Today is Cinco de Mayo. It is a popular celebration locally for the Mexican American community, specifically, but also for the Latinx community generally, along with Mexican and Central American Independence Day (September 15 and 16 respectively) and National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 16-October 16). Most Diversity groups will highlight important cultural or ethnic aspects of different groups on these celebratory days, such as the meaning of the day and the food, songs, traditions, etc., and that is great. We should honor these cultures and people in our American tapestry. We have provided some links specifically around Cinco de Mayo in the resources (Library of Congress)/(Mascareñaz).

However, the DDPHE is focused squarely on Pediatric Health and Healthcare Equity. We feel that Diversity is means to attaining Equity and that Inclusion supports that Diversity. It is through this lens, and in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month (Biden), that we will focus this newsletter on two facets of health equity specific to the Latinx community.

First, we would like to bring attention to the current child health challenges for Latinx children at our border with Mexico. There has been a recent increase in the number of people detained crossing the border, with some reports finding about 19,000 unaccompanied migrant children detained in March, nearly double the about 9,400 who were detained in February (NYT). Given that children are supposed to be transferred from border detention to U.S. Health and Human Services within 72 hours, there has been an emergent establishment of temporary shelters guided by HHS (Rose). In California, this effort is currently being managed by UCOP with UCSD/Rady and UCLA/CHOC/UCI leading southern California sites. The DDPHE has sent the department an email about the current call for physician and APN immediate support for those sites. We encourage those who aren’t prepared to provide that immediate support to also remember that these children will eventually leave these shelters and we will see some of them here, in our clinics, neighborhoods, churches, schools, etc. Providing these children and migrant children from other places in the world with equitable care requires expertise in and systems designed to incorporate both culturally-effective care (AAP) and trauma-informed care (AAP). How well-positioned are our clinics, organizations, or schools to do so (LPOC)? Are you ready?

Looking locally at who will likely be providing services to these children once they arrive to our community (in addition to us), we would like to promote one of our neighborhood organization partners, La Familia Counseling Center, represented on DDPHE by Mayda Arce, the lead for their Birth and Beyond. LFCC began with focusing on health and social services for the Franklin Blvd corridor Latinx community more than 40 years ago. Today, it operates programs throughout the county that have been recognized on the local, state and national levels. All services are free and all of the staff are bilingual. Their mission “to improve the quality of life for at-risk youth and families of diverse backgrounds by offering multicultural counseling, support and outreach services and programs to help families to overcome adversity, to become empowered, and to succeed in their lives” is aligned with the mission of the DDPHE, and they have been partners not only in DDPHE activities, but also in helping us think about how our care can be more equitable. We encourage you all to make yourselves aware of their services and increase your collaborations with them.

### Additional Resources:

#### Health Equity

**A Proclamation on National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2021 (Biden)**
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-national-mental-health-awareness-month-2021/

**Mental Health Awareness Month (NAMI)**
https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month

**Arrivals at the southern border surpassed a 15 year high in March, and included many unaccompanied minors (NYT)**

**Fewer Migrant Children Held In Border Detention Facilities, But Challenges Remain (Rose)**

**Becoming a Trauma-Informed Practice (AAP)**

**Providing Culturally Effective Care (AAP)**

**La Familia Counseling Center**
https://lafcc.org/

#### Diversity and Inclusion

**Cinco de Mayo is Not Mexican Independence Day?**
(Library of Congress)
https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/05/cinco-de-mayo-is-not-mexican-independence-day/

**What is Cinco de Mayo? What it is not**
(https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/what-is-cinco-de-mayo)

**Latino Physicians Needs Assessment Survey (LPOC)**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwpiDkX8EmhXbi8T/RGp5azJmVv/view

**National Hispanic Heritage Month**
https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/
As the Committee on Departmental Diversity and Pediatric Healthcare Equity, we ask that you take a moment to contemplate these impacts on historical lack of minority physicians, staff, and professionals in health care. We also ask that you take a few moments to engage in the following reflection:

When you celebrate a culture or ethnic celebration, what do you ponder about that culture/ethnicity?

Have you considered that groups’ health and healthcare and the equity which may or may not exist for it?

What steps can you take, going forward, to bring an equity lens to cultural and ethnic celebrations?

What steps have you taken to ensure that you are providing culturally-effective and trauma-informed care?

Please see the Resources section for a list of EDI issues that you should have in mind during your work.