UC Davis report on Latino mental health-care disparities

Speaker biographies

**Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola**, the lead author of the Latino mental health-care disparities report, is a UC Davis professor of internal medicine, director of the UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities and a renowned expert on mental health in ethnic populations. He conducted one of the largest studies to date on mental health disorders in California’s Mexican-origin population and outlined ways to increase access to mental health services among the Central Valley’s low-income, underserved, rural populations. Aguilar-Gaxiola is recognized for conducting community-engaged studies to identify health and mental health disparities; translate mental health research into practical information for the use and benefit of consumers, their families, health-care professionals, service providers and policymakers; and inform decision-making and guide health care at the local, state and national levels.

**Lali Moheno**, who participated in one of the community forums for the Latino mental health-care disparities report, is a health activist in Visalia, Calif. She grew up in Texas, where she worked in the farm fields and gained a passion for improving standards for farmworkers. A former member of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, she currently runs Lali Moheno & Associates business consulting and public relations.

**Norma Abrego** is a promotora and supervisor with the Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, a nonprofit organization that provides low-cost or free mental health, housing, vocational and support services to individuals and families in California’s Northern Sacramento Valley. She works to reduce cultural and linguistic barriers to service and knowledge and serves as a “bridge” between patients and health-care providers, reinforcing health-care messages to improve health outcomes and promote healthy lifestyles.

**Rachel Guerrero** has over thirty years of experience in the mental health field. In 1998, she was appointed chief of the Office of Multicultural Services for the California Department of Mental Health, where she led the state’s efforts to develop culturally and linguistically competent mental health policies, programs and services at both the community mental health level and within state hospital systems. Guerrero currently manages her own national consulting and training practice, Guerrero Consulting Group, in Sacramento, Calif.