

# Cross Border Initiative

Working with Communities on the U.S.  
Mexico Border

Leslie Cohen, JD, Sonoran UCEDD

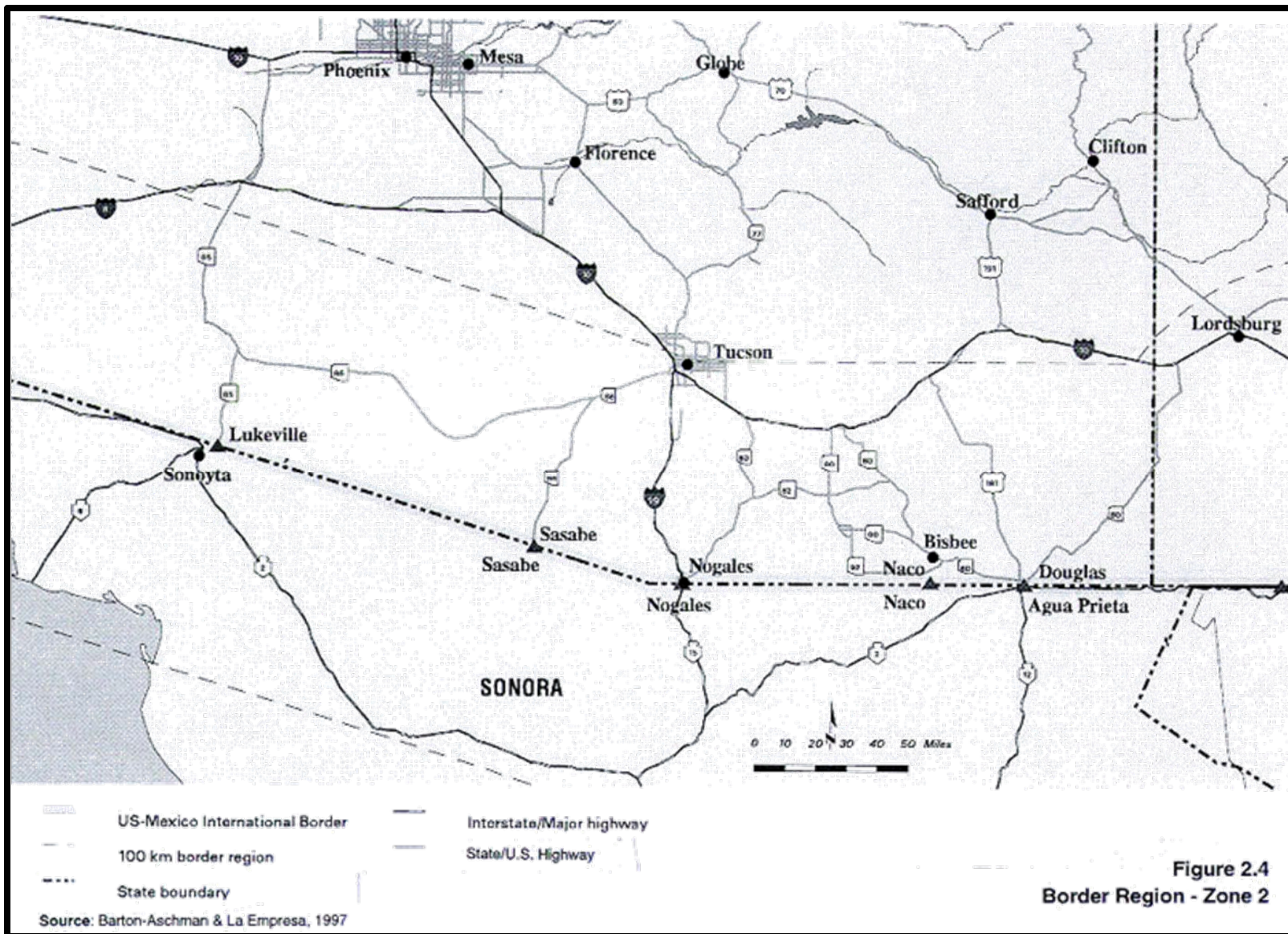
Juan Zepeda, DIF Sonora



# Sonoran UCEDD

- **GOAL:** Improve Health and Wellness of Individuals with DD with particular emphasis on individuals living along the Arizona/Sonora Border and in Hispanic communities.
- **Activity:** Organize a biennial bi-national conference to describe and develop strategies around border issues affecting the health and well-being of people with DD.





**Figure 2.4**  
**Border Region - Zone 2**

# Southern Arizona

- 4 Southern Arizona Counties on Border (total population 1.5 million)
- Large Hispanic Population (35 % Tucson, up to 90% in communities on border)
- Large Percentage Spanish monolingual speaking families (25% of all Arizonans speak Spanish at home)
- Largely rural outside of Tucson



# Disability Service System

- **DD Eligibility**– autism, cognitive, epilepsy, cerebral palsy (offices throughout S. AZ)
- **DD Services** – comprehensive home and community based (Medicaid Funded)
- **Challenges** – non-Medicaid eligible, lack of documentation, low number of service providers/therapists



# Sonora State and Nogales DIF

- Sonora borders the state of Chihuahua to the east, Sinaloa to the south and Baja California to the northwest; to the north it shares an extensive border with the U.S. state of Arizona and a shorter one with New Mexico. To its west lies the Gulf of California; the state of Baja California Sur also shares a maritime boundary with Sonora.
- DIF is an autonomous branch of City Hall and we are responsible for different social benefit programs that aid the most vulnerable sectors of our city.





# DIF Disability Program

DIF Nogales Disability Program works the following ways:

- Providing food baskets to people with disabilities prior they qualified via social study.
- Granting scholarships.
- Partial support for prosthesis.
- Support with wheelchairs and other mobility aids
- Support with medical services and studies.
- Psychological therapies.
- Support with transportation and travel expenses during medical situations.
- Physical rehabilitation and language therapies.
- Outreaching other national and international institutions for help.
- Productive projects to employ people with disabilities.
- Media campaigns for sensibility.






# ¡Por favor ayúdanos!

**solicito tu respeto y consideración hacia las personas con discapacidad**





**Campaña para fomentar el respeto a las personas con discapacidad que utilizan el transporte urbano.**



Por favor, considera el asiento detrás del chofer o el marcado específicamente para uso de alguna persona discapacitada

## Conductor:

- Cuando una persona con discapacidad pretenda abordar tu camión, dale tiempo para subir y sentarse, y así evitarás accidentes
- Si ves que alguna persona está sentada en el asiento asignado para personas discapacitadas y alguien con discapacidad lo necesita, *solicítale amablemente que le ceda el asiento.*
- Si una persona con discapacidad te solicita orientación, por favor ayúdala. Eso demostrará tu calidad de servicio.

**Las personas con discapacidad ya tienen demasiados obstáculos. NO te conviertas en uno más para ellos.**



# No te estaciones

**en los cajones asignados para personas con discapacidad**

**Ponte en su lugar. dales su lugar**





**Las infracciones o multas expedidas por estacionarse en un cajón asignado para personas con discapacidad son**

## NO NEGOCIABLES

Para estacionarse en un cajón asignado debes de contar con la placa metálica con el logotipo representativo de la discapacidad. El uso de tarjetones de cartón o plástico suspendidos del espejo retrovisor del automóvil **NO SON VÁLIDOS** porque no existe ninguna dependencia local que los asigne.

Para solicitar tus placas metálicas en la agencia fiscal, debes de contar con una credencial que acrediten que algún familiar directo papá, mamá, o hijos sufren de alguna discapacidad.

**Ponte en su lugar: dales su lugar**





## Mass Media Campaigns

### Newspaper clippings

### Nace nueva esperanza para niños autistas

Señala actividades terapéuticas al fortalecer todo el cuerpo del niño





### Plan de Solución Integral del Agua, una necesidad: MAM

Imparte Diana Chavez, comienza a educando



Visitará Conalep Arnoldo Soto Soto

Tramites gratuitos en Registro Civil

Presenta a tiempo su declaración anual por Internet, es más rápida y fácil




### Apoya DIF a niños autistas con un novedoso tratamiento

Haran consulta para decidir sanciones contra los punibles




Concurso de fachadas




Quiere ayudar a los que como el sufrieron por ser discapacitados



**¡Mas de 600 en un Instante \$19.99**

**SIN TRUCOS \$25,000 de descuento**

**¿POR QUÉ SEGUIR DESEÁNDOLO? \$22,000 de descuento**

**Amplio Estacionamiento Completamente GRATIS**

**MEZA TIRES WHEELS, INC. 20% de descuento**

## Sociales

**Para los pequeños lectores**

**Nutrición y Vida**

**'Manitas que hablan' ya tiene instalaciones**

**Tienen doble festejo**

**La Seguridad y el Bienestar en Plaza Pedregal**



# Developmental Process

- Infancy stage
  - Visited agencies and talked with families in SE Arizona
  - Developed relationship with DIF in Nogales, Sonora
  - Educated in the strengths of communities and where gaps exist
  - Organized Border Initiative Planning Committee



# Developmental Process

- Early childhood stage
  - Survey – both sides of the border
  - Identified and contacted experts in the areas where gaps were found
- Adolescent stage
  - Self-identity - proposed topics and conference format
  - Making plans for the future – projects?



# Analysis of Data Collection

- **Strengths** – strong family ties, community involvement, familiar service systems/providers
- **Challenges** – obtaining and repairing assistive technology items; special education and related services; employment opportunity and advocacy.



# View from Sonora

## St Andrews Clinic\*

- In 2007 the following miracles were made possible for over 2,000 Mexican infants and Children
- 2,422 Clinic visits by volunteer doctors
- 87 Prostheses (legs, arms, eyes)
- 209 Office visits (USA and Mexico)
- 120 Pairs of Orthotic footwear
- 851 Medication prescriptions filled
- 50 Hearing aids
- 348 Medical diagnostic tests
- 89 Pairs of eyeglasses
- 36 Orthopedic surgeries
- 4 Eye surgeries
- 39 Cleft Palate surgeries



\* Source: <http://www.standrewsclinic.org/default.htm>



# Issues from DIF's clients

- Sensibility
- Respect
- Rights
- Gaps in Special Education
- Overprotection from Parents
- City Design



# Developmental Process Maturity?

- Goal – capacity building along the Arizona/Sonora Border
- Creating a conference and projects where:
  - people develop a skill
  - on-going relationships are forged
  - community challenges/gaps are addressed



# Enhancing the strengths of people with disabilities in the Arizona – Sonoran border region

Come learn new skills, strategies, and opportunities through mini-courses addressing topics relevant to individuals with disabilities.



Audience: Disability Professionals, Employers, Teachers,  
Individuals with Disabilities and their Families  
When: October 17-18, 2008  
Where: Universidad del Valle de Mexico, Nogales, Sonora

For more information and to register online visit  
<http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu>  
or contact Jacy Bell at [ucedd@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ucedd@email.arizona.edu)  
or by phone at (520) 626-0442

Please **Register** by **September 15, 2008**  
Limited space available



# Conference Structure

- Plenary – bringing speakers from both sides of the border
- Workshops – day and ½ intensive skill building:
  - special education and behavior supports
  - advocacy building
  - employment/micro loans
  - therapies – feeding, relaxation, strategies





# Conference Goals

- Build skills
- Build relationships
- On-going work



# Conference Attendance

- 150 Registered Attendees
- Family members, individuals with disabilities, teachers, therapists, disability agency staff
- Majority from Mexico
- Presenters: University Faculty, Community Professionals, Advocacy and Non-profit leaders



# Plenary Session



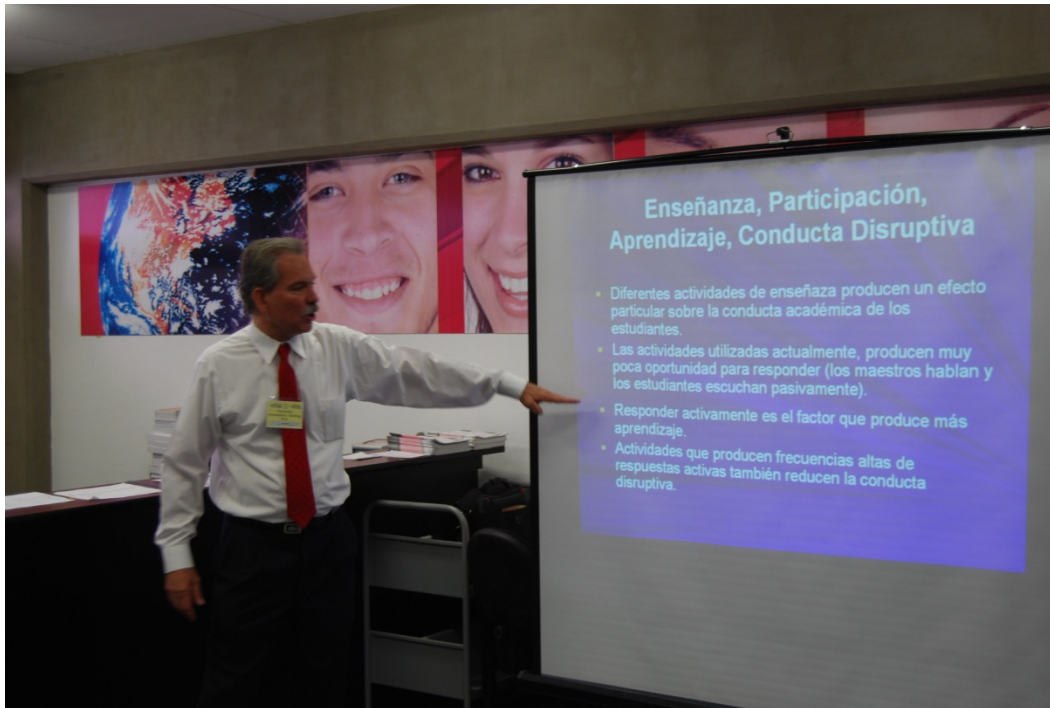
Welcoming Address:  
Patricia O'Daly de Martinez,  
President of DIF

Adaptation Station Project:  
Christine Small



# Mini-Courses/Workshops

Workshop: Effective Teaching and Managing  
Positive Behavioral Supports  
Dr. Fernando Armendariz



Mini-Course: Advocacy Building  
Yolanda Sevillano &  
Brian McCracken



Mini-Course: Relaxation Therapies  
Drs. John Ferreira & Octavio Molera





# Conference Evaluation Comments

## What participants liked most:

“la participación de personas con discapacidad”

“su diversidad”

“bilingual presentations & bilateral attendance”

“a desarrollo de los temas”

“La interacción con los conferencistas, así como la amplia información”

“INCLUSIVE!”

“organización y ponentes”

“la actitud positiva”

“la aplicación que pudiera tener en la comunidad”

“multilingual, multicultural”

“Excellent organizational effort.”

“Todo me gusto, desde que llego e hasta el final”

“Me gusto todo, es la primer conferencia a la que asisto en la que puedo decir esto y he asistido a muchas.”

“Lo motivacional”

# Conference Logistics in Mexico

Location

Auditorium

Classrooms

Hotel

Conference UVM

Volunteers

Logistics

Entertainment



# Happy Hour Entertainment



# Sustainable Projects arising from Conference/Partnerships

- Hearing Aid Manufacture/Distribution
- Wheelchair Manufacture/Repair
- Adaptation Station





# HEARING AID INITIATIVE:

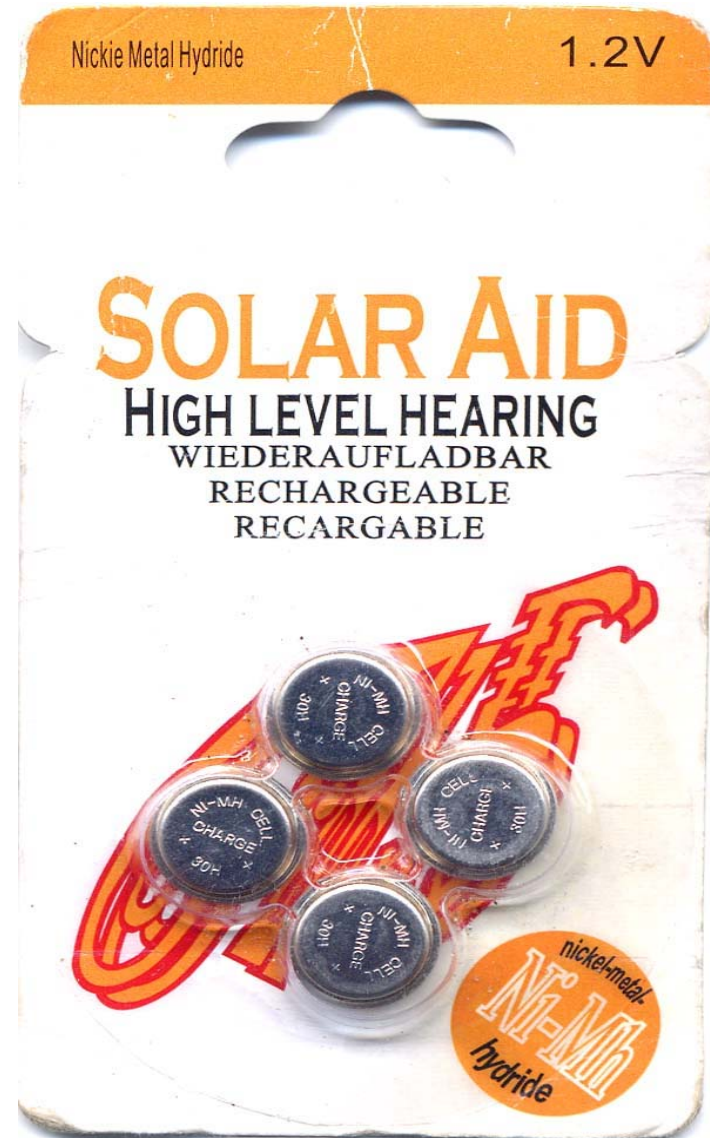
## Situation and Problems

- 250 million people need a hearing aid, 170 million of them in developing countries (WHO 2001).
- Only 6 million are manufactured per year.
- 12% go to developing countries.
- 90% of the estimated 665.000 babies born with hearing impairment annually reside in developing countries (Olusanya et al.,2005).



# Low cost solar powered hearing aid manufacture project

Based on  
successful  
projects in  
Botswana and  
Jordan  
Howard Weinstein



# Low cost solar powered hearing aid manufacture project

- Provide employment
- Low cost hearing aids (less than \$200)
- Currently working with Mexican Partners and U of A Audiologists, Sonoran UCEDD



# Wheelchair Manufacture and Repair

- Based on Projimo Project (David Warner)
- Already purchased equipment with grant
- Training workers/looking for funding



# Adaptation Station

- Based on existing Tucson project
- Creation of low cost/low tech assistive devices
- Utilizing community expertise to develop individualized assistive supports





# Lessons Learned

- Partnerships with agencies and individuals in border area essential
- Complexities of working bi-nationally
- Challenges of remaining flexible within a university structure
- Rewards are great!

