

TMC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TMC Hosts Roundtable Conference on Hispanic Children

Austin, TX - TMC in partnership with NCLR, Austin Child Care Council, Raising Austin and corporate sponsors hosted a Latino Infant & Toddler Roundtable discussion to bring awareness to the health and education challenges and opportunities facing hispanic infants & toddlers. At the Conference, NCLR (National Council of La Raza) unveiled its study "Buenos Principios: Latino Children in the Earliest Years of Life" and leaders in early education and health issues discussed the future of Texas' hispanic children.

The Conference began with a welcome from Dr. Aletha Huston, Chair of the Austin Child Care Council. NCLR Associate Director, Miriam Calderon, Education and Children's Policy Director and author of "Buenos Principios" discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by Hispanic children followed by three different panels. Mary Helen Berlanga (State Board of Education) served as luncheon speaker and Representative Ryan Guillen (Vice Chair- House Appropriations Committee) served as final speaker of the Conference.

The first panel, "*Latino Infants and Toddlers in Early Care*", was led by Dr. Hilda Medrano (UT Pan American) and included Dr. Harriett Romo (University of Texas at San Antonio), Dr. Sylvia Sanchez (George Mason University), Dr. Blanca Enriquez (Region 19 Head Start Director), and Dr. Antonio Gonzalez (University of Texas at El Paso).

The second panel, "Strengthening the Health of Latino Infants and Toddlers", was led by Dr. Hector Gonzalez (Health Director – City of Laredo) and included Dr. Ciro Sumaya (Texas A&M University), Dr. Roberto P. Treviño (The Social & Health Research Center), and Ms. Evelyn Delgado (Texas Department of Health Services).

The third panel "*Improving Early Care and Education Policy in Texas*", was led by Kara Johnson (Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition) and included Ms. Nicole Verber (Texas Workforce Commission), Ms. Cami Jones (Texas Education Agency), Mr. John W. Gasko (Children's Learning Institute) and Ms. Ana Alicia Romero (IDRA).

"The speakers, moderators and attendees demonstrated the importance and the vital role that Hispanic children will play in the future of our state. TMC, through its Texas programs is excited to play a vital role in the future of Hispanic families," stated Mary Capello – CEO.