

LULAC State of Florida—South Florida District

In the
LULAC South Florida District, U.S.,

**Annual District Meeting
MAY, 2005
SFD. 04**

*Florida
#5*

RESOLUTION

To Support "Allies for Little Havana's" Efforts To Respond To Health Disparities

WHEREAS, LULAC throughout its history has committed itself to the principle that Hispanic American have equal access to opportunities in employment, education, housing, and health care, and

WHEREAS, LULAC has supported the principle of equal opportunities for economic development, political influence, civil rights, and the general welfare for all Hispanic Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the health status of the Hispanic community in the United States has improved slightly; however, there remains serious challenges. In light of the growth of the Hispanic immigrant population in the Little Havana area and increasing needs for quality health care, Hispanics continue facing historic and systemic barriers to access, availability, and affordability of health care.

WHEREAS, Hispanics do not have adequate access to the health care delivery system. Evidence suggests that Hispanics are the largest group of uninsured in the United States, with two out of five Hispanics under the age of 65 uninsured. Over 30 percent of Hispanics do not have a family doctor or clinic to visit when they need care. Hispanic children have the lowest physician visit rate in the past year, and Hispanic has three times the rate of whites and two times the rate of blacks for no regular source of care. Moreover, there are unique language and cultural barriers to health care among Hispanic women, children, elderly immigrants, and the Little Havana area population.

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Little Havana community is experiencing a widening racial disparity in health characterized by lack of health insurance, lack of culturally and linguistically competent health systems and health education information, increasing numbers of diabetes and cancer cases, critical levels of alcohol addiction, and alarming statistics of HIV/AIDS infection. Clearly, Hispanics face serious health conditions that are having a drastic effect on the well being of our community. For example,

- Diabetes type 2 is three times higher among Hispanics than non-Hispanics;
- Cervical cancer is the highest among Hispanic women;
- Hispanic women have a poorer survival rate from breast cancer than do white non-Hispanic women, mostly due to the advanced stage of the disease at time of diagnosis;
- Hispanic men diagnosed with prostate cancer have lower five-year survival rates than white men;
- Lung cancer and alcoholism are very serious health problems in our community;
- HIV is the third cause of death among Hispanics in the United States.

WHEREAS, public health agencies such as Jackson Memorial Hospital; and community based organizations such as Dr. Rafael A. Penalver Clinic, Hispanic American Diabetes Foundation, Corazon Unidos VIH/SIDA, United Seniors of America, Prevention Community Newspaper, La Nueva Cronica Community Newspaper, YMCA, LULAC Council 7063, have traditionally and successfully partnered to reach the under-served community of Little Havana with health prevention, education, and social and cultural services under the "Allies for Little Havana a Service Partnership".

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WHEREAS, the implementation of cultural and linguistically appropriate services is necessary to bridge barriers to care Dr. Rafael A. Penalver Clinic is recognize for nine years of continued success in bringing quality and affordable health care and extraordinary community programs to the residents of Little Havana under its unique service model "The Arts, Your Health and You" and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the Hispanic American Diabetes Foundation / Youth Art Talent Program is to establish a nexus between the community and the arts by utilizing cultural educational centers to raise awareness of diabetes education and prevention through the arts.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest advocacy organization for Hispanic Americans, hereby supports "Allies for Little Havana a Service Partnership" and its community base organizations (CBO's) staging "The Little Havana Community Fair" and the "Latin-American HADF Theater Festival" to be held in Miami in October 2005, to focus national attention on the Healthcare crisis affecting Hispanics in the United States and to seek solutions through improvements in health education and prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, LULAC calls upon companies involved in delivering Healthcare to Hispanics including pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors; pharmacy retailers, hospitals, and other related business entities to actively support, assist in funding and participate in campaigns with the Dr. Rafael A. Penalver Clinic, the Hispanic American Diabetes Foundation, and Corazones Unidos VIH/SIDA to educate Hispanics of these Healthcare concerns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the national membership of the League of United Latin American Citizens support LULAC Council 7063 and Allies for Little Havana a Service Partnership in their request from The City of Miami, The Miami-Dade County, The State of Florida, The CDC and HHS, and The Children's Trust for funding for the implementation of health prevention and community education programs for the Hispanic American community of Little Havana to meet the goals of "Allies for Little Havana 2008"

Voted and passed unanimously in Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida.
Approved this 16th day of May, 2005.


Armando V. Pomar,
South Florida District Director
Pres. Council 7063


Roberto Canino,
President, Council 7029


Julio Alva
President, Council 7088


Sergio Rojas
Council 7063