



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Everett  
Study Session Minutes  
August 22, 2008

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

**II. Roll Call.** Commissioner Ty Cordova, Henry Cruz, Felix Negrón, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Rosalba Pitkin, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

**III. Achievement Gap Study**

Dr. Frances Contreras presented the following:

- Introduction of students that will be assisting in the study
- Press Conference Items
- Overview of Proyecto Acceso which included the following:
  - Secondary Data Analysis Plan
  - Primary Data Collection Plan
  - District Criteria, Agreements, & Status
  - Final Protocols
- Next Step; Outline of Report by September 15, 2008

Per Dr. Contreras, parent surveys will be completed using the following venues:

- At School parent meetings
- At community events and churches
- In partnership with community organizations such as Gear Up, Campaña Quetzal, Casa Latina, and the Yakima Farm Workers Valley Clinic

Status on School Districts is as follows:

- Longview is restructuring, therefore, will not be participating
- Mt. Vernon is currently doing another study; 3 year study with OSPI due to start this Fall
- Othello; timing is not good
- Pasco, is also currently doing another study similar to Mt. Vernon
- Seattle – Some recent negative reports, however, Frances will continue to pursue efforts through Mayor Nickels and Maria from Campaña Quetzal
- Tacoma – Frances needs assistance from the Commission with this district; Per Ty a Latina is part of the school Board, Connie Brinkman
- Toppenish – Still working on this district
- Bremerton – Will be contacting soon

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Per Dr. Contreras, if Seattle, Tacoma, Toppenish, or Bremerton do not commit Wenatchee school district will be next in line.

Commissioner Pitkin asked if Vancouver school district including Evergreen were going to be considered.

Frances stated that they would add to the list and would stay in contact with her regarding the outcome.

Other comments regarding the Achievement Gap Study are as follows:

- Frances unable to obtain OSPI Reports that were done for the African American Commission; Uriel will follow up since they are public records
- Bernal Baca is on the Washington State Board; running start data can be obtained from him rather than going to each school district
- Multiple meetings with the ethnic commissions will not take place; more time will be dedicated to achievement gap study

#### **IV. Representative's Visit**

Representative John McCoy; 38<sup>th</sup> District shared the following:

- He is the Deputy General Manager of Quil Ceda Village,
- Member of the Washington Tribes (28 of them) and running for the 4<sup>th</sup> term
- 30 years in the Air Force; through them got into computers
- Chairman of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (88 throughout the US including native Hawaiians)
- Looking to collaborate with the Hispanic Caucus, African American Caucus, and Asian Caucus (Asian Caucus unfortunately does not have a Chairman at the national level) on accessibility to education for our kids

Representative Mike Sells; 38<sup>th</sup> District shared the following:

- Executive Secretary of the Snohomish County Labor Council AFL/CIO
- Past Classroom teacher in the Everett School District #2; both elementary and secondary level
- Vice Chair of the Everett Housing Authority Board
- Not happy with OSPI Superintendent (past WEA President); too much process
- Real challenge with Education next year; there needs to be a better way of testing standards
- Labor Movement; laborer and carpenter programs not easy to complete; requires much math and technological expertise

Commissioner Ortiz-Self stated that students needed to partner with businesses that could link them into apprenticeship programs to keep them in school. She added that more motivation was needed in all schools.

Chair Portillo-Salazar added that schools are not encouraging students to go into a trade school versus a college/university.

The following question was asked, "What is wrong with teaching kids in their native language?"

Representative Sells stated that he was a great supporter of teaching kids in their native language and giving them a conversational class at the end of their day.

Representative McCoy stated that administration of schools was vital; he also shared the following:

- Need incentives for schools
- Need to redirect funds for programs and get rid of programs that aren't working
- DSHS foster care programs are losing kids; students are removed from Latino homes and placed in non Latino homes
- Much disruption in families; reunification issues

Meeting ended at 4PM.



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August 23, 2008

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

**II. Roll Call.** Commissioner Ty Cordova, Henry Cruz, Felix Negrón, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Rosalba Pitkin, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

**III. Guest**

Bill Reed shared the following:

- He is a faculty member of Everett Community College
- Former Commissioner for the African American Commission
- Acknowledged that issues presented at meeting are real; system is not equitable
- Complimented Commissioner Ortiz-Self's work

**IV. Public Meeting and other CHA Business**

Public Meeting comments:

- Consensus was that Commissioner Ortiz-Self did a great job
- Format template was very helpful and process went very well
- Commissioner Ortiz-Self will assist other Commissioners with the preparation of the PP education piece

Commissioner Cordova asked if the Power Point was too long or if we should keep it as is. He added that the information is credible and that some folks not always aware of information presented in the Power Point.

Commissioner Cruz suggested that we have it in Spanish.

**Action Items:**

- Alicia will send Power Point to vendor to be translated.
- Director Iñiguez will consolidate population graphs
- Commissioner Portillo-Salazar will write letter to the Governor to request a meeting
- Commissioner Cordova will help local commissioners fine tune the agenda (draft of agenda of public agenda should include all invitees)
- Commissioner Ortiz-Self will send out thank you notes to all panel members and Legislators, do follow-up meetings with the Everett Superintendent, and join the Foster Care Board

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- Public Meeting Host Commissioner will find local folks to assist with public meetings

#### 2009 Meeting Schedule

- Centralia/Olympia (March 12-13) Public Meeting & Latino Legislative Day
- Royal City (May 15-16)
- South King County (August 21-22) Auburn, Renton, & Pacific
- Eastside (October) Latino Combined Fund Summit

Other areas to consider are:

- South Puget Sound, Spokane, Puyallup

Hot spots are:

- Skagit, Aberdeen, Connell, and Ellensburg

Current Commissioner Vacancy Process is as follows:

- Announcement goes out to data base subscribers and is posted on the website
- Candidate applications are sent to the Personnel Committee
- Personnel Committee which includes Executive Committee interviews all candidates
- Discussion after interviews; top three are selected and put in priority
- Recommendations are presented to the Chair and CHA members prior to sending to the Governor's office

#### **Action Item:**

- Director Iñiguez will check to see if candidate applications can be posted on our Database
- Commissioner Cordova will create draft of Personnel Committee Policy guidelines; due September 5, 2008

#### **V. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Negron shared the following:

- Aberdeen General Hospital issue regarding newborn birth certificates; Dad's name was not included and the parents were being charged \$90 to make the correction
- School issue: 17 year old Guatemalan student with a low comprehension level was put in middle school; parent was happy with him being there, however, school was putting him in special school

Commissioner Pitkin shared the following:

- Lack of adequate Medical Services; Sea Mar is the only free clinic, however, not receiving new patients
- She will be assisting the Mexican Consulate with the September 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> event
- Upcoming symposium by city leaders in Vancouver

Commissioner Cruz shared the following:

- Initiative 409 will prevent undocumented from getting licenses; George Chung from Hate to Hope is against it
- Border Patrol activity in the Peninsula; Twice they've gone into private property looking for salal harvesters
- Pacific's Chief of Police was arrested in July for drinking while driving

- Will me meeting with the Chief of Police from Shelton regarding outreach and diversity

Commissioner Cordova shared the following:

- Toured NW Detention Center; majority of detainees are Hispanic
- Cuban student still needing somewhere to stay; was working in Holland and came to a conference in Canada; detained at NW Detention Center
- Department of Employee Services in Tacoma; gap amongst Hispanics
- Joy Gomez Gonzalez is the new Director of Centro Latino
- President of Pierce County Hispanic Chamber has resigned
- Will be serving on the Clover Park Technical College Board
- Financial Literacy work group will be making recommendations to the Governor

Commissioner Portillo-Salazar shared the following:

- City of Bellevue started an Advisory Committee
- New Chief of Police in Bellevue; making an effort to work with the community and promoting diversity training
- NAVY ROTC in schools; soccer programs and outreach programs

Leadership Conference

- Possible keynote: Andrade from USHLI
- Limited to 100 attendees
- Date of conference: October 25<sup>th</sup>

Director Iñiguez reviewed the budget and shared the following:

- 12% decrease from last biennium's budget
- Asked Commissioners to send out performance surveys to their community contacts
- AGS Meeting Schedule was established; meetings will be at Bellevue City Hall
- Will be meeting with Bilingual Education Director
- Will be part of the DSHS Economic Services Board; will work to make policy changes
- ESD Executive Director, Karen asking for input on how ESD can improve services to Hispanics
- New American's Council appointments will be announced soon
- CHA Assessment Report: Jose Pabon Garcia will be doing the research, Carmen Esparza will do advertising, design, and layout, and State Farm will fund the printing costs

#### **Action Items**

- Articles for the Newsletter are due by September 15, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.