

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**
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Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**
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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Department: Health Services | | | <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Not Required |
| Contact: Rita Scardaci | Phone: (707) 565-4700 | Board Date: 10/6/2009 | Deadline for Board Action: 10/6/2009 |

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Binational Health Week.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Resolution in recognition of Binational Health Week, October 5-9, 2009.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.

Explanation (if required): None.

Prior Board Action: 10/7/08 - Recognized Binational Health Week.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: Missed opportunity to acknowledge important health challenges for Sonoma County Latino immigrants and their families.

Background:

Binational Health Week has become one of the largest mobilization efforts of government agencies, community based organizations and volunteers to improve the health and well-being of underserved immigrants and migrants of Latin American origin living in the United States and Canada. Binational Health Week is a collaboration of consulates and agencies including the Secretariats of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Social Security Institute, the California Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, the California HealthCare Foundation, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California Berkeley’s School of Public Health.

The Eighth Annual Binational Health Week took place October 6-15, 2008 and witnessed the largest participation throughout the United States and Canada since its inception in 2001. Over 10,000 agencies and 23,000 volunteers worked together to provide an estimated 5,885 activities, including a weeklong series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings for diabetes and hypertension, benefiting over 549,000 people.

This year, Binational Health Week events will take place in 40 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada with the participation of the consular networks in the United States of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Additionally, four national campaigns will promote health awareness on Nutrition, Living Green, Prevention of Addictions, and Prevention of Strokes among the underserved Latino community. On October 5th and 6th, key stakeholders and policymakers will convene in Zacatecas, Mexico to discuss immigrant health challenges and explore collaborative strategies to confront these challenges.

Since Binational Health Week first began, the Department of Health Services has worked with local agencies and community members on events and activities to improve access to health services for Sonoma County’s immigrants and their families. This year the Department will participate in local health fairs such as the End of Harvest Fiesta at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on October 17th offering information on topics including H1N1 influenza, nutritional health, healthy pregnancy, and healthy babies. On October 8th, the Latino Health Forum will be held offering information on health resources and services, and increasing awareness of high-risk factors affecting the health of immigrant families.

The Department of Health Services requests that the Board adopt a resolution recognizing Binational Health Week, October 5-9, 2009.

Attachments: Resolution in recognition of Binational Health Week, October 5-9, 2009.

On File With Clerk: None.

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Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: