9th Annual Border Binational Health Week
Summary Report- California
October 1-5, 2012

Providing international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States-México border
The California Outreach Office collaborated with PCI, San Diego County Office of Border Health and the California Office Binational Border Health to highlight issues affecting obesity and diabetes on both sides of the border by hosting this binational event on September 27, 2012 at San Ysidro Health Center. Two short films from HBO’s documentary The Weight of the Nation were screened. The first short screened focused on Latino Health Access: A model of Community Action, followed by a panel presentation highlighting Project GOL and local community interventions in the border community of San Ysidro, California. The second short film focused on the topic of obesity and its connection to heart disease followed by a panel presentation discussing local interventions to combat heart disease, in Tecate, Baja California. Additionally, faculty from academic institutions in the U.S. and Mexico presented findings from their own research about obesity prevention studies and interventions. The films and subsequent presentations were catalysts for lively Q & A discussions with the 70+ participants, representing both sides of the border and a variety of government agencies and non-profit organizations.

HRSA Stakeholder Meetings
Facilitated by: USMBHC California Outreach Office

The California Outreach Office coordinated one stakeholder meeting between Health Resources and Services Agency (HRSA) and Operation Samahan. The meeting served to introduce the border liaison from HRSA to leaders from Operation Samahan. The goal of the meeting was to forge a partnership and alliance between HRSA and a local community agency. The main outcome was resource-sharing pertaining to funding, and education about applications for federal funding for community organizations. Michelle Mellen, HRSA Border Liaison, was also able to meet with youth leaders from the Trash Talkers Coalition to discuss upcoming community events.
Binational Dialogue  
Facilitated by: Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest (PPPSW)

The 4th Annual Binational Dialogue on the Status of Women’s Reproductive Rights in Mexico and the U.S. was held at the Chula Vista City Council Chambers on October 4, 2012. This year PPPSW welcomed two keynote speakers, Ana Guezmes, UN Country Director for Mexico, Central America, Cuba and Dominican Republic, as well as Marissa Billowitz, Senior Program Officer-Youth Division, International Planned Parenthood. They, and other speakers, addressed the status of violence against women and girls, as well as binational opportunities to reduce teen pregnancy. Three breakout sessions were held during the day about Working with Faith-based Communities; Reproductive Health and Rights in Mexico and the U.S.; and Best Practices. To conclude the meeting, Latanya Mapp, Vice President of Global Planned Parenthood Federation of America, presented the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Resolution U.S.-Mexico for organizations to sign, supporting ending teen pregnancy.

9th Annual BBHW Local Closing Ceremony  
Facilitated by: USMBHC California Outreach Office

This year’s closing ceremony reception for Border Binational Health Week was held at the Chula Vista City Council Chambers on October 4, 2012, following the Binational Dialogue. Health Resources and Services Agency (HRSA) – Border Liaison Michelle Mellen offered congratulatory remarks to all of the day’s participants and emphasized the importance of reproductive health rights and the continued need along the border for collaborative events such as the Binational Dialogue. Mrs. Mellen also emphasized the support from HRSA toward community Interventions. USMBHC-California Outreach Office- Program Manager, Avelina Acosta highlighted the goals of BBHW, which are to promote sustainable partnerships; to increase community and inter-agency networking and to enhance information-sharing. Ms. Acosta recognized the hard work of all the community agencies present and encouraged continued support for binational dialogue and approaches to address the mutual needs of the California-Baja California border region.

Ana Guezmes, UN Country Director for Mexico, Central America, Cuba and Dominican Republic

Michelle Mellen, Border Liaison, HRSA
Todos en Familia Caminemos por un Corazón Saludable
Facilitated by Asociación Mexicana para la Prevención de la Aterosclerosis y sus Complicaciones and Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón México

The California Outreach Office promoted Walk for a Healthy Heart which took place October 14, 2012 in Tecate, Mexico. The event consisted of a health fair and a 10,000 step walk. The health fair featured opportunities to learn about health-related topics, from diabetes and mental health to cervical and breast cancer. Educational materials were available to take home and there was a booth screening attendees for diabetes. Approximately 450 people attended the fair. The second part of the event was a 10,000 step walk for heart health. Approximately 250 people walked and raised awareness that exercise can help keep the heart healthy.

9th Annual BBHW Baja California Closing Ceremony
Facilitated by Baja California Outreach Office

The 9th Annual BBHW Baja California Closing Ceremony took place in Tijuana, Baja California on October 5, 2012. The event featured several keynote speakers, Dr. Gudelia Rangel Gómez, Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela, USMBHC Member-Baja California; Dr. Lawrence Kline, USMBHC Member-California; Dr. Gustavo Iturralde, Pan American Health Organization- U.S. Mexico Border Office, Dr. Leticia Blake Rivera, Chief, Tijuana Health Services. The COO facilitated the travel of Dr. Kline and provided interpretive services. Dr. Kline thanked the other speakers and highlighted the broad impact BBHW events have made since 2004. He also praised the educational materials and outreach that occurred during all the events of BBHW 2012.

Juan Olmeda, Dr. Leticia Blake Rivera, Dr. Blanca Lomelí, Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela, Dr. Gudelia Rangel Gómez, Avelina Acosta, Dr. Lawrence Kline, Dr. Gustavo Iturralde
The California Outreach Office participated in the Grossmont Community College Health Fair on Thursday, October 23, 2012. The Health and Lifestyle Expo catered to employees in the Grossmont Community College system and featured information on health and community resources. Approximately 200 college employees attended the event. The COO distributed health education materials pertaining to a variety of health conditions. The health areas the literature focused on were mental health, chronic diseases, obesity, diabetes, and food and water safety. The COO worked in collaboration with the New Mexico Office of Border Health to provide fotonovelas on obesity prevention, the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research provided information on Chronic Diseases and the promotion of their literature library, and the San Diego County Environmental Services department provided information on Food and Water Safety.