



HISPANIC/LATINX CALL TO ACTION:

Addressing the Impact of HIV, Hepatitis and STIs in Our Communities

March 6, 2018

Eugene McCray, M.D.

Director, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. McCray,

We hope that you, your family and colleagues are doing well. We know and value your commitment and the efforts of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) viral hepatitis and the opioid epidemics in our communities. We write as members of the national network of Latino/Hispanic community-based organizations, as well as members of other organizations based in communities of color and organizations in solidarity, to express our serious concerns regarding the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Latino/Hispanic community and particularly to the most vulnerable groups, such as communities of color, young adults, MSM, gay/bisexual men, and transgender women.

First, we thank you for your availability to meet with us during the national conference for the past two years. We recognize the progress toward ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and accomplishing the goals set forth in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. We've seen progress at the national level over the past years. Surveillance data shows a decrease in the diagnosis of new HIV infections in 2016, including a decrease in new diagnoses among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.

As reported by the CDC in 2015, Latino/Hispanics accounted for about one quarter of all new diagnoses of HIV in the United States, despite representing about 18% of the total U.S. population. From 2010 to 2014, the estimated annual HIV infections increased 14% (from 6,400 to 7,300) among Latino/Hispanic gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Of those, 87% (8,563) were in men, and 12% (1,223) were in women. Gay and bisexual men accounted for 85% (7,271) of the HIV diagnoses among Latino/Hispanic men in 2015. From 2010 to 2014, HIV diagnoses increased 2% among all Latino/Hispanic, but trends varied among subgroups. Diagnoses among young Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men (aged 13 to 24) increased 16%.

As observed, the disproportionate impact of HIV among Latino gay and bisexual men and transgender women is a concerning issue within this ethnic group. Whereas many communities

throughout the U.S. have seen a decrease in infection rates, many of the most vulnerable Latino/Hispanic communities have seen an increase in HIV infection rates and other STI's. We are deeply concerned with many of the regions that have seen increases in infection rates among members of the Latino community such as the US southeast region and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. About seven in ten new HIV diagnoses in Latinos happens among gay and bisexual men, and less than half of those infected with HIV have achieved viral suppression.

We request that the CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention call for an internal consultation to explore how the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention could optimally address the dramatic increase in HIV infections among Latino MSM, YMSM and transgender Latina women. We strongly believe that an internal consultation is necessary to coordinate a national response that will mitigate the impact that these new HIV infections will have on our most vulnerable Latino communities. We would like to begin conversations and facilitate a better public health response to this serious trend of new HIV infections affecting our communities.

Again, we applaud your leadership and progress in confronting the nation's HIV/AIDS health epidemic and urge you bolster this progress with major actions this year to pave the way for a healthy future for vulnerable Latino communities. We would appreciate the chance to hear from you at your earliest convenience. Please contact Oscar Lopez (oscarlopez@valleyaids.org), Oscar De La O (odelao@bienestar.org), Jose Joaquin Mulinelli (coai05@gmail.com), or Guillermo Chacón (gchacon@latinoaids.org) with suggestions to further discuss this public health crisis. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Oscar De La O BIENESTAR Los Angeles, CA	Guillermo Chacon Jose Latino Commission on AIDS New York, NY	Joaquin Mulinelli COAI Puerto Rico
Oscar Raul López Valley AIDS Council El Valle, TX	Alicia Wilson La Clínica del Pueblo, Inc. Washington, DC	

C/C: Dr. Jonathan H. Mermin, Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP)

Janet Cleveland, Deputy Division Director, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention Center, CDC
Richard Wolitski, Ph.D., Director, Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SIGNED CALL TO ACTION

1. Acacia Network.....New York
2. Adolescent AIDS Program.....New York
3. Advocates for Better Care Atlanta, LLC.....Georgia
4. Advocates for Youth.....District of Columbia
5. African American Health Alliance.....Maryland
6. AGUILAS.....California
7. AIDS Alabama.....Alabama
8. AID FOR AIDS.....New York
9. AIDS Institute.....Washington, DC
10. AIDS Network of WNY.....New York
11. Albany Damien Center.....New York
12. Alianza Americas.....Illinois
13. Alianza Latina Pro-Educación en Salud.....North Carolina
14. AltaMed Health ServicesCalifornia
15. Amida Care.....New York
16. APAIT - Special Service for Groups.....California
17. API Equality-LA.....California
18. Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.....Texas
19. Association of Mexicans in NC (AMEXCAN).....North Carolina
20. Avenue 360 Health & Wellness.....Texas
21. Bailey House, Inc.....New York
22. BIENESTAR, Inc.....California
23. Black AIDS InstituteCalifornia
24. BOOM!Health.....New York
25. Bronx Lebanon Family MedicineNew York
26. Campaign for Southern EqualityNorth Carolina
27. Carolinas CARE Partnership.....North Carolina
28. Center for Latino Adolescent and Family HealthNew York
29. Centro de Salud Familiar La FeTexas
30. Cero VIH Puerto Rico.....Puerto Rico
31. CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health.....Tennessee
32. City of St. Louis Department of Health.....Missouri
33. Coaí, Inc.....Puerto Rico
34. Comisión de Salud del Senado Puerto Rico.....Puerto Rico
35. Common Social Advancement Fund - COMSOLE.....Puerto Rico
36. Community Health Services, Inc.....Connecticut
37. Compass, Inc.....Florida
38. Corp. La Fondita de Jesus.....Puerto Rico
39. Duke University Medical Center, Partners in Caring.....North Carolina
40. El Centro Hispano, Inc.North Carolina
41. Empower U Community Health Center.....Florida
42. End AIDS Now.....New York
43. EOC of Suffolk.....New York

44.	Equality California.....	California
45.	Equality New York.....	New York
46.	Equality North Carolina.....	North Carolina
47.	Exponents.....	New York
48.	Food Outreach.....	Missouri
49.	Fundación Latinoamericana De Acción Social, Inc. (FLAS)....	Texas
50.	Galaei.....	Pennsylvania
51.	GMHC.....	New York
52.	GRIOT Circle.....	New York
53.	Harlem United.....	New York
54.	Health, Promotion, and Care Research Lab.....	Florida
55.	High Impacto.....	Florida
56.	Hispanic Communications Network.....	District of Columbia
57.	Hispanic Federation.....	New York
58.	Hispanic Health Network.....	New York
59.	HIV Dental Alliance.....	Georgia
60.	Hondurans Against AIDS.....	New York
61.	Housing Works, Inc.	New York
62.	Howard Brown Health.....	Illinois
63.	Human Rights Campaign.....	District of Columbia
64.	Impacto LGBTQ Leadership Project.....	Virginia
65.	Iris House	New York
66.	JWCH Institute, Inc.....	California
67.	Kentucky Equal Justice Center.....	Kentucky
68.	La Clinica del Pueblo.....	District of Columbia
69.	La Nueva Esperanza, Inc.....	New York
70.	Latin Shamrock, LLC.....	North Carolina
71.	Latino Commission on AIDS.....	New York
72.	Latino Community Fund.....	Georgia
73.	Latino Equality Alliance	California
74.	Latino LinQ.....	Georgia
75.	Latino Religious Leadership Program.....	New York
76.	Latinos in the Deep South.....	North Carolina
77.	Latinos Salud.....	Florida
78.	LLHC.....	Louisiana
79.	Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.....	California
80.	Los Angeles LGBT Center.....	California
81.	Maduros y Sabrosos.....	New York
82.	Marin County Public Health.....	California
83.	Maroon Society, Inc.....	California
84.	Men’s Health Foundation.....	California
85.	Midland Cares, Inc.....	Florida
86.	Miami Collaborative, an MSM Community Mobilization Group.....	Florida
87.	Mujeres Unidas Contra so SIDA.....	Texas
88.	National Black Gay Men’s Advocacy Coalition	District of Columbia
89.	National Hispanic and Latino Technology Transfer Center.....	Georgia
90.	National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH).....	New York
91.	National Working Positive Coalition.....	New York

92.	NC AIDS Action Network	North Carolina
93.	New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership.....	New Mexico
94.	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.....	New York
95.	New York Immigration Coalition.....	New York
96.	NMAC.....	District of Columbia
97.	Northern Utah Coalition.....	Utah
98.	NY Council on Adoptable Children, Inc.....	New York
99.	Oasis, Latino LGBTs Wellness Center.....	New York
100.	One Iowa.....	Iowa
101.	OraSure Technologies Inc.....	Pennsylvania
102.	Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana.....	Puerto Rico
103.	PALSS, Inc.....	South Carolina
104.	Planned Parenthood Federation of America.....	District of Columbia
105.	PR CoNCRA.....	Puerto Rico
106.	Preventing HIV Project.....	Pennsylvania
107.	Prevention Access Campaign	New York
108.	Prevention305.....	Florida
109.	Pridelines.....	Florida
110.	PROCEED, Inc.....	New Jersey
111.	Project Vida Inc.	Illinois
112.	PROMESA/Camino Nuevo.....	New York
113.	Public Health Labs.....	New York
114.	Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA.....	Illinois
115.	QLatinx.....	Florida
116.	Queens Pride House.....	New York
117.	Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition	Maryland
118.	RAIN, Inc.....	North Carolina
119.	Rural Women’s Health Project.....	Florida
120.	SAGE.....	New York
121.	San Antonio AIDS Foundation.....	Texas
122.	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.	California
123.	San Francisco AIDS Foundation	California
124.	Scott County Health Department.....	Iowa
125.	Servicios de La Raza.....	Colorado
126.	Sixteenth Street Community Health Center.....	Wisconsin
127.	Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.....	Arizona
128.	Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative.....	North Carolina
129.	Start Talking. Stop HIV.....	California
130.	The Attic Youth Center.....	Pennsylvania
131.	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach.....	California
132.	The New York Immigration Coalition	New York
133.	The State University of New York, School of Nursing, Dpt. of Family, Community and Health Systems Sciences.....	New York
134.	Translatinx Network.....	New York
135.	Translatin@ Coalition.....	California
136.	Treat Me Right Inc.....	New York
137.	Treatment Action group.....	New York
138.		

- 139. United Church of Christ HIV & AIDS Network (aka UCAN) Ohio
- 140. Unity Fellowship of Christ Church NYCNew York
- 141. University of Maryland, Adolescent and Young Adult Center.....Maryland
- 142. Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention ServicesDistrict of Columbia
- 143. Valley AIDS Council.....Texas
- 144. VIDA.....California
- 145. Violence Intervention Program.....New York
- 146. Wellness AIDS Services.....Michigan
- 147. West Alabama HIV Prevention & Care Network.....Alabama
- 148. Whitman-Walker Health.....District of Columbia
- 149. Wyckoff Heights Medical Center..... New York

INDIVIDUALS THAT SIGNED CALL TO ACTION

- 1. Adrian Juarez.....New York
- 2. Alberto Barragan.....Texas
- 3. Alberto Cartagena-VasquezCalifornia
- 4. Alberto Jacinto.....District of Columbia
- 5. Alejandro Santiago.....Puerto Rico
- 6. Alex Morse, MPH
- 7. Alonso Bautista
- 8. Amanda Cavanaugh
- 9. Angel Algarin.....Florida
- 10. Ángel HernándezPuerto Rico
- 11. Angelina Rossi
- 12. Arianna Lit
- 13. Ariel Garcia.....California
- 14. Arlene C. Seña, MD, MPH.....North Carolina
- 15. Audrey Harkness, Ph.D.....Florida
- 16. Austin Stephens.....New York
- 17. Axel Reyes.....District of Columbia
- 18. Benjamin Gerritz
- 19. Benjamin Gonzalez
- 20. Bertha Ramos
- 21. Brandon Simmond.....New York
- 22. Carla Piedrahita
- 23. Carla Scaccabarozzi
- 24. Carlos J. Mendez.....North Carolina
- 25. Carmelita Cruz
- 26. Carolyn Tuff
- 27. Catherine Aroca
- 28. Cecilia Navarro.....California
- 29. Cesar Carrasco.....New York
- 30. Cesar Nuesi
- 31. Christina Adeleke
- 32. Coti Perez Espinoza.....Georgia
- 33. Cristina Rodriguez-Hart

34. Cynthia Gay
35. Damon L. Jacobs.....New York
36. Daniel Agosto.....New York
37. Daniel Merkan.....Florida
38. Daniel Casiano Rivera.....Puerto Rico
39. Darriane Martin.....
40. Debra Pelto, PhD
41. Diana Echenique
42. Eduardo Nettle
43. Edward J Brunner.....New York
44. Elder Antionettea Etienne.....New York
45. Elia Chino.....Texas
46. Elsi Pena.....Florida
47. Enrique Menendez.....New York
48. Erica Lessem.....New York
49. Erik de Armas.....New York
50. Ernesto Hernandez
51. Estefana Avila.....New York
52. Eugenio Bedoya
53. Francisco Javier Parga MirandaPuerto Rico
54. Frank Rosas
55. Gabe Reyes.....California
56. Gabriel Guerrero-Savage
57. Gil Alicea.....New York
58. Gilmer Youn.....California
59. Giovanna Quiros
60. Gladys Bonilla.....North Carolina
61. Gloria E. Rivera
62. Hector Moran
63. Ivette Melendez.....Michigan
64. Jasper S. Lee
65. Jeremiah Johnson.....New York
66. Jeremy Fagan, PhD
67. Jessy G. Devieuz.....Florida
68. Jesus Chavez-Van De Hey.....Colorado
69. Jesus Gaeta
70. Jesus Gaeta, MPH
71. Jesus Guillen.....California
72. Jorge Rodriguez.....New York
73. Jorian Rivera.....Pennsylvania
74. José A. Colón-Berdecía.....New York
75. Joseph Akima
76. JP Cano.....Texas
77. Juan Camilo Romero.....New York
78. Juan Jose Lopez.....Illinois
79. Juan Nazario Serrano.....Puerto Rico
80. Julieta Giner
81. Kat Auguste

82. Ken O'Brien
83. Khafre Kujichagulia Abif
84. Kim Callinan
85. Koren Rodriguez-Linares.....Florida
86. Laura Moya
87. Leandro Antonio Mena, MD, MPH.....Missouri
88. Leonardo Cambar
89. Levis Torres
90. Lillibeth GonzalesNew York
91. Lisa Koffler.....New York
92. Lucciano Reberte.....New York
93. Luis E. Nieves-Rosa
94. Luis Madera
95. Luis Magana.....Connecticut
96. Mabel Martinez-Almonte.....New York
97. Manuel J. Diaz-Ramirez.....District of Columbia
98. Marcello Di Maria
99. Marco Elorreaga
100. Maritza Vazquez-Perez
101. Mark Brennan-Ing
102. Matthew Murguia
103. Mayra D. Valdez
104. Michael Crumpler
105. Michelle Lopez
106. Michelle Montgomery
107. Miguel Diaz MartinezLouisiana
108. Miguel Rullan.....South Carolina
109. Mike Knezevich.....Missouri
110. Musarrat Rahman
111. Natalie Torres Negron
112. Nelson A. Belizario.....Missouri
113. Nhoua Yang.....Mississippi
114. Nicole Lefkowitz.....New York
115. Noelle Mendez.....Florida
116. Oscar Mora.....California
117. Patricia Portillo
118. Patricia Tetreault
119. Patrick Maseo.....New York
120. Pedro Perez Valdez.....Wisconsin
121. Rafael Rodriguez
122. Rene A. Guevara.....New York
123. Rita Cordova-Padron.....New York
124. Rolanda Miles
125. Ron Johnson
126. Rosy Galvan
127. Samantha Miller
128. Sandra Rollins.....New York
129. Sarah Kellman

- 130. Sarah McClellan.....Utah
- 131. Selena Rodriguez
- 132. Stephanie Espada.....New York
- 133. Steven Vargas.....Texas
- 134. Suzy Lopez
- 135. Tania Miolan
- 136. Tanya Walker.....New York
- 137. Teresa Springer.....Mississippi
- 138. Thomas Medina
- 139. Tomas Delgado Jr.....Florida
- 140. Valerie Reyes-Jimenez
- 141. Vanessa Curlee
- 142. Vanessa Ramos
- 143. Vilma Mendiza
- 144. Yanira Arias.....California
- 145. Yvette Calderon
- 146. Yvonne J. Torres.....North Carolina
- 147. Marco Castro Bojorquez.....California
- 148. Jesus Miguel Gonzalez.....New York