

Promoting Health Equity

Issue 10 • March 2021



Quote of the Month

“Vaccinating farmworkers is a first step toward addressing the equity problem. We have a moral responsibility to make sure that we do not leave people behind simply because they lack resources or live in certain ZIP codes.”

— U.S. Representative Raul Ruiz, a physician who grew up in Riverside County.

Health officials everywhere are grappling with how to achieve equitable vaccine distribution. President Biden has repeatedly said that delivering the vaccine is core to his coronavirus response, but early data shows that doses have been slower to reach some Black and Latino communities with an elevated risk of infection.

Riverside County in Southern California is the first in the nation to prioritize Covid-19 vaccines for farmworkers on a large scale.

Source: [NY Times](#), March 1, 2021, Credit-Ariana Drehsle

Effort to get farmworkers vaccinated for COVID-19 underway in Ventura County

A pilot farmworker vaccination program administering COVID-19 vaccines to agricultural workers across the Ventura County was highlighted this past month. The latest site of the vaccination program was at Good Farms in Oxnard where more than 100 agricultural workers were to receive their first vaccine dose.

The pilot program works closely with the county's Farmworker Resource Program, which provides information to local agricultural workers in Spanish, as well as indigenous languages. The program is contributing to the county's efforts to ramp-up vaccinations.

Source: [Ventura County Star](#), February 19, 2021

Driver of Change: Interview with Jack Hinojosa, Child Development Resources of Ventura County (CDR)

Serving Children & Families



Every issue we feature stories of individuals and agencies that are making a difference in their communities during this time of COVID-19.

Today we are talking with Jack Hinojosa, Chief Executive Officer of Child Development Resources of Ventura County (CDR).

CDR's mission provides a foundation to build promising futures



for children by collaborating with families and communities to deliver programs that truly enrich lives. Founded in 1980, CDR is a private non-profit, community-based organization that provides family and children services that includes Resource & Referrals to Child Care Programs, Subsidized Child Care Assistance, Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, and a variety of educational and support services all built to empower parents and their communities.

When did you get involved with your work at CDR?

Jack: I joined CDR as a program operations manager in the Head Start Program. I became the Chief Executive Officer effective in 2017. I really grew up knowing about the great work of CDR and its mission of serving children and families throughout Ventura County. More importantly, seeing my mom work tirelessly as cook at CDR's Santa Paula Head Start center for over 38 years before she retired in 2014. I feel blessed to be at the helm of the same organization where she dedicated her life's work of providing nutritional meals for thousands of children during her career.

What is your passion for working in the community?

Jack: My passion for working in the community was instilled in me from an early age by my parents who were my inspirational role models. They always encouraged and supported me to find ways to give back to the community, while remembering to be humble and kind. I was born and raised in Santa Paula, and fortunate to have mentors who encouraged me to further my education and attend the University of California at Santa Barbara. After returning to Ventura County, I was driven to find my "niche" in the community. Over my 36-year career working for the City of Oxnard, Clinicas del Camino Real, Inc., and Child Development Resources, my passion has been advocating to end child poverty, increase access to child care and feeding Ventura County's children.

How are you addressing issues of Health Equity in your work and your community?

Jack: CDR's Head Start Program's Health & Nutrition services include medical and dental case management to support a family's ability to keep their children healthy and ready to learn. As part of the nutrition program, we provide healthy meals and snacks. The health services we provide at CDR, and our community partnerships have made a significant and positive difference in the lives of children and families to help ensure health equity in our work and our community.

What are the areas that you hope to make changes in?

Jack: In 2019, I launched a new initiative referred to as the YES Commitment. The purpose of the YES Commitment is to inspire staff to develop and maintain positive thinking and to build on the energy, skills, and team support that will not only create a healthy working environment, but also support employee self-care and personal growth to create a stronger organization. We are committed to supporting the health, learning and well-being of all

children and families.

Tell us one thing about you that helps us get to know you better?

Jack: I enjoy spending free time with my daughter, son in-law and my five grandchildren who live in Ventura. Due to the pandemic this past year, it has been challenging and difficult because I have not been able to attend any of their extracurricular activities and team sporting events. Before I was hired at CDR and much younger, I loved coaching youth sports for over 9 years in the City of Santa Paula. Also, before the pandemic, my favorite travel destination was the Hawaiian Islands.

If you could give a closing remark or words of inspiration for the community during this time, what would it be?

Jack: Prior to the pandemic, California's family child care homes and centers supported close to one million children. Even then, the need far surpassed the existing capacity. It is family child care and center-based providers that have kept their doors open supporting essential workers and families with distance learning resulting from school closures. CDR envisions a child care and early childhood education system that serves and meet the needs of all children, families and ECE professionals, especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous people and others harmed by systemic racism and additional injustices; integrate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically relevant and responsive high-quality care and education for children, inclusive of children with disabilities; and value all who serve children and families.

Thank you Jack for sharing your experience with us. You are an inspiring Driver of Change!

Learn more:

Child Development Resources of Ventura County (CDR)
www.cdrv.org

Jack Hinojosa is the Chief Executive Officer of Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. (CDR). Hinojosa has an extensive background in administration of health care and early childhood education and development programs and more than thirty-four years of working with children and families in Ventura County. Beginning his twentieth year at CDR, he has held various management and executive positions, including Program Operations Manager (Head Start), Associate Executive Director, (Child Care Programs Department) and was CDR's first Chief Operations Officer (COO) for four years. Hinojosa became CEO in April 2017.



Featured Resource: COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery

The COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force was established by Executive Order Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery, which was issued on January 21, 2021. The Task Force is part of the government-wide effort to identify and eliminate health and social disparities that result in disproportionately higher rates of exposure, illness, hospitalization and death related to COVID-19. The Task Force's mission is to provide specific recommendations to the President of the United States for mitigating inequities caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and for preventing such inequities in the future.

On February 10, 2021, President Biden and Vice President Harris announced 12 individuals to serve as non-federal members of the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. The Task Force members represent a diversity of backgrounds and expertise, a range of racial and ethnic groups, and a number of important populations, including: children and youth; educators and students; health care providers, immigrants; individuals with disabilities; LGBTQ+ individuals; public health experts; rural communities; state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments; and unions.

Learn more:

Office of Minority Health (OMH)

COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/healthequitytaskforce

Webinar Review: The COVID-19 and the Latinx Community: Skills to Reduce Stress, Stigma, and Substance Use

The Impact of COVID-19 & Stress

Review by Erika Fernandez, SUS Prevention Services

The COVID-19 and the Latinx Community: Skills to reduce stress, stigma, and substance use webinar was held on February 10, 2021 via zoom and it was put on by the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC). The mission of the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center is to provide high-quality training and technical assistance to improve the capacity of the workforce serving Hispanic and Latino communities in behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery.

This webinar provided an overview on the stress and stigma Hispanic and Latino communities face in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and how this has caused an uptick in substance use among individuals. It also provided research and information on Latinx stress, substance use and mental health trends, and coping strategies that professionals working with the Latino community can use to help clients build resiliency. This webinar was also offered in Spanish.

The presenter, Jessica Martinez, has extensive experience working in various capacities with underserved and minority populations. Jessica Martinez shared Latino health has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 with higher rates of hospitalization and higher death rate; additionally, talked about how COVID-19 has led an increase in stress, symptoms of anxiety, depression, other mental health conditions, and substance use in the Latino community. Stress factors and stress symptoms specific to the Latino community were described.

Another topic discussed was stigma relating to COVID-19 and mental health. She reminded us that it is important to keep in mind that stigma can deeply affect someone's emotions and mental health especially with the Latino community. Recent data was shared from the CDC on mental health, substance use, and suicidal ideation from June 2020. The data stated 52% of Latinos reported at least one adverse mental and behavioral symptom in the past 7 days; however, only 34% received treatment. Jessica shared information on substance use and COVID-19 compared to substance use pre-COVID. During the second part of the webinar, she discussed considerations for working with the Latino community and techniques to help Latinx clients understand and reduce stress and stigma.

As a SUS Prevention Community Services Coordinator, in Ventura County, my job is to educate, raise awareness, and help to prevent substance use in our community. This webinar was helpful because it provided practical ways on how to better serve our Latino community. It is very important for us to be aware of how COVID-19 is affecting our community and how it affects

communities differently in order to be able to help them with substance use issues. I highly recommend this webinar for anyone that does outreach to the Latino community. Below are the links to the main website, the webinar recordings in English and Spanish, and factsheets on COVID-19 and Latino community skills.

Learn more:

[Watch the video](#)

[Presentation Fact Sheets](#)

[National Hispanic and Latino ATTC](#)

In the News: Drug Overdose Deaths Surge Among Black Americans During Pandemic

The Impact of COVID-19 & Stress



From NPR,

- "It wasn't until we started looking at the level of race and ethnicity that we realized Black and brown communities are being disproportionately affected," said Dr. Utsha Khatri, a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.
- "COVID really just acted as salt in the wounds of health and social inequities, perpetuated by structural racism both in Philadelphia and across the country," Khatri said.
- "The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply exacerbated the inequities of the overdose crisis, which is really, really scary," said Dr. Ayana Jordan, a researcher at Yale University.
- Jordan is part of a team analyzing overdose data collected in California during the pandemic.
- She said preliminary findings show "really concerning" racial disparities, with Black overdose deaths rising significantly faster than among whites.

[NPR](#), March 3, 2021

Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say fatal drug overdoses nationwide surged roughly 20% during the pandemic, killing more than 83,000 people in 2020. A growing body of research suggests Black Americans have suffered the heaviest toll. Credit-Jamie Law for NPR

[Study: Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Unintentional Fatal and Nonfatal Emergency Medical Services-Attended Opioid Overdoses During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Philadelphia](#)

Upcoming Events

We will keep you posted on upcoming events in each newsletter. If your agency is planning any online meetings, please send us the information so we can post it.

Connecting the Continuum - How Prevention and Social Determinants of Health Connect

3/24/21, 3:00 PM, ET

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

[Register](#)

Nominate a Driver of Change

Share your Stories

You may nominate a community member or colleague for recognition for exemplary work in the community to help build healthier communities and address health equity. Go to the website and nominate someone or yourself!



We would love to hear your stories of community change, what inspired you, and how you are making a difference.

Learn more:

Social Determinants of Health, Drivers of Change

www.healthequityvc.org/drivers-of-change

Stay Connected

If you are looking for resources in the community, check out our websites. We continually add news, tips, latest research, blogs, publications and more.

Ventura County Limits

www.venturacountylimits.org

Social Determinants of Health

www.healthequityvc.org

Ventura County Behavioral Health

vcbh.org

Wellness Every Day

www.wellnesseveryday.org/news

Check out our Newsletters at

www.venturacountylimits.org/community-connections

www.healthequityvc.org/newsletters

Contact Us

Janet Kaplan at Janet.Kaplan@ventura.org

Erika Fernandez at Erika.Fernandez@ventura.org

Alma Ixta at Alma.Ixta@ventura.org



STAY CONNECTED

