

VLAB Healthcare Committee
Interfaith Health Ministry Initiative

The Health Department and VLAB values the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of everyone in our community and recognizes the important role of the interfaith community to improve population health. On 8/31/2017 VLAB members Cecilia Ochoa Williams and Sergio Rimola met with Fairfax County Health Medical Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu and Patricia Garcia, former Community Outreach Manager, to discuss the implementation of health ministers in Hispanic faith congregations with the objective to improve the health and wellbeing of the Hispanic community focusing on education and prevention.

DRAFT Project Plan

- 1) Formation of Health Minister advisory committee in NOVA, with representation from VLAB, clergy, health department and other community leaders to work on framework, structure etc. Patricia Garcia is willing to serve in the committee.
- 2) Establish a Pilot program in NOVA.
- 3) Identified a faith leader preferable of Hispanic heritage to be a member of the advisory committee. (Dr. Gloria will reach out to Faith Community in Action in Fairfax VA, Sandy Chisholm, to help identify Hispanic faith leaders' <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic/cic-fcia.htm>)
- 4) <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/bio%20Sandy%2010%2023%202012%20.pdf>
- 5) Identified 2 Hispanic Faith Congregations, work is in process (Dr. Rimola has engaged 2 potential faith community partners who may be interested in developing and piloting the health ministry framework).
- 6) Perform an assessment and survey of the interfaith community.
- 7) Meet with houses of worship interfaith leaders and with the advisory committee to outline the benefits of the interfaith health ministry framework.
- 8) House of worship leadership will nominate a designee from their congregation to serve as the interfaith health minister and Liaison.
- 9) The Fairfax County Health Department will provide population health training with a potential focus on focusing on chronic disease (Hypertension, Diabetes, Obesity, Heart disease) HIV awareness and stigma, Immunization prevention etc.

Goals

- To achieve a sustainable approach and a measurable outcome.
- To engage and collaborate with interfaith partners as trusted leaders who build bridges in the communities they serve.
- To heighten and leverage the awareness of interfaith partners of the factors that affect the health of their community and their neighbors.
- To forge trusted partnerships with interfaith partners to promote healthy behaviors and emergency preparedness.
- To support interfaith partners in meeting the needs of the whole person.