



United States-México Border Health Commission

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HRSA REGIONAL COMMISSIONS COLLABORATIONS UNDERWAY



Regional Commissions met to highlight accomplishments and lessons learned from specific regions in Washington, D.C. July 27-28. The Commissions' represented included; Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Delta Regional Authority (DRA), Denali Commission (DC) and the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC).

Emma Torres, Arizona Commission Member and **Dr. Larry Kline**, California Commission member joined **Lou Valdez**, Deputy Director for Policy, HHS Office of Global Health Affairs at a Regional Commissions Meeting. Also participating for the BHC was **Mr. Héctor Xavier Martínez**, Executive

Secretary for the Mexico Section and **Dan Reyna**, General Manager of the U.S. Section. Each authority presented history and purpose at the meeting. Allowing for program accomplishments and lessons learned to be discussed. In addition the members had an opportunity to develop communications and for recommendations. The recommendations include:

- Creating a communication exchange workgroup,
- Coordination of policy and research councils,
- Implementing and evaluation workgroups to develop strategic planning,

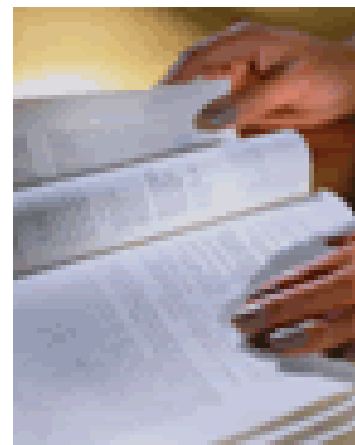
■ (continues on page 3)

U.S.-MEXICO LEAD AGENDA IN ACTION

Representatives from key U.S. and Mexico agencies gathered September 28-29, in La Jolla, California to address and identify lead exposures and its impact including; home remedies, candies and ceramic ware.

Experts on the issue are setting priority issues related to these sources of lead found in products. In addition, the agenda calls for identifying collaborative binational initiatives' that will foster identifying specific products that contain lead and that pose potential health risks. Collaborative efforts are underway to increase the use of non-lead based alternatives as well. Working groups have been created

to collaborate and address specific objectives including; binational risk communication, uniformity in regulatory standards, and reporting procedures.



**EDITORIAL - DR. FRANCISCO VERA & DR. ALFONSO VALENZUELA - BAJA CALIFORNIA MEMBER
“Inauguration of CAPASITS”**



The Ambulatory Centers for the Prevention and Care of AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Centros Ambulatorios para la Prevención y Atención del SIDA y otras Infecciones de Transmisión Sexual - CAPASITS) was inaugurated on July 15 and August 22 in Ensenada, B.C. and Mexicali, B.C.

CAPASITS is a health establishment for the prevention and specialized care of ambulatory patients with HIV-AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. In addition

CAPASITS coordinates resources for the prevention, care, and control of HIV/AIDS/STD, as well as for the execution of permanent actions that lead to a more dignified life for those who live with HIV/AIDS. Other services offered include:



- Integrative medical care for people with HIV/AIDS,
- Diagnosis, treatment, and testing for HIV and Syphilis,
- Health Education / Health Promotion Prevention Information.

**EDITORIAL - DR. CECILIA ROSALES - ARIZONA MEMBER
“Exercising due diligence”?**



Reports of more than 2000 migrant deaths have been documented in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The Arizona-Mexico border region has reported 124 deaths as of October 2005. National, international and other various organizations have provided humanitarian aid to assist those people determined to make this treacherous journey. Migrants that decide to make this journey seek to reunite with family, find work, and are driven by economic inequities. Few decide to cross in search of medical and social services.

Should the Border Health Commission weigh in on this debate? Is the Border Health Commission a logical collaborator that could potentially contribute to the discussion, and at the very least educate its

members, policymakers, and the public on what has become a public health matter? Should this responsibility be claimed by the Commission to offer the border region a voice in addressing common health issues to ensure optimum health and quality of life along the US-Mexico border? Are we not charged to “engender commitment to promote regional solutions to border health issues? Is it not our role to “act as policy advocates” and “act as a catalyst for needed change”? Is the Border Health Commission a true “venue for broad participation”?

Should we as Commission members exercise due diligence by conveying and facilitating open dialogue and discussion on issues such as preventable deaths on the border that impact all who live and work on the US-Mexico border?

The mission of the United States-México Border Health Commission is to provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States-México border.

■ *Regional Commissions Meeting*

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- Address workforce models and development applications and,
- Educating specific policy makers

More information will be posted as the recommendations take place.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR BINATIONAL POPULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Rosemarie Johnson, California Commission member, represented the Commission at the “Access to Health Care for Binational Populations in California” forum at The California Endowment Center for Health Communities in Los Angeles on July 20-21. This forum addressed immigration issues and identified opportunities and approaches to develop an action plan for a much needed health insurance coverage plan for California’s binational populations.

BORDER GOVERNORS CONFERENCE - HEALTH WORK TABLE

Governors from ten states that encompass the United States-Mexico border met in Austin, Texas for the 24th United States –Mexico Border Governors Conference on August 24-25. Governors met to address bilateral collaborations and cooperation. Leaders addressed topics of common concern related to Agriculture, Border Crossing, Economic Development, Education, Energy, Environment, Health, Science and Technology, Security and Tourism, Water, and Wildlife.

The Health Work Table under leadership of Co-Chairs, **Dr. Eduardo Sanchez**, Commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services, and **Dr. Raymundo Verduzco**, Secretary of Health for the State of Coahuila, agreed to the following toward the development of the border region before ceding their co-leadership to the states of Arizona and Sonora for a two-year term.

- Expansion of four existing Technical Work Groups to include Planning for Pandemic Influenza;
- Include the border states in binational preparedness planning for pandemic influenza in coordination with the United States, Mexico, and Canada federal Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP);

- Funding for public health emergency, preparedness and response;
- Flexibility in utilization of funding according to identified risk-based needs, and the ability to use funds over multiple years and,
- Collaboration in developing and implementing joint annual work plans for public health emergency preparedness and response.



Source: Joint Declaration, 24th United States-Mexico Border Governors Conference

Visit us at www.borderhealth.org or www.saludfronteriza.org

**BORDER BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK
SEMANA BINACIONAL DE SALUD FRONTERIZA**

Two Wills, One Commitment: Your Health



Semana Binacional de Salud Fronteriza 2006
Border Binational Health Week 2006



The public was invited to participate in the Second U.S.-Mexico Border Poster Design Contest for the 2006 Border Binational Health Week. The selected entry (above) will be published and distributed by the BHC in support of the campaign. Both sides of the border participated. Entries included elements of the border based on the following theme:

**ALL OF US ARE THE BORDER.
UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
TWO WILLS, ONE COMMITMENT:
YOUR HEALTH**

For more information visit:
www.borderhealth.org
www.saludfronteriza.org



United States-Mexico
Border Binational Health Week
“FAMILIES IN ACTION FOR HEALTH”
October 9-13, 2006

The Celebration of Border Binational Health Week is a partnership of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission; Mexico Secretariat of Health; Pan American Health Organization; ten U.S.-Mexico Border States; and the United States Mexico Border Health Association.

Goals of the Border Binational Health Week 2006 are to promote sustainable partnerships to address border health problems. The intended outcomes include; increased networking, relationship building, educational opportunities, increased awareness of BHC and other state and local initiatives.

The Border Health Binational Health Week 2006 will include forums on border health research, border public health promotion policies, tobacco policies, technical workshops on health information systems, disease-specific issues, and a variety of cross-border health related issues, activities, and events.

Registration forms can be found at:
<http://www.borderhealth.org>.



OUTREACH OFFICE NEWS

ARIZONA

The Arizona Outreach Office (AZ ORO) signed an interagency service agreement (ISA) with the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH). Mini-Grants will be available to the Border Communities and scholarships will be provided to support the *Diplomados en Salud Pública*.

The courses offered will support the Commission's commitment towards workforce development along the border. The intent of the Diplomados is to increase Arizona and Sonora's capacity to conduct research, training, and community service and to strengthen the public health infrastructure along the Arizona-Sonora Border. For more information please contact: Laura Reichhardt Coordinator at (520) 770-3114.

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Outreach Office provided technical assistance and support to Columbus and Palomas governments on issues related to Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The NM ORO has been working in coordination with the Office of Border Health, the Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman, and the Office of the Secretario de Desarrollo Social (Secretary of Social Development) from Chihuahua.

The meeting held in Ciudad Juarez was conducted by Arq. Carrera, Secretario de Fomento and was attended by health authorities from Chihuahua, the Presidente Municipal (Asencion), the Presidente Seccional of Palomas, as well as participants from Columbus, Palomas, NM ORO, BEC, Senator Bingaman's office, Rep. Pierce's office, and NMDOH staff. The group agreed to work collaboratively to establish a coordinated EMS in Palomas.

For more information, please contact Hugo Vilchis, MD, MPH. Director, NMORO.

CALIFORNIA

Dr. Lawrence Kline and **Dr. Rosemarie Johnson** attended a presentation featuring **Enrique Ríos, M.D.**, National Director. The topic was on "Mexico's Health System: The Federal Perspective" on August 10. The presentation provided a federal perspective on Mexico's health system, including the federal Migrant Health Program.

Dr. Kline noted that, "Dr. Rios did a great job presenting the health care management methods used in Mexico and discussing methods of collaboration". The event was cosponsored by the California Office of Binational Border Health and the University of San Diego Transborder Institute.



From left to right: Dr. Enrique Ríos, National Director, Migrant Health Program, Mexican Health Ministry; Dr. Maura Mack, Chief, California Office of Binational Border Health; Dr. Lawrence Kline, Member, U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, and Dr. Rosemarie M. Johnson, Member, U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission.

Other News: The International Community Foundation (ICF) has initiated a focus on border health issues. **Dr. Rosemarie M. Johnson** has been asked to serve as a Senior Health Advisor to the Foundation to help mount a campaign in the San Diego-Tijuana area.

TEXAS

"*Emerging Health Challenges and Changes: The New Agenda for Binational Public Health*" took place in Laredo TX September 20-21. **Dr. Antonio Falcon**, TX BHC member, attended the conference. Food management and sanitation health issues were addressed as well as; Protection of Food Supplies, Rabies in Mexico and, Rabies-Oral Vaccines. Avian/Pandemic Flu, HIV/AIDS, preparedness and many other issues that address the specific health issues and best practices that impact the border region.

UPDATES FROM BHC COMMITTEES

Border Health Research Workgroup

Dr. J. Manuel de la Rosa and **Dr. Dora Elia Cortes** have been collaborating with ad-hoc members of Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and *Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León* officials in the coordination of a Binational Forum on U.S. –Mexico Border Health Research scheduled for October 12-13 in Monterrey, Nuevo León.

The BHR work group identified four themes: types of research, implications of research, applications of research, and research funding. All to be addressed within each of the areas of Chronic and Infectious Diseases; Environmental Health; Health Services; and Behavioral Health.

Priority Setting Committee

The Priority Setting Committee is focused on developing a consensus for the Commission by using a questionnaire as a vehicle to obtain valuable input from various sources, including BHC members, Outreach Offices, and community institutional stakeholders.

The Committee developed a questionnaire that would provide valuable input in the formation of the Commission's plan for future representative of selected Healthy Border 2010 areas that are achievable with outcome elements that are measurable. The Committee convenes regularly under the leadership of **Dr. Larry Kline** and **Dr. Dora Elia Cortés**. A draft summary report is expected to be available in mid-October.

TELEMEDICINE COLLABORATIONS

TELEMEDICINE is a program made a reality for the citizens of Nuevo León and will share its experience and knowledge with the border region to offer experience and knowledge to the neediest communities through a telecommunications system. The intention is to link the ten border states into an existing infrastructure.

The *United States-Mexico Border Health Commission* will collaborate jointly with the Health Services of the State of Nuevo León for the creation of the Telemedicine Platform along the northern border of Mexico and the southern border of the United States. "Currently the program works successfully in Nuevo León and seeks to offer a high quality medical service for populations in rural areas," mentioned **Dr. Gilberto Montiel Amoroso**, State Secretary of Health, on July 14 in the facilities of the Secretariat of Health of Mexico during **Mary Lou Valdez'** visit.

The event was attended by the United States delegation which included: **Dan Reyna**, **Chris Hickey**, **Raul Sotomayor** and **Stephanie Dopson**, as well as **Salvador Gómez**, **Abelardo García Cantú**, **Héctor Xavier Martínez** and **Paola Pliego** from the Mexico Section.



Collaborators setting the agenda for Telemedicine.

HRSA BORDER HEALTH SUMMIT



Emma Torres, Commission member was a presenter at the first Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Border Health Summit held in Tucson, Arizona August 22-24. The theme for the summit was *Partners in Action for a Healthy Tomorrow* and its primary focus was community needs along the U.S.-Mexico border and to share information on available programs and best practices at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Ms. Torres presented an update on the Commission's activities generating interest in a broad variety of advocates to collaborate with the Commission to address health issues impacting the border communities.

HRSA looks to continue working with border colleagues in improving its support of the delivery of quality health care along the U.S. –México border.

BORDER HEROES



U.S. Border Hero

Richard Garcia was a beacon of hope and inspiration along the Texas/Mexico region. Mr. Garcia dedicated 28 years of his career to developing health professional programs along the Border. In addition, he worked tirelessly to attend the 77th Texas

Legislation to pass the South Texas Border Initiative. This initiative provided funding for the establishment of the Regional Academic Health Centers. Mr. Garcia also was the Principal Investigator for a USAID grant that resulted in a Master of Science Program at UAT. The grant created the partnership between UTHSCSA and medical/veterinarian schools in Mexico fostering collaboration.

Richard Garcia was born in Brownsville, Texas where he spent his youth along the Texas/Mexico Border. He served with the Marines, and with the National Health Service Corp. Richard was known throughout South Texas and Northern Mexico as a person who was passionate for health care for all people, who identified needs, developed plans to address those needs, and who found ways to "make it happen." His presence will be missed by Texas but his legacy will carry on throughout South Texas.



México Border Hero

Dr. Remedios Lozada, ME, has been selected as a border hero for her dedication and impact in dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Her commitment has had a positive impact on many lives specifically for those with HIV/AIDS.

As an epidemiologist Dr. Lozada has been influential in addressing HIV/AIDS since the first case of AIDS was diagnosed in Tijuana, B.C. Since that time Dr. Lozada has worked diligently to implement and regulate blood banks, mandatory HIV testing for blood banks, negotiations for land to serve those affected with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, and establishing *Centro Municipal para la Preveccion del HIV/SIDA-COMUSIDA (Municipal Center for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS)*. Currently Dr. Lozada collaborates with a binacional project "El Cohete" that helps recognize risks behaviors and prevalence for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

The U.S.-Mexico Commission extends a deserved acknowledgement to Dr. Remedios Lozada for her dedication as a U.S.-Mexico Border hero.

DO YOU KNOW A BORDER HERO?

Nominate deserving individuals at www.borderhealth.org.

U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION - MEMBER PROFILES



Dr. Bruce D. San Filippo has served as Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Medical Center since 2000. Duties included assisting management teams to maintain relations, monitoring, guiding performance improvement, and peer review.

In addition to fulfilling terms as Chief of Staff, Interim President and CEO of Memorial, he has managed a private medical practice in neurological surgery.

Dr. San Filippo is a member of Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the New Mexico Medical Society, and the American College of Physician Executives (includes active participation in the organization's education program). He received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in Albany, NY and completed his neurological surgery residency at Albany Medical College and the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA in 1979.

Dr. Francisco Vera González has a medical degree from the Autonomous University of Baja California and a post-graduate specialty in General Surgery from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua. He has served as con-



gressman member of the Health Commission and Secretary of the Board in the 57th Legislature of the Congress of Union. He was Assistant Medical Director and Chief of Surgery of the ISSSTE General Hospital in Ensenada and Honorary Member of the San Diego County Medical Society.

Dr. Vera's extensive experience and leadership opened opportunities to contribute his knowledge and skills in various Public Health Institutions. He is currently the Secretary of Health for Baja California and General Director of the State Public Health Services Institute (ISESALUD), as well as Member of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS *October - December 2006*

(Please check our website at www.borderhealth.org or www.saludfronteriza.org for updated event information)

In the United States:

201 E. Main Dr., Suite 1616
El Paso, TX 79901
Tel. (915) 532-1006/
1-866-785-9867
Fax (915) 532-1697

In México:

Ejército Nacional 209,
3er Piso, Oficina 3 "A"
Colonia Verónica Anzures
Delegación Miguel Hidalgo
C.P. 11300 México, D.F.
Tel./Fax (01152-55) 3611-0765

October 9-10

Binational Policy Forum on
Migration and Health – VI
Binational Health Week
(Inauguration) - Co-
sponsored by México
Secretariat of Health
Foreign Affairs Ministry
Location: Guadalajara, México
Information: [http://
www.ucop.edu/cmhi/
bhwforum.shtml](http://www.ucop.edu/cmhi/bhwforum.shtml)

October 9-13

Border Binational Health Week
Information:
www.borderhealth.org

October 13

6th Annual Binational Health
Week Closing Event
Location: Consulate General of
Mexico in Los Angeles
Contact: Emerito López
Phone: (510) 643-4087,
emerito.lopez@ucop.edu

November 9-11

16th Annual Midwest
Farmworker Stream Forum
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Contact: Moraima Duran,
Phone: (512) 312-2700
duran@ncfh.org
[http://www.ncfh.org/
00_clt_mwfsf.php](http://www.ncfh.org/00_clt_mwfsf.php)

November 13-14

14th BHC Binational
Meeting
Location: Hermosillo, Sonora

November 29-December 1

UNIDOS 2006 – Binational
Infectious Disease
Conference - Sponsored
by New Mexico
Department of Health
Contact: Valerie Fisher
Phone: 1-866 507-5682
Valerie.Fisher@state.nm.us