



## **AL CASTRO, MS/CSW**

Alberto (Al) Castro, MS, CSW, is the Program Director of the Community Health & Research Department at the United Community Center, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he has served in several leadership roles since 1994. Mr. Castro has a master's degree in business management from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, a bachelor's degree in social work from Carroll University, Waukesha, WI, and is a Wisconsin licensed social worker. Mr. Castro helps to lead and manage the work and development of the United Community Center (UCC), a large, multi-services Latino non-profit community organization.

UCC serves about 16,000 individuals annually, in a range of young children to older adults, through various programs in the areas of childcare, education, recreation, youth prevention, substance abuse treatment, elderly services, dementia care, low-income housing, fitness, health, and neighborhood development programs.

In his role, Mr. Castro serves as the primary liaison or co-principal investigator in community health research projects with local research universities and is responsible for developing and maintaining collaborations and partnerships for effective community engaged research in the Latino population of greater Milwaukee. He manages research and health services projects via grants from federal, state, academic or foundation sources. UCC collaborates with various academic research universities (such as Medical College of Wisconsin, UW-Madison, Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee, Carroll University), along with other community organizations, in conducting community-engaged research in the areas of health issues and inequities among the Latino community, that can lead towards development of programs and services that address health-related disparities and needs. Mr. Castro is a co-author in various published health research articles related to these community health research projects.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Castro had been the program director of the UCC Latino Geriatric Center, established in 2007, which is composed of the only Spanish memory diagnostic clinic for Latinos in Wisconsin, along with an adult day center for Latinos with dementia care needs. He recently led the establishment of a mobile memory clinic program in Milwaukee in 2019 to expand earlier detection, diagnosis, and care for Latinos in Milwaukee. Mr. Castro is currently helping to lead the development of a new dementia care initiative to establish a 4-county regional consortium of community partnerships that will expand the use of tele-health services to improve access to timely and culturally appropriate dementia screening, diagnosis, and supportive care services for Latinos in the southeastern region of Wisconsin.

Mr. Castro has over 45 years of experience in direct social work or in management in various human services programs, including child protective services, juvenile services, older adult services, teen parenting services, substance abuse services and non-profit community services. He is a frequent presenter or panelist in various local, regional or national conferences or seminars.

Mr. Castro currently serves as vice-chair of the Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition and serves on the UW-Madison SMPH/TRIUMPH community advisory committee. He is a former member of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Minority Health Advisory Committee and of the Alzheimer's Association Board, as well as being a former adjunct social work faculty at UW-Milwaukee. In 2019, the Medical College of Wisconsin recognized his efforts in promoting academic-community engagement with the President's Award for Community Engagement. In the same year, UW-Madison's Chancellor recognized the work of the UCC Health Research staff through the Community-University Partnership Award.