



People
helping people
help
themselves"

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Mental Health and Addiction
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W353
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2739
317-232-7800
FAX: 317-233-3472

E. Mitchell Roob Jr., Secretary

January 7, 2008

Gilberto Pérez Jr., MSW, ACSW
Bienvenido Program Director
Northeastern Center, Inc.
PO Box 290
Ligonier, IN 46767

Mr. Gilberto Pérez Jr.,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my support and appreciation for the work of the Northeastern Center and Gilberto Perez through their Bienvenido training program. The Bienvenido instruction is an innovative and effective tool in helping to increase awareness about addiction and mental health in the rapidly-increasing Latino community in Indiana.

Bienvenido helps clinicians with strategies that let Latinos know efficacious treatment for addiction and mental health needs is available in safe and confidential settings. The program teaches treatment providers methods to help engage Latino clients in treatment and to show them ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

The Northeastern Center hosts an annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit during which the tenets of the Bienvenido program are shared with participants from around the country. The Northeastern Center, through Gilberto Perez and the Bienvenido program, have been a valuable partner with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction and treatment providers statewide in giving a voice and hope to an underserved community.

Sincerely,

John Viernes Jr.
Deputy Director
Indiana Family & Social Services Administration,
Division of Mental Health & Addiction

