Subject: Approval to Proclaim October 3 through 15, 2009, as Binational Health Week in Stanislaus County

Staff Recommendations:
Proclaim October 3 through 15, 2009, as Binational Health Week in Stanislaus County.

Fiscal Impact:
There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Board Action as follows:

On motion of Supervisor __ Grover __________________________ Seconded by Supervisor __ Monteith __________________________
and approved by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith and Chairman DeMartini
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended
2) _____ Denied
3) _____ Approved as amended
4) _____ Other:

MOTION: __________________________

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.
Dear Stanislaus County Supervisors,

On behalf of Stanislaus County's Binational Faire Task Force, I wish to commend the County Board of Supervisors on its commitment to improving access to health care for the underserved population in Stanislaus County.

This effort is in partnership with the following organizations: El Concilio, The Consulate of Mexico representing Northern California, Health Net of California, Anthem Blue Cross, Health Service Agency, Golden Valley Health Centers, Tzu Chi Foundation, Modesto Fire Department, Modesto City Schools, Univision 19, Latino Emergency Communication, Stanislaus County Children and families Commission and many others.

Binational Health Week (BHW) has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of underserved populations of Latin American origin living in the United States and Canada. It encompasses an annual weeklong series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings. BHW events emerge from networks forged among agencies and organizations working on mobile population health issues and, in turn, foster ongoing collaboration.

This year, BHW will take place October 3-15, 2009 in 40 states in the U.S. and 3 provinces in Canada, with the participation of the consular networks of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador, and Peru. During Binational Health Week, a national campaign will take place to promote awareness among the underserved Latino and other communities on the topics: Preparing for Public Health Emergencies, Prevention of Addictions, Nutrition, Prevention of Strokes, and Living Green.

The event in Stanislaus County will take place October 4th, 2009 at Hanshaw Middle School from 9am till 2pm. I would like to extend the invitation to attend the kick off and press conference with the unveiling of the official Binational Health Week Mural on September 30 at 11:30 AM at the HSA, McHenry Medical Office, 1209 Woodrow Avenue Suite B-10 in Modesto, CA 95350. If we can have the Proclamations presented there it would be ideal.

The Eight Annual BHW took place October 6-15, 2008 and witnessed the largest participation since its inception in 2001. An estimated 549,361 people participated in 5,885 activities throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, 10,377 agencies and 22,905 volunteers participated in the organization of the activities, with the leadership of 114 consulates working together with 140 planning committees.

This expansion was due in large part to partnerships between main partners including the Secretariats of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Colombia, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Social Security Institute, California’s Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, the California Healthcare Foundation, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California in Berkeley, School of Public Health. BHW is intended as a first step in a larger program of cooperation amongst the United States and Latin American countries to improve the health and well being of underserved populations.

The planning for the Ninth Annual Binational Health Week has already commenced. Community clinics and health volunteers are already doing wonderful outreach with the underserved and the Latino population in Stanislaus County.

Stanislaus County's Binational Health Faire Task Force is asking that SCOE Board endorse this effort through a Board of Supervisors Resolution. This resolution would officially endorse BHW and would call on your county residents to participate in BHW activities. I have attached a draft resolution for the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to review and revise as needed; if you need an electronic version please contact me or email me at 209-338-5716 or yval@elconcilio.org

Sincerely,

Yamil Valdovinos
Bi-national Health Care Task Force