

# ***CRUSADA***

Center for Research on U.S. Latinos  
HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse

**Florida International University**

## **Townhall Meeting**

January 21, 2005

Miami Airport Hilton

Supported by:

Miami-Dade Department of Health

Sponsored by:

Border Health Foundation  
Rural Opportunities, Inc.

## **CRUSADA'S TOWN HALL MEETING**

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This town hall meeting will be the first opportunity for community-based organizations to gather in an open forum to bring forth and collaboratively identify and document the needs and status of best-practices models of HIV/AIDS interventions for Latinos at-risk of and living with HIV/AIDS. The main outcome of the town hall meeting will be a comprehensive report and an asset inventory that address the challenges and gaps in regards to intervention for Latinos in Miami-Dade County.

## **CRUSADA AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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The Center for Research on U.S. Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse (CRUSADA) has the mission to pursue the reduction of health disparities among Latinos in South Florida. Through a multidisciplinary approach and community involvement the Center seeks to bridge the gap between research and practice in the substance abuse and HIV area. CRUSADA is the result of the merger between two NIH-funded grants: The Latino Drug Abuse Research Center (LDARC) and the Latino HIV/AIDS Behavioral Science Center (LHABSC). The purpose of the LDARC and LHABSC grants is to develop FIU's research infrastructure to conduct research on the extent and nature of drug abuse and the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Latinos and the development of interventions, prevention and treatment models of these twin epidemics.

## **RURAL OPPORTUNITIES, INC.**

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Started in 1969, Rural Opportunities, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit community development and human service organization providing services to farm workers, low-income families and economically depressed communities. ROI has successfully operated a wide array of programs funded by federal, state, local, faith-based and private sources. The ROI assists health departments and community based organizations with adapting and tailoring DEBI interventions for use with migrant workers; intervention program evaluation; and establishing foundations for prevention services to migrant workers, including trainings on cultural competence and effective outreach.

## **BORDER HEALTH FOUNDATION**

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The Border Health Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 in response to growing concerns on health conditions at the international border between Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. BHF carries out its goal to create health alternatives to at-risk populations within their respective communities. Its newest project is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Capacity Building Assistance Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Services for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations Initiative. BHF currently provides technical assistance and training to community-based organizations and health departments in the South Florida region.

# TOWN HALL MEETING AGENDA

Hilton Miami Airport

January 21, 2005

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| 9a.m.-10:00 | Continental Breakfast & Gathering   |
| 9:00- 9:15  | <b>Opening Remarks</b><br>Mario de la Rosa, Ph.D., Director CRUSADA   |
| 9:15-10:00  | <b>Introduction and Meeting Overview</b><br>Jesus Felizzola, M.D., M.H.A.,<br>Associate Director CRUSADA  |
| 10:00-12:30 | <b>Morning Focus Groups</b><br>Sarah Amira de la Garza, Ph.D., Arizona State University<br><br>Facilitators: Jaime Acosta, Ph.D., LCSW, CHES<br>and Carlos Velásquez, M.A.                      |
| 12:30-2:00  | Lunch<br><br><b>CRUSADA Overview:</b> Jesus Felizzola   |
| 2:00-4:00   | <b>Open Discussion.</b><br>Moderators: Jaime Acosta and Carlos Velásquez  |
| 4:00 p.m.   | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Frank Olivas, M.A., Project Director<br>Border Health Foundation<br>and Tim Wilson, M.A.,<br>Deputy of the HIV Prevention Network, (HPN)<br>Rural Opportunities, Inc. |

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**Mario De La Rosa, Ph.D.****Director and Principal Investigator**

Dr. De La Rosa is the Principal Investigator and Director of CRUSADA. He is also a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Health and Urban Affairs (CHUA) at Florida International University. He has served as a member of FIU's Human Subjects Institutional Review Board Committee, the Tenure and Promotions Committee, and the College of Health and Urban Affairs' Research Committee. Dr. De la Rosa holds a doctoral degree from Ohio State University. Dr. De La Rosa was a Visiting Associate Research Professor at Boston University's School of Social Work, where he spearheaded the development of their Minority Research Development Drug Abuse Research Program. Prior to that, he was a Health Science Administrator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he worked for ten years. Dr. De La Rosa's research has resulted in the publication of a special issue of the journal *Drugs and Society* (released simultaneously as a book) and forty-three other scientific publications in peer review journals, book chapters, research monographs, and seven government reports. Of these, twenty-one have been published or accepted for publication since he joined FIU.

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**Jesús Felizzola, M.D., MHA****Associate Director**

Jesus Felizzola is a foreign graduate medical doctor received his medical degree and holds a Master's Degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from Florida International University. He has over 15 years of experience in the field of public health research and practice both nationally in his native Colombia as well as internationally. In Colombia, Dr. Felizzola was the Chief of Occupational Health for the Ministry of Health, Director of Planning for a private HMO based in Bogotá, and consultant for Caprecom, ISS, and Cajanal, the three largest public health insurance agencies in that country. He also performed as the Health Policy Advisor to the Director of the National Department of Statistics in Colombia. He has authored several publications, and prior to coming to FIU, he was the Principal Investigator of a HRSA-sponsored study on the effectiveness of an HIV / AIDS intervention and the Evaluation Manager at Care Resource, South Florida 's largest HIV/AIDS service organization.

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**Tim Wilson, M.A.****Deputy of the HIV Prevention Network (HPN)****Rural Opportunities, Inc.**

Tim Wilson is Deputy of the HIV Prevention Network (HPN) for Rural Opportunities, Inc. (ROI) in Rochester, New York. He has worked in HIV prevention for more than 3 1/2 years. Tim manages the CDC-funded capacity building assistance program for ROI, which provides assistance to health departments and community based organizations for reaching migrant worker populations with HIV prevention services. He has presented on ROI's services at several national and state conferences, including the U.S. Conference on AIDS, Midwest Migrant Stream Forum, and the Louisiana HIV/STD Annual Meeting. He has conducted CBA in several states, including Kentucky, New Mexico, Texas, Mississippi, and Missouri. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science.

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**Frank Olivas, M.A.****Project Director****Border Health Foundation**

Frank Olivas, M.A., is Project Director at the Border Health Foundation for the CBA HIV Prevention Services for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mr. Olivas received a Master's in Counselor Education Degree from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas and completed undergraduate study in Radio-Television at the University of Arizona. Prior to joining the Border Health Foundation, this native Tucsonian was employed with Montgomery County Youth Services in Conroe, Texas and Youth and Family Counseling Services in Angleton, Texas.

**Juan Carlos Velásquez, M.A.**  
**Independent Consultant**

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Juan Carlos Velásquez is currently the Director of Training and Research for The Praxis Project in Washington, D.C. He was previously employed as the Director of National Prevention Programs for LLEGÓ in Washington, D.C. and has been professionally involved in the field of HIV/AIDS for over 13 years. He has a background in curriculum writing and instructional development and experience in developing strategic communication plans, diversity training and organizational development, development and evaluation of health programs, and HIV/AIDS prevention nationally and abroad. Mr. Velásquez holds a Masters of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of the Pacific in California, and has received doctoral education in Rhetoric and Communication from the University of Oregon. He has received many awards and honors nationally and internationally for academic work, and has been involved with numerous community organizations that focus on Latinos and HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. He has a long list of national conference presentations and publications on minorities, gay and bisexual issues, HIV/AIDS, STDs and prevention intervention strategies with these populations.

**Jaime Acosta, Ph.D., LCSW, CHES**  
**Independent Consultant**

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Dr. Acosta maintains a private practice as a psychotherapist and a clinical sexologist and provides mental health services on a contractual basis to community mental health centers, community-based organizations, and nursing homes. He also provides consulting services in the areas of cultural competency, educational materials development, grant development and review, and program development and implementation, as well as imparts training on HIV/AIDS education. Dr. Acosta holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Sexology from The American Academy of Clinical Sexologists and Maimonides University in Miami, Florida. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, obtained his Masters of Social Work Administration and Community Organization from Hunters College of Social Work and is a Certified Community Health Education Specialist. He has over 17 years of experience in the HIV/AIDS field and has various publications in this area. He has worked with Care Resource, the American Red Cross, New York City Department of Health's Bureau of Laboratories and Bureau of Public Health Education, Hispanic AIDS Forum and National AIDS Hotline American Social Health Association. Dr. Acosta worked as a Project Director for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He also participated as an Objective Review Committee Reviewer for HRSA Ryan White Title III and SPNS applications and a review panelist for CDC.

**Sarah Amira De La Garza, Ph. D., D. Min**  
**Assistant Profesor and Southwest Borderlands Scholar**  
**Hugh Downs School of Human Communication Arizona State University**

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Sarah Amira De la Garza is Associate Professor of Communication and Southwest Borderlands Scholar with the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University. She received her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. She has worked as PI and Co-PI on NIDA and Department of Justice Grants, has received two Fulbright Scholarships to Mexico, and received awards for her groundbreaking work in qualitative research, spirituality and culture. Her first book, *Maria Speaks: Journeys into the Mysteries of the Mother in My Life as a Chicana*, was published in 2004. Dr. Amira De la Garza is serving the Border Health Foundation as external evaluator and facilitator of focus group methodology and instrumentation. She has worked in similar capacities as Co-PI on NIDA grant projects, and most recently, with the Texas TIF grant programs involving the implementation of wireless internet service in rural west Texas communities and schools. She is presently Associate Professor and Southwest Borderlands Scholar with the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University and is heading the initiative for the North American Center for Transborder Studies.

## **PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES:**

### **CRUSADA**

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### **H & H DIRECTIONS, INC.**

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### **LEAGUE AGAINST AIDS**

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### **THE VILLAGE**

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### **FAMILY AIDS COALITION**

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