



*Help for Today
Hope for Tomorrow*

Vision Statement

Northeastern Center is committed to providing a caring and supportive environment where individuals can achieve their full potential, give and receive respect, and develop personal responsibility, and self-determination.

December 2006

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As the year draws to a close, allow me to take a few minutes to reflect on Northeastern Center's Latino Behavioral Health Department and its work with the Latino community in rural Northeast Indiana.

Throughout the course of this year Northeastern Center has been involved in various projects that speak directly to our vision and overall goal of creating a supportive environment where individuals can achieve their full potential, give and receive respect, and develop personal responsibility and self-determination. We are excited to report that during the course of 2006 we served 391 Latino consumers and their families. Our consumers came to us from six different counties in our geographic area (Elkhart, Dekalb, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben).

The ability to reach the Latino community has been in part because of our current and past consumers' willingness to refer their family members and friends to our mental health center. Secondly, our health providers in the community have also seen Northeastern Center's ability to engage Latino consumers in treatment thus their trust in referring us their patients. Thirdly, we have sought to develop strong relationships with our local court systems in order to provide support to Latinos involved in the legal system.

In July Northeastern Center began a program evaluation of the Bienvenido Program. The Bienvenido Program is a prevention program aimed at helping Latino immigrants increase their access to mental health services, improve their quality of life, and increase their sense of belonging in the community. We are pleased to report we contracted with Dr. Delia Saldaña from the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX. Dr. Saldaña, a highly respected Latino researcher in the Latino behavioral health field, has challenged Northeastern Center to look more closely at short, intermediate, and long term goals of the Bienvenido curriculum. A final report will be made available March 2007 and we commit to providing a summary to those interested in our evaluation results.

In November we were honored to have various leaders from Indiana and other parts of the country for our 2nd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit. The event brought together over 80 professionals from Indiana to discuss gaps in service and ways to link Latino families to mental health services. Dr. Lorraine Gutierrez from the University Of Michigan School Of Social Work challenged our participants to listen, connect, and believe in the Latino community. We were pleased to have a consumer art exhibit titled, "Minds Eye." The art was created by Northeastern Center consumers and other consumers from Indiana.

To provide mental health services for the Latino community is a big responsibility and we take this responsibility seriously. We are excited to report that Northeastern Center Executive Committee approved an organizational cultural competency self-assessment for 2007. The self-assessment will allow Northeastern Center to assess internally what is working well in the area of cultural competency. We believe this is part of being responsible in our goal of providing culturally competent mental health services to our community.

As we look to 2007 we are excited about Northeastern Center's Latino Behavioral Health Department involvement with various local and regional organizations and faith based organizations: Celebrate Diversity Project, Goshen College, Indiana University (Bloomington), Drug-Free Noble County, Elkhart Community Schools, West Noble School Corporation, Center for Nonviolence, Elkhart County Hispanic/Latino Health Coalition, Mennonite Central Committee (PA), Ligonier United Methodist, and Waterford Mennonite Church (Goshen). Our relationships with these entities allow Northeastern Center to be more fully aware of the needs of the Latino community.

I have enclosed a highlight sheet of our 2006 activities and strategic directions Northeastern Center will take to bring about a supportive environment for our consumers and community. Finally, I thank you for your interest in Latino behavioral health at Northeastern Center. We encourage you to become involved with leaders who work daily with the Latino community. Visit your local social service agencies, health centers, schools, and churches to ask how you may serve Latinos who are in need.

Sincerely,

Gilberto Pérez Jr., MSW, ACSW
Director Bienvenido Program

2006 Highlights and Strategic Direction for Latino Behavioral Health at Northeastern Center

<p>Consumers served</p> <p>FY02 – 174 FY03 – 237 FY04 – 274 FY05 – 354 FY06 – 391</p>	<p>The Latino Behavioral Health Summit brought over 80 professionals to address gaps in mental health services.</p>	<p>Community Dialogues were created to address community concerns. 20 Ligonier residents are attending regularly.</p>	<p>Northeastern Center participated in the Service to Science Academy, Minnesota, Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies.</p>
<p>Northeastern Center participated in a National Teleconference with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.</p>	<p>A formal program evaluation of the Bienvenido Program began in July 2006.</p>	<p>Northeastern Center implemented a social skills soccer program at two elementary schools.</p>	<p>The Bienvenido Program was showcased on WKAM 1460 for a one hour call-in program.</p>
<p>Two Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings were held with over 10 agencies represented from Indiana and Michigan.</p>	<p>The Bienvenido Advisory Committee was formed. Over 10 agencies are represented on the advisory committee.</p>	<p>Northeastern Center was invited to serve on an organizing committee for a national coalition on Latino behavioral health.</p>	<p>Multiple groups were provided for Latino consumers: SA Education, SA Intermediate, Anger management, and Bienvenido.</p>

Strategic Direction for 2007

- **Healing** – create a supportive environment where Latinos begin to offer peer-to-peer support and increase their sense of belonging in their community.
- **Capacity building** – create a successful Bienvenido Facilitator Training Program for professionals and community members.
- **Strengthen networks** – maintain open dialogue with our colleagues, friends, and community members to better understand our work and service.
- **Strengthen rural community** – foster open dialogue in our community through more community dialogues.
- **Begin sustainability** – grow our Bienvenido Fund to \$25,000 through donor support.