AYUDANDO A NUESTROS HIJOS A
PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR
PARENTS OF REENTRY LATINO YOUTH

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INTRODUCTION:

- For many years, the United States of America has treated crimes committed by minors differently than those committed by adults. This is in part because many people believe that the crimes committed by children are less blameworthy and view minors as being resilient and with a superior capacity to grow, change and develop a healthier lifestyle than grown adults.

- For this reason, the United States created a separate Justice System called the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the Juvenile Justice system was to separate youth offenders from adults by providing children with age appropriate services that would promote a successful rehabilitation and integration back into society. (Western & Pettit, 2010).

- Since its creation, the amount of children entering the Juvenile Justice system has increased since the 1920s to the mid 1970s the scale of punishment in the United States had been stable at around 100 per 100,000 but the incarceration rate has increased to eight times its historic average overloading the scales of inequality distribution (Western & Pettit, 2010).

- In 2010 it was reported that the majority of the youth entering the juvenile system were primarily of Latino origin. This is in part because the Latino population has increased in the last 10 years by 43% (U.S Census Bureau, 2010). In 2010, there were approximately 50.5 million Latinos residing in the United States and over half lived in the state of California (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). The increase of Latinos in California has grown tremendously in the past ten years from 11 million to 27.8 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). This is four times the growth in the overall population in the United States (U.S Census, 2010).
Social Work Relevance

- Social work practitioners need to encourage Latino parents to participate in psychoeducation programs that can support this population with a therapeutic approach. The programs will provide a space to the parents in how to address risk factors along with protective factors, which will make a difference in the life of families and generation to come. Involving parents in similar programs with an education component on the government systems and resources that will support their children will make a difference by providing them with useful tools.

- The parenting training program encourages parents to engage and contribute with the reentry youth by providing education skills with cultural competency training by teaching parent leadership skills and retrieving supportive services. The parenting training will be conducted in a respectful manner with dignity as the facilitator will teach in Spanish to the Latino community. The parents will learn how to advocate for the reentry youth and gain access to services that are mandated by the Department of Probation and the Court system. The Parent Training program will regain access to the parents of the reentry youth by empowering the community. The parenting training program will teach necessary well-informed information that will cover goals and cultural consistency. The National Association Social Worker (NASW) Code of Ethics provides the core work of social workers to provide services with skills and integrity (NASW, 2013).
Cross-cultural Relevance:

- According to the United States census the Latino population has been growing at double the rate compared to other ethnic groups (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). Out of incarcerated youth in Los Angeles County, the research estimates 13,345 females being arrested and 40,435 males. The children’s Planning Council also reports that California is 46th state out of 50 with a rate of 392 youth in detention and correction for every 100,000 youth ages 10-21 in the population (Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council, April 2006). The data are comprised of mostly minority groups that consisted of 28.8% of Latino, 22% White, 37.5% African American, 20.7% Asian, 11% Pacific Islander, and 9.7% other. The age range was between 10-21 years of age (Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council, April 2006).

- Many of these youth did not have a two-parent household. It was reported that 56% of youth lived with only one parent while 26% of youth did not live with either parent (Sickmund et al., 2008; Abram et al., 2008). The epidemic of Latino youth being incarcerated is a problem that Latino parents need the support of addressing through providing therapeutic and education to the families involved in order to provide healthy start that can cause change in behavior.
Methods

- **Target population:**
  The target population will be Latino parents residing in Los Angeles County specially Echo Park region. It is projected that the Latino population by the year 2030 it will increase to 73 million and constitute 20.1% of the United States population, making them the fastest growing group in the country (Garcia, 2009). As for the Latino children one out of five children is Latino under the age of 18 accounting for 20% of the child population and this is expected to increase to 24% by 2020 (Garcia, 2009). In the United States, it is estimated that incarcerated youth are released from a correctional facility from 100,000 up to 200,000, this is an occurrence that is taking over the youth of this country as they face incarceration by costing this country 4.7 million dollars a year (Adam & Snyder, 2010).

- **Strategies used to identify and select a funding source:**
  This writer researched to identify a possible funding source to find the best fit for “Ayudando a Nuestros Hijos” by exploring and visiting the Center for Non-Profits Management in Southern California and Non-profit Resource Library Center for Healthy Communities that is situated in the city of Los Angeles. This grant writer conducted the search by using the Internet as a vehicle to search different links through Google and Yahoo such as the Library at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). The Social Work Librarian at the California State University, Long Beach provided the grant writer some assistance in finding information by entering words related to the topic such as Reentry Latino youth/grants, grants/parent training programs, and California grants/ Latino youth. The grant writer gathered all information and searched the specific websites that provided grant funding information. The foundations that were identified via Internet included The California Community Foundation, California Endowment, Department of Probation (Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and the Weingart Foundation.
Methods

Identify the funding source selected:
Potential funding agency was the California Community Foundation. The agency is a non-profit agency. The agency’s mission is to strengthen Los Angeles communities through effective philanthropy and civic engagement and envisions Los Angeles County made up of safe thriving and diverse communities (California Community Foundation, 2014). This agency’s main focus is to contribute to social change through civic engagement and leadership. The final deadline date will be announced on April (California Community Foundation, 2014).

Source used for the needs assessment:
The Latino population youth are filling up the juvenile facilities. There was data collected shown in 2008 that of incarcerated youth, 85% were male and range between 15 and 20 years of age and were comprised of mostly minority groups that consisted of 36% non-Hispanic White, 39.4% Black, 19.6% Hispanic, 1% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, and 1.2% Other (Sickmund, Sladky, Kang, & Puzzanchera, 2008; Abrams, Shannon, & Sangalang, 2008). Literature continues to provide a perceptive view of the Reentry Latino youth population continues to grow and involved in the justice system. The parents of these youth are in need of intervention services that can provide educational and awareness on how to provide adequate support for the Latino parents of this at risk population.

Projected budget range and categories:
By realizing Ayudando a Nuestros Hijos program for one year in collaboration with El Centro Del Pueblo agency, the grant project will need to secure a sum of $174,350 dollars in funds for the implementation of this psycho educational program through the California Wellness Foundation.
Grant Proposal

- **Program Summary and Description:**
The program Ayudando a Nuestros Hijos will aspire to provide Latino parents and youth a good foundation on how to navigate the government systems with knowledge of how they work and providing a safe space for parents to gain a therapeutic approach on how to develop a relationship/good communicate with family members. The families will make behavioral changes by preventing old pattern of behaviors and avoiding the cycle of involvement of the juvenile justice. By implementing the proposed grant program, Ayudando a Nuestro Hijos and El Centro Del Pueblo both will join efforts to encourage families to pursue a healthy, committed, and safe environment.

- **Population served:**
The purpose of this grant project is to obtain funding for the develop a psycho educational training for parents that will enhance their knowledge and advocacy skills to support Latino parents with reentry youth. The goal of this project is to provide the parents a space to meet in a group setting to focus on a therapeutic and learning environment. The program will provide education of the government systems so the parents can learn how to navigate the juvenile system and the court system in Spanish along with culturally competency component. El Centro Del Pueblo will provide the potential refers form other existing program to the proposed project in efforts to capture the parents that will meet the criteria, in the city of Los Angeles, California.

- **Sustainability:**
The implementation of Ayudando a Nuestros Hijos program from January-December 2015, the belief is that El Centro Del Pueblo agency will continue to provide these services to Latino parents with reentry youth in the community by using the program and the original funding source; The California Wellness Foundation. If additional funding is needed, the program administrator and El Centro Del Pueblo’s staff can search for donors through other resources such as the city, county, state, funds. El Centro Del Pueblo can work together with other agencies to raise funds and collaborate efforts with community organizations.
Grant Proposal

- **Program Objective:**
  The educational services provided to the parents will include psycho-educational programs for the Latino parents with cultural language, beliefs, and customs that can make a difference by providing educational skills that the Latino parents could experience a familiar connection to their youth. By working together with the Latino parents in a group setting and a supportive environment this will make behavioral changes by learning life skills and risk factors within their community. These kinds of programs that can incorporate cultural competency, no language barriers, mental health services, parent education on navigating the government systems can provide tools for the parents to advocate for themselves.

- **Program Evaluation:**
  The parents in each cohort will be provided with a pre and post test to obtain feedback of the psychoeducation program. This will give the parents an opportunity to review the program’s organization, activities, legal aid education, and the therapeutic sessions. The information gathered from the pre and post tests of every cohort of the program will be evaluated and will be adjusted to provide parents with the most effective services. As the information is gathered from each cohort, the clinical social worker will be accountable for reviewing the data and evaluating the program’s productivity.
Lessons Learned/Implications for Social Work

- The beginning stage of this process was learning what the target population was and inquiring what were the concerns impacting them. It was critical to develop creative ideas on how to accomplish this proposed program. When the target population was decided the real work began by developing the intervention with goals and objectives. In order to accomplish such intervention it is important to identify a host agency that either understands the target population or works with them at their agency. The writer needs to evaluate the agency’s mission statement, vision, and purpose to guarantee the goals of the program that is developed.

- The proposed program’s goal is to provide a service that will bring Latino families have access to community resources, build knowledge of the government systems, and have a therapeutic approach for Latino families struggling. Ayudando a Nuestros Hijos aim is to meet the needs of the Latino families by providing a service with cultural competency and in their language by expanding the knowledge and find solutions to their struggles. Research has shown that the Latino population is the largest minority population and growing in the United States it’s critical that programs are designed for the Latino families to meet their needs and gain success through education.
References


- El Centro Del Pueblo, (2014), Programs and Services, retrieved from http://www.elcentrodelpueblo.org


