

**Memorandum of Understanding
among**

**the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*,
the *National Safety Council (NSC)*,
the *Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)*, and
the *National Alliance for Hispanic Health (The Alliance)*.**

**to foster collaboration in addressing
the Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety
needs of Hispanics in the Americas**

1. **Whereas the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (hereinafter referred to as “EPA”)** is an independent federal agency of the United States Government established to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends. EPA’s goals include: clean air; preventing pollution and reducing environmental and human health risks in communities, homes, workplaces and ecosystems; reduction of global and cross-border environmental risks; and expansion of Americans’ right to know about their environment.
2. **Whereas the *National Safety Council* (hereinafter referred to as “NSC”)** is a nonprofit, non-governmental, international public service organization dedicated to improving the safety, health and environmental well being of all people. NSC is the only federally chartered safety, health, and environmental organization in the United States and it is the premier source of safety and health information nationwide. The mission of the National Safety Council is "to educate and influence society to adopt safety, health and environmental policies, practices and procedures that prevent and mitigate human suffering and economic losses arising from preventable causes." This mission includes occupational and environmental health and general wellness to promote safety and health.
3. **Whereas the *National Alliance for Hispanic Health* (hereinafter referred to as “the Alliance”)** is the oldest and largest network of health and human service providers serving over 10 million Hispanic consumers throughout the United States. Since 1973, the Alliance has represented all Hispanic population groups, has been dedicated to community based solutions, and has maintained as one of its policies to accept no funds from tobacco or alcohol companies. The Alliance's vision is strong, healthy Hispanic communities whose contributions are recognized by a society that fosters the health, well-being, and prosperity of all its members.
4. **Whereas the *Pan-American Health Organization* (hereinafter referred to as “PAHO”)** is the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Americas and the specialized health agency of the inter-American system, internationally recognized and mandated to promote health and to prevent disease and contribute to attaining equitable access to quality health services. PAHO has designated workers' health as one of its priority areas in its strategic and programmatic orientation policies for 1999-2002, and its Regional Plan of Workers' health was approved during its September 1999 Directing Council.

5. **Recalling that** the mission of the aforementioned organizations is to ensure a particular focus on and priority attention to the fight against the environmental and occupational conditions that pose severe threats to the health, safety, peace, security and well-being of the public,
6. **Considering** that the goals and objectives of health and human development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress and instability for the family and for society,
7. **Aware** that Hispanics across the hemisphere face significant public health challenges such as environmental health risks, malnutrition, chronic diseases, inadequate access to quality and appropriate health care services, and lack of health insurance coverage,

The cooperating organizations have reached the following understanding:

Section I ***Purpose and scope***

This memorandum of Understanding is intended to establish a framework for cooperation among the EPA, the NSC, the Alliance, and PAHO to develop and implement collaborative activities designed to improve public health, address environmental and occupational safety & health issues, and promote adequate access to quality and appropriate health care for the Hispanics in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Section II ***Objectives***

- a. The objective of the cooperating organizations is to design and implement collaborative activities, based on a common agenda and work plan, in order to:
 - 1) address the pressing environmental and occupational health & safety issues of the Hispanic community;
 - 2) convene an Hispanic Forum on these issues;
 - 3) help develop and foster national as well as international partnerships to help address these issues in the 21st Century.

Section III ***Implementation***

In carrying out the collaboration envisioned by this Memorandum of Understanding, the cooperating organizations intend to undertake, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of human and financial resources, the following activities:

A. **The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***;

- 1) Participate in work groups, planning sessions, and related subgroup meetings
- 2) Establish a technical subgroup comprised of environmental health experts from EPA and other federal agencies, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, community-based organizations, NGOs, research organizations, and universities, in order to conduct research, exchange information, and raise awareness of priority issues.
- 3) Facilitate meetings and other activities of the environmental health subgroup of the initiative in collaboration with the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and other partners.
- 4) Assist and collaborate in the creation of a position paper on environmental health issues in cooperation with the associated workgroup.
- 5) Disseminate information concerning this partnership using EPA's outreach and communications networks, including national and local environmental organizations, regional offices and laboratories.
- 6) Serve as a facilitator/coordinator for EPA's Hispanic Stakeholders meeting.
- 7) Ensure that appropriate follow-up is done after the Hispanic Forum is held in October, to include implementation of recommendations and the plan of action.
- 8) Undertake any other activities mutually agreed upon by the cooperating organizations.

B. **The *National Safety Council***;

- 1) Participate in the planning and promotion of the October 2000 Hispanic Forum as a full co-sponsor;
- 2) Establish a technical sub-group on occupational safety and health issues (co-sponsored by OSHA) composed of government officials and representatives of NGOs, Universities, community-based organizations, research institutions, and civil society, in order to exchange information, as well as promote and coordinate activities which the cooperating organizations may agree upon. Such activities include, but are not limited to, hosting occupational sub-group meetings, the identification, research, analysis, and draft of a working paper regarding four issues that are relevant to this sub-group, and finally, the identification of local participants, promotion, and the selection of speakers for the October 2000 Hispanic Forum;
- 3) Provide technical, administrative, and logistical support services in order to host a Hispanic Forum on safety, health, and environmental protection needs of the Hispanic community in the United States and Latin America. Such activities include, but are not limited to, registration for the 2000 NSC Congress & Exposition/Hispanic Forum; hotel transportation to and from the Orange County Convention Center, and the coordination of Forum meeting space as well as food/beverage requirements;
- 4) Assist the Hispanic Forum participants in the creation and implementation of position papers on the selected occupational, environmental, and international issues affecting the Hispanics in the United States and Latin America.

5) Continue to create and build upon strategic partnerships to further enhance Hispanic Forum through promotion and networking;

6) Promote and publicize this initiative using NSC's well established outreach outlets including the Environmental Health Center (EHC), publications, newsletters, partnerships, Chapter network, and the International Safety Council;

7) Ensure an appropriate follow-up of the October 2000 Hispanic Forum is conducted, providing technical assistance and logistical support in the implementation of the position paper and the expected plan of action;

8) Undertake any other activities as the cooperating organizations may agree upon.

C. *The National Alliance for Hispanic Health;*

1) Participate in work groups, planning sessions, and related subgroup meetings.

2) Assist and collaborate in the creation of a position paper on environmental health issues in cooperation with the associated workgroup.

3) Publicize this initiative using the Alliance's well-established outreach network, including national and local Hispanic community based organizations.

4) Participate in the Hispanic Stakeholders meeting.

5) Ensure that appropriate follow-up is done after the Hispanic Forum is held in October, to include implementation of recommendations and the plan of action.

6) Undertake any other activities mutually agreed upon by the cooperating organizations.

D. *The Pan-American Health Organization;*

1) Establish a technical sub-group on International Workers' Health Issues composed of government officials and representatives of NGOs, Universities, community organizations, research institutions, and civil society, in order to exchange information, as well as promote and coordinate activities which the cooperating organizations may agree upon. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, the identification, research, analysis and draft of a working paper regarding four issues that are relevant to this sub-group, and finally, the identification of local and international participants and the selection of speakers for the October 2000 Hispanic Forum;

2) Assist the cooperating organizations in producing a position paper on the selected environmental, occupational and international issues affecting the Hispanics; examine, in the framework of this position paper, intervention options and a recommendation for actions to reduce health status and health coverage inequities, strengthen existing health institutions and infrastructure, as well as ways to enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors, as appropriate;

3) Plan meetings dates and agendas, draft meetings proceedings, and provide overall

direction and leadership for its sub-group in particular and for all groups in general;

4) Promote and publicize this initiative using its well-established networks throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Also, PAHO will create and manage a website as a media tool on an independent server.

5) Mobilize and create synergies between key actors and stakeholders in Hispanic health issues;

6) Provide ad-hoc logistical and administrative support for the organization and planning of the October 2000 Hispanic Forum;

7) Ensure an appropriate follow-up of the October 2000 Hispanic Forum, providing technical assistance to the participating organizations in the implementation of the position paper and plan of action;

8) Undertake any other activities that may seem mutually advisable to the cooperating organizations .

Section IV ***Evaluation***

The cooperating organizations will jointly evaluate activities conducted under this Memorandum of Understanding at least once every month until the October 2000 Hispanic Forum and a least once every three months after that.

Section V ***Interpretation***

The cooperating organizations agree to resolve any differences in the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding by consultation with all participating organizations.

Section VI ***Commencement and Duration of Activities***

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall govern collaborative activities undertaken between the cooperating organizations under its aegis upon its signature and shall remain in effect until revoked. After an initial period of one year, the cooperating organizations agree to review this Memorandum with a view to continuation, modification or termination of the collaborative activities undertaken.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified in writing by agreement of all cooperating organizations.

3. Collaborative activities under this MOU may be terminated by a participating cooperating organization after giving 90 days notice in writing to the other organizations.

Section VII
Miscellaneous. Use of Logo

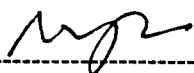
None of the cooperating organizations shall issue any press releases or other public statements or mailings concerning this Memorandum of Understanding without prior consultation with and consent from the other organizations. In addition, the Cooperating organizations shall not use, or authorize third parties to use the name logo, emblem, trademark or other proprietary mark of the a organization without the prior written consent of such organization.

Signed at Washington DC on Thursday September 21st 2000.

For and on behalf of the

United States Environmental Protection Agency

National Safety Council



Romulo L. Diaz, Jr.
Assistant Administrator for Administration &
Resources Management



Gerald F. Scannel
President and CEO

Pan-American Health Organization

National Alliance for Hispanic Health



Mauricio Pardo,
Director, Division of Health & Environment



Eliana Loveluck
Director, Center for Consumers