

SC COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS

HISPANIC FORUM FINDINGS REPORT

Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties

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Hispanic Forum

Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties

Findings Report

February 2015

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs (SC CFMA) is the official state government agency responsible for working with the many diverse communities of color present in South Carolina. The African American population is the largest minority group in the State of South Carolina. The remaining groups, in terms of total and percentage of population are respectively: (1) Hispanic/Latino, (2) Asian and (3) the indigenous or Native American Indian/Alaska Native population. Additionally, other ethnic groups have made South Carolina their home, changing the population landscape of our State.

According to the most recent US Census in 2010, SC ranks number one in Hispanic growth which occurred in the US Census from 2000 to 2010. The numbers show over a 300 percent increase from the Census in 2000. According to the US Census Bureau, the Hispanic/Latino population comprises 5.3% of the State's population (South Carolina is home to 248,542 Hispanics). However, more accurate numbers reflect that we have three times the number of those stated in the last Census (Reported by SC Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies). **This is due to the fact that not all Hispanics fill out the Census or share information.** The latest Census information based on the American Community Survey is listed below for the State of South Carolina. Additionally, data for Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties is provided.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau – 2011-2013: 3-Year Estimates. Released November 2014.	South Carolina	
Subject	Number	Pct.
POPULATION BY HISPANIC OR LATINO (ANY RACE)		
Universe: Total Population		
Total population	4,723,923	100.0
Hispanic Or Latino Of Any Race	248,542	5.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,475,381	94.7
White alone	3,019,208	63.9
Black or African American alone	1,295,771	27.4
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	14,284	0.3
Asian alone	62,879	1.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	1,992	0.04

POPULATION BY HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN (ANY RACE) - 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates: Source-U. S. Census Bureau	South Carolina	Percent	Beaufort County, SC	Percent	Hampton County, SC	Percent	Jasper County, SC	Percent
Total:	4,679,602	100.0	165,354	100.0	20,840	100.0	25,408	100.0
Not Hispanic or Latino:	4,438,154	94.8	145,890	88.2	20,076	96.3	21,704	85.4
White Alone	2,995,377	64.0	109,937	66.5	8,627	41.4	9,673	38.1
Black Or African American Alone	1,289,882	27.6	31,090	18.8	11,163	53.6	11,583	45.6
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	13,573	0.3	369	0.2	24	0.1	0	0.0
Asian Alone	60,605	1.3	1,865	1.1	61	0.3	122	0.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	2,090	0.04	29	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hispanic or Latino:	241,448	5.2	19,464	11.8	764	3.7	3,704	14.6
White Alone	148,769	3.2	11,796	7.1	274	1.3	1,699	6.7
Black Or African American Alone	8,652	0.2	340	0.2	6	0.0	74	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	1,159	0.02	51	0.0	8	0.0	0	0.0
Asian Alone	492	0.01	66	0.0	0.00	0.0	0	0.00
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	38	0.00	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0	0.00

The Commission’s Hispanic Affairs Initiative seeks to find ways to help reduce poverty and deprivation among Hispanics in our State. Our goal is to help the Hispanic/Latino community break the cycle of poverty.

As part of this year’s Hispanic Affairs strategic plan, forums will be conducted in selected counties to help us better understand the needs and challenges of the Hispanic community, as well as Hispanic non-profit organizations seeking to serve the Hispanic/Latino community.

The Commission’s statute and regulations provide that an Advisory Committee should be established for each program area to advise the Executive Director and the Board of

Commissioners regarding solutions to reduce poverty among each minority group. To that end, the Commission has established Advisory Committees to represent the State's Native American, African American, and Hispanic/Latino populations.

The Hispanic Advisory Committee was formed in 2004. Members serve a two-year term and, if they so desire, may extend their participation to a second term. The Hispanic Advisory Committee currently has fifteen active members from different backgrounds and regions from across our State. The committee provides insight and advice on finding the best solutions to help our community, organizations, and interested parties in accordance with the overall mission of the organization.

In addition to the support and advice of its Advisory Committees, the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs relies upon members of its Board of Commissioners to help facilitate the process of reaching out to our communities in their respective regions of service.

In February 2015, the Program Coordinator for the Hispanic Initiative, along with Mr. Eric Esquivel, CEO of La Isla Magazine, and other interested parties began the planning process to hold a forum for Hispanic Community Leaders from Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties. During this planning period the following steps were taken:

1. Key leaders and non-profit organizations were identified.
2. Emails and ads were placed to inform the public of the upcoming event.
3. Location for the event was identified and a date was set to hold the event.
4. The event was held at the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Club in Hilton Head Island, SC.

A list of Hispanic organizations, other organizations that serve the Hispanic community and community leaders was compiled and invitations were sent out by La Isla Magazine and the SC CFMA. The Hispanic Forum was very well attended and very successful.

Purpose of the Forum

The overall goal for the Hispanic Forum and Networking Breakfast was threefold: 1) Inform community leaders and organizations of the mission of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs and to share information regarding programs we have to offer; 2) Meet and network with the leaders of the area to discuss the services they provide; and 3) Assess the needs and challenges of the Hispanic Community and its service providers.

Data Collection and Analysis Methodology: Qualitative Research/Participant Methodology

1. Data was collected and analyzed from the forms given to the attendees.
2. The target group for the Findings Report consisted of Hispanic Community organizations and various Hispanic community leaders.
3. A forum was facilitated by the Hispanic Program Coordinator, Mr. Eric Esquivel, CEO of La Isla Magazine and the Commission's Executive Director and staff.
4. All attendees were provided with the following information: event agenda, Hispanic Community Forum Form, CFMA agency brochure, Hispanic Program brochure, and Community Based Services Program brochure.
5. An interpreter was utilized for non-Spanish speaking guests.
6. Attendees were placed in groups according to their areas of expertise.
7. Attendees were asked to complete a two-part Forum Form labeled Part I and Part 2.
8. Attendees shared the following information from the Forum Form:

PART I

- a. Identifying information
- b. Mission of their organization
- c. Other roles they serve within the community

PART 2

- d. Needs of their community
 - e. Needs of their organizations
 - f. Challenges faced by the community
 - g. Challenges faced by their organization
9. Each subgroup shared findings from their subgroup discussion with all of those in attendance (based on participants interaction with community).
 10. Attendees submitted their forms at the conclusion of the event.
 11. Notes were taken and input received.
 12. Information was gathered and analyzed from Hispanic Forum Forms as well as from notes taken at the event.
 13. The Findings Report includes action steps and recommendations.

Forum Participants

Participants received a brief overview of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs. Participants were grouped into different subgroups according to their area of expertise and representation: Health, Government, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Immigration and Law, Education and Small Business and Marketing. Participants were then asked to share amongst each other, needs and challenges faced in their topic area. They were asked to choose a spokesperson to share findings within each group. Each spokesperson then shared with entire group, the needs and challenges faced by organizations and the Hispanic community.

During each subgroup, participants were asked to share the following information: Part 1 asked for the name of the organization and identifying information such as address, phone number, email, and website. In addition, we asked participants to share briefly, their organizations' missions and roles. Information obtained in Part 2 of the form included needs and challenges faced by the Hispanic community and Hispanic organizations.

Organizations represented at the forum included, but were not limited to, grassroots organizations, faith based organizations, law enforcement, higher education, health care organizations, Hispanic media, Hispanic owned businesses and many more. The list below may not be inclusive of all in attendance if their name was not found on SC CFMA registration list.

Name of Organization	Representative
Various Groups	Sory Reyes
Coastal Security	J.R. Mullin
Powerhouse	Carlos Campos
Pino Gelato	Edwin Torres
Hilton Head Island High School	Amanda Onan
Bluffton Chamber of Commerce	Shellie West
Pregnancy Center	Ofelia Spaulding
Hospice Care of Low Country	Lindsay Daly
Artist	Mary Sullivan
La Isla Magazine	Eric Esquivel, Kent Fletcher, and Yolanda DeJohn, Jonathan Rivera
Bluffton County Sheriff's Office	George Moreno
Diana Lopez	Hilton Head Island High School
Tammy Besherse	SC Appleseed Legal Justice
Dominic Hausher	Legal Shield
Sarah Owen	Beaufort County School District
Deborah Slazyck	Access Health Low Country
Vanessa Gomez	Kennedy and Blackshire
Sheila Roemeling	Fresh Start Healing Heart
Jack McMullin	Coastal Security Services

Sabrina Sandoval	Student Outreach for Latinos
Aimee Deverall	Deverall Immigration Law, LLC
Eneyda Diaz Nagera	PASOs
Rosana Muro	PASOs
John J. McCaun	Town Coroner
George Kanuck	Low Country Immigration Council
Maribel Luna	SOL
Isabel Perez Cisneros	Isabella Boutique
Lisandro Acosta	Telemundo Hilton Head
Howard Wilson Taylor	Law Offices of J. Van Wyck Taylor
Lauren Read	Beaufort County Library
Nilsy Rapalo	Hispanic Business Association (HBA)
Diana Salliant	Hispanic Business Association (HBA)
Blaine Lotz	BCDP
Betsy Doughtie	Deep Well
José Fuentes	Jenkins, Esquivel and Fuentes
Katie Barrett	VIM (Volunteers in Medicine) HHI
Nathaniel Pringle	All Pro Tire/5 Star
Miguel Mares	Five Star Landscaping, Inc.
Alicia Haidoche	Bluffton Health Center
Yajaira Benet	PASO's
Mayra Rivera	Low Country Immigration Committee
Mario Davila Medina	Bluffton Self Help
Raymond	VIM-Hilton Head Island
Tim Kenny	AXA Advisors
Katherine R	Town of Bluffton
Manuel Diaz	Private Citizen
Bree Kennedy	Kennedy and Blackshire
Jeanette Narvaez	Select Health
Ivan Yunga	Mexicanos en el Exterior
Charly Becker	Beaufort County Schools
Pam Blackshire	Kennedy and Blackshire, LLC
Lisa Henry	BB&T
Cynthia Masis	BB&T
Janet Dobbs	Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Low Country
Tricia Gavin	Orthostat
Taylor	LIC
D Boyd	D Boyd and Co.
Alan Williams	Edward Jones
Steve Riley	Town of Hilton Head Island
Patricia Rosado	Radio Sol
Sarah Eliasoph	NAMI Beaufort County

Zach Naert	Naert and Dubuis, LLC
John Giles	Democratic Club of Beaufort County
Mily Choy	Catholic Charities
Fabiola Rodriguez	Catholic Charities
Normay M. Cruz-Garcia	PASO's
Joey Reynolds	Bluffton Police Department
Nena Blazola	VIM-Hilton Head Island
Enid Carranza	La Isla Magazine

Community and Organizational Needs and Challenges

The chart below reflects the comments made by individuals representing their organization, business or self interest in the community. Input provided on the form is based on the participant's individual experience. Some of the questions were answered while others were left unanswered. A dash (-) indicates questions that were left unanswered. There were no right or wrong answers to the questions posed. The questions presented are as follows:

- (1) "How can the SC Commission for Minority Affairs better assist you in addressing the needs of the Hispanic community?"
- (2) "What are the needs of your organization?"
- (3) "What are some of the challenges faced by the Hispanic community in your county?"

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
Support Chamber and other initiatives	Outreach	Trust
Events to speak on Human trafficking for the Hispanic community	Data for grants	-
Information on SC CFMA and the services we provide	-	-
We need more knowledge	-	-

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
of students		
-	-	School Drop-Outs
-	Data for grants Continue the fight for legal rights for undocumented and documented Hispanics and families	Access to college/scholarships due to undocumented status. Contact in school delivered in a way that is comprehensible.
Help in finding ways in which undocumented students can go to college or university	Outreach efforts	Education, dropping out, health and legal issues
I know their work since I was part of the Latin American Council	Continue education, training	Training and support
Promoting our Business and Statistics	-	Lack of knowledge
Grant data	Data for grants	Transportation, translation
-	Outreach efforts, data for grants, Spanish Speaking volunteers and interns for social media marketing	Lack of Spanish speaking mental health professionals. No mental health help line in Spanish in SC- 24/7

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
Help the Hispanic community get better access to the resources	-	Language and where to find information
Reaching the Latino population for better access to healthcare	Outreach and advice to reach this audience	Language barriers - getting accurate message out to the community
Help to reach out to the Hispanic community and let them know all they need to come is a photo ID	Outreach	-
Help Latinos that have just arrived to the USA	-	A lot of them have not learned English. They need to be encouraged to learn English
-	Funding to bring more initiatives to Jasper County	Language and the Police raids
Provide more information	-	Provide information of many services in our area and lack of knowing the English language
Making sure law enforcement is aware of the U VISA, what it is and is NOT and how helpful it can be to local communities	Help with growing my practice. Above all, educating the law enforcement, community is extremely important.	They are scared and living in the shadows
-	Health promoters	They are scared to give

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
		personal information
Understanding the healthcare needs of the Hispanic community	Data for grants	Navigating the health system and human service organizations
How to raise funds for our 501(c)3	Data for grants. Forming a 501(c)3	Lack of knowledge
Improve communications with <u>all</u> local Hispanic media and all media in general	-	Lack of awareness of state programs
-	Help growing business	Trusting community leaders
Providing information	Data for grants, assistance with law enforcement from Jasper (Hardeeville) County to help with U-Visas (Form I-918 Supp B)	Misinformation about system and laws, notaries fraud
-	-	Fear of law enforcement, lack of information and knowledge of the law
Provide greater education on scams targeted to Hispanics	Provide forums to share information	Scams. Educate residents on the differences between notaries and attorneys
More information	More outreach efforts	Legal assistance, fear factor, misinformation, more effective

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
		communication
Reach out to the Hispanics	Do and work at health fairs and community events	Language skills and culture
Helping us put the word out about our organizations that can help	-	Fear of authority and having someone talk to about problems
Help with organizing information clinics to the community on any range of legal topics	I need help getting the word out that I am a fully fluent attorney and eager to help Hispanic community members that have been wrongfully injured.	Bad information, poor access to information, fear and mistrust overall
Help us keep improving our connections and let organizations know we are available to help them communicate and reach the community through us	-	Education and miscommunication. People are afraid to speak up
Research for mental health and fundraising for community needs	-	Cultural assimilation
Information on assistance to areas where there is larger concentration of Hispanics	-	Feeling safe with and trust among government agencies, Access to information
Introduction to local businesses	-	Building trust among the Hispanic community
Sponsorship of the Forum was very important and appreciated	-	Racism

How can SC CMFA assist you to meet the needs of the Community?	Organization/Agency/Business Needs	Challenges faced by the Hispanic Community
Make us aware of how we can help our Hispanic Community	-	Loans, financial literacy
-	Data for grants, need mental health providers	Need for bilingual services and volunteers
Educating them on financial needs	-	-
Promoting out the business	Help with growing the business, marketing area	-
-	Register voters	Fear, misinformation
Being an advocate in getting immigration laws passed	Data of number of Hispanics on Hilton Head and Beaufort County	Legal status, learning English
Direct me on highway that will allow me to partner with leaders, or Directors of the Hispanic Community	-	The same as or more in having daily access to justice
-	Information	Letting them be what they are, human beings with rights
-	Public awareness of resources we have to offer (language learning, test prep, citizenship prep)	-
Grants for college education	Fundraising/Hispanic businesses and individuals donations	Education, immigration reform

The charts listed above indicate that there are several common themes among the challenges in the Hispanic community. Among these commonalities are:

- Lack of educational support and resources
- Lack of sufficient resources and lack of knowledge of available resources in the following areas of health care and legal information
- Language barriers
- Fear of, and trust in law enforcement
- Non-profit need for capacity building and grant assistance
- Spanish speakers' need to learn English

Participants also shared Organization/Agency and business needs. The common findings are:

- The need for data for grants
- Outreach
- Assistance to help grow their businesses
- Hispanic marketing
- Help bring awareness about their business/programs

Subgroup Participation

Participants were asked to join a subgroup according to their area of expertise. Subgroups were divided as follows: Health, Government, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Immigration and Law, Education and Small Business and Marketing. The participants were asked to choose a spokesperson from each group who would share all participants' information that was shared in their subgroup. The facilitator from CFMA asked that each spokesperson present challenges and then possible ways to address challenges that were shared. These are the comments made by each group and general audience as they were given the opportunity to expand on the comments made:

Health

Challenges:

- Doesn't know what services are available—there are so many different services. We need to work together to make members of the community aware of health care services.
- Healthy lifestyles and obesity

- Getting Hispanics together to work-out and share information at his gym. Mr. Campos shared information about his Gym business. Opportunity for lifestyle change.

Potential Action/Solutions:

- Working together and meeting together to discuss issues will be helpful.
- Providing information about available resources to include businesses that offer opportunities.

Government, Public Safety and Law Enforcement

Challenges:

- Need talent from Hispanic communities
- Human trafficking
- Government documents and translations
- Relationships with law enforcement and breaking down the barriers
- It's hard with the laws: i.e. driver's licenses and official documents
- Stereotyping Hispanic culture

Potential Action/Solutions:

- Actively recruit talent
- Provide training and information on human trafficking to the community as well as Law Enforcement and other government entities.
- Government entities should budget and fund interpreters and translators
- Law enforcement community advocate
- Look at legislation for drivers license; see what other states are doing

Immigration and Law

Challenges

- Misinformation, mistrust and fear about law enforcement
- Notary vs. Lawyer
- Visa
- False domestic violence charges
- Information to stick in community misinformation

Potential Action/Solution

- Education: educating the community and how to work better within laws and with law enforcement
- How to get community to work with law enforcement? How to get information to stick—how can we do better in this area.

Education

Challenges:

- Keeping kids in school (Reduce drop outs in high school)
- Fear of colleges and lack of funds (don't see a reason to graduate)
- Bilingual teachers (need more with SC Certification)
- Stereotypes in school (parents feel like they might not be welcomed)
- Public awareness for resources at the public library such as practice testing

Potential Action/Solution:

- Bring awareness of resources to the Hispanic community
- Students mentoring other students (encouragement)

Small Business and Marketing

Challenges:

- Need talent from Hispanic communities (translators)
- Developing messaging for Latinos through Language
- Think Bilingual and Hire Bilingual
- Businesses don't care about documentation status. They want the money—businesses move because of immigrants (the economy of the Low Country)

Potential Action/Solution:

- A better livable working wage for the Low Country (\$10)

In evaluating the challenges presented, it appears that there is a common theme shared: Lack of information or education on specific areas of discussion and outreach efforts to the community. While there are programs available to meet the needs of the community, knowledge, information and access to these resources are not getting to the community level. Because of

the fear and mistrust despite current programs readily available to serve the Hispanic community, seeking assistance may be difficult if the trust factor is not addressed.

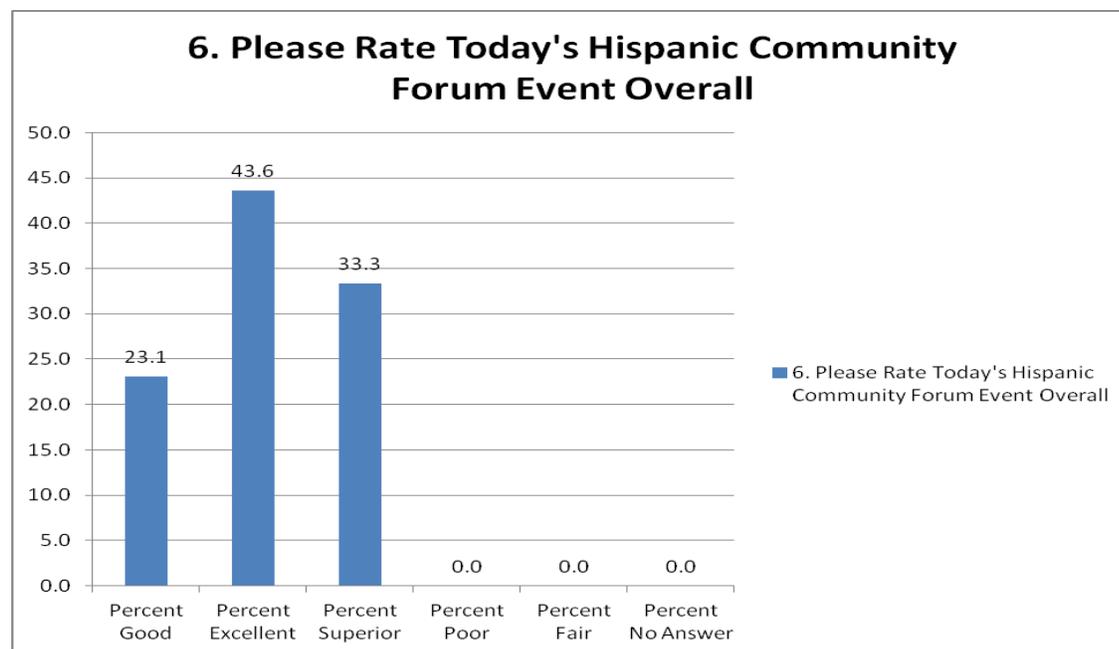
The Potential Action/Resolution listed below each challenge is a very brief action statement to look at possible solutions. However, many steps are required to have effective outcomes. Entities present should meet and take the lead in planning, developing and implementing these ideas. Research has shown that collaboration/partnerships are needed at all levels to make positive changes beginning at the grass roots level in order to affect systems change.

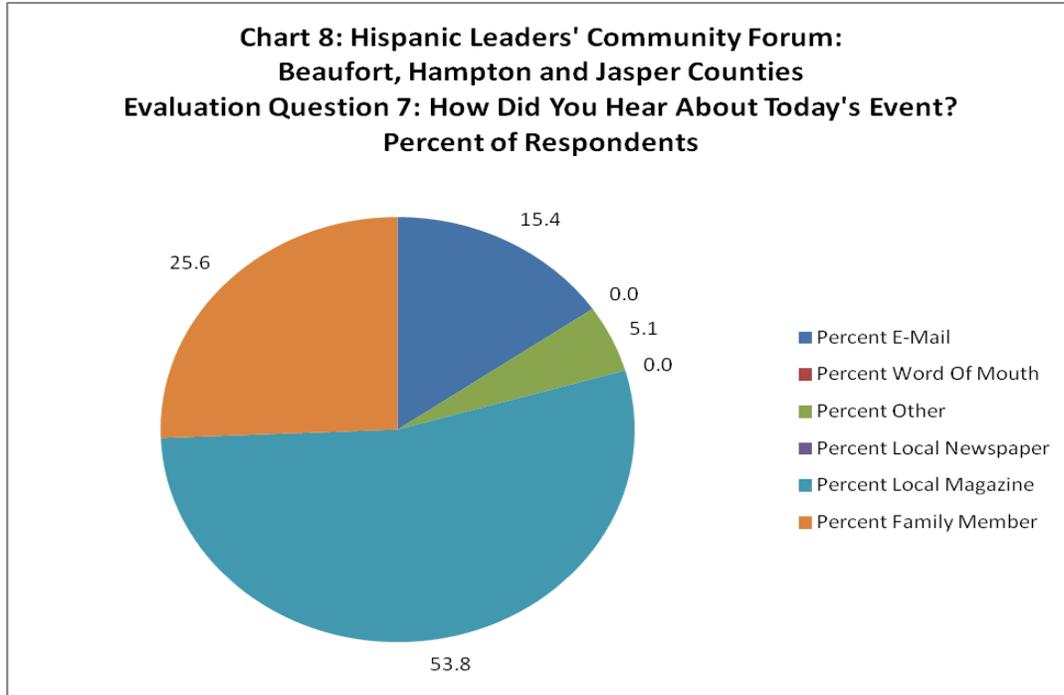
Ultimately, the SC Commission for Minority Affairs seeks to study the causes and effects of poverty in our minority communities. Understanding the challenges faced and possible actions required gives us greater insight on the needs of the community.

Evaluation

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs is always seeking to improve our events and the process of collecting information. Evaluation forms were disseminated to participants and collected for review. While our hopes are always to obtain 100% of evaluation forms, we understand that not all participants completed and returned them.

The Commission received a total of thirty-nine (39) forms which were evaluated. Respondents were asked, “How did you hear about the Community Forum event?” The results are listed as follows:





Question 6 asked respondents to rate the Hispanic Community Forum event overall. Of the thirty-nine (39) respondents, 43.6% of respondents rated the Forum event as excellent, while an additional 33.3% (13 respondents) gave the event a superior rating. Finally, 23.1% of Forum participants gave the Forum a good rating.

In addition to providing an overall rating of the Forum event, respondents were asked to provide feedback on, "How did you hear about the Forum event?" In response to this question, slightly over half of the respondents (53.8%) stated that they heard about the Community Forum through the local media (magazine). At least one out of four respondents (25.6%) heard about the Forum through a family member, while 15.4% of respondents in attendance heard about the Community Forum by way of e-mail. A total of 5.1% of respondents heard about the Forum through some other method. Included below is the Evaluation Survey that was completed by those in attendance at the Community Forum.

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs (CFMA) appreciates your attendance at today’s forum. Please take a few minutes to rate each item below. We value your feedback. Our goal as an agency is to offer future events, workshops and forums that can better assist you in addressing concerns related to the Hispanic Community.

A. Please place a circle around the response that best describes each session that you participated in.

Session Topic	1 – Poor	2 – Fair	3 – Good	4 – Excellent	5- Superior
1. Welcome and Introductions (Ms. Lee McElveen) A. Mr. Eric Esquivel B. Mr. Scott Entrup	1	2	3	4	5
2. SC Commission for Minority Affairs Overview (Mr. Thomas Smith) A. Ms. Lee McElveen B. Ms. Tammy Beshere	1	2	3	4	5
3. Getting To Know You (Ms. Lee McElveen) A. Like Missions-Programs Collaboration	1	2	3	4	5
4. Forum Current Issues (Ms. Lee McElveen and Ms. Tammy Beshere) A. Your Needs and Challenges B. Hispanic Community Needs	1	2	3	4	5
5. Next Step and Closing Remarks (Ms. Lee McElveen)	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate today’s Hispanic Community Forum event overall.
 _____ 1-Poor _____ 2-Fair _____ 3-Good _____ 4-Excellent _____ 5-Superior

B. General Comments about today’s event:

7. How did you hear about today’s event? Please place an “X” beside all that apply.

- E-Mail Word of Mouth Other (Write In : _____)
 Local Newspaper Local Magazine Family Member

8. What did you like **the most** about today’s event?

9. What did you like **the least** about today’s event?

10. Please provide any other comments and feedback you feel is important regarding today’s event.

Thank you very much for completing this Evaluation Survey!

Recommended Next Action Steps

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs will be tasked to follow through with the concerns listed and shared by those attending the meeting. We recommend the following action steps:

1. A follow-up meeting with interested parties/organizations should be spearheaded by a Hispanic Community leader in the county area of service to try to find viable options for the community.
2. Link community leaders and grass roots organizations to resources that will help move their communities forward.
3. SC CFMA will continue conducting research and have data available for grants that will contain information about our minority communities.
4. The SC CFMA will refer information shared in this report with corresponding program initiatives for further assistance.
5. SC CFMA will continue to work with Hispanic organizations to build its capacity to help break the cycle of poverty.

Summary

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, in collaboration with Mr. Eric Esquivel, CEO/Founder of La Isla Magazine, hosted a Hispanic Forum for Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties. The forum served as a tool to obtain valuable information about the challenges faced by the Hispanic community. Time was taken to meet program officials and leaders who serve the Hispanic community. More than 100 community members, leaders and/or interested parties participated in the event.

The various challenges shared included the following:

- Educational support and resources
- Lack of sufficient resources and lack of knowledge of available resources in the following areas: access to health and legal information
- Language barriers
- Fear and trust in law enforcement
- Non-profit need for capacity building and grant assistance
- Spanish speakers' need to learn English

Subgroup discussions provided insight on some of the challenges faced by each topic area. Among commonalities were the need for outreach and information on the availability of resources. Suggestions were made for potential/action solutions.

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs will be working with the Hispanic population in the Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton areas to implement the recommended action steps. The findings reports will be published on our website and shared with various leaders and other interested parties in hopes that this information will stir up the need to work collaboratively. It is through collaboration that solutions to bring about change can be developed. This in turn will better enable the Commission to work closely with the Hispanic leadership. The leadership can in turn assist with the development of needed programs and resources for the community at large.



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la isla
m a g a z i n e

We would like to thank La Isla Magazine for partnering with the SC Commission for Minority Affairs in organizing the Hispanic Forum and bringing our community leaders and organizations together in finding ways to help move our communities out of poverty.