The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose
What is different now?

Dramatically changing demographics

- In 2000, over 31 million individuals in the US were foreign-born (an increase of 57% since 1990) and 15% are Hispanic
- According to the 2000 Census, 1 of every 5 children in the US is an immigrant or child of immigrants, and almost 1 in 4 of those younger than 5 in US are Hispanic
- Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group
- US ranks 2nd in Hispanic population, second only to Mexico
- 19% of children 5-17 speak a foreign language at home and 5% of all children have difficulty speaking English
- 12% of US residents are Spanish speakers & 78% of Hispanics 5 and older speak Spanish at home
Challenges Faced

- Poverty rates are much higher for children in immigrant and refugee families than children in native-born families.
- Pre-migration, migration, and post-migration exposure to traumatic events creates vulnerabilities.
- People with limited English proficiency (LEP) are less likely to seek care and receive needed services (even when economic factors and ethnicity are accounted for).
Early Lessons Learned

- Schools as Hub
- Language Access is Key
- Family Engagement
- Need More Latino Practitioners
Utilize a School Base

• Value
  – Important resources at hand, familiarity, legal rights

• Challenge
  – Unprepared systems, Still denied access in some parts

• Solutions
  – Know your rights
Language Access

• Value
  – Facilitates relationship and info

• Challenge
  – Shortage of bilingual/bicultural professionals
  – No national certification for MH interpreting

• Solutions
  – Use Trained Interpreters
  – Partnership Development
Family Engagement

- Value
  - Leads to positive outcomes
- Challenge
  - Stigma
  - Poor Training of Professionals
- Solutions
  - Education
  - Go where families are
  - Form relationships
Cultural Competence

• How do we know that our constructs around mental health mean the same thing to our clients?
• Are we sure all aspects of service delivery are language accessible?
• Are our evidence-based practices really appropriate for the families and children from other countries of origin?
• What adaptations are necessary to make sure our treatment programs are effective?
Training and Capacity Building

- Start young
- Start in the Community
- Start broad
- Start with Universities
- Start Mentoring
- START NOW
The Somali Social Work Training Program at CHOB

• Two scholarships offered by Boston University School of Social Work
  – Fully funded to attend 3-year part-time MSW program
  – Provided with $8,000 stipend/year

• Requirements: Applicants must be Somalis with a BA or BS, be bilingual (Somali and English), and have an interest in becoming a clinical SW
The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools

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