



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Latino Geriatric Center

Grantee: Centro De La Comunidad/United Community Center, Inc.

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Academic Partner: Mark A. Sager, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine, UW SMPH

Program: Implementation

Grant Duration: 03-01-2007 to 12-31-2009 (34 months)

Expenditures: \$397,171 (93%)

Use of Funds: Direct Client Services, Workforce Training, Education and Outreach

► **Description:** The Latino Geriatric Center (LGC) Project opened in 2007 as the only memory clinic in the Milwaukee area specializing in serving the Hispanic community. This disparity had left Hispanic elders with undiagnosed cognitive impairments and discouraged them and their families from seeking support services. This project sought to reduce barriers to care and improve early detection of dementia in the Hispanic community.

► **Results:** The Latino Geriatric Center made broad progress in achieving its goals. After opening in 2007, The LGC medical director participated in educational seminars and built collaborations with Milwaukee-based health resources. During the grant period, it received about 130 referrals from more than 70 area physicians. During the grant period, this LGC provided 288 screenings, well above its goal of 210, increasing access to early treatment in the Hispanic community. By December 2009, the LGC was offering outpatient treatment to 95 people and their families.

The LGC also has increased awareness about Alzheimer's in the Milwaukee Hispanic community, both among family caregivers and generally. It has provided group education services to more than 90 caregivers, besting its initial goal of 70. Support groups have been well attended. In addition it has participated in 71 community outreach activities in Greater Milwaukee and distributed more than 1,300 brochures in Spanish and English to draw attention to the issue of memory impairment.

Of significance for the Latino Geriatric Center project is that 25.7% were diagnosed with some form of cognitive impairment. This may indicate the possibility of about 25% of the estimated 6,310 older Hispanics in the county (about 1,500) potentially experiencing some type of cognitive impairment. Another significant point is that the 25.7% that were diagnosed with some type of cognitive impairment may not have been properly diagnosed by a primary care physician if a referral had not been made to the LGC project.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** Yes, this project addressed mental health and mental disorders.

► **Academic Partner Role:** Clinical services in community settings, data collection/analysis, development of curriculum and training material, education/enrichment programs for community members.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$386,000

► **Dissemination:** Articles about the LGC have appeared in The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Alma Latino radio show, the Orgullo Latino radio show, Spanglish news magazine, Adelante (Spanish TV show), and the United Community Center community newsletters. It also has produced a series of educational materials as part of its educational and outreach components. The LGC Medical Director has made presentations around the country regarding the results of this project.

► **Sustained:** The UCC continues to seek funding from local, state, and federal sources. Some services, including Adult Day Care programming, are funded through user fees. About 95% of the Adult Day Care clients are Family Care eligible.

The project received a \$7,500 Early Memory Loss Prevention grant in 2009. The UCC is committed to continue operating the Latino Geriatric Center and continue to staff the operations with UCC staff.