

AR-CRT's First Spanish Group Crisis Intervention

John Rodriguez, Methodist Family Health CRT and I recently facilitated two Spanish language Group Crisis Interventions. My role as facilitator brought out many feelings.

First of all, I was proud to participate in helping the women deal with the feelings caused by the crisis that community was facing. This was exactly what I had trained to do. Secondly, I was excited to participate in the first ever Spanish language GCI in the state of Arkansas knowing the Hispanic community will continue to grow.

This experience will only help us in preparing for the next time. I am proud to be a bilingual member of the Crisis Response Team.

Populations of recent Hispanic immi-

grants in general are crying out for help. These transitional communities are facing difficulties which they simply do not know how to address. Cultural factors, rather than help to diminish, often result in increased incidences of depression among female immigrants. Other issues; poverty, single-parent families, acculturation and assimilation, culturally sanctioned verbal and/or physical abuse, racism and discrimination, the language barrier and isolation, along with depression, make this population particularly vulnerable. Low levels of education in their native countries further alienate these populations.

I strongly feel that interventions like the AR-CRT Group Crisis Interventions are the first step in providing

such communities the necessary tools to address these needs.



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NOVA Basic CRT, 2003

Flexibility in the Field

In the recent Spanish language Group Crisis Intervention the word flexibility was the underlining theme.

Team Leader Cyndi Coleman, Methodist Family Health CRT, said that plans and strategies changed hourly. She praised the professionalism and flexibility of each team member.

Bilingual AR-CRT members Maria Touchstone, Pulaski County CRT and John Rodriguez, Methodist Family Health CRT, led two simultaneous GCIs. Clara Penney, SEACRT member and school psychologist made sure the children were cared for, too. Other team members were Marlin Raines, SEACRT, Shelton Walker, MFH CRT



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American Citizens [LULAC]. Through LULAC she brought interpreters Samuel Loya and Maribel Siems. Both were briefed in the NOVA model.

and Carol St. John, SEACRT. Carol was also Team Manager. The GCI was in response to an outreach request made by Msgr. Jack Harris, SEACRT.

Maria Touchstone is an officer in the League of United Latin

Flexibility was important when plans changed and Samuel and Maribel were asked to scribe. They did a phenomenal job.

Again, the NOVA model works. It provides us the road map, but more importantly the flexibility to customized each GCI. The model's adaptability in the field is its greatest strength.

*John Rodriguez
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