

Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee's Newsletter

Newsletter September 19, 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

Chair, CDR Guillermo Aviles-Mendoza
Vice-Chair, LT Yvonne Santiago
Secretary, LCDR Luz Rivera
Treasurer, CDR Carlos Castillo



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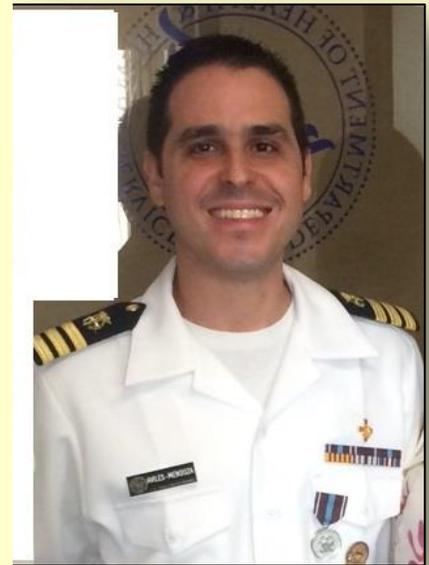
Upcoming Events

HOAC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

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HOAC Chair's Corner – CDR Aviles-Mendoza

The mission of the Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee (HOAC) is to promote professional development of and advocates for the recognition of contributions made by Hispanic officers in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). The U.S. Government defines *Hispanic or Latino* persons as being "persons who trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures." Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic/Latino Americans. This National celebration dates back to 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson and was expanded in 1988 by President Reagan to cover a 30-day period. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. It also covers Columbus Day or *Día de la Raza*, which is October 12, and falls within this 30 day period.



Author CDR Guillermo Avilés-Mendoza

HOAC Chair's Corner – CDR Aviles-Mendoza, cont.

Since January 1, 2014, I had the privilege and honor to serve as the 2014 HOAC's Chair. The collective work of HOAC USPHS members is making a difference nationwide and worldwide. From ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines, safeguarding the food we eat every day, liaising with other Uniform Services, preventing public health emergencies of international concern to guaranteeing that the uninsured or underserved communities have access to affordable health care services. HOAC officers are making a tremendous, positive difference every day. I salute you, thank you and encourage you to continue to move upward, united as a collective group of Officers who share a common culture and commitment to our Hispanic heritage.

I am grateful for the Officers contributions to our Committee and for making the year 2014 a productive one for HOAC, from the active role in the Unaccompanied Children humanitarian response, to strengthening of partnerships with community health advocates, HOAC has expanded activities executing our mission. HOAC is proud to announce two new awards honoring Officers for exemplary qualities of leadership, loyalty and service towards the mission of HOAC and the Hispanic community. The new HOAC awards bare the names of two of our finest USPHS Officers, U.S. Surgeon General VADM Antonia C. Novello and U.S. Surgeon General VADM Richard Carmona.

I close the Chair's corner by inviting Officers to the HOAC All-Hands meeting on **Friday, December 12, 2014** in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. This multipurpose meeting will be an opportunity to discuss HOAC accomplishments and more importantly, to strategize on the way-forward for our Committee. As decided in our most recent meeting, HOAC has established a new governance system of *Chair-elect* where the Committee will elect each year a *Chair-elect* instead of a *Vice-Chair*. The new governance structure will ensure sustainability and a smooth transition. At the All-Hands meeting the Committee will execute HOAC Change of Command Ceremony where will transfer the responsibilities of the HOAC Chair to LT Yvonne Santiago, who has been an exemplary Vice-Chair, our first Chair-elect and I am confident will continue the upward evolution for HOAC. Please save the dates of December 12-13, 2014 as the HOAC leadership is planning to present the proposed activities at our next HOAC meeting.

Nuestra salud es nuestro futuro, continuemos trabajando juntos por la salud de nuestra comunidad Hispana/Latina. Somos Oficiales Hispánicos, compartimos una misma etnicidad, estamos enlazados por una cultura ejemplar y unidos en la misión de proteger, promover y avanzar la salud y seguridad de nuestra Nación.

¡UNIDOS, COMO EQUIPO, SI SE PUEDE!



HOAC members at COA in New Orleans, Louisiana

Getting to Know: CDR Luis O. Rodriguez

CDR Luis O. Rodriguez is an Environmental Health Officer and Training Coordinator at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP). VSP personnel prevent and control the introduction, transmission, and spread of acute gastroenteritis illnesses on cruise ships. VSP staffers accomplish this mission by conducting unannounced cruise ship operational inspections twice a year to assess compliance with VSP Operations Manual requirements including: acute gastroenteritis surveillance and reporting, potable water, recreational water, food safety, integrated pest management, housekeeping (infection control), child activity center, and Legionella control.

In addition to operational inspections, VSP personnel provide ship construction consultation, acute gastroenteritis surveillance and outbreak response, and industry training seminars. VSP personnel have developed cooperative relationships with the cruise ship industry and work collaboratively with cruise lines and associated partners.

Services to Latinos/Hispanics. Although the VSP does not provide direct services to Latino/Hispanic populations, healthy cruise ships ensure the enjoyment of everyone, including Latinos/Hispanics. Additionally, CDR Rodriguez's bilingual skills have been invaluable during capacity building efforts in other countries. For example, CDR Rodriguez is the lead instructor of ship sanitation inspections and international health regulations for Portuguese and Spanish speaking professionals.

Planning a Cruise? If you're planning to cruise, check out VSP's website at www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp/ for inspection scores and reports. Now you know a HOAC officer is working hard so you can play hard!



Author CDR Rodriguez checks food temperatures in a walk-in refrigerator. Photos courtesy of CDC VSP.

Getting to Know: LCDR Oswaldo Baez

LCDR Baez grew up in Dorado, Puerto Rico and is a graduate of University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. He also earned a Master's degree in Clinical Social Work from the Graduate School of Social Work Beatriz LaSalle. He received a commission as US Army Infantry Officer. His assignments have included Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, Battalion Executive Officer, and Commander for 268th Transportation Company. He was assigned as the Battle Captain for 2/72 Infantry Brigade, served as the Operation Officer for 10th Special Force Group, and as the Team Chief for the 3rd Public Order Brigade in Rustamiyah, Iraq. LCDR Baez was commissioned as a USPHS Officer in 2008 and was assigned to FMC Devens, where he provides medical social work services to inmates with chronic and terminal illnesses. He also oversees the overall functions of several programs to include the Compassionate Release Program, the Hospice Program, and the

Organ Transplant Program. Some of LCDR Baez awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal (3 stars) and the Combat Infantry badge. LCDR Baez has been married for 15 years and has two children; Daniel, age 4 and David, age 3.



Author LCDR Oswaldo Baez

Hispanic/Latinos News: HISPANIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Perhaps two fascinating trends demographers have noticed since the year 2000 is how the Latino population continues to be concentrated in certain key state sand how quickly they are growing in non-traditional areas. The eight U.S. states with the largest Hispanic population – California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, New Jersey, Colorado, New York and Illinois – contain nearly three-quarters of all U.S. Hispanics. In fact, in a number of major markets there are more Hispanics than any other ethnic group, including Los Angeles (45% Hispanic) and Miami (47% Hispanic). Hispanics also make up a sizeable part of the population in many northern cities including New York (21% Hispanic) and Chicago (20% Hispanic). But the growth of the Hispanic population is happening across the country, not just in these traditional Latino markets.

Table 1

Growth in Hispanic Population among 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic States, 2000-2011

State	Population in 2000	Population in 2011	% Change, 2000-2011
Alabama	72,152	186,209	158
South Carolina	94,652	240,884	154
Tennessee	116,692	296,266	154
Kentucky	56,922	132,267	132
South Dakota	10,101	23,158	129
Arkansas	85,303	190,192	123
North Carolina	377,084	828,210	120
Mississippi	37,301	81,088	117
Maryland	230,992	488,943	112
Georgia	434,375	879,858	103

Notes: The states shown are the 10 largest by percent change in Hispanic population from 2000 to 2011. The overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 47.5% from 2000 to 2011.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2000 Census (5% IPUMS) and 2011 ACS (1% IPUMS)

HOAC Featured in Frontline: HOAC Promotes “Ventanillas de Salud”

Members of HOAC met in Raleigh, NC with the Consul General of Mexico, the Honorable Javier Díaz de León. Charged with undertaking a more active role in Hispanic communities, HOAC is looking into the concept of Ventanillas de Salud (Health Windows) of the Mexican Consulate System to become actively involved in prevention and education to underserved populations. Located in 50 Mexican Consulates, Ventanillas de Salud is a free program with the main goals of preventing diseases, promoting healthy habits and referring visitors to health services. They are managed by public-private partnerships between the Government of Mexico and a not-for profit organization in U.S. cities where the programs are located. Community health workers and Promotores de Salud offer bilingual and multicultural public health and preventive education as well as referrals to community clinics. HOAC senior advisor RADM Epi Elizondo stated, “I have worked with Ventanillas de Salud for many years, and I encourage Officers to volunteer and serve in the community health fairs the Ventanillas de Salud coordinate through the year.” HOAC offered to serve as a point of contact for USPHS Officers and the Ventanillas de Salud network in the United States.

Click here for full article:

https://members.coausphs.org/secure/Pages/Secure/documents/AugustCOAFL14_Final_color.pdf



HOAC Responds to the Unaccompanied Children Humanitarian Crisis

Before 2012, the number unaccompanied children arriving to the United States had averaged between 6,000 and 7,000 annually. However, by the end of Fiscal Year 2012 the number of UAC who entered into the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) custody had increased to almost 14,000, and then nearly doubled again to nearly 25,000 in Fiscal Year 2013. Most of these children come from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Additionally, more girls are arriving now due to increasing gender-based violence in Central America. Due to worsening conditions at home, these vulnerable children continue to risk the journey to the United States in increasing numbers.

Unaccompanied children are undocumented migrant children who come to the United States without a parent or guardian. When these children are apprehended, they are typically put into the custody of the ORR, typically shortly after their entry into the United States. These children often embark on a dangerous journey from their home countries to escape persecution or other violence. Some have family already in the United States. Many children endure trafficking or abuse during their journey.

Over 60 HOAC officers deployed to the south western land border to support this humanitarian crisis. One of these officers was CDR Miguel Cruz. He was deployed to McAllen, Texas from June 12-26, 2014. As the only public health person on-site in the facility, CDR Cruz was asked to provide information and assistance in a number of areas including infection control, sanitation, potential issues with ticks and other infestations, health surveillance, and environmental health assessments. He was surprised by the lack of public health leadership in what was a mass migration care incident. On the other hand LT Karly Gomez, was deployed to Artesia, NM to support the implementation of a new facility. She is now on an extended second rotation in Artesia as the Acting Assistant Health Administrator and has had days where administering 1,500 immunizations is not uncommon. Others such as LCDR Luna-Pinto supported this mission in 2012 during the first surge. This time around, she worked on materials such as the initial health screening poster on the right.

HOAC has provided recommendations to the U.S. Surgeon General to support USPHS Officers in this humanitarian response with cultural and linguistic resources. To learn more about these recommendations, reach out to HOAC's Education and Outreach Sub-committee at: ftv2@cdc.gov



Unaccompanied children at a temporary shelter



Mexico, United States border

Initial Health Screening

Look — Ask — Refer



Look for

- Lice and scabies
- Rash
- Weeping sores and wounds
- Injuries
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Persistent cough
- Decreased consciousness



Ask: do you have

- a fever?
- a cough?
- blood in your cough?
- diarrhea?
- vomiting?
- a rash?
- bleeding?
- headache?
- stiff neck?



Also ask

- Anyone with you sick in your group or family? What for?
- Take any medicine?

➔ If YES to any of these

- Separate from others
- Refer for medical evaluation



Join a Subcommittee

Subcommittee	Contact
Awards and Recognition	CDR Lorena Crowley lorena.c.crowley1@ice.dhs.gov
Charter and Bylaws	LT Thomas Gammarano Thomas.P.Gammarano@ice.dhs.gov
Communications and Public Relations	LCDR Silvia Luna Pinto hjz1@cdc.gov
Nomination and Membership	LCDR Diana Vargas mailto:diana.vargas@foh.gov
Recruitment and Retention	LT Jorge Muñiz-Ortiz djgm4@hotmail.com
Education and Outreach	LCDR Michelle Sandoval ftv2@cdc.gov

[Click here to learn more about each subcommittee or contact the person listed below for more information.](#)

HOAC Activities during Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15-Oct 15, 2014

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 1300 – 1400
U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC)

Presentation by:
 Mr. Jose Luis Velasco (Director of the U.S. Section, BHC)

Thursday, October 2, 2014 1200 - 1300

United States – Mexico Unit (USMU) Quarantine and Binational Border Surveillance

Presentation by:
 Dr. Miguel Escobedo (Medical Officer for CDC USMU)

Thursday, October 9, 2014 1300-1400

Health Disparities in Latinos with Emphasis on New Immigrants

Presented by:
 Dr. Alfonso Rodríguez (Migrant Health Specialist for CDC USMU)

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 1200–1300

Mental Health Issues among Latinos/Hispanics

Presented by: CDR Carlos Castillo (HOAC Treasurer)
 LCDR Luz Rivera (HOAC Secretary)

For more information on the HOAC Hispanic Heritage Month Events please contact:

Michelle Sandoval, msandoval@isdh.in.gov
 Chair, HOAC Education and Outreach Subcommittee
 LCDR, United States Public Health Service

Yvonne M. Santiago, MA, yvonne.santiago@fda.hhs.gov
 Vice Chair, USPHS Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee
 LT, United States Public Health Service

HOAC New Awards: Due Date: 17 October 2014



Nuestro Futuro es
Nuestra Salud

HOAC is honored to announce two new awards to officers who have shown outstanding leadership progression in their careers as USPHS officers, HOAC members and community advocates. Nominees must be active duty, in the reserves, or retired officers:

- **VADM Richard H. Carmona Award:** For ranks O-5 and above.
- **VADM Antonia C. Novello Award:** For ranks O-4 or below.

For questions or information, contact:

CDR Lorena Crowley, Chair, HOAC Awards Subcommittee

720-873-2824 (office); 866-311-0973 (secure fax), Lorena.C.Crowley@ice.dhs.gov

HOAC Esprit de Corps Merchandise

Help show your HOAC and PHS Pride by purchasing the "New" HOAC T-shirt, car static cling, or coin.



Contact LT Yvonne Santiago at yvonne.santiago@fda.hhs.gov for the t-shirt or sticker. For the coin, go to:

http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/hoac/hoac_coin.aspx

HOAC Newsletter Team

LCDR Carolina Luna-Pinto

CDR Miguel Cruz

LT Yvonne Santiago

LT Karly Gomez

Interested in submitting an article to feature in any of the sections?

- * Articles are due by the 15th of August and February
- * Limit to 250-500 words
- * Please include a title and state your name in the "by" line.
- * Pictures are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

October 14, 2014 ~ 1 pm

Hispanic Heritage Month

"Hispanics: A Legacy of History, a Present of Action and Future of Success"

Keynote Speaker
OPM Director Katherine Archuleta

HHS Auditorium
Hubert Humphrey Bldg.
200 Independence Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Mission

The HOAC promotes professional development of and advocates for the recognition of contributions made by Hispanic officers in the USPHS.

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[HOAC on Twitter @usphshoac](#)
<http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/HOAC/>