

XII BINATIONAL POLICY FORUM ON MIGRATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH AND THE INAUGURATION OF BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK XII

Oaxaca, Mexico, October 1-2, 2012



XII Binational Forum

The XII Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health and the official opening of the XII Binational Health Week (BHW) took place in Oaxaca, Mexico on October 1st and 2nd. Three hundred and thirty-eight participants, including academics, health care providers, government officials, and members of non-governmental organizations, gathered to discuss the health issues that affect the Latino population living in the United States. They represented 135 organizations from the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia.

This yearly forum, which alternates between Mexico and the United States, aims to gather government, academic, and community stakeholders in a facilitated dialogue. Topics focus on collaborative opportunities for addressing the health challenges of the migrant population.

In attendance were Solomon Chertorivski, Secretary of Health of Mexico; Gabino Cue Monteagudo, Governor of Oaxaca; Julian Ventura, Undersecretary for North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. William Lacy, Vice Chancellor of the University of California at Davis; Xochitl Castañeda, Director of the Health Initiative the

Americas at the University of California at Berkeley; Candido Morales Rosas, Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad; Salome Castellanos, Vice-Minister of the Republic of Honduras; Pablo Garcia, Consul General of Guatemala in Los Angeles; Diego Luis Ojeda, Colombia Nos Une advisor; Dr. Rafael Diaz Rodriguez, Secretary of Health of Michoacán; Dr. Germán Jesus Tenorio Vasconcelos, Secretary of Health of Oaxaca; and Dr. Raul Estrada Day, Secretary of Health of Zacatecas, among others.

The event began on September 30th, 2012 with a welcome reception offered by the Ministry of Health, headed by Dr. Pablo Kuri, Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion. Oaxacan artist,



Leovigildo Martinez, was recognized for generously donating his artwork for use in the official poster of the Binational Health Week 2012.



Workshops

On Monday, October 1st, Ms. Hilda Davila, Director General of International Relations of the Mexican Secretariat of Health, opened the event. Her address was followed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Marc Schenker, Professor of Public Health and Medicine and Associate Vice-Director of International Relations at the University of California at Davis. Dr. Schenker offered an overview of the health situation for migrant populations and the challenges faced both globally and in the Americas.

Following, six simultaneous workshops were conducted by 60 speakers representing 37 institutions from Mexico and the United States. The topics addressed were: Chronic Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Women's Health, Adolescent's Health, Mental Health, and Access to Healthcare Services. While each speaker addressed a different issue, the common theme was improving quality of life and health for Latino immigrants in the United States. The forum setting facilitated future collaborations between service providers, clinical staff, policy makers, researchers, students and others committed to the health of migrants.

Migrant Youth Publication

The National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO) and the University of California (UC), through the Center of Expertise on Migration and Health (COEMH) of the UC Global Health Institute (UCGHI) presented "Young Mexican Immigrants in the United States" during the forum. The report highlights recent findings indicating social determinants of health among U.S. Mexican migrants. For instance, Mexican migrant youth have low levels of education, many do not speak English, and most are members of low-income families. These conditions affect their health and access to health services.





Forum Proceedings

On October 1st the XII Binational Health Week was officially inaugurated by Solomon Chertorivski, Mexico's Secretary of Health, during the lunch hosted by the Pan-American Health Organization.

On Monday night, the Oaxaca State Government hosted a dinner with typical Oaxacan dishes and drinks and a spectacular show with dances from the Mixteca region.

The work sessions continued through the morning of Tuesday, October 2nd, and at noon the XII Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health was officially closed.

As an example of the generosity and hospitality of the Secretariat of Health of Oaxaca, Dr. Rafael Aragon Kuri organized a visit to a health center located in the mountains north of Oaxaca, which



combines western and traditional medicine. A group of U.S. health professionals working with predominantly indigenous populations attended.

PIMSA Meeting

On September 29th, the member's annual meeting of the Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA) took place. There, scholarship recipients were determined for the 2012-2013 cycle. Also, the seven recipient research teams from fifteen academic institutions in Mexico and the U.S., presented the results of their research from the 2010-2011 cycle. The meeting ended with a presentation by Dr. Juan Garay, representative of the European Union on health issues for Latin America, and Mr. Gil Ojeda, California Program on Access to Care (CPAC), on how to translate research findings into public policies to improve the health of migrant populations.

The Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health and the inaugural event of the XII Binational Health Week were organized by the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, in collaboration with the Government of the State of Oaxaca, and the Health Initiative of the Americas -University of California at Berkeley. The event was sponsored by Health Net of California, The California Endowment, the Pan American Health Organization, The California Healthcare Foundation, Delta Dental, Kaiser Permanente, among others.