HEALTHIER WISCONSIN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

ATTACHMENT B – PROJECT OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>Nuestros Niños Nuestro Futuro (Our Children Our Future)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HWPP PROJECT NUMBER</td>
<td>20091-39</td>
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**Without exceeding this one (1) page, briefly describe the project’s:**

**Purpose - Highlight the need for the project:**

The purpose of the project is to develop and test an effective school-based intervention for young (grade 5-8) students experiencing mental health issues relating to violence and trauma including depression, social withdrawal, acting out, and aggression. The project involves students, teachers, staff, and parents in a focused effort to identify at-risk students, deliver targeted intervention services in a supportive environment without stigma, and increase mental health knowledge and skills in the entire school community. The project is an integrated, capacity-building health improvement approach focused on the mental health needs of Latino children and adolescents who have experienced or witnessed violence and who show potential for additional involvement in violence.

**Plan - Describe the project's implementation plan, methods to be utilized, and involvement of affected communities:**

The first component is Teacher and Family Involvement which will include a parent advisory board, student council, mental health training for all instructional and support staff, educational programs for parents, and other activities to reduce stigma and improve receptivity and understanding of project. The second is implementation of the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) approach which will engage at-risk students in a 10-week program of skill-building focused on education about trauma reactions, relaxation training, cognitive therapy, real life exposure, stress or trauma exposure, and social problem-solving. Additional services for students including Wraparound and/or individual meetings may also be provided.

**Partnership - Describe how the project will capitalize on the strengths and skills of community and academic partners:**

The project will be conducted at La Causa School which is a program of La Causa, Inc., one of Milwaukee’s largest and most comprehensive community-based human service organizations. MCW will oversee the fidelity of program implementation, and organize and implement the project’s process and outcome evaluations. Milwaukee Public Schools provides support for La Causa School’s operation and has involved the school in system wide mental health initiatives. Wraparound Milwaukee, MUTF, and 16th Street Community Center will provide additional resources and support to La Causa students and families.

**Evaluation - Describe the evaluation method that will be used to measure quantifiable and significant outcomes:**

The first outcome is “enhanced capacity to provide school-based mental health services” which will be measured by improved teacher knowledge and skills, increased parental awareness, and capacity to successfully implement the CBITS intervention. The second is “improved student mental health” which will be measured by decrease in symptoms related to PTSD, depression and related mental health issues and improved functioning in the school environment. The third is “well-functioning partnership network” as measured by commitment to the project by partners. Evaluation will use evidence-based measures, e.g. Children’s Depression Inventory, to assess changes.

**Sustainability - Explain how the partnership will be financially and programmatically sustained:**

The project is envisioned as a 3-year initiative to significantly elevate the capacity of La Causa School to meet the mental health needs of students. The initiative could be incorporated into the annual contract that is negotiated between La Causa School and the Milwaukee Public Schools with some additional support from local foundations, donors or other government contracts. The HWPP support for this 3-year period is envisioned as a capacity-building, institutional change process that, once completed, can accommodate school-based mental health services without major additional funding.

**Dissemination - Describe how the project results will be shared:**

The involvement of major institutions including La Causa, MCW faculty, & MPS provides multiple vehicles for dissemination regarding the project’s implementation and its outcomes. An annual progress report/process evaluation will be compiled by the project evaluator for dissemination to local, state and national education and human service organizations. A final evaluation report focusing on outcome achievement will also be published and disseminated.