

**Hispanic Coalition Meeting Minutes**  
**3/21/06**  
**El Tapatio Restaurant**  
**Wautoma**

Present: Jennifer Caravella, Richard Harris, Nancy Hanaman, Raquel Manning, Manning, Luz O'Matta, Patrick Nehring, Jan Novak, and Ken Williams

Ken led introductions for the group.

Jan talked about juvenile justice statistics in Waushara County, specifically concerning is during the last 3 years, from all juvenile referrals, 81% were White and 17% were Hispanic. Clearly disproportionate to the 4 % total Hispanic population in Waushara County. Jan intends to break down these statistics by age. DHS will be looking at this data during the next several months.

Jan stated that the DA at the Juvenile Crime Coalition – said that she is aware that non-English speaking folks don't understand the legal system and/or laws in Wisconsin that are different from Mexico, Texas, etc

Raquel says that a big problem is the lack of translators for Spanish speaking people at the courts/during arrests and at hospitals. Bilingual Hispanics who could translate don't know that they need a certain number of documented hours of translation in order to translate in a court setting. Raquel has looked into doing translation for Marquette County's courts and this is what she was told.

Richard mentioned a program that was offered titled, "Command Spanish." Richard suggested asking our elected officials to require "command Spanish" for social workers.

Group discussed that it would be great if we could have one person, working for several agencies, who could translate. Raquel said that having a Hispanic translate for a Hispanic is best because he/she understands the culture better than a White person.

The question was asked if our local technical college would offer a certification course for translators in our area, instead of folks having to go to Appleton.

Sister Pat said she has several folks who would be good translators but lack self-confidence and/or transportation & would need supplemental English classes.

Jan next talked about the 3-county resource directory and trying to get the database available on the Internet eventually. Jan says her group is always interested in hearing about feedback on the guide...about what it may be missing or needs improving upon.

Sister Pat said that there is a huge need for driver education and that a Spanish video on this topic would be most helpful. The DMV does have a book in Spanish, but that it is not useful for individuals who don't read Spanish.

The question was asked if there was a resource available somewhere that could teach young Hispanics how to drive. Jan asked the question if LIFT could offer classes like this.

Sister Pat talked about Blue Ribbon Kids Days and the coalition's sub-committee that is planning on having a presence there this year (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in April). This will involve having signage in Spanish and a booth. Sister Pat said it would be nice to eventually have a group of Hispanic women coordinate a program about what it was like when they were young children.

Patrick said we needed more bilingual translators for Blue Ribbon Kids Days. Jan inquired about good locations for placing Spanish posters/advertising for BRKD.

Patrick talked about how someone was going to talk with the Chamber of Commerce about incorporating the Migrant Festival into Wautoma's August Fest. Talk about how we could provide the food for free for the migrants was discussed. Raquel reminded the coalition to make sure the August Fest wouldn't conflict with the Spanish Fest in Milwaukee.

Some one in the group then suggested that the Coloma Chicken Chew would be a good place to bring both cultures together.

Sister Pat said it would be best to have a "per family" cost for a migrant festival/August Fest because some of the Hispanics have very large families.

Raquel commented that more needs to be done in Marquette County to address Hispanic issues/concerns there and she suggested that Marquette County could be invited to attend Waushara's Hispanic Coalition meeting.

Next meeting will be 4/11/06, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at El Tapitio Restaurant in Wautoma.