

PACIFIC CLINICS SPONSORS 18th ANNUAL LATINO CONFERENCE
By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



Several hundred clinicians, Community Based Organizations and clients gathered to learn about and discuss “Community Defined Practices for Latinos” at the 18th Annual Latino Conference sponsored by Pacific Clinics, held at the Hilton in San Gabriel on May 14, 2015.

“The advantage of community defined evidence-based practices is that they are developed with the needs of particular communities in mind ... the practice has a definite conceptual framework that addresses what the intervention is designed to change ... while adapting to the needs of a particular group,” said Susan Mandel, Ph.D., President, Pacific Clinics, who welcomed the large audience.

Luis Garcia, Psy.D, Vice President of Cultural Diversity, Pacific Clinics, introduced the speakers and served as Master of Ceremonies.

L.A. County Board Supervisor, Hilda Solis, District One, and the first Latina on a United States Presidential Cabinet, served as the keynote speaker.



The first plenary presentation was made by Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D., University of Miami, who spoke on the importance of tailoring treatment to unique life experiences and described efforts to develop and test a culturally informed flexible and family-based treatment for adolescents.

Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, Ed.D, University of New Mexico, talked about his experience in reviving traditional medicine and “curanderismo” into communities, health centers and individual wellness plans. He reviewed rituals and usage of herbal, Mexican Folk Medicine and folk beliefs from Aztec to modern times, noting Spanish-Moorish and Native American influences.

Yvette Flores, Ph.D., UC Davis, spoke on her experiences providing treatment approaches rooted in Mestizo psychology and Social Justice Therapies that heal the hearts, minds and spirits of Latinos.



The afternoon offered three breakout options:

- New Games and social Networks to Work in Mental Health with Latino Youth
- Curandismo Demonstrations and Hands-On Healing
- Using Health Navigation to Address Health Issues in Latino Consumers and Families

Pacific Clinics was originally established in 1926 to serve children and has grown to provide comprehensive behavioral health services and mental health programs for all ages in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Fifty-six percent of Pacific Clinics’ clients are of Latino/Hispanic heritage.

