

MYRTLE B. FONTENO

Distinguished Lecture Series



Date and time:

November 10, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Location:

7033 Southwest Freeway, Conference Center Room B

Stigma: *An American Secret – An American Shame*

The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County's 2009 lecture series presents **José Ramirez** discussing the history of stigma and how it adversely affects those with various disabilities.

Ramirez, who works in Mental Retardation Services for the authority, is intimately acquainted with the torment of stigma. As a young man he was diagnosed with Hansen's disease and then taken from his South Texas home to spend years away from his family in a Louisiana institution for those then known

as "lepers" an offensive and labeling term to all persons affected by leprosy.

Ramirez will offer recommendations on how to battle stigma, the act of labeling, rejecting or displaying unexplained fear of a person.

The Fonteno lecture series is an event that should not be missed. Great effort is expended in offering the most dynamic speakers available. Past speakers have included Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States and Harvard Professor Dr. William Glazer.

**For additional information, contact Vernell Jessie
Director of Public Affairs, at 713.970.7165**

Sponsors include: Friends of MHMRA,
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, MHMRA Public Affairs

www.mhmraharris.org