Panel: Patient/Community Engaged Research Experience

Rebecca Fisher, MLIS, Patient Advocate, Oakton, Virginia

Ramon J. Vasquez, Executive Director, American Indians of Texas the Spanish Colonial Missions San Antonio, TX

Daniel Pineda, Coordinator, Palabra Alliance, San Antonio TX

Janet Paleo, Founder & Director, Prosumer Group San Antonio TX

Rebecca Fisher is a BRCA1+, 23-year Stage IIIB breast cancer survivor, and medical librarian by training and past profession whose patient advocacy work began in 2003, when she began lobbying for the passage of what ultimately became the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act of 2008. As part of that effort, she visited Congressional representatives and senators, testified before the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS), and served on numerous national level committees.

Ramon Vasquez was born in San Antonio and later moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he worked as a gang specialist for Centro De La Comunidad Unida, a position he dedicated himself to for five years. During his tenure at Centro, he specialized in the development and implementation of intervention projects amongst Latino Street gangs. In 1991, he and his family moved back to San Antonio and he joined the Good Samaritan Center as Program Director for the Youth in Conflict Gang Program. Ramon was instrumental in the establishment of a 5 year Peace Truce between 6 of San Antonio most notorious street gangs. In 1998, he was appointed and currently serves as Executive Director of the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions. AIT is a non-profit organization located in San Antonio. The American Indians of Texas serves the indigenous population of Central and South Texas. Ramon has spent the last 15 years specifically working on community mobilization and Community/Academic partnerships. Primarily focusing on the mobilization of men in the areas of domestic violence, promoting positive images on fatherhood and confronting male stereotypes and falsehoods. He is the Co-Founder and Vice President of the Land Heritage Institute Foundation, and Co-Founder and Treasurer of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition.

Daniel Pineda has been involved in conducting community-academic partnership research among youth and their families for over 10 years. Mr. Pineda began this
community work as a volunteer. Since 2006 he has worked as a community educator with Familias en Acción Violence Prevention Program and a recruitment coordinator and intervention facilitator with Familias SUAVE: Preventing Violence with El Joven Noble and Cara y Corazón through the University of Texas Health Science Center’s Center for Community-Based Health Promotion with Women and Children. He continues to work with Drs. Lesser and Oscos-Sanchez in the ongoing projects of the Familias en Acción Community Collaborative Council. Mr. Pineda has a long-standing interest in working to overcome health disparities and disproportionalities among families of color. He is the founder and coordinator of the Palabra Alliance. The vision of this Bexar county group of volunteers is: Community volunteers and nonprofit agencies uniting with males of all ages in a vision of shared responsibility for the promotion of men's health and wellness and their ability to make positive contributions to their families and communities.

**Janet Paleo** started her career as an advocate for consumers and public mental health services in 1996. As a recipient of services, she learned firsthand the value of community center services. As a Peer Consumer Liaison for a Local Mental Health Authority she learned firsthand what it is to be a community center bound by a state contract and standards and regulations. She has continued to work with the community centers in representing the consumer voice, in participating on a range of committees, bringing opportunities to centers and helping centers to become more consumer oriented, and successfully engaged consumers to become leaders, workers and volunteers within the centers. She currently works for the Texas Council of Community Centers as the Director of Recovery Based Services. Janet a board member of the World Federation for Mental. She has also been recognized by the State of Texas receiving the Governors Trophy Award for Empowering Texans with Disabilities in 2005, and was honored nationally by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Voice Award in 2010 along with Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

No handouts were provided for this presentation:

**Notes:**