



California Health Collaborative

Fresno, California: May 12, 2009: The California Health Collaborative (Collaborative) is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Ramirez MPH as the Executive Director effective May 1st 2009. The Collaborative is a nonprofit 501(c)³ organization headquartered in Fresno, with offices in Bakersfield, Chico, Corcoran, Merced, Oakland, Oroville, and Santa Rosa, California. The Collaborative is committed to enhancing the quality of life and health of the people of California, particularly the underserved. Guided by its mission of "changing lives by improving health and wellness," the Collaborative implements an array of health promotion and disease prevention projects, public health surveillance systems, and a variety of capacity-building and networking activities.

A graduate of Columbia University, School of Public Health, Stephen Ramirez joins the Collaborative with over 30 years of diverse, professional experience that includes employment in senior management and as a Director in local, state and national organizations. These experiences include working as the Chief Operating Officer with Kingsburg District Hospital; serving in senior management with the County of Fresno for health promotion services; and employment as a Program and Department Director with the national offices of the Boys/Girls Clubs of America and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Stephen has also authored a professional guidebook to address the topic of cultural diversity in worksite health promotion programs. The book "Health Promotion for All: Strategies for Reaching Diverse Populations at the Workplace" was published in 1994 by the Wellness Councils of America.

In March 2000, Stephen was the recipient of the American Journal of Health Promotion Robert F. Allen Symbol of H.O.P.E. national award. This award was presented annually to an individual who makes an outstanding contribution in addressing the needs of underserved populations and promotes cultural diversity in health promotion.

Stephen is also employed on a part time basis with the faculty of California State University, Fresno in the Department of Public Health.

Stephen has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Education from Hunter College and a Master's Degree in Public Health from Columbia University, School of Public Health, both in New York City.

For more information about the California Health Collaborative, please visit us at:
www.healthcollaborative.org