

W. S. A.

DRAFT

October 11, 2005

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Dr. Charles R. Martinez, Jr.
Research Scientist
Oregon Social Learning Center
160 East Fourth Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Dr. Martinez:

I am writing today in support of the proposal you are submitting to the National Institute of Health for funding to expand your Culturally Specific Intervention study. Your efforts to date to create and implement culturally appropriate interventions for Latino families have greatly benefitted the community. Your work challenges all of us in the community who care about children and families to consider the needs of diverse cultural and family systems and to partner in creating solutions for all families and youth. I am glad to support your efforts in developing a research-based prevention intervention for Latino families with youth at risk for substance abuse and other behavioral health problems, and look forward to learning more about your findings.

As a policy maker on the Board of County Commissioners and member of the Lane County Commission on Children and Families, I am concerned about the lack of research-based programs, interventions and strategies that adequately consider and respond to cultural differences. The Latino Research Team that you direct at OSLC has made impressive inroads in establishing strong community collaborative efforts to address this critical need. The intervention that you have developed with your team has had an important impact on our

understanding of the unique needs of Latino families in Lane County and may prove to be among the most important tools we have in addressing this gap statewide.

Thank you for your efforts. I fully endorse the work you are doing at OSLC and with the Latino Research Team. This new proposal is a critical next step to providing services for our growing Latino population. I am delighted to support this work at any time and in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Anna Morrison, Chair

Lane County Board of Commissioners