers. In addition, the program provided a Treatment update at the Reunion Latina Training Institute in Albany, New York for consumers and service providers. Finally, in collaboration with the Latino Commission on AIDS' capacity building assistance we have customized a biomedical presentation for national distribution.



2017 Goals: In 2017 Tratamiento Ahora will continue seeking to expand funding resources in order to provide trainings in more cities across the country, including Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. In addition, we will continue to collaborate with local and state Health Departments and CBOs in order to reach those most in need with this important treatment information in both Spanish and English.

Carlos Maldonado, born in Puerto Rico, is a longtime activist and health educator. He manages Puente Para la Salud and Tratamiento Ahora.

The Dennis de Leon Sustainable Leadership Institute is one of the activities of the Latinos in the Deep South Program that develops leaders in order to impact policies affecting Latinos.



Latinos In The Deep South

Addressing the needs of the emerging Latino populations in the southern United States

Latinos in the Deep South aims to build local leadership, develop coalitions, enhance knowledge and cultural competency, and spur actions to address the needs of the emerging Latino communities in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The program accomplishes these goals through capacity building, community organizing, leadership development and networking initiatives. Our programming focus is on community-based participatory research, statewide networking opportunities and information dissemination to promote the presence of Latinos in the Deep South in decision making or planning bodies on public health. The program also developed collaborations in Florida and Texas

Highlights: We successfully completed another cycle of the Dennis de Leon Sustainable Leadership Institute. We implemented the North Carolina HIV/AIDS Advocacy Conference which gathered Latinx health advocates to speak on a panel to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in North Carolina. We

established the Latino Leadership Council, a group that provides and receives updates on topics such as immigration policy, HIV criminalization, cultural competency, and Affordable Care Act implementation updates. In 2015 we established the Alianza Latinx LGBT. This initiative which addresses the deficit in services offered to this community by supporting the existing and growing organizations and coalitions providing health and complimentary services to help build balanced communities. This group participated at the 2016 Reunion Latina Training Institute in Albany, NY.

2017 Goals: In 2017 our goal is to formalize the mobilization structure of Alianza LGBT Latinx and to expand to other states in order to develop the regional and state voices needed to advocate for the LGBT Latinx community in the Southeast, while supporting organizations, coalitions and programs to enhance sustainability. We will also conduct another cohort of the Dennis de Leon Sustainable Leadership Institute with a focus on Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

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Erik Valera, born in the U.S. (Mexican and Cuban descent), is a senior capacity building assistance specialist supporting the Latinos in the Deep South Program.



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Judith Montenegro, born in Mexico, is the community liaison that travels the south to build leadership.





We partner with organizations to conduct visits with elected officials to report on health issues affecting the community.

Health Policy and Advocacy

Building partnerships to decrease health inequities in our communities

The Latino Commission on AIDS works to engage our communities in public health policy and assure that the voices of Latinos are heard. We have worked to bring to light the concerns of our constituency at the city, state and federal levels to impact legislation and policies. Much of our work is accomplished locally and regionally through our Community Mobilization Program (CMP), a New York State Department of Health funded program that provides community-level intervention activities to reach Latino communities impacted by HIV, hepatitis C, and STI's.

Highlights: Much of our statewide work has been connected to the Plan to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2020. Our national work has been strengthened by the development of collaborative strategies with other organizations that have been key in assuring the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. We have developed grassroots efforts with many community leaders and institutions to create awareness, shift public perceptions, challenge media, elected and appointment officials, and empower the community to acknowledge and address

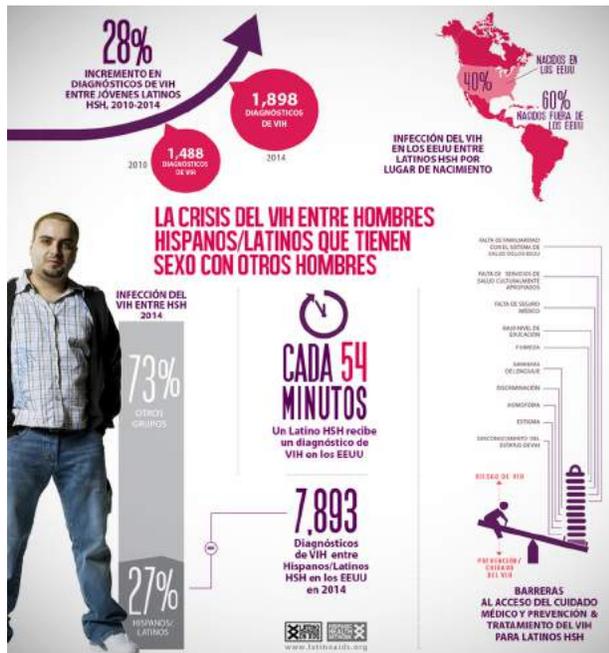
issues affecting Latinos impacted by HIV. The first method we have used to achieve this goal is we have strengthened relationships with local and national ethnic media. With dozens of interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, and over 90 press releases, we have reached over a million people and over 3,500 organizations. We developed a series of 11 health briefs and fact sheets, which contain information around HIV and older adults, gay/MSM Latinos, young gay Latinos, Latino MSM in New York State, Latinos in Puerto Rico, transgender Latinas, PrEP, Hepatitis and Latinos, and the Zika virus. Most importantly, we've made sure this information reaches as many people as possible by making use of simple to understand infographics. Finally, we were involved and lead many coalitions such as the NYS Health Advocacy Day, the Statewide Latino Health Advocacy Days, World AIDS Day Coalition, the Statewide Coalition to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2020, the Statewide AIDS Advisory Council, and multiple other local and national HIV and hepatitis C prevention and treatment coalitions.

2017 Goals: In 2017 we will continue to monitor epidemiological data and trends we observe in order to identify communities lacking HIV services. We will also lead sub-committees on the Statewide AIDS Advisory Council, such as the sub-committees for Latino MSM, new immigrants, farmworkers and non-English speaking communities. Finally we will expand the work we do targeting long term HIV/AIDS survivors and people over 50 who have multiple co-morbidities and other needs.



Luis Scaccabarozzi, born in Peru, is the Senior Director of Health Policy & Advocacy.

Research finding are presented in reports and infographics and distributed electronically to disseminate the information across our networks.



Institute For Health Equity

Improving health outcomes in the Latino community through research, evaluation, education and community networks

Institute for Health Equity, the Latino Commission’s Research and Evaluation Department, brings together diverse voices of the Hispanic communities to improve health outcomes through research, evaluation, education and community networks. Our goals are to 1) increase the amount and quality of research that puts the experience of Latinos at the forefront; 2) heighten the use of analytic and evidence-driven policy and programming; and 3) empower the community to use data & research as an effective mobilization tool.

conducted a national needs assessment to document and better understand the barriers that older HIV+ Latinos face in accessing health services and achieving well-being in their lives, as well as understanding sources of resilience.

2017 Goals: In 2017 we will continue to publish briefs that highlight issues affecting our communities. We will work to partner with other researchers to promote more research initiatives that highlight the health and social realities, challenges and contributions of Hispanic/Latinx communities. Finally, we will publish a report with findings from our national needs assessment of Latinos over 50 living with HIV. This report will be the basis for making recommendations to stakeholders, including community leaders, advocates, providers and policy makers for best practices.

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Gabriela Betancourt, born in the U.S. (Cuban and Spanish descent), is the lead researcher at the Institute for Health Equity.



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David Garcia, born in the U.S. (Mexican descent) leads the capacity building activities at the Commission.



Highlights: We published two health briefs: 1) The State of HIV among Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico, and 2) The Crisis of HIV Among YMSM. We also published fact sheets for distribution during our National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) campaign. Additionally, we developed and piloted a PrEP curriculum to engage direct service providers working with both high risk negative and positive populations, particularly Latino, Spanish-speaking, and men-who-have-sex-with-men. Finally, we



National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD)

A national community mobilization and social marketing campaign to raise awareness of HIV & AIDS among Latinos

National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) takes place every October 15th. NLAAD uses a model of mobilizing and supporting +150 partner organizations annually in hosting activities that seek to increase HIV/AIDS awareness, promote HIV testing, deliver key HIV prevention information, and influence adherence to medical care and treatment. NLAAD also addresses the intersections of stigma, racism, homophobia xenophobia, socioeconomic, immigration, and other social determinants of health that affect our communities.

Highlights: We sustained our partnership with OraSure Technologies and were able to distribute over 5,000 free testing kits to partners nationally. Our new partnership with INSTI allowed us to distribute 250 testing kits to 5 partners. We developed bilingual posters for the campaign and mailed over 3,900 to 230 partners nationally. Our fact sheets and infographics were updated and made available for download on



our NLAAD website in both English and Spanish. We conducted 9 webinars/network calls leading up to NLAAD to establish cohesion across NLAAD network partners and increased partner capacity to address the HIV/AIDS needs of Hispanics/Latinx with over 676 total attendees. We collaborated with over 28 NYC based partners to host our annual NLAAD Press Conference on the steps of City Hall. We used technology to reach a broader audience, including a live stream video panel discussion on Engaging and Retaining Latinos in Medical Care (in collaboration with Mount Sinai and NYU Silver School of Social Work), and 4 live twitter chats with national partners. We expanded our marketing of the campaign, developing a 60 second Radio PSA in collaboration with Hispanic Communications Network, which was aired on over 250 Spanish radio stations with a reach of over 11.5 million Latino listeners. We developed a 15 second targeted Pandora Ad which ran in NYC for one week leading up to NLAAD 2015. Finally we developed Facebook Ads which ran around October 15th.

2017 Goals: We will work to expand our marketing reach through Facebook, Pandora and Spotify ads. We will continue to reach out to ethnic media partners, providing print ads, radio and video PSA's for local and national distribution.



NLAAD events are held around the country and they come in different formats (clockwise): outreach event in Boston, MA; workshop in Long Beach, CA; Mobile testing in Birmingham, AL.



Tony Ochoa, born in the U.S. (Mexican descent) lent his CBA expertise to NLAAD and other national campaigns.

NHAAD is part of a coalition that works to prevent, manage and treat hepatitis.



National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (NHHAD)

A national community mobilization and social marketing campaign to raise awareness of Hepatitis in the Latino community

Annually on May 15th we come together to recommit ourselves to bring awareness of hepatitis and engage our communities to address the viral hepatitis epidemic. This national campaign was launched in 2012 and has mirrored the Latino Commission on AIDS' successful flagship social marketing campaign, NLAAD, as a model in reaching key partners and the community nationwide to bring awareness on Hepatitis in the Hispanic/Latinx community.



Aracelis Quiñones, born in Puerto Rico, has used her activism and her personal testimony to create hepatitis awareness.

NPR, and more. Ethnic media from Asian and Hispanic/Latino. In partnership with the American Liver Foundation we produced an "Ask the Experts Community Forum" where Dr. Schuchin Shukla and Shelia Reynoso of Montefiore Medical Center's Project INSPIRE presented an Hep C/HIV coinfection seminar and its impact on the Hispanic community. An estimated 50 people attended the event.

Highlights: 108 people attending the press conference on the steps of New York City Hall. In partnership with Hep C NYC, a coalition organized by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the American Liver Foundation, and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. 13 media outlets present, including Univision, CNN, El Diario de la Prensa,

2017 Goals: In the coming year our priority is to expand our traditional and social media reach through Radio PSA's in conjunction with the community partners, Video PSA's and online ads by fostering partnerships with ethnic media, social media and radio advertising. We will also seek multi-year funding to support program development and staffing for our national campaign.

Fundraising

Sustaining the work of the Latino Commission on AIDS

We continuously work to diversify funding sources in order to maintain the sustainability of the organization, continue to provide essential services to our communities and spread awareness nationwide about HIV&AIDS. In addition to federal, New York State, New York City, foundation and corporate funding, we also organize fundraising events, which engage media, celebrities, corporations, advocates, and individuals to the cause. These include our Cielo Gala and smaller fundraising events, like Bailando Por Una Causa which celebrated its 5th year in 2016 and our first ever Casino Night event.

Our annual fundraising gala, Cielo, is our largest fundraising event, bring together nearly 400 supporters, including a fruitful partnership with Macy's, the Miss



Universe Organization, and many pharmaceutical companies that conduct important research in developing new medications for our communities. The celebration raises funds to support the programming and infrastructure of the Commission and also promotes the public image and mission of the Latino Commission on AIDS through our media partners.

Cielo gathers funds to support existing initiatives of the Commission.



Our 2016 event honored Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control of the New York City Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene, for his work as a physician and public health servant in the HIV field. We also awarded Victor Martinez, an HIV positive advocate and public health worker with the Dennis de Leon Voz de Compromiso Award.

Natasha Quirch, born in the U.S. (Cuban descent) leads the development activities and manages Cielo, the annual fundraising gala.



Media

Engaging diverse communities

The Latino Commission on AIDS strives to spread awareness around HIV&AIDS and the work that we do in the community across the US, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. We distributed over 54 press releases to our partners, community and media contacts. In addition, we connect with our communities via our websites and social media platforms. We had over 200,000 visits across our websites.

- Latino Commission on AIDS: www.latinoaids.org
- OASIS: Latino LGBT's Wellness Center: www.oasiscenter.nyc
- National Latino AIDS Awareness Day: www.nlaad.org
- National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day: www.hispanichepatitisday.org
- Hands United Capacity Building Assistance: www.handsunitedcba.org
- Hispanic Health Equity: www.hispanichealthequity.org
- Latinos in the Deep South: www.latinodeepsouth.org
- Cielo Fundraising Gala: www.cielolatino.org

Audited Financials

Fiscal year end June 30	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Cash	\$109,319	\$17,073
Contract Receivables	\$606,369	\$553,803
Pledges Receivable	\$95,179	\$152,139
Prepaid Expenses	\$16,928	\$14,196
Fixed Assets	\$4,866	\$11,248
Security Deposits	\$28,000	-
Total assets	\$860,661	\$748,459
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$832,714	\$592,173
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	\$122,418	\$91,353
Due to Fiscal Conduits	\$48,674	\$73,737
Contract - Advance Payments	-	\$125,808
Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$142,323)	(\$134,612)
Total liabilities and net assets	\$861,483	\$748,459



The Latino Commission on AIDS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the spread of HIV/AIDS, viral Hepatitis C and STIs in our communities.



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