

Hispanic Coalition
Meeting Minutes
4/12/06
El Tapitio Restaurant, Wautoma

Present: Raquel Manning, Luz O'Matta, Sister Pat, Marie Ramirez, Aida Hurtado, Barb Barker, Patrick Nehring, Ken Williams, Jennifer Caravella

Sister Pat and Barb reported on Blue Ribbon Kids Days (BRKDs). More than 1200 people went through the event this year. This is a record high. Raquel, Sister Pat, Marie, Luz and Barb were there as well as 3 teens that Barb had help at the booth. Sister Pat said she would like to see the event last until 2 or 3 so that more families could attend. She also said it would be nice to see more Hispanics come next year.

Then the group started discussing other attractions that could be at BRKDs, like some folks performing (dancing/singing) some Spanish songs. Raquel mentioned how UMOS has in the past, gotten their kids to sing for groups.

Next the group talked about Migrant Days/August Fest and if the coalition would like to have a presence there. Barb mentioned that there was a small grant that we could write that would allow for funds to offer food coupons to migrant families. Someone asked if perhaps La Clinica staff could distribute these food coupons at the migrant camps. The statement was made that it is getting costly to have migrant days in Beaver Dam, because there is now a cost associated with it. The group decided that without Cynthia Loa at the meeting, they didn't feel like they knew enough about the status of Migrant Days to make any serious plans.

The coalition did however decide to have some sort of presence at August Fest (2nd weekend in August). Luz could bring some of her collection of Mexican clothing and items for display and we could have a table where kids could do a craft project. The group also talked about having a display on some Mexican states where we could showcase facts about each individual culture. Raquel suggested having a soccer game or even just goals set up where kids could kick a soccer ball, since soccer is a popular sport in Mexico and the United States. Sister Pat suggested that maybe Belinda Peterman could have the Spanish group perform a dance or sing a song in Spanish. Aida will talk with Belinda about this. Aida said that at Migrant Days, they have had some Aztec dancers perform.

Aida passed around a notice about the UMOD coordination meeting and Jennifer passed around the Fiera Latino notice from Richard Harris.

Next Meeting to be on Tuesday May 9th at 4:30 P.M. at El Tapitio Restaurant.

Submitted by Jennifer Caravella