

Hundreds of Voices Demand the elimination of Health Disparities in Utah

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Comunidades Unidas, a non-profit organization, along with the support of other public and private institutions, hosted the fourth annual conference on Health Disparities in Utah. More than 300 members of Utah's ethnic communities as well as representatives from a variety of healthcare institutions turned out to voice their opinions before legislators, policy makers and those individuals interested in finding solutions to health disparities in Utah.

The Executive Director of Comunidades Unidas, Sabrina Morales, said the purpose of the conference was to inform the general community about existing health disparities in ethnic communities and to invite local policy makers and health legislative committee members to help eliminate these disparities by implementing new policies and laws. She emphasized that part of providing better healthcare for Hispanics includes language interpretation in hospitals for anyone who doesn't speak English and ensuring people understand they can apply for Medicare or they can seek federal assistance.

Morales is certain we can establish laws to eliminate health disparities. Alliances and partnerships have been formed with other agencies and institutions to eliminate these health disparities.

The Hispanic community deals with these health disparities by focusing on programs such as tobacco cessation, pre-natal services and substance abuse programs for alcohol and drug users.

When we asked about which changes in policy might be made in regards to health reform, Morales explained in the State of Utah there are many groups which support this initiative and within health reform lays coverage for individuals who don't have health insurance. These laws also focus on improving the services provided in the healthcare system specifically targeting ethnic communities.