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**Crossing Borders and Bridging Gaps: Latina Advocacy**

**Gabriela Alor, WA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Maria Martinez and Anna Olivo, Domestic Violence Services of Benton and Franklin Counties, WA**

**July 26, 2017**

>> Hello everyone and welcome. This is rural roads for change. I am Liz Carlson. Technical assistant specialist here with praxis. This webinar is brought to you by praxis international and against women. We are delighted that you're here with us today. Today's topic is crossing borders and bridging gaps. Latina advocacy. Gabriela Alor , from the Washington State coalition. She is joined by Maria Martinez and Anna Olivio.

>> You did a wonderful job on pronouncing the names. Thank you.

>> Anna and Maria are calling from the domestic violence services of Benton and Franklin counties, Tran five. That program is also in Washington state. Welcome.

>> Hello, thank you.

>> Hello, thank you for joining us today.

>> To further introduce our guest speakers, I first want to recognize that collectively between these three women, they have provided very dedicated bilingual, bicultural advocacy in the state of Washington for many years. Maria

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and Anna started the Promotoras program which they co-facilitate. Maria and Anna, what year did that begin?

>> It started in 2012. That's when we started to develop the program.

>> Okay, all right. Terrific. Since 2012. They will share experiences of their Promotoras program with us. Also, Gabriella is the coordinator of the crossing borders program in Washington State coalition. She has nearly 20 experience and advocacy. Welcome to you all. I am delighted that you are here.

>> Before I turn the call over to the three of you, I just want to briefly touch upon some of the webinar details that you see on the slide. Webinar screen, before you. The phone lines will be muted for our presentation. But, we encourage you to utilize and share your thoughts and comments with us in the Q & A box that you see at the top of your screen in the middle column. Anything that you add to that box will get routed. I will make sure to share it with the presenters today. You are welcome to utilize that box at any time. I also would recommend, in each of the boxes on your screen you have an option to adjust the settings of how those boxes are viewable to you. You will see a light gray icon on the far right of each of those boxes. If you hover over it you will see that there is a range of options in front of you. And so you are welcome to adjust those settings accordingly. This webinar is being recorded. And it will be available on the rural recordings page of the praxis international website. I also would recommend that if there is anyone who is utilizing Internet, audio, for this presentation today. And you notice that the sound quality is unstable or both, your best bet would be to dial in the phone line that is on your screen on this slide. Once the connection is made by phone, you can turn your phone off, excuse me turn your speaker off. And then participate by telephone. That should improve the circumstance. If you

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continue to have any sort of technical difficulties, of course, send a note to myself or our TA to TA webinar host. And that Q and a box -- that Q & A box and we will do the next weekend to navigate. With that I'm going to ask Gabriela Alor to get started and talk a bit about the Washington state coalitions role with the Promotoras program. After her introduction, we will hear from Anna Olivio and Maria Martinez from -- about the program. Gabriela Alor, can you get us started?

>> Thank you very much Liz. Hello everyone. Thank you very much for the opportunity to share with all of you this amazing project. I love it. I have been part of it the crossing porters -- for this project for almost 8 years now. I would like to share with you how we started it. Just as it starts right after 911, the coalition, it was a huge anti-immigrant sentiment that was impacting survivors. It sad because it is similar to our current sentiments right now. The coalition at the time wanted to commit to responding to the needs of survivors and to our membership. But we really wanted to respond not, with the response to hate but more as an opportunity to be a good connection to communities. From the beginning, it was a thoughtful process on how to create and formulate crossing borders. So this is a journey. It began in 2001. We formulated the crossing borders project. One of the things from the beginning that we wanted to do was to work on the Haft of immigrant and domestic survivors of violence. We wanted to have very is specific values for this project. We use the three values that you can the, culture first, promote inclusion, and amplify every voice. This has been our values to all of our - for all these years from the beginning. In the beginning of the project, the way we started, we had papers, trainings, models. And how the programs responded to violence survivors. We generally wanted to go deeper. We wanted to explore more. We wanted to learn more. We wanted to hear from the people in the field. So, I will say by 2004, we got the first grant. Finally the project started to have

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funding which we know is important. This funding allowed us to go to rural communities and give us the opportunity to listen to at the kids. Bilingual and bicultural advocates working in rural areas of Washington. This was a very important piece. As you can see, the state of Washington here. Most of our counties, are really big. Sometimes each County. There is maybe one domestic violence program. And generally, what we notice is like and this present, there were bilingual advocates but sometimes there was just one by legal -- bilingual advocate that she was serving violence survivors. Let me tell you of our findings when we start -- we first started with this project. These were not really reaching immigrant survivors living in isolated places. We also noticed that these advocates were feeling isolated in their work. And thought they were just by themselves reaching immigrant survivors without any support or very few support. To solve all this issue -- all of these issues in our next round, that we were really lucky to get. We decided to focus and validating advocates experiences and trusting their leadership and how to reach these survivors. Currently, as you can see our map, the different stars. The domestic violence sexual assault programs. There is one on each one of these counties that we are currently working with them. We altogether, are working in the crossing borders project. Now, what we did, the advocates of the program side were doing amazing jobs out there in the rural areas. Amazing model advocacy. Amazing connections with their community, reaching out to their own communities, learning from them, and just leading the way to do a good Latina center for advocacy. Now, what the coalition did basically, was, we help them and provide to create a pro learning community. We serve port advocates strategies and relationship building with the community. We were supporting all of that. Now what happened is like, as a coalition we provide all of these, we can being the time and space. We help build movement to

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connect that with the advocates. And the organizations to be part of the bigger vision for the removal of domestic violence. We were available as much as possible. We understand that the support was a big part of the our -- of our role. We worked with our partners, they know the community. Believe that each one of us is a leader. So the role makes a difference in influencing others. Leadership, that was very important for us to recognize that each one of us plays a very important role in this project. Facilitating working and promoting, again the model advocacy outreach and all of the model advocacy efforts. What happened and what we notice, the more advocates that were successful in reaching immigrant survivors, the domestic violence programs saw an increase demand and advocacy service by immigrant survivors. It's a good problem to have. But sometimes there is not much funding to have thoughtful advocacy approaches catering to the needs of immigrant survivors. So we were very lucky to have another round of these role grants. We were able to include validating and supporting direct advocacy efforts such as model advocacy, believable -- the legal advocacy assistance. That's where we started within these fundings. The ability to bring also, national leadership. We brought them here with us in the space and time that we can being. With the advocates we are working with. The bilingual advocate could listen from there on the different occasions about Promotoras and the Promotoras models. It's amazing, because this was just , they planted the seed. They have done amazing things. There working in their communities and they have implemented many of these tools knowing their community. So, knowing that we are a team and having these skills and tools, I have the privilege of working with Anna and Maria from the DVSBF. They have the incredible work with Promotoras. There actually working with Promotoras which has been one of the highlights of the project. Because they are leader -- leaders in the

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communities. Working directly with the bilingual advocates and working in partnership with domestic violence programs. But, I'm going to let Anna and Maria share with you their journey on how they are working with Promotoras and their vision for that. Their accomplishments, the lessons learned, working with Promotoras. So, Anna and Maria? Are you ready?

>> We are ready. Thank you for that wonderful introduction, we really appreciate it.

>> Thank you.

>> So this is Anna speaking. I am here with Maria. So we wanted to start off our presentation with discussing a little bit about our agency. So, we work with domestic violence services here in Benton and Franklin County in the eastern part of Washington state. Our agency is dedicated to providing a wide array of services to victims of domestic violence in the community. For the most part, most of our clientele on a daily basis have been part of a marginalized population, Latino background, working on local fields. They live in rural communities. Most of them have to commute 30 minutes away to go to the local grocery store, to the post office, Police Department, with us included in our agency. And so with the continued support of the crossing borders project and our agency we have begun to do more mobile advocacy and rural outreach. When we started doing this type of advocacy we did not realize that there was way more things that we needed to do. There was high need in the community.

>> By that, we started looking to see what we needed work on. We are having great conversations with the crossing borders peers, our advocates. Me and Maria were very surprised to find that there were high needs. Most of the needs

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were, there was a high need for our services in the Latino community. They did know how to access those. Many of our Spanish-speaking advocates were by word-of-mouth or clients. They were not being referred by any information about our agency. It was all by a person that they knew. Community members would approach advocates wanting to volunteer. A lot of times they did not speak any English. It was hard for them to have training that they needed. Not the entire community was getting the correct information. Half of them thought that they needed to file police reports before we could do any services. Others were concerned that they probably needed Social Security for some type of residency to get our services. Which was completely untrue. Another thing that we are finding is that we weren't populated with an of advocates to partake in all of these community events. And host the event because they were Artie working full-time hours at advocates in the situation. Once again, we recognize that we did not have enough bilingual and bicultural advocates. That is the greatest need that we needed.

>> One thing that helped a lot, as we are working as advocates, we were asking our clients, what is the need? Who referred you? How did you come to us? That way we could get an idea, where we needed start and what we needed to do.

>> That S to the popular -- led us to the popular education. We started having more conversation, meeting with crossing borders and Gabby, that wonderful group, we started learning more about popular education. For the purpose of those that don't know, is to get a more just and equal society. It does this by helping awaken women to their own wisdom and capacity and provide an environment where people can learn from one another. Popular education provides a strategy to identify problems and community, diagnose the cause and

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develop plans to resolve. That's what brand I really wanted to start implement in our work on a day-to-day basis.

>> Anna, this is Liz, could I interject? Do you or Maria or Gabby, do you have a reference point for that popular education model? If someone wanted to read more about that to find out more detail about that model, you have any references that people could seek out?

>> We have several references for the popular education. What Maria and I ended up discovering, we just will discuss it in the presentation. Regarding community support for training. They will start talking to us more about popular education. Have they started to develop it as well as the systems in the project as well. It's been going on for generations and generations. It's pretty popular. It will pop out later in the demonstration.

>> Very good, thank you.

>> Sorry just to interrupt, if you Google Paolo series work. He has a lot of information around popular education.

>> Right, right, okay. In case anyone is interested. You could do a bit more research for that after the presentation. Or you could be in touch with either Gabby, Anna, or Maria. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> As advocates we wanted to really start focusing and engaging with our communities. We started doing was, we were going more into our towns the locations where clients lived. We started that working with program agencies that provided the same services to the Latino community. We did a lot of one on one

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invites to meet and discuss with them that the Latino leads were -- Latino needs were and what they thought about community -- domestic violence.

>> Did you share the needs out there in the community?

>> So after we started meeting with these individuals on a one-on-one basis we determined it was really important that we started gathering everybody and hosting a meeting so we could all be in the same room and exchange ideas. And to start something new. We did not know quite what would happen. We did not have a plan that we knew that this was a good way to start it.

>> During this process we were getting ready to do this meeting, we ended up having -- we end up discovering more about the Promotoras. This is a little short introduction of what the Promotoras is. How I like to explain it to our community members is that it is strong independent known leaders in the community. They live in your neighborhoods, they are the go to person wherever one goes to for advice or the suggestions. They may be that person that when you work in a produce factory, she just seems to know it all people like to go with her for support. And her knowledge. So we knew we found the Promotoras , we provided support so they could help our cause and understanding our service is about domestic violence.

>> Anna, how extensive is the promo tortoise -- Promotoras training? The Mac it's very extensive. It to goods -- it took us about one year. To say that this is the training that was working for us and what was not working for us. It was a wide array of training that we provided. We talked about the basis of domestic violence. We translated everything. A lot of the materials were not translated into

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Spanish. That took a while. We also provided training about the immigration process.

>> And share their experiences and their know-how. We also had training about work harassment.

>> Thank you give us an opportunity for us to identify, identify the Promotoras that we will be committed. That will really have the passion toward change in our community.

>> So in this picture once we started gathering some women, this is a few of our Promotoras. The rest of them did not want to take a picture. That sounds like so many of us women sometimes. We started picking their brains and seeing what it is that you guys would really want? So they really said that they wanted to get engaged with the community. They wanted to volunteer, go out there because now they have all of this information. They wanted to share it. And so, they started forming more groups and wanting to meet on a monthly basis.

>> So them slowly we started figuring out, we needed to have a name. So when we spoke with the women they said we really like this title. We really want to make sure people know that we are women. So they named this project Promotoras Mujeres De La Comunidad . Against violence in the home.

>> One of the things we came up with, people would not want to come up and talk of -- talk about domestic violence. So they came up with an idea, violence against in the home, that way we can attract people and give them the information. That worked out really well.

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>> They started getting more engaged into more community health shares. They did their first Spanish commercial that I discussed about domestic violence. That was a big deal for them. Any of them had never been on a new station before. We did a lot of radio PSA's, this was a very good learning experience for all of us. As well is for them. Once again, they had never been on a radio station giving a presentation. Or met with board members. They also helped to facilitate the candlelight vigil, remembering those that had passed away due to domestic violence.

>> As we were continuing to work on this, Marie and I wanted to know who we wanted the target. Could we want to be our Promotoras for our agency? We came up with three key points, the first one, we wanted them to live in the community. They are their own expert. We one of them also to be identified as leaders in their community. This was the biggest one for us because too many times we kept seeing strangers going into these communities and not knowing anything about them. Knowing nothing about the culture, the type of people that lived there. The barriers or concerns. The third will appoint that we wanted to address and make sure that we had in the program was, not only did they work and live in the community but we also wanted them to know and understand the barriers of their coworkers, friends, families, and neighbors face on a daily basis. So that they -- if they don't tell us we won't know. We wanted them to become familiar faces within their own community. Because then at that moment, they have a trusting relationship with their own.

>> So, we finally ended up having 16 women the beginning of training and these discussions were amazing. We felt motivated, energized, we were super excited. They brought guest, children, it was really -- it was nice to see that. We asked

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them about their input in the community. We wanted to really get what they were concerned about. What they wanted to know. We wanted to be able to provide information that we are actually going to use. We wanted to pick their brains and see what the purpose, what their interest is where. What kind of things caught their eye or what kind of resources you guys need? We developed a local intermission statement. Murray and I always say when we meet with them, this is your guises group, your baby. We are here's the facilitators. We really encouraged open discussion.

>> Were you able to utilize any other curriculum? Did you find other resources that you could kind of Taylor and use as a starting point? Or did you perking -- or did you begin the checks program from scratch.

>> We did it from scratch. I have experience as a union organizer. Anna had a lot of experience working with the Latino community immigrants. We learned as we went. That's the most important thing. Knowing your community and also having people get others involved in the community. As you go, you learn. All of the communities are different. I live in a different community. You live in a different community. So, it's really, figuring it out on your own together with the Promotoras and the community.

>> It started and we began to work, we started getting pieces from previous trainings that we had taken. Information from research that we had been. During crossing borders, I know that Gabby had brought some guest speakers and to talk about -- and to talk about their experiences. Give us a lot to choose from and in order to make it their own. What would work for one program may not work for us. So there was a lot of discussion. At the end of the day we really wanted the

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Promotoras to really take this on. For them to become leaders. We knew they had the ability and skills. We just needed to shine a little light on them.

>> During this process though, once we started getting these great ideas, it quickly went out of control. They wanted to focus on so many things. The reality is, there was just two of us facilitating these groups. So we started developing this smart abbreviation. So we started with S, being specific. With our target goal? What is our purpose? We measured, can we keep track things? A-attainable/achievable. Do we need more support? What is it that we need more of? Are-relevant. The last one was timed out. We really needed to be very realistic, how much time we could commit. This was a lot of the conversations we had with our program director. They were fully on board and willing to give us more time to work on these projects connect with these women. We needed to have really good and specific goals to be able to be on track.

>> Can you give examples of some of the goals or priorities that people were thinking needed focus?

>> There was a couple of Promotoras at that time. Some of them really need to work on going out in public and talking to people. They were really shy about that. So we had to find an activity and training on how to approach them and do a lot of role-playing on how to talk to the community members. For Maria and I, we asked for a lot of training from other programs that had done similar things for facilitating the group.

>> I think one of the goals that we wanted was, also, it was really important to us, it was only the two of us advocates. Bilingual advocates and bicultural advocates that did not have the time to go out there in the community. Our goal is for them

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to eventually Sunday, be able to take over all of the events, the Latino events that were in the community.

>> With this process as well we started to discover that a lot of these women even though they were community leaders, they had all these leaders -- all these knowledge about domestic violence. They still needed a little more training on how to recruit and talk about our agent. So we started working on creating a buy-in program. We really did encourage them to go ahead and follow a few simple steps. Which was, when you meet with someone you and for them -- you inform them about our agency. Inform them about the need of the community and why it is so important. The second involving them. And asking them how you would want someone to be involved. And then once he started getting them engaged, because they would really like what we were saying and what we are doing we would tell them to invite them to one of our meetings. Invite them to one of our invents. That's how the recruitment parses started more. After that, once they did a simple introduction Murray and I would meet with these women in the community members and get a feel for them and see if it's something that they would want. What is it that you are passionate for? And they are participating in this program. There was a lot of time commitment.

>> One of the things they did, they are able to take this information and go to their employers. Their employers had no information about domestic violence. They were able to do that and go to local stores and get information out there. They were able to be trained to go out there and sell this.

>> They felt more comfortable because you are in these training and meetings that we had. We have a lot of role-playing, with the role-playing there was a lot of laughter and giggles because they were nervous. They had never done it before.

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They felt really. Once they started seeing the benefits of it, they were more willing to do these type of activities and trainings. It was a beautiful sight to see them flourish. And feel more comfortable. So this was during the year, they started going out in the community and sharing information. Going to the schools. The Mexican holidays, the Cinco de Mayo grades, these girls were all over the community talking about the agent the -- the agency. They started sharing more information. When they got in -- they got more clients coming in to seek the services. And more -- were more willing to continue seeking any legal services that they mail benchmark that they might need -- that they might need.

>> One of the things that was really good about all of this is that they were able to take that to the Latino community to come forward. Too! To them that the police would come and investigate the incident or crime..com and ask if you have your documentation or not. That fear started to go away from the community. The information that the Promotoras was spreading.

>> It wasn't a social worker or someone with the title. It was their own individual community members. Sharing this information. We continued this. Continued having this meetings with them. A lot of coffee breaks with them. If there's something that you feel like you need to work on, we can continue to support U.S. I invited them to shadow us when we worked these events so they could mimic what we were doing.

>> We invited them to the courthouse so they could sit there with us just to see how the system was. So they could see and tell people that, the immigration is not there. You don't have to be afraid. That was really important for them as well.

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>> Yes and they started feeling more comfortable. And the Promotoras but sometimes accompany them to their court hearings with the client just so they could feel more support. That was nice. And very proud of them

>> Within a year of starting working on it they started to feel more comfortable. We were starting to be recognized by our community, businesses in the community. We started getting recognition and huge support for them in their foundation. The Chavez foundation, the local Pascoe school district was very engaging. They even hosted an event just for fun for immigrant families to know about their rights.

>> It's important, it's a radio station that reaches out to the rural areas of agricultural workers. That was important for us.

>> We started working with the development center. The majority of the families are once again immigrants who are agricultural workers. That was another area where they were getting their information shared throughout the community. Univision was a big supporter. They coach the Promotoras on how to do television commercial interviews. And it really got them excited and pumped up to do that. It was nice to see that they were taking knowledge of the work.

>> And with the Promotoras initiating the support from all these various agencies?

>> Yes because these businesses see them on their events. -- They were such go-getters. They started asking them what they did and what they were about. They were curious. This and feeling more comfortable in sharing. They started making these partnerships with them. Which then, it ended up helping the agency as well. Getting the word to the services.

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>> It helped us because we don't have to do the events there anymore. They do the events for us. They come up and pick up the material. Whatever they need. I need this I'm going to go here. And they do it on their own now.

>> That is fantastic. What sorts of events are they you know, showing up at? Are they maintaining a presence at?

>> They are really maintaining a presence throughout like, any community event outside, Fourth of July, the daily parade, they were going in there the Pascoe school district has about three big meetings for families about community services and awareness. So they started to take the lead on that. As well, they started taking the lead before we knew it, they were getting invited, people inviting them personally to go and speak of events in Spanish. Because they were not many people that knew the kind of information that we had.

>> Terrific. That's great.

>> So since 2012-2013-presently, we did a lot of amazing accomplishments and benchmarks. Every year our agency hosted a candlelight vigil in October. This year, they participated in it. They did something that I had never seen done in Washington state, they did the day of the dead altar. Something that we usually did not do. After that it grew more attention into the Latino community and there were a lot of faith organizations and churches that felt more comfortable and approaching us during these vigils. They started to be on those altar events. They were excited about getting the certificates. They really find the beauty in the work that we do. We did a lot of Spanish commercials. They did our first Spanish commercial for our organization. We committed our first year anniversary, that was lovely. That was going to be, it's remaining strong. The Promotoras

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employers started to take notice and the hard work. Oftentimes Promotoras is say they would feel like they were doing so much and know and recognize them. Within the first year we had two of those Promotoras is being recognized at the state level on their accomplishments with the community. It was very beautiful. It was a lot of learning experiences and mistakes. It worked. We are continuing to work. It was a process.

>> One of the things also, they brought this agency more knowledge about the community. But also about the culture. So, I think that's really amazing.

>> Do have an estimate, how many Promotoras is are there now?

>> That's the learning curve that we discovered in the beginning we started with a minimum of 16 women. Now we have for actively engage Promotoras is in our program.

>> It really brought me and Maria down, he started so strong and motivated. Then we soon realized it wasn't about quality -- quantity versus quality. We wanted have women that were really getting engaged that we could count on, and that would be true leaders in their community. So far we are working on them. Our goal is that with time that they will be able to leave their own meetings. Their own Promotoras groups . We are building leaders within leaders.

>> That is great. Anna did you say that you have for kind of regular steadily engaged Promotoras?

>> Reporter: Yes and they are well known in the community. That was one of the mistakes that we learned. We should have started smaller. And realize how much

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we could handle. Versus trying to find one-on-one time with 16 women plus doing all your outreach and all of the at see work

>> All of these women work full-time. Anna and I were doing two jobs at the same time. We are doing the Promotoras , we were also doing our advocacy serving the community and protection orders. Whatever we needed to do.'s that was part of it.

>> Is an important lesson.

>> And that Marie and I really wanted to share with you guys. She and I have participated in many events. Anyone would talk about the wonderful can -- accomplishments but they didn't ever share their struggle. And the hard work that they did. This has taken us more than three years to continue this program.

>> It is commitment. It's really worth it.

>> Commitment and passion.

>> Any other lessons that you would say that you learned along the way that you could share with us?

>> Of course. One of the other lessons that we were very lucky to not struggle with, it's really important that her agency works. It's time commitment. It requires a lot of resources and sometimes money. I mean, \$10 every now and then, it adds up because every meeting that we would have, we would offer them something to eat because most of them were working. They would start work at 5:00 in the morning and get out at 4:30 take a shower, come here and they would barely catch a breath before they were ready for the meeting. We knew we had to feed them. So we needed to be mindful. We started having these conversations with

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the program director and leadership and our coworkers. They were all on board. I think that is what has helped us to be more successful. If the agency is with you and willing to commit, and the program -- the program will grow it will be successful. It helps that we have strong support with the coalition especially with crossing borders because they give us a lot of ideas. When we second-guess ourselves, we would call Gabby was our biggest cheerleader often times. She would tell us that we were on the right track. It was really nice to have that.

>> One of the things that we did, we would tell our management, " You need to answer to these women. " We would go up to them for some reason, you need to answer to these women. They are the ones doing the work out there.

>> There the on expert -- their own experts in the community. We had to respect their input. As soon as the agency started to recognize it, it was wonderful. It started growing.

>> And how has like law enforcement or other systems kind of local systems of government, however the Promotoras is interacting with those entities embedding their work in a deeper way in your community? Is that happening as well?

>> We give you an example. One of the Promotoras's works and a large company here in Pascoe. They have like over 2000 Latino workers in that plant. One of her coworkers ended up, he retired. And then she was told by the other coworker he was really depressed, they were concerned with him this and that. So the Promotoras called me and asked me what I do . I told her to call law enforcement and do a welfare check. So she does that and called the police and tells the police, this is who I am and this is what I do, I'm really concerned about this person police

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officer calls her right back and tells her I went to check and he's doing fine. So another time, she again called the office. The same officer. Until the officer that I'm concerned that I have not heard from him. Sure enough by the time they got back, probably a week or two later. They found that he had passed away in his own home. So that was some -- that was something amazing that they might have never done. You do it on your own. This is what you do, you ask who the officer's name is, and now they are able to talk to people and they, you know, call the police. Build that relationship between the law enforcement and community.

>> During your monthly trainings, we invite law enforcement to come and speak to them. Sometimes our heart go out to the officer, the one facilitating the meeting because the Promotoras is really do ask some very uncomfortable questions .:

>> We have the right -- they get through because they are concerned community members and leaders. These are questions that their own neighbors, friends, coworkers need to ask. For them to be able to address those concerns the officer, to me that's amazing.

>> We did a lot of translation. Twice a year we do volunteer training in the agents. We invited them, part of that training, we take the volunteers to the courthouse for the judges to talk to them if they have any questions. We will able -- we were able to take them with the officers, judges, prosecutors, they were able to ask him questions we would translate everything to them. They were really surprised. We even introduce them to the judge, prosecutors, these are our Promotoras is. This is what they're doing. They were appreciating that we took the initiative take them to the courthouse.

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>> A lot of them avoid going to the courthouse. So what if I did not have to go. For them to actually take the time to learn about the judicial police officers they really did appreciate that and they really opened up their eyes.'s now and they have a concern in the community, they don't feel comfortable addressing, the Promotoras can guide them and give them their experience when they are heading in that direction.

>> Importantly, they have a generic 24 hour crisis card. They give them to people and tell them if you call the police just tell them that you're working with domestic violence. Here's the card. That helps a lot. This is fantastic. I just want to pause for a moment and remind you all, who are listening to the presentation. If you have questions or comments that you would like to pass along specifically to Maria or Anna or Gabby, at the Washington state coalition. There are a few more moments before our session will end. And no, feel free to utilize that Q & A box. I will make certain to pass along your thoughts to our presenters. I just got disconnected from the webinar. Anna, Maria, Gabby? Are you still on the platform?

>> Actually, it popped up a survey.

>> Okay. [ laughter ]

>> Okay, there. It back.

>> I think, I was able to get the presentation back. Anyway we are just in the last few minutes of our presentation. And so, Anna and Maria if you have any kind of final thought we have the slide with these lovely pictures and happy faces. Could you tell us about them?

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>> I would love to. There like my babies. These are just a few pictures of the Promotoras is . Past events. Activities and events. One of our Promotoras is a local minister. She is a radio talkshow where she talks about how -- about healthy relationships, services, unity. One of the other pictures is under our logo DVS, that's when we had our Board of Directors, they were so nervous. They charmed the pants off of them. Going to the schools, we have a couple of pictures of them doing their TV commercial. They were so nervous, they asked for Maria and I that aside because we made them nervous.

>> They wanted you to get out of the way. [ laughter ]

>> Yeah. I think they did not want us to take their spotlight or something. [ laughter ]

>> The vigil, they really went all out on the altar and those that had passed away from domestic violence. They brought culture, offerings. At times they brought the Catholic priest to bless the altar. And say a few words about the churches take on domestic violence. Which before a few years ago, the Catholic Church really did not want to get engaged in any of the vigils. So the Promotoras has been there. They have started having more engagement and community members the we never thought they would have.

>> This is on the tour agency. It is never happened in the past.

>> I wanted to ask looking at these pictures, all of these Promotoras are winning. I think if you slide back you talked about how you have had interest on the part of your broader community of mail men -- man for trans individuals participating. Was that a surprise?

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>> It was, and we were hesitant to be truthful. Because at that time we just wanted to focus on the leadership in our own women. We don't have much of a voice. Often times we have encountered the key leaders our men -- our men. There's nothing wrong with that but we wanted to give these women an opportunity to be leaders. Our goal is down the future that we can get more engagement with men and others as well. To start establishing a proper curriculum to get that going.

>> An interesting issue that came up the other day. The only have Spanish information. She said one of the things, we need to start taking English information because they were asking for some English. That is good. Just them recognizing it and being acknowledged by the community.

>> We want them to expand on their own as well. Have their own trans six events and meetings. Making leaders within leaders. It does not matter female, male, whatever your orientation could be. Or age. As long as we get the word out there. We have this purpose and mission statement. Let's do it.

>> That is wonderful. That is great. So I think, that brings us to the end of your presentation today. On the screen right now, you will see the contact information for Gabriella -- Gabriela Alor . Certainly if you did not get an opportunity to ask specific questions to Maria and Anna, it is not too late. I am sure that Gabriela Alor would be willing to pass along any questions that you might offer. And so she will pass them along to Anna and Maria. Be sure to save that contact information in case a Promotoras project makes sense within your community I also want to let you know that you can download this presentation from the box in the lower left-hand portion of your screen. You will see the PowerPoint PDF there. So please utilize that for future reference. Or share it with your colleagues.

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I would like to just say a very wholehearted thank you. To Gabby, Anna and Maria. Your experience has, the information that you have shared, it's really touching and enriching, inspiring as well. I wish next time, I could think -- if we think of this again, let's have some of your Promotoras on this webinar with us. Could we do that?

>> Yes. I think they would be excited. It would be a new experience for them.

>> That would be exciting.

>> They started with TV and radio and they're working their way up to webinar maybe. [ laughter ]

>> That would be great. Let's think about that for next time. Anyway, thank you so much for making time for us today. To all of you who participated in our webinar. And of course, Gabby, Anna, and Maria. Thank you for putting up with some of our technological glitches at the beginning of the webinar. And, I will look forward to being with you again soon on the role Prevenir -- rule webinar. When you disconnect you will be led to a brief evaluation of this session. We appreciate any feedback we get. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us and joining us today. With that, everybody, take good care and I will speak with you again.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you. [ Event Concluded ]