



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Ellensburg Retreat Minutes
March 14-15, 2008

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Jorge Chacón, Victor Chacón, Henry Cruz, Ty Córdova, Felix Negron, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Rosalba Pitkin, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Facilitator for Strategic Plan: Jose Garcia Pabón

Commissioners not present: Ninfa Gutierrez and Gabriel Portugal

III. Commissioner Activity Graphs & Public Meeting Attendance Graph

All Commissioners present at meeting were given the following graphs:

- Individual activity reports with “NA” category; reminder that Commissioner activity should be in line with our goals
- Individual activity reports without the “NA” category
- Public meeting attendance

Action Item for Chair: Recognition awards for Commissioners

Action Item for Staff: Look into putting Commissioner Activity graph on the website (perhaps in the Commissioner Bio and picture section)

IV. Strategic Plan Session (commenced at 6:45 PM)

Facilitator Jose Garcia Pabon restated CHA’s four main goals:

- 1) Commissioners have a clear understanding of the purpose, goals, and mandate of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.
- 2) Commissioners know what their individual role and responsibilities are (CHA and constituents).
- 3) Commissioners are cognitive of the level of commitment and support that is needed to make an impact on the Latino community and the Government.
- 4) Commissioners have developed and approved the strategic plan that will guide their actions as Commissioners.

Education Committee

Education Goals (as posted prior to meeting)

- Parent Involvement (Enhance support for Latino Families)

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Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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- Educational Family Liaisons in all school districts
- “Modeling Success” – Checklist to all schools districts
- Develop Cultural Competency Liaison (OSPI)

Education Goals Brainstorming Session:

- Parent Involvement (Areas to influence)
- Funding
- Parent teacher conference
- Volunteering
- Communication (staff and kids)
- Development of trust towards school
- Schools more proactive
- Advocacy
- Parent Education/Information
- Use of language; English and Spanish
- Accurate translation of information and materials
- Political involvement (School Board member or Latino Group)
- Parent organizing/support
- Talk with OSPI

Activities

- Meetings/Newsletter
- Use existing resources strategically (Media, radio, etc.)

Education Committee Strategies included:

- Choose strategic institutional targets
- Get facts and figures/Obtain information on what is in place
- Identify best practices
- Make recommendations
- Follow-up
- Measurement
 - Infuse Latino parent involvement in existing grants and programs targeting parent involvement
 - Specific outcome measurement targeting Latino families
- Partnership to disseminate best practices to the district
- Two meetings a year with OSPI/meetings that impact

Education Barriers

- Schools in Mexico; parent involvement is not necessary
- Cultural/tradition
- Language
- Lack of trust
- Legal/Immigration status
- Time
- Low level of education

Questions to examine:

- How are we going to measure the impact of the Commission?

- What has happened as a result of the actions of the Commission?
- Parent Involvement and funding are the two major goals for the Education Committee!

Commission's Role/Activities

- Obtain information from Superintendents (what is going on in regards to parent involvement and what funding is being received)
- Obtain information of best practices in other regions
- Communicate with each other in terms of what is working

Homework includes:

- Describe the situation (short statement)
- List the goal, impact measurement, action/steps, input, timeline, and participants responsible

Action Item: Commissioner V. Chacón will come up with three questions and send to all Commissioners.

Justice & Equity Committee

Justice & Equity Goals (posted prior to start of meeting)

- Reduce number of Latino youth in gangs through intervention, prevention
 - Determine within our communities local issues
 - Communicate with local officials to address problems
 - Encourage collaboration between community and government
- Increase civic engagement by Latinos
 - Determine in own communities (with significant percentage of Latinos) reasons for low voter turnout and low number of Latinos in office
 - Communicate with local officials to address problems
 - Encourage collaboration between community and government
 - Statewide forum on studies with Legislators/agencies as target audience

Civic Engagement Issues

- Wider/deeper impact
- Not addressed very much

Situation:

- Low vote turn out
- Few Latinos in office (boards, commissions, etc)
- Low Registration
- Apathy
- Lack of ownership
- Feeling that "I'm not part of this community"
- Voting system-at large district
- Matt Barreto form UW
- 3 Groups: non-citizens, citizens able to vote, citizens under age

Goals: Increase Civic Engagement

- Participation in public discourse

- Making your voice be heard
- Develop skills/basic of civic engagement
- Educating Latinos on civic engagement
- Get involved with the community
- *Develop Leaders
- *Establish the infrastructure to build leadership
- Establish a support system
- CHA Youth Leadership

Ideas:

- Mentoring
- LEAP
- Support Latino organizations (MECHA)
- NHLI
- USHLI
- LULAC
- Personal mentoring/leading

Meeting adjourned at 9PM

Saturday, March 15, 2008

Committee's met separately at 8AM; full participation commenced at 9AM

Uriel went over the Declaration statement & Power and Duties:

Declaration:

- Duty of state to improve the well-being of Hispanics by enabling them to participate in tall fields of endeavor and assisting them in obtaining government services

Powers & Duties:

- Examine and define issues
- Make recommendations to Governor and State agencies on programs and laws
- Advice Governor and State agencies on development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs
- Establish relationships with State agencies, local government, and private sector to promote equal opportunity
- Receive gifts and endowments

Commissioner V. Chacón suggested that we have CHA's declaration statement printed on the back of the Commissioner business cards.

Action Item: Staff will follow up on this suggestion.

Justice & Equity Committee

Develop Leaders – Infrastructure

- Conference on voting systems
- Identifying existing programs on leadership training and gaps
 - Find partners (USHLI, LEAP, high schools, etc)
 - Review Board, endorsement
 - EDI (Educational Development Institute – Asian group)
- Latino Leadership Board (consisting of CHA, USHLI etc.)
- Identify a platform
- Leadership Conference for all Latinos “Creating a Collective Voice” theme
- Board Members:
 - Education
 - Law Enforcement
 - Healthcare
 - Parents and Youth
- Latino based organizations: SeaMar, Chicano Studies, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Latina Women, WSU, Latino Program, MECHA, LULAC, etc.

CHA will coordinate the creation of a Latino Leadership board whose mission will be to develop a Latino Leadership Conference.

Actions	Responsibility	Action Items	Timeline
Identify Organizations	All	Send list of organizations to Uriel; he will compile & give to all at the Omak Mtg.	April 7th (Contact name, organization, area of work, phone & email)
Develop a Latino Paper (Rationale paper regarding the formation of the Board)	Justice & Equity Committee	Justice & Equity Committee will draft the Rationale paper with input from Jose, will then give to Executive Committee for input, and Justice& Equity will finalize.	April 5th - Present draft to Exec. Committee TBD – Exec. Committee sends comments to J&E Committee April 25th - Final paper due
Establish/Expand Relationships	All	Ongoing – No deadline but needs to happen	Ongoing
Invitations to Meeting to Formalize Board & Formalize Commitment – MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)	Justice & Equity Committee/Board	Henry will prepare the Save the Date flyer Justice & Equity Committee will write the invite; staff will send out hard copy & electronic copy Board will formalize commitment	July 6th – Send out Save the Date flyer August 1st – Send out invitations Aug. 6th – RSVP due date Sept. 6th – Meeting date
Media (Public Relations)	Ty/Board		TBD

Communication Channels (Priority): Media, In Person, Phone Call, Email, Direct Mail

Education Committee Goal: To Achieve Latino academic success by increasing parental involvement related to school districts' demographics in Washington.

Actions	Responsibility	Outcomes	Timeline
Action Item #1: Request info on programs and grants that require for parent involvement and who received them (Annual meeting with OSPI Supt.)	1. Chair, Education Committee	1. Identify local models that identify Latino success	1. April 30 – target for a meeting with OSPI Supt.
Action Item #2: Request that goals be infused into programs and grants (specifically) so that they target Latino parents	2. CHA Education Committee	2. Identify areas of need in the state related to Latino parent involvement and models of Latino student success	2. WEA Annual meeting with local Supt's OSPI (present at WEA convention)
Action Item #3: Recommend OSPI collect outcome data that identifies parental involvement based on demographics	3. CHA Commissioners		3. April 15th – Deadline to collect input
Action Item #4: Obtain research information from OSPI that identifies best practices and models for Latino parent inclusion			
Action Item #5: Identify resources i.e. materials, trainers that discuss these practices			
Action Item #6: Collect input from local communities			
Action Item #7: Partner with OSPI in disseminating student parent information obtained to local superintendents			

Education

- How do Commissioners get the “real picture” info?
 - District superintendent
 - Specific schools
 - Community members
- Strategy on Plan B, to a “refusal” of CHA requests
- Education Committee draft a letter and sent to Uriel by March 25th
- Education Committee determines dates of WEA conference, gets on agenda and contacts WSSDA
- Meeting with WEA to address parent involvement

Timeline

- Timeline for WEA – WSSDA meeting to be finished by Education Committee by April 25th

Economic Development

Situation

- Latino businesses not aware of resources
- State Agencies lack outreach to Latino businesses
- State Agencies lack bilingual resources
- Broader community not aware of Latino business economic impact
- Too many Latino Businesses going out of business

Goal

- State agencies and business development centers increased services and programs for/with Latino business
- Development of a committee/organization consisting of state agencies and CHA to increase outreach
- Develop a training model for state agencies to enhance services to meet Latino business needs
- Introduce state agencies to existing Latino business resources (chambers, media, Latino businesses)

Actions

- Ongoing

Outcome

- Latino Business Conference (led by the Association of Chambers; L&I lead)
- Local involvement of Commissioner

East Commissioners

*Victor (Aug)
Gabriel (Aug)
Ninfa
*Jorge
Spokane Commissioner
Lourdes

West Commissioners

*Lillian
Henry
Lourdes (Aug)
*Felix
Ty
*Rosalba

Meetings (6 Commissioners for Quorum):

- OSPI in Olympia (Optional Mtg. for those not in the Education Committee and Chair)
- *OSPI, WEA, Superintendents, etc. Mtg. - Education Committee will attend
- Latino Leadership Board Meeting -Sept. 6: Executive and Justice & Equity Committee will attend
- Business Conference - No one will attend
- Omak Mtg. in April: Jorge, Ninfa, Gabriel, Victor, Lourdes, Uriel, & Alicia will attend
- Shelton Mtg. in June: Lillian, Henry, Felix, Ty, Rosalba, Lourdes, Uriel, & Alicia will attend
- Everett Mtg. in August: ALL will attend!
- Tacoma Mtg. in October has been **CANCELLED**

Public Sessions

Mattawa Mtg. (Jorge, Gabriel, and Uriel)

Action Item: Alicia will establish Commissioner Conference Calls beginning with the third Wednesday in May (5/21/08) monthly conference calls third Wednesday of every month for the rest of the year.

Spokane Commissioner

1. Cepeda (Law enforcement background)
2. Apodaca (Education background)
3. Alvarez (Business background)

Action Item: Target recruitment for Pasco's imminent vacancy

Reminder:

- Articles for the Newsletter are due Wednesday, March 19th; Jorge, Victor, Lillian, and Gabriel
- Response to emails; timely response

FYI: Public meeting commissioner packet info will be sent via email from this day forward.

Meeting adjourned: 2:30 PM