

COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE (CHI)

A CULTURAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, HEALING, AND FAMILY TRANSFORMATION



January 2013

LATINO NETWORK & MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Our Model: A Collaborative Development

Our Team Expertise:

- 8 years of service working with Latino gang-affected families
- Experts on the inside; local knowledge of the gang culture and language
- Trusted by community
- Established network of organizations and individuals working within gang culture
- Personal dedication to the wellbeing of these families
- Fully bilingual and bicultural staff

CHI Team:

- Ruma Perez, Latino Network
- Raidel Leon, Latino Network
- Ruben Nuñez, Contractor for Latino Network
- Yolanda Gonzalez, Conexiones and the Center for Trauma Recovery

Model Development:

- Lucrecia Suarez, Conexiones and the Center for Trauma Recovery
- Carmen Rubio, Latino Network
- Sadie Feibel Holmes, Latino Network
- Yolanda Gonzalez, Conexiones and the Center for Trauma Recovery

LATINO YOUTH VIOLENCE AND GANGS: DEFINING THE PROBLEM

- **Challenges of Poverty**
- **Invisibility: Immigration and Documentation Barriers**
- **Experiences of Racism**
- **Acculturation and Language Barriers**
- **Lack of Public Social Control**

CHALLENGES OF POVERTY

- Survival Mode
- Full Schedules
- Little Hope



In Multnomah County,
Latinos represent 11% of the population
and 26.9% of Latinos live poverty.

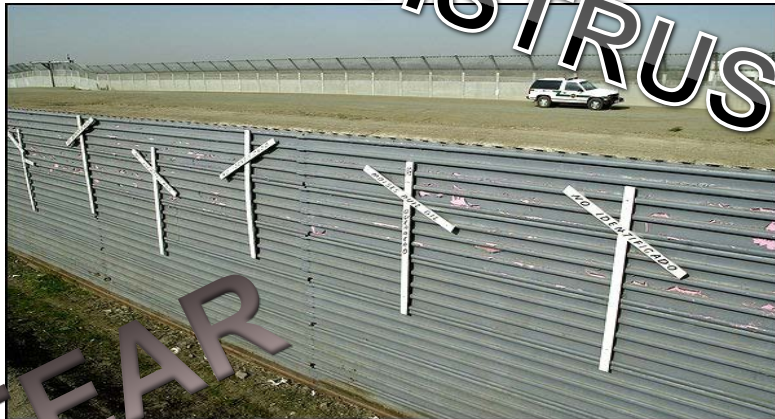
Resilience, Strong sense of Culture and Community.

INVISIBILITY: IMMIGRATION AND DOCUMENTATION BARRIERS

Current immigration policy
& anti-immigrant sentiment



Invisibility
Isolation
Hopelessness



- ▣ **Deportation separates families**
- ▣ **Limited access** to services, jobs, education opportunities
- ▣ **Fear & distrust** limits safe collaboration with governmental organizations

EXPERIENCES OF RACISM

CONSTANT
individual &
institutional racism



Collective trauma
Disempowered
Disengaged
Disrespected



Collective sense of
rage for injustices
and a shared need for
revenge

ACCULTURATION & LANGUAGE BARRIERS

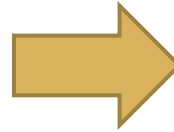
Culture Clash of Values and Norms

- Parent come with authoritarian style of parenting
- Parents feel disempowered
- **Power shift:** Parental roles and authority are undermined
- Youth feel ashamed of their parents



LACK OF PUBLIC SOCIAL CONTROL

**Community disorganization
Limited public social control**



**sense of hope, trust, safety,
security, and control over
their environment**

- Lack of community assets
- Neighborhood crime & violence
- Schools struggles
- Bullying & school violence
- Lack of political power



FAMILY ISOLATION - FAMILY POWERLESSNESS

LATINO and US CULTURAL VALUES CONTINUUM

PERSONALISMO

I need personal contact
distance/independence

INDIVIDUALISM

I need to keep my

FAMILISMO

I am my family; family helps family

INDEPENDENCE

I am my self; helping self helps family

RESPETO

I respect my elders
I am modest

SELF-RESPECT

I respect myself first
I self-advocate

MACHISMO/MARIANISMO

Women and men have different roles and responsibilities
gender
Men: provider, protection, pride
Women: emotional, spiritual care of family

EQUALISM/FEMINISM

Everyone is the same regardless of

SIMPATIA

Conflicts are signs of disrespect, I avoid them

CHALLENGE AUTHORITY

Conflicts are ok; I can talk about them and find resolutions

TENER FE

My life is in the hands of God/Spirit/fate/luck

CONTROL

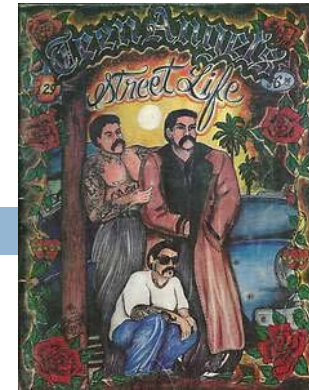
I am an agent of my own life



DISEMPowerMENT OF FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

- Extreme levels of collective and complex stress and trauma
- Collective sense of disempowerment and a limited capacity for self-determination
- Breakdown of the traditional family bonds, structure, and roles
- Parents “giving up” on managing their children’s behavior
- Fathers, parents, young men find no hope to solve the financial struggles for their families
- Collective sense of rage for injustices and a shared need for revenge

Survival



GANGS OFFER YOUTH WHAT THEY ARE MISSING IN SOCIETY/AT HOME

HOPE
PHYSICAL AND
ECONOMIC PROTECTION
VALIDATION
BELONGING
FAMILY
RESPECT
SECURITY / SAFETY
POWER

LATINO CULTURAL VALUES VS. LATINO GANG VALUES

PERSONALISMO

I need personal contact

FAMILISMO

I am my family; family helps family

RESPETO

I respect my elders, and authority

MACHISMO/MARIANISMO

Different gender roles

Men: provider, protection, pride

Women: emotional, spiritual care of family

SIMPATIA

Conflicts are signs of disrespect, I avoid them

TENER FE

My life is in the hands of God/spirit/fate/luck.

GANG IS MY FAMILY

They matter as much as **my family**

RESPETO

Respect elders and authority within the gang. **Respect given due to fear of retaliation** and/or history of gang violence.

GANG PRIDE/ MACHISMO

Provide opportunities to fulfill **financial provider** and protection role. Women are kept submissive.

LOYALTY TO GANG MEMBERS

Provide **protection**. Requires loyalty.

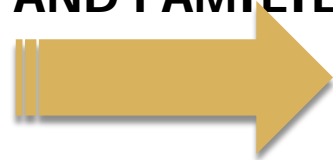
TENER FE

Gang lifestyle is idealized. My **life is in the hands of the gang** for fear or for faith.

Fill in rupture!

Latino gang culture is deeply rooted in Latino cultural values.

JOINING OF LATINO YOUTH AND FAMILIES



Accountability

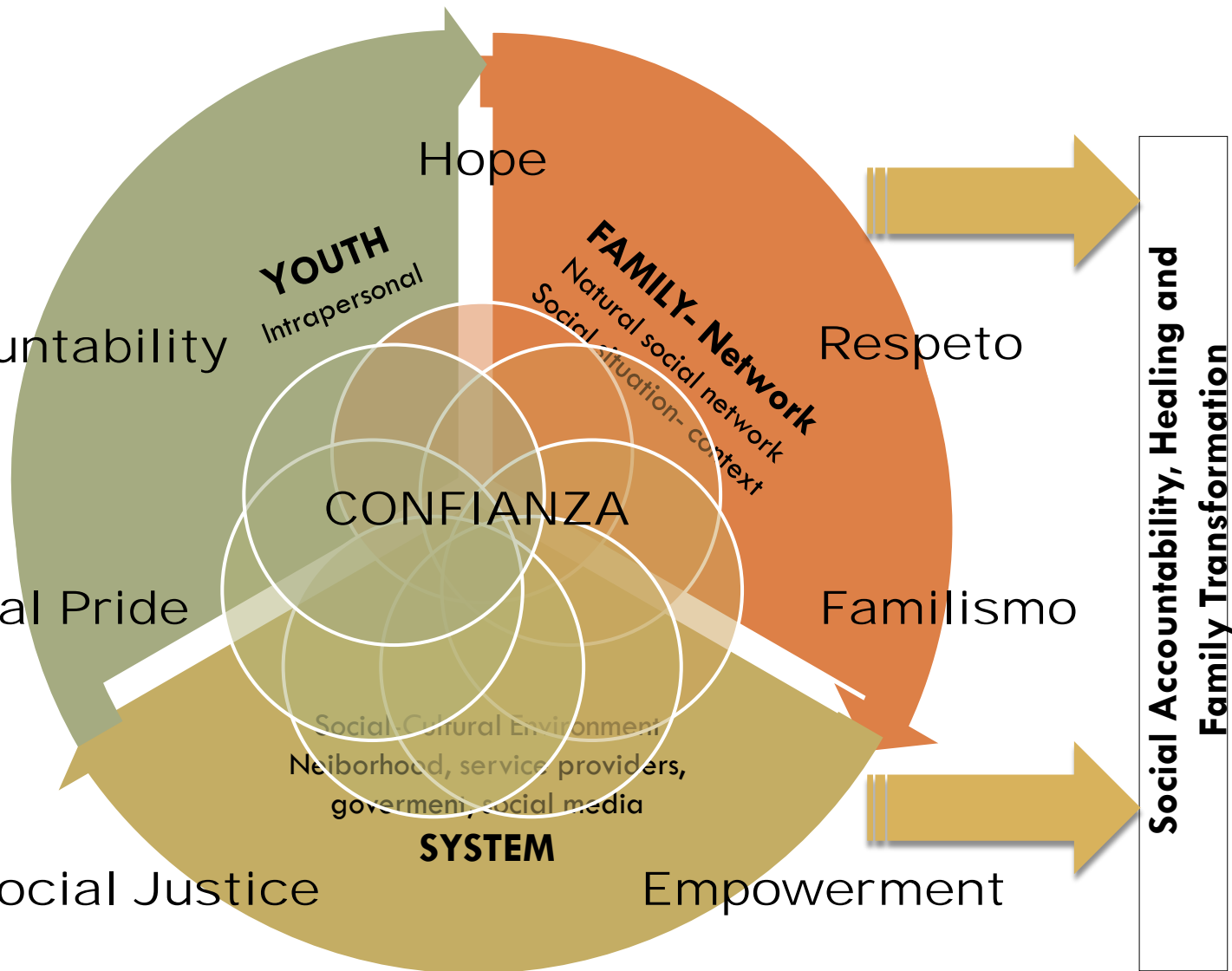
Cultural Pride

Latino Culture and
Gang values

Disempowered
experiences

Collective
sense of rage for
injustices/need for
revenge.

Social Justice



Latino Network 8 Principle Model (with TTI)

LN CHI Provider Team

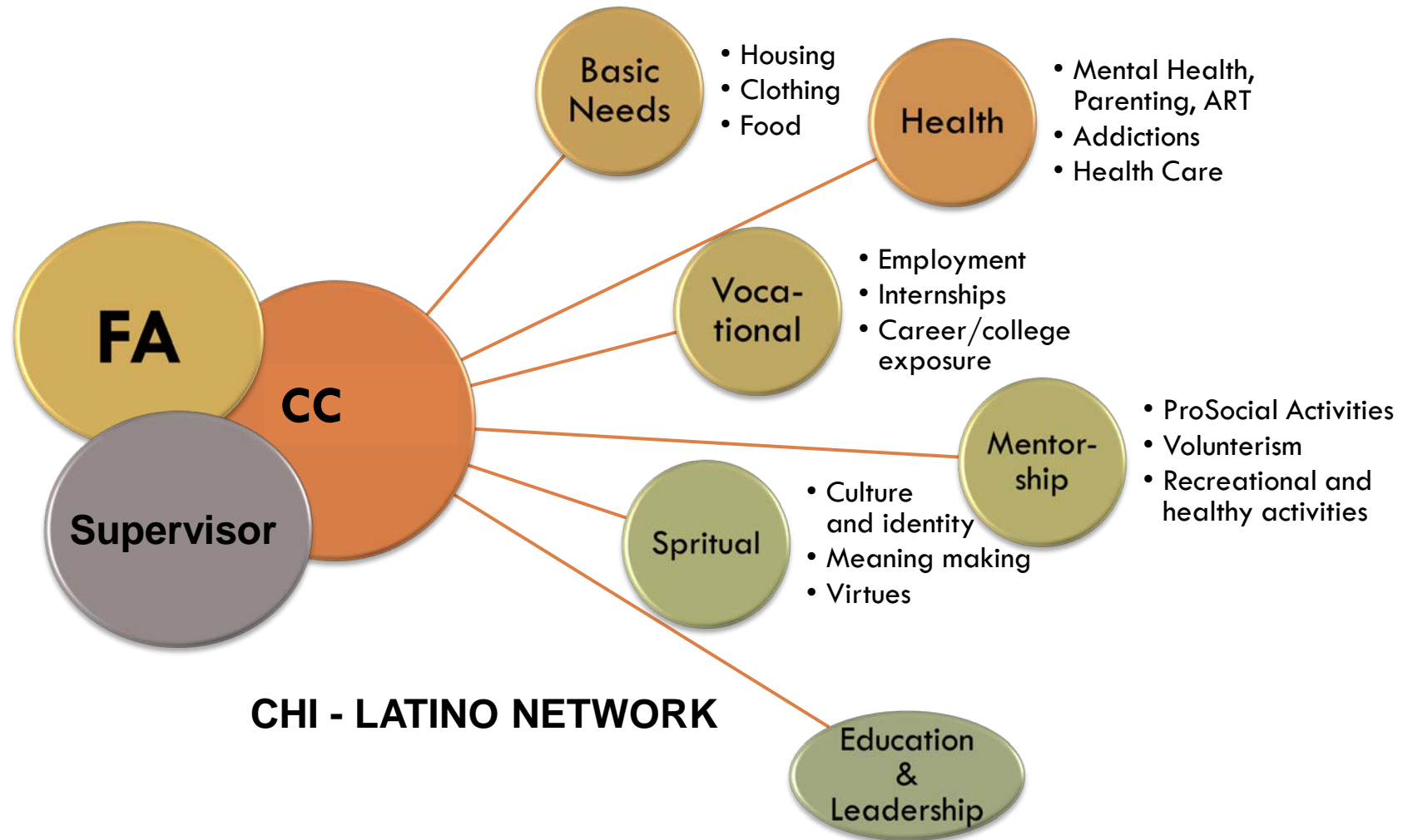
- Family Assessment
- Advocate for services
- Rebuild family bond
- Dependable resource

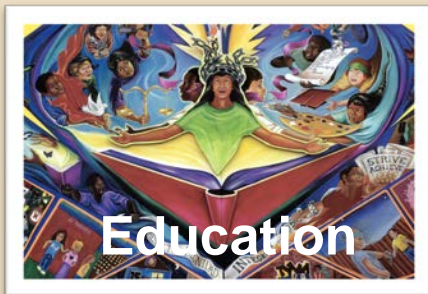
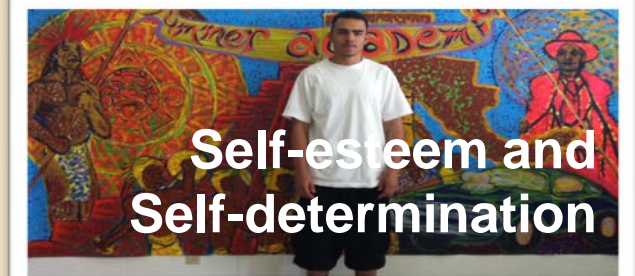
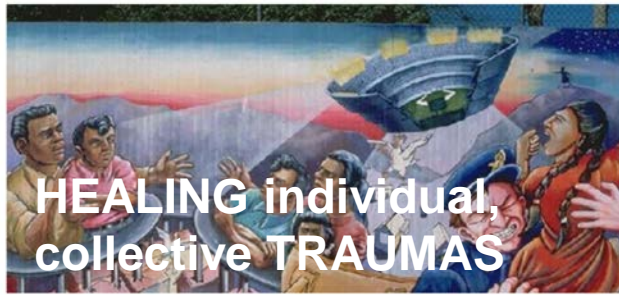


- Connect family with resources
- Facilitate communication with outside providers
- Develop Community Events/activities
- Support in building new partners

- Quality Assurance
- Monitor fidelity of model
- Facilitate CHI staffings

CHI Service Delivery





**Actions toward
Accountability, Healing and Family Transformation**

*“I change myself, I change the world.”
– Gloria Anzaldua*



Participant Profiles and Stories

Measurements of Success

- ▣ Completion of Probation Plan
- ▣ Completion of Service Plan
- ▣ Development of Self-sufficiency plan
 - Basic Needs are covered
 - Social accountability
 - Family is reunited (when possible)
 - *Respeto* rebuilt
 - Parents empowered
 - Natural network of resources
 - Latino Pride
 - Health and Mental Health/Addiction services in place
 - Involved in personal/community development





¡Gracias por su apoyo!

Thank you for your support!

Summary of Key Points



- ▣ Latino gang culture is deeply rooted in Latino cultural values.
- ▣ Latino youth gang members in Oregon are 1st generation, with some 2nd generation
- ▣ Our families seek invisibility and avoid system involvement due to fear of deportation/breaking up of their families.
- ▣ We operate within a cultural framework to engage families as a whole (including youth).
- ▣ Our model builds Social Accountability in three areas of influence (youth-family-system).
- ▣ Our Family Advocates play multiple roles to assure family safety and building *confianza* (trust).
- ▣ We will continue to be a consistent resource to families post-CHI.