

Office of University Partnerships

National Conference-April 19-20, 2010

San Antonio, Texas

Panel: Thursday, 9:45-11:00

“Challenges and Successes in HUD Childcare Projects”

Introduction

Greetings, my name is Gloria Guzman, Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA

Introduction of other panel members:

University of New Mexico, Taos/ Margaret MacTavis and Patricia Gonzales

Southwestern Indian Technical Institute/Joan Goodman

Southwestern College, San Diego, CA/Cynthia Nagura

Among our panel are eight HUD-funded projects relating to childcare, seven HSIAC and one Tribal Colleges. The activities include:

- building or renovating a child care center
- implementing a child care program
- developing a microenterprise program of family child care provider training in Spanish and Vietnamese
- providing microloans to start up businesses
- operating family/provider resource centers
- supporting a professional association for providers through leadership

Development

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All have integrated many types of partners-college or university, school districts, non profits, and various federal programs.

The structure of the presentation will be for each of the panelists to describe her program and its challenges and successes in various areas. We'll then have time for questions

Presentation: Santa Ana College, Rancho Santiago Community College District

Santa Ana, CA

We are 1 hour south of LA and 2 hours north of San Diego, 15 minutes from Disneyland and 20 minutes from the ocean.

-The population is very high Latino, very poor and very young. In addition, the District includes an area with the largest Vietnamese population outside Vietnam, providing a steady stream of non-English-speaking immigrants.

-Child care is a critical need

-There is a great need for stay-at-home moms to bring income into the family, and

-To be effective, instruction needed to be offered in languages spoken by the population

In the mid-nineties, SAC had a COPC grant that documented the need for child care. We hosted the first HSIAC technical training in 1999 and submitted a proposal to develop and implement a Spanish-language family childcare provider training program within our non-credit division. **Our first project** included:

-a mock home with kitchen, bathroom, living room and even an outdoor area with a tree done by the theater department next to a classroom for the students and an office area

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-a 160-hour instructional program in Spanish with components of child development, the business of family childcare and first aid/CPR

-a microloan program providing loans up to \$5000 to start a fcc business.

We were successful and all objectives were met or exceeded. The program has been institutionalized, more than 800 have graduated. About a third has gone into business and another third has continued their education to work in centers. Some have started other types of home businesses, and ALL report becoming better parents.

Our **second project** funded in 2004 includes:

-continuation of the Spanish-language training and replicate for the Vietnamese community

-support for a newly-formed professional association of Spanish-speaking fcc providers in Orange County through leadership development

-renovation of the child development center on the non-credit site and the building of a two-story building for expanded childcare and additional adult classrooms

-establishment of a resource center for parents, FCC providers, child development students and community members

Challenges and Successes

We are currently in the 6th year of a three-year grant. There have, indeed, been challenges!

Construction

The first project was small, under \$100,000. It progressed smoothly, on time. Visitors from all over came to see our “model home. This success was aided by

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construction being a separate project, under our control, and funded totally from HUD funds. (We also had a 10-year lease from the City. A year after the closing out of the project, the City, unfortunately, broke the lease. They had valid reasons but it created a problem for us).

Our second project was very different. We were renovating a child development center and building a two-story facility. It required Bond funds to complete so we were in the mix of Bond priorities, imbedded in a larger site project, and it was not under our control. There have been MAJOR personnel changes and in the last year economic disaster in California. But we are now on process!! The college agreed to contribute the half million dollars required to complete just our HSIAC project. You can see the work in the photo on the right. This challenge is on its way to a SUCCESS.

Training

The Spanish program has been completely successful and is fully institutionalized over the ten years of existence. We have curriculum, teachers and students as well as a permanent home on the non-credit site.

There was also an UNPLANNED outcome. A critical mass of Spanish-speakers wanted to continue to study and needed college credit. The Human Development Department of Santa Ana College established a bilingual-Spanish track of the core 18 units required by Licensing and the first level of State certification. More than 200 students have received that certification.

The CHALLENGE is in the new Vietnamese program. The instructor who was fluent in Vietnamese and had a BA in Child Development has decided to start a Masters Program and we have not been successful finding a replacement YET.

Partnerships

In our first project all went very well during the grant period. Our major partner, the Microloan Center of Orange County was to take over the loan portion of our project as the loans were repaid to continue the process. Unfortunately, they

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went out of business!! We could not find another entity to provide this so had to change our plan and use the money in a different way to support the population we were serving.

In the Second project, another great unintended outcome has unfolded. The Spanish-speaking providers of Orange County wanted to start their own professional association. The HSIAC project has provided leadership development and support, including incorporation, 501c3 status, monthly meetings and newsletter annual Board retreats, and bi- annual conferences. There is a website and a Mentoring Program for the students in our training program. About half the Board members are graduates of our program. The HUD publication of October, 2007 on Partnering has an article describing the relationship.

LESSONS:

-There will ALWAYS be problems

-You may have to think of new ways to achieve your objectives

-Know that HUD is understanding and wants you to succeed. Budget Changes, Program Changes and even unfunded extensions are OK-**if** discussed and submitted in a timely manner.

-You need to be open to spontaneous opportunities. They may turn out to be better than your planned activities!