

## **Far Northern Regional Center**

Focus Group - Corning, CA

October 18, 2018

Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) conducted a focus group in Corning, CA to gain a better understanding of regional center needs within our Hispanic and Spanish speaking clients and their families. The focus groups included a brief presentation about FNRC and a series of open-ended questions for families about regional center services and barriers to receiving services. The format was informal; ten families attended this focus group.

The results of the focus group showed that families lacked the overall knowledge of regional center services or other services available, a few attributed the lack of knowledge to being new to the regional center. There was indication of some respite, but finding a bilingual and trusted individual as their worker was a struggle. There was a big focus from this group regarding social activities and socialization for their child. When asked what services they would like to see at the regional center (other than socialization), the group talked about the struggle of services in their location with many services being in either Chico or Redding. Overall, the statements that resonated throughout the focus group was that they would like to see more culturally appropriate programs and services offered in their area.

In an effort to reduce disparity, the Promotores Program was created under the ABX2 grant. The grant period is from March 2017 to February 2019. Since implementation of the Promotores Program, an increase of 12% in POS expended from FY15/16 to FY 16/17 in our Hispanic population, that number is further increased to 23% in our Hispanic clients in the Promotores Program.