**Behavioral Health Disparities Subcommittee Mtg**

**Date: 7/26/17**

**Location: Alliance Behavioral Healthcare- 414 E. Main St, Durham, NC**

**In Attendance**: Paul Savery (NCDHHS, Committee Co-Chair), Garron B. Rogers (NC Families United, Youth MOVE NC, Committee Co-Chair), Mary Ann Haskell (Vaya), Stephanie Jones (Cardinal), Chandrika Brown (NC Families United), Regina Penna (Coastal Horizons), Nancy Kneepkens (TRY Coalition), Melea Rose-Waters (Prevent Child Abuse NC), Jim Albright (Alamance Citizens for a Drug Free Community) Dawn Manus (Alliance BHC), Marisse Martiboy (Durham County Dept. of Public Health), Rachel Galander (Exchange Family Center), Allison Lipscomb (Farmworkers), Jessica Montana (Guest Speaker)

**I.** Meeting opened with introductions

**II.** Guest Speaker: Jessica Montana, Latino Program Manager at the Center for Prevention Services in Charlotte, NC.

-Jessica Montana, guest speaker from the Center for Prevention Services in Mecklenburg County, and discussed statistics, programs, services, and disparities specific to the Latino community in the greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC region. She also discussed her role with the Center for Prevention Services in Charlotte which focuses on specific zip codes per funding requirements to reach the highest number of Latinos in Charlotte. Some of the information shared included the following:

-13.1 % of the Charlotte population is Latino (13,000)

-22% of children in school in Charlotte are Latino

-Charlotte once ranked last in social mobility

-Prevention is not frequently discussed amongst the Latino community.

-Regarding substance abuse in the Latino community, Alcohol, Marijuana, and prescription medication are the three focus areas of the Center for Prevention Services.

-Effective outreach along with getting to know the community and population served was stressed as a means of bridging a connection with prevention-discussed programs in Charlotte such as the Cops and Kids Program.

-Mrs. Montana advised that they have a Latino Youth Group to help develop future leaders and advocates.

-Noted that churches are “overstretched” in terms of doing more community based outreach.

-No needs assessment or community needs survey since 1994 specific to the Latino community in Charlotte; the Latin American Coalition would like to do something to gather data.

-The Center for Prevention Services is interested in more of a statewide scope; members of the subcommittee made suggestions about possible connections at the state level.

\*Note: Mrs. Montana advised that a video would be sent to explain the 6 elements of Latino culture. The well-defined cultural/gender roles of the Latino community were discussed (i.e. men are seen as the providers whereas women embody the Virgin Mary).

**III.** News, Events, & Updates

-NY Times article on Luke Smith and El Futuro’s work in Siler City, NC; El Futuro will also be on “The State of Things” on 7/28/17.

-Paul (co-chair) discussed new initiative around reporting on health issues and will send out more information via email.

-Allison (Farmworkers Alliance) discussed her work and different ways to reach their target population via their 10 sites around the state of NC; also discussed addressing behavioral health disparities through outreach with community health workers as well as a health center with an opiod focus.

-Garron (co-chair) advised via a recent report that NC had 4 cities ranked in the nation’s top 20 for opiod abuse (Wilmington, Hickory, Jacksonville, and Lumberton).

-Paul and Garron advised that they were working on a survey to send out to solicit ideas for the Behavioral Health Disparities subcommittee moving forward. Some ideas from attendees included: possible certificates for those who attend meetings (possibly content hours), inviting others with life experiences with behavioral health disparities to speak on specific topics, incentivize attendance, community consultation (if there is a community-specific need), and looking into resources for various populations.

\*\*Meeting adjourned at 3:34pm

\*\*\*Next Meeting will be held on **Wednesday August 23, 2017** from 1:30pm-3:30pm at Alliance Behavioral Healthcare 414 E. Main St. Durham, NC