

Gonzales-Hanson to be honored at national conference

Rachel Gonzales-Hansen, CEO of Community Health Development Inc., has been awarded the 2014 Louis S. Garcia Migrant Health Services award.



The award is given by the National Association of Community Health Centers and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions in primary health care management and service in migrant/farworker health.

of Louis S. Garcia, who served as president of the association from 1978-79. Gonzales-Hanson was presented with the award at the 45th annual Community Health Institute and Expo, held Aug. 22-26 in San Diego, California. It is a national conference attended by nearly 2,000 community health leaders from across the country.

Today, the center has been recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home by the National Committee on Quality Assurance. CHDI serves over 11,700 area residents in farming and ranching communities of Uvalde, Real, Edwards, and parts of Zavala County. Gonzales-Hanson is nationally recognized for her leadership role in engaging communities to bring doctors and needed health services to rural and migrant farmworker communities.

care among the medically underserved. "I have known Rachel Gonzales-Hanson for 29 years and am honored to call her my colleague and my friend," said José E. Camacho, executive director of the Texas Association of Community Health Centers. "I have watched her personally and professionally transform from a single mom working as a receptionist at a newly-established health center to a community, state, and national leader in the health center movement. "She is a powerful combination of corazon and smart common sense. Rachel singularly deserves

to be this year's recipient of our national association's Louis S. Garcia Health Services Award." Throughout her years with CHDI, Gonzales-Hanson has served on the Texas Association of Community Health Centers' board of directors as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Primary Care Association. Her involvement with National Association of Community Health Centers also has been at many levels, chairing committees and subcommittees and serving as Parliamentarian for the Board of Directors

in 1965 and 2004. During 1997-98, she served as NACHC Board Chair and was the first Hispanic woman to hold this elected office. Gonzales-Hanson was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and served as an ombudsperson for migrant health issues for the associate administrator of the Bureau of Primary Health Care. She was also appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Administration to the Veteran's Rural Health Advisory Committee.