

PISC

PARTNERS
IN
SOCIAL
CHANGE

A Publication of the
**Sexual Assault
Prevention Resource
Center**, dedicated to
providing technical
assistance to those
engaged in sexual
violence prevention
in Washington State

WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

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Migrant Workers and Prevention




Prevention Notes



Washington is a leading agricultural state. Some of our delicious foods are the lentils of the Palouse, the wine of the Columbia Valley, the famous Walla Walla onions, basket upon basket of Ferndale raspberries, and the crisp apples we're known for (my favorite is the tart Cripps Pink). The food is delicious, but farming is not easy. It is very hard work, and takes a lot of low-paid labor to fill our grocery stores and pantries at prices we are accustomed to. Much of the labor is performed by migrant workers, who travel from job site to job site. Migrant workers do more than just farmwork, of course, but that will be the dominant theme in this issue.

Migrant workers are often forced to live and work in very poor conditions, and may have limited access to language, resources, and mobility. If a migrant worker is sexually assaulted or harassed on the job and does not have her papers—who will she tell?

How does one begin doing prevention amongst migrant workers? What issues have to be considered? With the inherent mobility amongst migrant workers, how can prevention be consistent and effective? These are questions we try to tackle in this PISC. We hope you enjoy the read. Comments and feedback are welcome at prevention@wcsap.org, or @wcsap on Twitter. 

Best regards,

Grant Stancliff, Prevention Specialist
Prevention Resource Center, WCSAP

The mission of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs is to unite agencies engaged in the elimination of sexual violence through education, advocacy, victim services and social change.

The Prevention Resource Center is a project of WCSAP, designed to provide support and technical assistance to individuals, communities and agencies engaged in sexual violence prevention within Washington State.



Volume XIII Issue 2
Prevention & Migrant Workers

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For membership information, visit www.wcsap.org.

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..... 1

**Migrant Clinicians Network's
Hombres Unidos Contra la Violencia Familiar
(Men United Against Family Violence)**

Interview with Emiliano Diaz de Leon
Grant Stancliff, Prevention Specialist, WCSAP



..... 5

Cosechando mis derechos, A Fotonovela
Kimber Nicoletti



..... 7

**Context of Guestworkers in America
Selections from *Close to Slavery:
Guestworker Programs in The United States***

Southern Poverty Law Center



..... 11

Mis Sueños

Suzi Fode, New Hope DV/SA Services in Moses Lake



..... 12

Prevention Resources

Migrant

Clinicians Network's

Hombres Unidos Contra la Violencia Familiar



Grant Stancliff, Prevention Specialist, WCSAP

Interview with Emiliano Diaz de Leon

Primary prevention is about stopping sexual violence before it happens. One of our values here in Washington is that in order to be effective, the effort must be specific to a community or population. That is a value shared by the Migrant Clinicians Network, which is refining a prevention curriculum aimed at migrant men.

I met Emiliano at the 10th Multicultural Gathering, an event sponsored by Multicultural Efforts to End Sexual Violence at Purdue University. Over coffee and before the opening ceremony, Emiliano shared some of his great work at Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), and some work he has been doing with the Migrant Clinicians Network. We expanded on that conversation for PISC.



Prevention Resource Center:

Tell me a little about the Hombres Unidos Contra la Violencia Familiar (Men United Against Family Violence) project.

Emiliano:

Primary prevention in this context didn't exist prior to this project. Addressing primary prevention curricula with men in general is one thing, but working with a specific group of men changes everything. Some folks get it, but I think as we're developing and as projects are happening, we are learning best practices for what works most effectively with this particular population around the country. It has been very interesting.

Right now we are developing a Train-the-Trainer's Manual. It will go with the curriculum we've developed. One of the modules is really analyzing the migrant male population and the stakeholders in that particular community. Every migrant community looks different.

It's important to remember that there are different types of migrant work, and it can vary across the country.

We're hoping to give people the tools to analyze the Hispanic migrant population. Hispanic migrant men have a lot of similarities, but also can come from very different countries. Not all are from Mexico. Some are from Central America and elsewhere. The men can be different in terms of language, nationality, and migrant experience... I think that all of that has to be taken into consideration when engaging the migrant community. There isn't one way that will work within all migrant communities. It hasn't been true for this project. In fact, the same curriculum is implemented in different areas in different ways.

(There are four projects in four areas, each working with Hispanic migrant men.)

Prevention Resource Center:

Southern Poverty Law Center reports that 75% of migrant farmworkers identify as Mexican. What population do you work with?

Emiliano:

We are working exclusively with Hispanic migrant men. Based on Migrant Clinicians Network, the vast majority of migrant workers are Mexican or Central American. Generally, they tend to be recent immigrants. About 40% of migrant and seasonal workers are permanent residents. 77% are Mexican-born.

But migrant work isn't just farmwork. It also includes working in the poultry industry, construction work, and janitorial services, among others. This particular project is being piloted with farmworkers.

Prevention Resource Center:

How does cultural relevance play out in your work?

Emiliano:

It's always in the forefront, in terms of this particular population, and has informed this entire process. One thing we feel strongly about is really looking to migrant men's experiences and understanding. We've done that in different ways: surveys, interviews, focus groups. All of those things, especially the experiences of the men, have influenced the development of the curriculum and the implementation of the project, as well as the training of the Promotores (facilitators).

The Promotores are fully bilingual. They read, write, and speak Spanish. Many of our Promotores have shared experiences with the men we work with.

In terms of outreach/promotion, we are taking the project to the farmworkers. Considering their lack of access to transportation and immigration status concerns, the ability to move around in a community can be very limited. There's no expectation for the men to have to travel somewhere for a session. We take the program to where they gather, where they socialize, where they live, and where they celebrate. That includes conducting the project at their place of worship.

Migrant health centers already have a good relationship with the workers and owners of the camps. They have a history of doing health promotion, HIV prevention, and tobacco prevention in the camps. For this program, that has made a real difference in terms of not trying to create a new relationship, but using relationships that already exist.



An image from the curriculum

Prevention Resource Center:

How are the materials culturally relevant?

Emiliano:

Everything we've developed has been in Spanish. A lot of it was informed by work in Latin America. When you look at the curriculum itself, it's a collection of predominantly Latin American exercises. We've incorporated many exercises that have been developed with a multicultural lens here in the United States, like the *Act Like a Man Box* activity. With some tinkering, they became more culturally relevant. For many, we didn't have to tinker much.

We use a lot of images. We use images to ensure that we have material that can be used regardless of someone's level of literacy. Even for the materials, an important part of the process is that it was informed by Latino men, the feedback from the Promotores, and the folks who work within the migrant health community.

Prevention Resource Center:

Primary prevention is all about activities that intend to prevent sexual violence before it happens. How do you make the connection between primary prevention and your activities?

Emiliano:

Part of our initial literature review was really looking at primary-prevention-based curricula for this particular population. There was none. There are some for Latino men, but none developed for this population. That's why the CDC has funded this project, for use by programs to work (ideally) with Migrant Health Centers. That is an important part of the approach as well. Who has access? Unfortunately rape crisis centers often don't have a high level of access to migrant communities.

As a primary prevention project, we work with men who haven't perpetrated sexual violence. The *Hombres Unidos Contra la Violencia Familiar (Men United Against Family Violence) Facilitators Guide and Course Curriculum* includes five sessions. Each session runs about two hours. The men's participation is generally more limited than with other approaches. Generally, migrant workers are not in a single area for a long time. Maybe five to eight weeks. So, we are being very respectful of their time.

Primary prevention is the central piece of this curriculum. The effectiveness of the program, based on the pretests and posttests, has been pretty remarkable.

We want to provide something for rape crisis centers in order to do work with migrant men - something that is easy to duplicate and easy to implement.

There are not a lot of curricula that are developed for, or informed by, primary prevention. Even fewer have strong evaluation components, which is why we are focusing on that area.

We try to provide food at the sessions. The sessions are usually after the work day and that means they might be coming straight from the field. The final session is a celebration, and it is nice to incorporate cultural food, music, etc. At this celebration, we invite the men to present artwork or poetry.

The participants all get an opportunity to present their experience of the program. They get a cap and a certificate. Funding for gift cards for men who participate is helpful. Our Promotores get a stipend for their facilitation as well. The food and extras aren't expected pieces of the model, but they do make for a place that is comfortable.

The 5 Sessions

1. Gender Roles & Male Socialization (pretest)
2. Defining Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence/Abuse
3. Male Power & Violence
4. Building Skills to Prevent & Respond to Violence (posttest)
5. Celebration!

It also helps if the venue is safe. In the camps, these would be the common areas. We try to present the program in their space and in their community. This is one reason why the Promotores speaking Spanish is so critical.

The sessions themselves aren't highly technical—we don't use PowerPoint. It's low-tech, and all the materials are included in the curriculum.

Program participants receive a cap and a certificate after completing the sessions.



Program participants receive a cap and a certificate after completing the sessions.

Prevention Resource Center:

In some cases, prevention programs will be initiated by someone from outside of the community. This requires building relationships and trust—what are some ways you suggest to create lasting, meaningful relationships?

Emiliano:

Starting with finding people who have that migrant experience – people who either grew up as a migrant, are currently migrants, had parents who were/are migrants... someone who is aware of how a particular community lives and works. Establishing a relationship with those individuals is critical in order to gain access and trust. This could be an individual, or an organization that provides services. There are many services that offer programming to migrants out there. Once you look at the population

of migrant workers in any particular state, there's some organization that is out there working with folks.


A lot of the outreach and recruitment has been through the faith communities. There are many programs that work with children of migrant workers. Men might have a social space they hang out at after work... recruiting at a market might be an option. There are many different ways to access the population.

Two facilitators are required and critical to the process. Both should be male as we have seen that it has helped in recruiting and promotion with men. This is not because women don't have the same access or can't be effective, but because the men haven't gone through these exercises to understand fully the value in women. We hope that men will consider volunteering in their own community or country and that they'll join men's nonviolence efforts in their community or country. We hope that they will support women, whether it is their female partners or their daughters, and will encourage their sons to as well. Our hope is to improve all of the men's relationships long-term and to reduce their likelihood to engage in violence and the instances of violence with other men... whether it's in the workplace or the community.

Prevention Resource Center:

Thank you very much for your time, Emiliano.

Emiliano:

Thank you for the opportunity. The curriculum is still in development. If people want more information about the project, they should contact the Migrant Clinicians Network. They are available online at www.migrantclinician.org. You can find more information there about their other family health initiatives including published articles. 

Emiliano's role with this project is as a Leadership Consortium Member and the primary trainer of Promotores. He is one of TAASA's primary prevention specialists. Before joining TAASA's team, he lived in Harlingen, Texas, where he worked at Family Crisis Center as a children's advocate and then a volunteer coordinator. Later he worked at Casa de Proyecto Libertad as an immigrant rights legal advocate. In 2003, he founded the Men's Resource Center of South Texas, also in Harlingen. Emiliano is a native of Austin, and he worked as a children's advocate at SafePlace for five years. He can be contacted at ediazdeleon@taasa.org.

For more information on Hombres Unidos Contra la Violencia Familiar or other Migrant Clinicians Network health initiatives, please contact Deliana Garcia, Director of International Projects at email@migrantclinician.org.

Cosechando mis derechos, A Fotonovela

Kimber Nicoletti

About The Fotonovela

A fotonovela is an educational tool used to address social concerns while recognizing the diverse learning needs of its readers. This printed medium, in which photos or drawings are organized to tell a story while the plot is conveyed through dialogue bubbles, has primarily been used with Latino audiences but has recently gained popularity with mainstream audiences in the United States.

The fotonovela has a long history in Mexican and Chicano communities and has been recognized as an effective method for educating learners with varying levels of literacy. In many Latino communities, language and the level of literacy can be very diverse. The fotonovela engages the reader through pictures or drawings and through words. It uses a storytelling to teach the reader. In communities where history and culture have been passed orally, storytelling is a culturally relevant method for sharing information.



The cover features warm colors.



FIRST PAGE.
IT IS CLEAR
WHAT IS HAPPENING
FROM JUST A GLANCE.

PARTICIPANTS HAD VERY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT WHAT COLORS REPRESENTED A WORLD THAT WAS SAFE AND FREE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE ...



The Players and the Process


The fotonovela was part of a project that started off as a discussion and an idea to provide greater emphasis on prevention of sexual violence against migrant farmworker women. Many of the project partners have long recognized the limited amount of prevention materials that were designed for migrant farmworkers and the intense need to train professionals on reaching and providing services in this community. From these discussions, a group of dedicated professionals decided to apply for funding to create the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Violence against Farmworkers, which is funded by Office of Victims of Crime (OVW). California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. (CRLA), Lideres Campesinas, Southern Poverty Law Center, Esperanza: The Immigrant Women's Legal Initiative, Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC), Rural Women's Health Project, and Multicultural Efforts to end Sexual Assault (MESA) collaborated in the creation of the fotonovela.

The partners decided that it was imperative to have the involvement and participation of farmworker women in the creation of the fotonovela. CRLA and Lideres Campesinas organized the farmworker women for two focus groups which I facilitated in Salinas, CA in early 2009. Using a performance model for data collection, participants were engaged in a series of theater-arts-based activities to facilitate the dialogue. Theater-arts-based activities help create a dialogue around topics that are considered taboo for discussion and additionally help engage the farmworker women while easing stress. We really wanted this to be a tool that would speak to migrant farmworker women. There was great attention to every detail, including the colors and faces used on the outside cover of the fotonovela. During the focus groups, the participants were shown various colors and asked which colors they felt represented safety, freedom from sexual violence, and healthy communities. Participants had very strong feelings about what colors represented a world that was safe and free from sexual violence, which resulted in the green and yellow colors for the front and back covers. Additionally participants were shown various pictures and asked with which faces they most closely identified.

Use of The Fotonovela

The fotonovela is in print and has been well received by the migrant farmworker community and service providers. The fotonovela was primarily designed to be used by OVW grantees but was also distributed at the National Sexual Assault Conference. In our sexual violence prevention work in the migrant farmworker communities, MESA utilizes the fotonovela as a discussion tool to begin or further the dialogue and to help create community buy-in to organize the community for prevention efforts.

Importance of Reaching Farmworkers

Though there are multiple challenges to engaging the migrant farmworker audience in sexual violence prevention, it is imperative that this community not be overlooked. Migrant farmworkers are involved at almost every level in the planting, harvesting and preparation of the food we all eat. Farmworkers suffer from horrible levels of abject poverty and are often invisible in many communities. These women work and live in remote places with extremely limited access (if any) to resources and are subject to abuse on many levels. It is absolutely important that efforts to empower migrant farmworkers and prevent sexual violence are developed in all communities. 

Kimber Nicoletti, MSW works as the Director of Multicultural Efforts to end Sexual Assault (MESA) at Purdue University. Kimber is a member of the Advisory Council for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and serves on the Board of the Indiana Family Health Council.

Ms. Nicoletti has advocated for the migrant farmworker community for over 18 years. Ms. Nicoletti who brings a high level of energy and enthusiasm to her work, has a positive attitude and is skilled at engaging and empowering clients. As a clinician and a prevention practitioner, she has developed a successful model of sexual violence prevention for the migrant farmworker community and is currently a partner in the national effort to combat farmworker sexual violence. Ms. Nicoletti can be reached at: knicolet@purdue.edu.

Context of Guestworkers in America

Selections from *Close to Slavery: Guestwork Programs in The United States*

Southern Poverty Law Center

Part 1: A Brief History of Guestworkers in America

Foreign-born workers have been significant contributors to the U.S. economy for centuries.

From the early 1800s until the outbreak of World War I, millions of European immigrants — Irish, British, Germans, Italians, Scandinavians, Russians, Hungarians and others — arrived in the United States, and their labor helped fuel the country's economic and geographic expansion. For most of this period, under the Naturalization Act of 1790, the borders were open and there were no numerical limits on immigration. The first major attempt to regulate or stem the flow of these workers came in 1882, when Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to ban the employment of Chinese laborers.

During the latter half of the 1800s, following the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848, tens of thousands of migrant workers from Mexico began arriving. Unlike their European and Asian counterparts, they were able to move freely across the border to temporary jobs in ranching, farming, mining and other industries, and then, in many cases, back home again. The establishment of the U.S. Border Patrol in 1924 made access to jobs in the United States more difficult for Mexican workers, however, and for the first time they were seen as "illegal aliens." But there remained no numerical limits on legal immigration from Mexico until 1965.

World War I brought migration from Europe largely to a halt and created a greater demand for Mexican labor. Soon afterward, the Great Depression arrived and Mexican workers were seen as a threat to American jobs. More than 500,000 people, including some United States citizens, were forcibly deported.

The onset of World War II created another labor shortage, and Mexican workers were again called upon to fill the void.

The Braceros

In 1942, the U.S. State Department reached a bilateral agreement with Mexico creating the bracero program, which Congress later approved. To assuage critics, proponents of the program asserted that Mexicans, who had been deported en masse just a few years earlier, were easily returnable. This program was designed initially to bring in a few hundred experienced laborers to harvest sugar beets in California. Although it started as a small program, at its peak it drew more than 400,000 workers a year across the border. A total of about 4.5 million jobs had been filled by Mexican citizens by the time the bracero program was abolished in 1964.

Interestingly, the program had many significant written legal protections, providing workers with what historian Cindy Hahamovitch, an expert on guestworker programs, has called "the most comprehensive farm labor contract in the history of American agriculture." Under this program:

- » Employers were required to have individual contracts with workers under government supervision;
- » Workers had to be provided housing that would comply with minimum standards;
- » Workers had to be paid either a minimum wage or prevailing wage, whichever was higher;
- » If employers failed to pay the required wages, the U.S. government would be required to support them;
- » Employers had to offer at least 30 days of work; and,
- » Transportation costs were to be shared by the workers, the growers and the government.

But the bracero program did not look so rosy in practice. Mexican workers, who generally did not read English, were often unaware of contractual guarantees. And there were numerous reports of employers shortchanging workers — just as in today's H-2 guestworker program.

1942

The bracero program is now widely believed to have contributed greatly to patterns of unauthorized immigration from Mexico to the United States.

The Mexican workers, who were called braceros, also had 10 percent of their pay withheld, ostensibly to pay for a Social Security-type pension plan. The money was to be deposited into a Mexican bank on behalf of the workers. It was never paid, however. Several lawsuits have been filed to recover what is now estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars owed to Mexican workers.

In 1956, labor organizer Ernesto Galarza's book *Stranger in Our Fields* was published, drawing attention to the conditions experienced by braceros. The book begins with this statement from a worker: "In this camp, we have no names. We are called only by numbers." The book concluded that workers were lied to, cheated and "shamefully neglected." The U.S. Department of Labor officer in charge of the program, Lee G. Williams, described the program as a system of "legalized slavery."

The availability of braceros undermined the ability of U.S. workers to demand higher wages. During the 1950s, growers brought in braceros when their U.S. workers either went on strike or merely threatened to do so. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Cesar Chavez mounted farmworker protests over the program and later said that organizing the United Farm Workers would have been impossible had the bracero program not been abolished in 1964. The grape strike in which the union was born, in fact, began the following year.

The bracero program is now widely believed to have contributed greatly to patterns of unauthorized immigration from Mexico to the United States.

After the bracero program was dismantled in 1964, foreign workers could still be imported for agricultural work under the H-2 sections of the Immigration and

1964

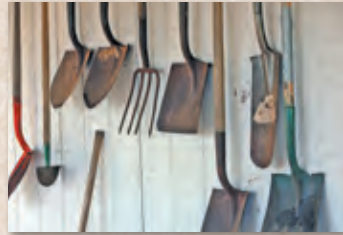
The bracero program was abolished in 1964. The grape strike, in which the United Farm Workers union was born, began the following year.

Nationality Act. The H-2 program had been created in 1943 when the Florida sugar cane industry obtained permission to hire Caribbean workers to cut sugar cane on temporary visas. The appalling conditions experienced by sugar cane cutters have been well-documented. In one well-publicized incident, on November 21, 1986, Caribbean H-2 sugar cane cutters stopped work on a large sugar plantation in south Florida, objecting to the work conditions. Workers reported that the company had tried to pay a rate lower than what was promised in the work contract, and more than 300 workers refused to go to work as a result. The company called in the police, who used guns and dogs to force workers onto buses, on which they were removed from the camp and deported. This incident became known as the "dog war." It has come to symbolize for many people the potential for extreme abuse in a guestworker program that permits employers to control the worker's right to remain in the United States.

The H-2 program was revised in 1986 as part of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which divided it into the H-2A agricultural program and the H-2B non-agricultural program. There are no annual numerical limits on H-2A visas. The annual limit on H-2B visas was 66,000 until 2005, when it was increased substantially by exempting returning workers from those limits.

In 2005, the last year for which data are available, the United States issued about 89,000 H-2B visas and about 32,000 H-2A visas. The countries sending the most workers to the United States under these programs were Mexico, Jamaica and Guatemala; about three-fourths are Mexican.

As will be shown in this report, this current guestworker system is plagued by some of the same problems as the discredited bracero program.



Part 2: How Guestwork Programs Operate

The United States currently has two guestworker programs under which employers can import unskilled labor for temporary or seasonal work lasting less than a year: the H-2A program for agricultural work and the H-2B program for non-agricultural work.

Although the H-2A and H-2B programs offer different terms and benefits, they are similar in one significant way: Both programs permit the guestworker to work only for the employer who petitioned the Department of Labor (DOL) for his or her services. If the work situation is abusive or not what was promised, the worker has little or no recourse other than to go home. That puts the worker at a distinct disadvantage in terms of future opportunities in the United States, because his ability to return during any subsequent season depends entirely on an employer's willingness to submit a request to the U.S. government. In practical terms, it means that an employee is much less likely to complain about workplace safety or wage issues.

Under federal law, employers must obtain prior approval from the DOL to bring in guestworkers. To do that, employers must certify that:

- » there are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified and available to perform work at the place and time needed; and,
- » the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed will not be "adversely affected" by the importation of guestworkers.

The H-2 visas used by guestworkers are for individuals only and generally do not permit them to bring their families to the United States. This means that guestworkers are separated from their families, including their minor children, for periods often lasting nearly a year.

THE H-2A PROGRAM

The H-2A program provides significant legal protections for foreign farmworkers. Many of these safeguards are similar to those that existed under the widely discredited bracero program, which operated from 1942 until it was discontinued amid human rights abuses in 1964. Unfortunately, far too many of the protections — as in the bracero program — exist only on paper.

Federal law and DOL regulations contain several provisions that are meant to protect H-2A workers from exploitation as well as to ensure that U.S. workers are shielded from the potential adverse impacts, such as the downward pressure on wages, associated with the hiring of temporary foreign workers.

H-2A workers must be paid wages that are the highest of:

- a. the local labor market's "prevailing wage" for a particular crop, as determined by the DOL and state agencies;
- b. the state or federal minimum wage; or
- c. the "adverse effect wage rate."

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H-2A workers also are legally entitled to:

- » Receive at least three-fourths of the total hours promised in the contract, which states the period of employment promised. (This is called the “three-quarters guarantee.”)
- » Receive free housing in good condition for the period of the contract.
- » Receive workers’ compensation benefits for medical costs and payment for lost time from work and for any permanent injury.
- » Be reimbursed for the cost of travel from the worker’s home to the job as soon as the worker finishes 50 percent of the contract period. The expenses include the cost of an airline or bus ticket and food during the trip. If the guestworker stays on the job until the end of the contract the employer must pay transportation home.
- » Be protected by the same health and safety regulations as other workers.
- » Be eligible for federally funded legal services for matters related to their employment as H-2A workers.

To protect U.S. workers in competition with H-2A workers, employers must abide by what is known as the “fifty percent rule.” This rule specifies that an H-2A employer must hire any qualified U.S. worker who applies for a job prior to the beginning of the second half of the season for which foreign workers are hired.

THE H-2B PROGRAM

The fundamental legal protections afforded to H-2A workers do not apply to guestworkers under the H-2B program.

Though the H-2B program was created two decades ago by the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, the DOL has never promulgated regulations enacting substantive labor protections for these workers. IRCA, in fact, does not explicitly require such regulatory safeguards, providing only the guidance that the importation of H-2B workers must not adversely affect U.S. workers’ wages and working conditions.

And, unlike the H-2A program, the procedures governing certification for an H-2B visa were established not by regulation but rather by internal DOL memoranda (General Administrative Letter 1-95) and therefore were not subject to the public comment and review process required when new federal regulations are adopted. An employer need only state the nature, wage and working conditions of the job and assure the DOL that the wage and other terms meet prevailing conditions in the industry. Because the H-2B wage requirement is set forth by administrative directive and not by regulation, the DOL takes the position that it lacks legal authority to enforce the H-2B prevailing wage.

While the employer is obligated to offer full-time employment that pays at least the prevailing wage rate, none of the other substantive regulatory protections of the H-2A program apply to H-2B workers. There is no free housing. There is no access to legal services. There is no “three-quarters guarantee.” And the H-2B regulations do not require an employer to pay the workers’ transportation to the United States. ♦

Mis Sueños

Suzi Fode, New Hope DV/SA Services in Moses Lake

The Project

Mis Sueños is Spanish for My Dreams. About five years ago an advocate working for New Hope applied for some community network funding. She was awarded enough funding to begin the program in one middle school.

The Participants

The program is primarily intended for Latina girls from grades 8 to 11. The program has grown over the past five years from one session per year all the way to nine sessions in a school year. We like to work with middle school counselors and identify a group of girls that can attend.

The Activities


There is a formal 12-week curriculum filled with activities on self-esteem, pride in culture, success, goal planning, wellness, nutrition, domestic violence/sexual assault awareness, healthy dating relationships, etc. The girls meet after school on the school campus. We provide supplies for activities, the lesson, guest speakers, videos, snacks and transportation home after the two hour session. The final project is all about pride and self-esteem. Typically it's a "girls day out"—lunch, salon visit (hair and nails), and team-building activities, such as a small ropes course led by trained professionals. We do pre-testing and post-testing to target attitudes and values statements regarding success, self esteem and future planning.

The Challenges

Scheduling! Taking three advocates out of our office each week during the same block of time (after school) was tough. We travel over an hour to get to some locations. We learned to stagger the days and not have more than one session on the same day. Another challenge occurred during one final event. We brought three different middle schools together on the same day and some girls had affiliations with opposing gangs. Quite quickly, we separated the groups and did our activities apart from one another. One group ended up missing the team-building time, because of scheduling difficulties.

The Elevator Pitch

(a two-minute explanation of the value of the project)

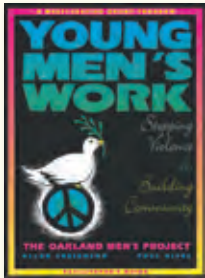
That it is wonderful! It's a fully loaded program that offers opportunities most rural Latina girls don't have the chance of participating in. Next thing I'm sure to ask is... are you willing to help fund it? The Community Network funding has dried up. We are exploring other ways to incorporate the details of this program elsewhere in our services. 

The program has grown over the past five years from one session per year all the way to nine sessions in a school year. We like to work with middle school counselors and identify a group of girls that can attend.

Prevention Resources

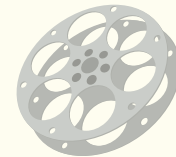
Grant Stancliff, Prevention Specialist, WCSAP

Did you know . . . that WCSAP members have access to check out our library items? It's true. We mail them to you, and you mail them back. Here are a few new (and some, just new to us) items.



Young Men's Work
Type: Curriculum

A multi-session curriculum aimed at young men
It comes bundled with workbooks and a DVD!



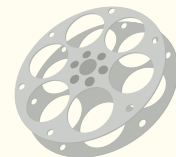
The Codes of Gender
Type: Film

A media review using the analysis of groundbreaking sociologist Ervin Goffman



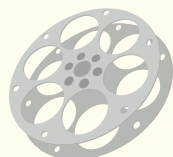
Reaching Men
Type: Book

A manual of effective means of educating men about violence against women



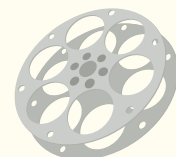
The Price of Pleasure
Type: Film

A documentary that highlights the role of pornography in the context of society and relationships



Respect Me, Don't Media Me
Type: Film

An examination of young women in music and other media



Straightlaced
Type: Film

A DVD about teenagers in high school across the gender spectrum



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End Sexual Violence in our Communities



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is *your* magazine.

We invite guest authors to submit pieces on a variety of topics, and welcome your submissions on prevention approaches, media reviews, and creative work like original art or poetry.

We would also like to feature highlights of your agency and the prevention work you are doing.

Direct submissions to
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