



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Lynnwood Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2011

Roll call

Commissioners present: Lillian Ortiz-Self, Ty Cordova, Rosalba Pitkin, Sharonne Navas, Ana Maria Martinez, and Manuel Reta.

Staff present: Uriel Iñiguez,

Vice Chair Ty Cordova called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Roll Call: All Commissioners present, staff member Marena Lear absent.

Chair Lillian Ortiz-Self thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioners introduced themselves and shared the areas that they represent as well as where they are based. The director also introduced himself.

The Chair thanked Edmonds Community College for allowing CHA to use their facilities for the meeting, and the Latino Community Fund for allowing CHA to have a meeting on the agenda for their event.

The agenda was reviewed, and the public was informed that Community Health Plan, scheduled to give a short presentation, was not in attendance.

Commissioner reports

Sharonne Navas shared that she has sent introduction letters to most of the king county legislators, some mayors and some department heads. She spoke with Mayor McGinn and also with Jay Inslee and Rob Mckenna.

Rosalba Pitkin shared the following:

- Continuing to work with the Latino community and putting together public meetings.



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- Looking into a program and speaking to the sheriff to see why they want to implement that program, which would have a harmful impact on our community. It will be implemented by federal law in 2013, but they want to start it right now.

Lillian Ortiz-Self shared the following:

- Snohomish County has been working on building a leadership institute for Latino youth. In partnership with Edmonds Community College and several Latino groups in the area they are looking at how to connect leadership institutes to community colleges in order to start building leaders.
- Hosting a middle school leadership conference, bringing middle school students into Everett high school, having them meet Latino leaders and having an all day program to help them see themselves in high school.
- Has been sitting in on opportunity gap meetings. They met at the end of September and will be meeting again in Olympia in a couple of weeks to discuss bilingual education programs.
- Met with Jay Inslee, and she and representative Marko Liias have been meeting to discuss several projects.

Ty Cordova shared the following:

- Attended the Latino Youth Summit as a presenter, and his topic was “You’re bilingual, so what?” He partnered with Tony Gomez from V-me and they talked with students from across the state about leveraging their bilingual skills in business and finding jobs, preparing for their future.
- Working with Crear Poder as the project lead for creating the economic development portion for the 2012 CHA assessment report.
- Was asked to sit on a feasibility studies steering committee for community college budget issues, along with 12 other community leaders.
- Has been attending a series of small business meetings that are designed to provide information to small businesses such as access to loans, and other things.

Ana Maria Martinez shared the following:

- Working with a couple of Latino organizations in her area, discussing putting together a community meeting for the area.



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- There's a shakeup in terms of government leadership within the county. They just elected a new mayor, and Commissioner Martinez has contacted his office to set up a meeting in order to identify important issues.
- She is also working with the National Children's Study in Moses Lake, trying to help build awareness in the community. Increased credits for graduation requirements in Spokane public schools is an issue, and she has asked them to take a look and see how this is affecting the Latino community.

Manuel Reta shared the following:

- He is part of the Board members association of the Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Spoke to John Bates from I.C.E. about two individuals in Skagit River who went to look at fish in the river. According to the Mill Creek wildlife agency, a game warden called I.C.E. on the two individuals. Henry Rolon, assistant in the immigration office, will look into the case.

Uriel Iñiguez shared the following:

- CHA hasn't had a meeting in a while due to budget restrictions. Because of a bill that passed, the number of meetings CHA can have is restricted, as is the number of community forums.
- The Governor's Office is still working through the applications and we should see new appointments soon.
- Submit recommendations for 5% and 10% budget cuts to the governor's office, and next week will find out how much our budget will be cut.
- Participating in the Achievement Gap committee meetings with Lillian, as well as in the OSPI Migrant Education review committee meetings, which are examining how best to improve the Migrant Education program.
- Working with community colleges in developing a report that will detail the status of Latinos in higher education.
- Attended a community meeting in Mattawa with Representative Moscoso, as well as a school board meeting.
- Gates Foundation Grant – had to reduce two of the training sites because they failed to meet the requirements for outreach, so CHA is shifting some of those responsibilities to other areas.



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- Agreement with Seattle University for work on the CHA Assessment. Crear Poder has agreed to do the research for the economic development section, and S.U. is in the process of finding researchers for the other sections. The assessment will be published in December of 2012.
- Met with the governor's office last week about minority jobs; sending some recommendations to them regarding how to best create jobs for Latinos. This will probably be incorporated into the discussion with legislators during the session. If anyone has any ideas, please send them to CHA.

Lillian Ortiz-Self shared the following:

- There is an issue in one of her districts concerning marijuana usage. A police officer was called when an 18-year-old and some of his friends was caught with marijuana after school hours. The officer made the assessment that all of the kids with the student were smoking marijuana and called the school and reported all of them. The school took action and suspended all of them. There was no proof that they were smoking marijuana. The school said that any time they get a police call they can act on it. The NAACP is involved, looking at how we can protect the civil rights of the students. We want to hear from our community, and other communities that have things like this going on in their areas.

Public Comments

Representative Luis Moscoso shared the following:

- He visited Canada over the summer to look at border security facilities. Coming back across the border, the Canadian guide made the comment that this was only the 2nd time they'd made a stop at the U.S. border because the legislator wanted to take a look at the Homeland security operations. This brought up the question of the lack of communication with Homeland security. Representative Moscoso contacted homeland security and talked to some other people in the area, and now he's trying to call a meeting with most of his colleagues who have border counties in their districts, in order to discuss what's really going on and how we can have a better dialogue.
- Participated in a roundtable at the criminal justice training center in Burien on intervention and prevention services for gang activity in WA. Over 100 law enforcement,



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prosecutors, city and county council members, and others were involved. They shared some concerns over the gang bill. There is no statewide database, and law enforcement agencies are not communicating very well.

- Representative Moscoso is looking to introduce a bill during this session that will ask for a way for us to find money, not from the general fund budget, but from another dedicated source. He is taking into consideration strategies that have worked in the past, and strategies that were tried but did not work.
- There is a need to find a sustainable source of revenue if we are going to deal with this problem at the prevention and intervention phase.

Rafael, from the Everett school district, shared the following:

- Working on a different approach to bilingual education. We know based on research that immigration to Washington State has changed dramatically.
- It seems like ELL students in the Everett school district have grown from just 200 to 2,000 in the last 10 years. Most of them are Hispanic.
- This has led to a necessity for more research on how students are being taught. There is a current study being conducted that examines the benefits of an approach where Hispanic students and students of other ethnicities are taught in their native language.
- Another issue is the lack of communication between school districts about basic programs. Sometimes one school has access to information that could benefit another school, so communication between schools is very important.

Jose Iñiguez, with the Latino Civic Alliance, shared the following:

- Statewide Latino non-profit organizations, especially because there is really no funding for operating systems. It's important that non-profits really get support either from funding or information to Latinos in the state.
- It seems like support and funds for Latino non-profits are dwindling while our Anglo counterparts are always stabilized. Mr. Iñiguez suggested that this is because of the money being sent out of state. More Latinos are staying than leaving. He would like to make sure that CHA is aware that non-profits need more guidance to keep dollars in to help the community.

Latino Community Fund

- Laura Catrall, Interim director



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- LCF is launching a community Health and Safety Committee

Haydee Duron

- This meeting and other similar meetings should be more publicized so that the community can take advantage of the opportunities and participate.

Discussion

Uriel Iñiguez:

- This is not a normal meeting. Meetings are normally much more publicized. They are usually held on Fridays in the evenings, and we would usually have a panel of community leaders.

Ana Maria Martinez:

- Haydee makes a good point, and it's important to keep examining how we communicate with the community.

Ty Cordova:

- It's critical that we engage in as much publicity as possible.
- Our next meeting will be in January, in Federal Way.

Haydee Duron: I have heard Mr. Iniguez on the radio, but the radio station is associated with a certain religion, and I would not have normally listened to the program since I am not a part of that religion. I think that there are other radio stations that could use programs like this.

Uriel Iñiguez replied as follows:

- We now have two programs, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am, and we have two different stations that cover many areas.

Lillian Ortiz-Self replied as follows:

- You can help us by calling your local radio station and telling them to pick up our show.

Rosalba Pitkin replied as follows:



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- I met with a public radio in Portland, and I'm trying to get some information about our program to that radio station.

Haydee Duron: I appreciate your hard work. This is a good start, I just want to see more, and I wish more people would get involved.

Ty Cordova shared the following:

- I respectfully remind the public to wait to be recognized by the chair before making comments.
- We are expanding the radio program to all the commissioners, and all the commissioners have signed up to be part of the conversation with some of the government agencies that participate in the program.

Sharonne Navas shared the following:

- We have a lot of passion, and the desire to go to community meetings, go to Latino fairs, and be part of the community, so that when there is a problem we are a part of the collective voice in recognizing the issue. We have plans for bigger ways to get out into the community.

Lillian Ortiz-Self shared that she would like to receive a copy of the report on bilingual teaching from Everett schools.

Manuel Reta shared the following:

- Follow up on the Border Patrol issues – I have spoken to John Bates at the Blaine Border Patrol station, and he assured me that from now on only undocumented workers who commit crimes will be sent to detention centers.
- I am also a board member of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission against Domestic Violence. The main issue is that community members should not be afraid to call law enforcement if they are being harmed, because B. P. will only go after those who have committed crimes. We also should spread the word that commissioners are here to look into and help resolve these community issues.

Sharonne Navas shared the following:



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- Concerning non-profit resources: I would love to talk to Mr. Iñiguez further about that, I think that there are organizations out there that don't necessarily see that there are non-profits that need a lot of help.
- People outside the state believe that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds everything. Let's talk and see if there's some kind of leadership we can offer Latino non-profits become more engaged in the funding war.

Official Business

Vice Chair Ty Cordova motioned to approve the Lacey meeting minutes.

The motion was approved by all. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Navas motioned to approve the policy changes.

The motion was approved by all. **Motion carried.**

Elections

Commissioner Navas motioned to elect Ty Cordova as Vice Chair.

The motion was approved by all. **Motion carried.**

Vice Chair Ty Cordova motioned to elect Lillian Ortiz-Self as Chair.

The motion was approved by all. **Motion carried.**

Closing comments

Lillian Ortiz-Self shared the following:



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- The next meeting will be Jan. 20th in Federal Way, and we look for your support in publicizing the meeting. This last session was a really tough one, and we've been honored by the force of our community speaking out – we hear your voice and we will continue to represent you as we go in to the next session. Thank you for being so passionate.

Meeting Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:52am.