

Oregon Group Promotes Cultural Competency

Closing the Gap, First Summit Packs the House • January/February 2003

The Salud Primero Medical Access Project is meeting the challenge of improving access to health care for the Latino LEP (limited English proficiency) population in Lane County, Eugene, OR. Its goal is to increase both accessibility and utilization of health care and expand the linguistic and cultural competence and the capacity of providers.

Salud Primero also addresses the health disparities among the Latino population for diabetes infection and HIV/AIDS transmission by focusing on preventive education in the community.

Salud Primero is engaged in training community members to reach the Latino LEP community with culturally and linguistically appropriate diabetes and HIV/AIDS information and prevention materials. By providing free testing for diabetes and HIV through collaborative relationships, Salud Primero is striving to create a stronger treatment referral system for Latino diabetes and HIV/AIDS patients.

Currently, Salud Primero is in the process of collecting data from providers, medical administrators, project staff, Latino participants, and medical records/service utilization databases. An evaluation team, working with the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC), will analyze the data and provide feedback. Demographic data collected will help researchers pinpoint problem areas for concentrated efforts.

Salud Primero's goals are: to decrease hospital emergency room utilization among the Latino population for diabetes and HIV; increase the number of providers with Spanish-speaking capability; increase access to health information for LEP Latinos; and improve Latino patient satisfaction with medical care in Lane County Oregon. ❖

