Hispanic Network Meeting Notes 2/10/11:

Icebreaker:
An Icebreaker activity was done to start off the meeting. Attendees were given a task to complete. Rafael was the first one to complete without the help of others. He gets a gold star.

Roundtable Discussion:

- Rudy Torres from the Portland State Training Center notified the group of two current openings. There are two clerical positions open. Jobs are posted online at the PSU website and a copy of the job descriptions can be located on the WIKI.

- Karina Silva from SDA8 informed the group of an upcoming event for Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Douglas, Coos and Curry counties. Robin Rose will be at the Josephine county expo on May 24, 2011 for diversity training. This event is open to all staff the counties mentioned above. Karina will send out more information as it becomes available.

- Tina McCollum from DHS AmeriCorps informed the group that the applications for being a Host Site for AmeriCorps members. There are currently 28 positions/openings around the state. The application packages will be ready on March 1, 2011. Please see attached handout, also located on the WIKI, for more information.

- Gloria Sprauer from DHS Volunteer Services for Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties discussed what a volunteer services has to offer. An example of a volunteer would volunteer drivers. Gloria provided that almost every district has a volunteer program. Gloria explained that her job is to place general volunteers within the agencies. If there is a need for help, Gloria and her coworkers around the state can find a volunteer. The only thing that the local office has to do is agree to be a training site for a volunteer. For more information please contact Gloria.

- Lilia Arajuo announced that her job rotation as the International Case Coordinator in the CAF Diversity Unit ends at the end of the moth. Lilia will be returning to her previous job as a Vocational Rehab Counselor.

- Kevin Aguirre gave an update on the budget. Kevin strongly recommended that everyone read Dr. Goldberg’s weekly update from last Friday, 2/4/11.
Oscar Herrera provided that the Diversity Conference will be held in September. Exact dates are unknown at this time.

Oscar also discussed that refugee communities, such as Somali refugees, are leaving the Portland area and moving to other parts of the state. Oscar provided that it is important for people to have training regarding these communities and to ask management for these trainings, so that clients are better served.

A discussion was had regarding having a subcommittee to work on the table for the diversity conference. The following people volunteered to be on the subcommittee which is headed by Rafael Bernal: Yesenia Mendoza, Jose Gonzalez, Maria Bahena, Elizabeth Andrews, Nancy Wilson, Aida Lujan and Violeta Ibarra. Rafael will be getting in touch with all in the near future.

There was a discussion about having a pot luck lunch at the May meeting. This was put to vote and the majority agreed to have a potluck lunch.

**Co-chair Elections:**

- Rafael Bernal volunteered to be co-chair this year. It was proposed that Rafael be co-chair and it was unanimously approved by the group.

- There was a discussion of adding a second co-chair for the group. It was proposed that a second co-chair would be added to help the chair and co-chair. It was unanimously approved. Aida Lujan agreed to be 2nd co-chair.

- Congratulations to Nancy Estrada, who is now the Chair of the group.

**Ed Sales- Community Relations Officer, USCIS:**

Ed gave a brief overview of what his agency has to offer:

- USCIS has no law enforcement authority
- State Department is only agency that can issue Visas. There are two types of Visas:
  - Immigrant visa
  - Non immigrant visa.

- Ed spoke to the group about the Visa Bulletin: A visa bulletin tells an applicant what priority date the Department of State is working on at the moment. The bulletin changes every month. To find out what priority date the Department of State is
working on, go to www.state.gov, then type visa bulletin in search engine. Click on the top entry on the list. The will redirect you to the page with the preferences, chose which one (type of visa you filed for) you need and it will take you to the current bulletin.

- Ed discussed reviewed Public Charge with the group. (Please see attached handout.)

- VAWA: Violence Against Women's Act. This allows a person to petition for a green card on their own due to the domestic violence. If a person is in the US illegally, they are also able to petition for a green card but have they have to be married at the time to the abuser who is either a US citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR).

- If you need to get a hold of USCIS there are two ways
  - At www.uscis.gov
  - Or toll free phone services 1-800-375-5283
  - Appointments can be made. Appointments are made in 12 different languages. Appointments can be made through the website.

**Joan Claypool - Independent Living Program:**
- There are 7 independent living centers in Oregon.
- These centers provide auxiliary services to clients.
- These centers are not residential homes.
- Joan asked the group for ideas on how to reach out to the Hispanic Community. Some of the suggestions provided were to provide the fliers/handouts in Spanish and to have bilingual staff on hand at each center.
- Joan provided handouts that are attached to this email and have also been posted on the WIKI.

**Alberto Moreno: Migrant Health Coordinator- Office of Multicultural Health & Services:**
- The goal of this agency is to reduce the health inequalities of Oregon’s most vulnerable population.
- This agency is working on diversifying the workforce by:
  - Making medical access to migrant workers more accessible
  - Having promotoras or community health workers
  - Looking at how the profession is certified-Medicaid reimbursable
- The life expectancy for a migrant worker is age 49. This is due to the lack of medical care.
- Alberto discussed a new bill that has recently passed where all children are not included for medical care. The bill excludes undocumented children.
• Other disparities to the bill is that undocumented women who are pregnant do not have the right to prenatal care, not that Oregon resources be equitable to all in Oregon.
• There are community listening sessions to identify, educate and improve health equity.
• There are regional coalitions and grants are available to support the coalitions.
• The Migrant research council will be connecting with Migrant Healthy Start. The participation is voluntary in this group. Currently there is 40% participation.
• For more information please see: www.oregon.gov/OHA/OMHS or contact Alberto at alberto.moreno@state.or.us