Spirituality-Focused Support Groups for HIV Positive Latinos: A Grant-Writing Project

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Introduction

• Latinos are the group with the highest rate of HIV in Orange County with 253, 929 citizens (Orange County Health Care Agency, 2014; Watson, 2007)
• In 2010, Latino males accounted for 21% of the newly acquired HIV case and women accounted for 14% (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2014).
• Among Latino males, 57% of the newly HIV positive case are due to men having sex with men (Latino Commission on AIDS, 2010).
• Purpose is to fill the lack of support groups with a spirituality focused for Latinos who are HIV positive and is residing in Orange County.
Social Work Relevance
National Association of Social Workers, 2008

• To advocate for the well-being of Latino are HIV positive to gain coping skills through support from others and spirituality.

• Increase quality of life for the clients, their family members, and significant other through education and support.

• To be a voice of justice for a specific disenfranchised group.
Cross-Cultural Relevance

• Latinos are the fastest growing population in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)
• They are 3 times higher than European American to acquire a diagnosis of HIV positive (CDC, n.d.)
• In 2004, 31% of the HIV cases if Orange County are Latinos compared to 44% of the total cases (Watson, 2007).
Methods

• Target population
  – Latinos adults living in Orange County with a diagnosis of HIV.

• Strategies used to identify funding sources
  – Reviewed The Center OC’s previous grant proposals.
  – Conducted Google search using following terms:
    • Grants
    • Support group grants
    • HIV support group grants

• Funding source selected was the Elton John AIDS Foundation.
Methods (cont.)

- Multiple research was conducted to determine the needs having support groups with a religiosity/spirituality emphasis can help to reduce depression and other mental health symptoms among individuals who are HIV positive (Corey, Corey, & Corey, 2010; Jia et al., 2004; Mosack et al., 2009; Pérez et al., 2009)

- Projected budget range and categories
  - $57,000 from the Elton John AIDS Foundation
  - In kind donations from host agency:
    - $14,400/ year room rentals
    - $1,200 / year office equipment
    - $600 / year office supplies
    - $2,560/ year for refreshments
    - $800/ year for provided transportation vouchers
Grant Proposal

• Program Summary, Description, and Population Served
  – Support groups provided for residents of Orange County who are:
    • Latino
    • HIV positive
    • English or Spanish speaking
  – Services are also provided for member’s family members or significant other.
  – Closed group
  – Runs for 8 weeks
  – 10 members to a group (half are HIV positive, other half are family members)

• Program will have a trial run for first year, if successful program will be sustained through grants and donations.
Grant Proposal (cont.)

• Program Objectives
  – Using spiritual techniques to cope with HIV/AIDS
  – Providing education and caregiving techniques
  – Connection with local community and services to promote wellness for HIV positive individuals

• Program Evaluation
  – Attendance tabulation through “check-in” process
  – Satisfaction survey (in English and Spanish)
    • Likert type scale (1=strong disagree to 5=strongly agree)
Relevance to Social Work Practice

• Stigma is one of the main obstacles for one living with HIV to attain services to enhance well-being; important for social workers to advocated for their rights

• More education opportunities should be created for general public as well as for one living with HIV/AIDS and his or her family members

• Much needed the creation of support groups for minority groups in regards to HIV/AIDS and the caregiving role for family members
References