
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

MAY 2015

BY: BERTHA M. DOMINGUEZ
Introduction

- In Los Angeles County, 36,422 children are involved in the child welfare system (CWS) (Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, n.d.).
- Of those children, 21,855 Latino
- In Ventura County 555 of 842 children involved in the CWS are Latino (Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, 2014).
- Risk factors that lead to Latino involvement in the CWS include legal status, socioeconomic status, low educational attainment, and other cultural barriers (Dettlaff, Earner, & Phillips, 2009).

The main goal of this grant proposal is to provide culturally relevant support group services to Latino immigrant parents involved in the child welfare system
  - Enhance parental knowledge about CWS and process
  - Increase coping skills
  - Increase empowerment skills
Social Work Relevance

- Nearly 40% of California's population identifies as Hispanic/Latino (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)
- Mexican immigrant children have higher rates of physical abuse and sexual abuse compared to other groups (Osterling & Han, 2011)
- Latino parents report that they feel misunderstood by their social workers due to cultural differences (Earner, 2007)
- Interventions with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity and understanding of the Latino community are needed and proven to be effective (Dettlaff & Rycraft, 2010)
- Benefits of support groups include improved mental health, increased knowledge, and development of supportive relationships (Hammarberg, Sartore, Cann, & Fisher, 2014)
Cross-Cultural Relevance

• The Latino population is diverse in terms of cultures, traditions, languages, spirituality, values, beliefs, etc.

• The proposed support group is designed to provide Latino immigrant parents with support through activities, discussions of culturally relevant issues, referrals to appropriate services, and translation of court documents.

• Ventura County is recognized for their agriculture which is composed of a large Latino immigrant workforce.
Methods

Sources for Needs Assessment

- Literature review regarding:
  - Latino immigrants
  - Child maltreatment rates
  - Risk factors
  - Culture
  - Values
  - Parenting practices
  - Support groups
  - Culturally competent services

Target Population

- Latino immigrant parents involved in the CWS
### Funding Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation

- **Annual Budget:** $161,530.20
  - Salaries & Benefits: $125,740
  - Direct Expenses: $12,320
  - Indirect Expenses: $23,470.20
  - In-Kind Contributions: include rent space, chairs, tables, utilities, and projector equipment

### Strategies to Identify and Select Funding Source

- The Grantsmanship Center
- Child Welfare Foundation
- Google and Yahoo search engines using the following key terms:
  - Child welfare, social justice, Latino, Latino immigrants, children, child abuse, neglect, and permanency
Grant Proposal: Support Group for Latino Immigrant Parents

- 12 week closed group
- 1.5 hours per week
- Education about child welfare system, cultural issues, translations of court report, case plans, etc.
- Location: Oxnard Regional CFS office
- Sustainability: collaborate agencies, in-kind contributions, obtain social work interns

Population Served
- Latino immigrant parents living in Ventura County who have an open dependency case which Children and Family Services
  - Family Reunification (FR) or Family Maintenance (FM)
  - Spanish is their primary language
# Grant Proposal

## Program Objectives

1. To increase parents’ level of knowledge about the child welfare system, child maltreatment laws in California, and the process of FR and/or FM

2. For parents to obtain strong levels of agreement in areas regarding the organization of the program, leadership effectiveness, and usefulness of the support group

3. To increase parents’ coping skills, support networks, and sense of empowerment and ability for their needs

## Program Evaluation

- Pre and post test to evaluate parents’ knowledge regarding items in Objective 1
- Likert scale questionnaire to rate group organization, group facilitator knowledge, usefulness of information, ease to understand information, increased coping skills, and sense of empowerment to rate Objective 2 and Objective 3
Lessons Learned

- **Identification of Needs:**
  - There is limited research regarding Latino immigrant services involved in the CWS.
  - Latinos have many risks factors that make them vulnerable to the CWS.

- **Grant Writing Process:**
  - Locating funders
  - Application process
  - Budget

- **Social Work Implications:**
  - More research regarding effective services for Latino immigrant parents in the child welfare system is needed.
  - Culturally sensitive services are needed.


