



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Mattawa
Study Session Minutes
April 14, 2006

I. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 1:08 PM

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Víctor Chacon, Faviola Contreras, Félix L. Negron, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Graciela Villanueva López, Rebecca Villareal

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, Rogelio Burgos, & Caitlin Simmons

Guests Present: Cheryl Hanks

III. Commissioner Reports – All reports were received within the due date except for Commissioner’s Portillo Salazar, Villanueva-Lopez, and Contreras.

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez

- ❖ Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez stated that the Mayor had asked her to be part of the Parks and Recreation Commission. She said she agreed and was appointed to the Commission during the week of April 10th.
- ❖ Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez also stated that she is working on a CDL Driver License issue

Commissioner Portugal informed Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez that Alfred Portillo from the Washington Small Business Bureau in Bellingham can assist her with CDL License issues and/or social security issues.

Commissioner Baca

- ❖ Skagit County Health Department wants Latinos to know that they and their needs are important and that they are valued
- ❖ Farmworker housing tour in Mt. Vernon regarding policy and developmental issues- Commissioner Baca will be participating with the Senate Caucus Group and Jenaro Castañeda on this tour
- ❖ Group of Advocates called “Legal Observers” monitor the actions of Minutemen- Commissioner Baca feels that from a safety perspective, joining an initiative such as this, places observers in potentially unsafe situation; he said that Tom Williams stated that the Minutemen’s focus is not to harass Latinos but to safeguard the border.

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- ❖ Everett issue involving the two Latina girls fighting appears to be part of a growing community concern about Latinos fighting in general, i.e. two Latino boys fighting last year; Advocates acknowledged and said that there was a large crowd that chose not to disperse but instead made derogatory comments and taunted the Police; Commissioner Baca and Villareal met with the Everett Chief of Police, the School Superintendent, and with Sandy Blair from the US Department of Justice to try and bridge the gap with the Latino community; i.e.: develop partnerships, bring the community together, and addressing kid's behaviors, etc.

Commissioner Portugal suggested that an Advisory Council be set up.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar suggested that perhaps they should contact the Seattle Police Department's South Park program to see if they could be of assistance.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar

- ❖ The 2006 Latino Youth Summit was once a gain a great success
- ❖ April 10th Seattle march- She participated in this incident free march

Commissioner Negrón

- ❖ ICE raid issue in Lacey turned out to be a search for a specific individual who was trespassing on federal lands and harvesting baby's breath; he added that Lacey Police were shadowing ICE but not directly involved
- ❖ Aberdeen School District- The district plans to form a Latino Citizens Group to help with Health and Education issues; they currently have four Latino teachers and are looking to establish a relationship with the Latino community
- ❖ Thurston County Network Board selected him to serve as a member of their board

Commissioner Portugal

- ❖ Presented a power point to 300 students at the "Take Your Legacy Forward" conference on the Inca 2012 Winter Solstice Sun event
- ❖ Established a relationship with the Pasco Chief of Police during his efforts to organize the march in support of undocumented workers

Commissioner Villareal

- ❖ March 11th Wenatchee Conference was a great success with 20 in attendance; Conference was presented in Spanish with lots of resource tables and much networking
- ❖ Met with Congressman Patrick Hoga of Congressman Jay Inslee's office to discuss what he can do from a federal level to help the Latino community
- ❖ Attended Washington CEO Magazine and WSHCC Roundtable meeting to discuss issues and concerns regarding education, healthcare, and business/economics affecting the Latino Community- CHA Director was in attendance; June issue of CEO Magazine will be publishing the meeting

Commissioner Portugal asked Commissioner Villareal if she had sent Veronica from Pasco a thank you letter.

Action Item: Commissioner Villareal will follow up with Veronica.

Commissioner Contreras

- ❖ US Department of Justice is investigating the inappropriate access to emergency services by Latinos; they would like a list of resources available to the residents of Mattawa, minutes of our public meeting, and Mattawa city demographics; they also intend to visit Mattawa for a further in depth review

Commissioner Contreras stated that we should have demographic information for the town or city where we are holding the public meetings prior to meeting there.

Action Item: Uriel committed to providing this information prior to the public meetings

Commissioner Victor Chacon

Commissioner Chacon was formally introduced to the group. Commissioner Chacon stated that he is a member of the Walla Walla Latino American Forum, an advocacy group that deals with Latino community issues such as farmworker housing, education, etc. He added that the group meets once a month in a local church. He said that Walla Walla (27% Hispanic population) is going through a redevelopment phase and that the wine industry is the number one financial business endeavor (52 wineries). He said that Walla Walla is becoming a resort town and that many folks from western Washington are buying property there.

Commissioner Portugal welcomed Commissioner Chacon and his valuable expertise.

Director's Report

- ❖ Strategic Plan – Need input from Commissioners for this plan. Samples of strategic plans have been provided so review and provide your feedback by the specified due date. Input is crucial since it will drive what we request in our budget.
- ❖ Rogelio will be researching which Commissions have paid Commissioners
- ❖ Plans on requesting a car for CHA and CHA email for all Commissioners
- ❖ Website is still in the design phase and we anticipate a completion date of August 2006
- ❖ Yakima march was well organized and lots of good articles in the newspapers
- ❖ Will be meeting with Blake Chard, DSHS regarding Foster Care and the lack of resources and support for Hispanic kids; Letter to Governor will follow
- ❖ Will be attending a number of meetings with the Senate and House regarding education so as to develop programs that we can introduce in the next legislative session

Commissioner Négron asked the Director if there had been any follow-up with Fred Olson in regards to our February meeting in Olympia.

The Director stated that there have been ongoing discussions with all the Ethnic Commissions since the February meeting. He added that there will be another discussion next week.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that CHA needs more staff, at least two more to support CHA and in addition a representative dedicated to the eastern part of the state.

The Director informed the Commissioners that the Strategic Plan will guide how we will work with Fred, the Governor, and the other policy people. He also stated that the Strategic Plan is a five year plan with ongoing changes as needed.

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez stated that we should strive to do as well as Indiana's plan for it is very thorough. She added that it needs to be broad and specific with tangible timelines and action items.

Commissioner Chacon stated that we need a template form to work with and Commissioner Baca stated that we should also look at the CAA Strategic Plan.

Much discussion ensued regarding the wording in the mission statement, however it was decided that the mission statement and the core values would be tabled for later.

Discussion on what issues or committees were pertinent occurred, along with a vote on the ones that were considered higher in priority.

The following issues were identified (the numbers indicate that votes received):

Justice	4
Education	8
Economic Development	5
Healthcare	1
Legislative Affairs	2
Farmworker Housing	2
Special Services	2

The three with the most votes (in red) were selected as the official issues to pursue and committees were established as follows:

Justice-Equity: Commissioners Baca, Chacon, Portillo-Salazar, and Villanueva-Lopez

Education: Commissioners Chacon, Contreras, Négron, Portillo-Salazar, and Portugal

Economic Development: Commissioners Baca, Négron, Portugal, Villanueva-Lopez and Villareal

Easel notes from the brainstorming session were sent as an attachment to all Commissioners on an email dated April 17, 2006.

Action Item: Each committee is to provide deliverables and timelines (for each item selected -3 topics per each area) to the Director by **April 28, 2006**.

The Director stated that an Events Calendar has been set up and that we need to keep it updated since we do share it with the Governor's office. He also reminded the Commissioners that our next meetings are in Yakima, Quincy, and South Park.

Commissioner Contreras asked that CHA staff send a list of the places where we have held public meetings in the past two years. She said that we could use this as a guide to establish the places where we will hold the 2007 public meetings.

Action Item: Alicia will send the list to all Commissioners

The Director added that the Strategic Plan is due in June and the Budget Plan is due in August. He reminded the Commissioners of the importance of providing articles for our Newsletter and of sending their Commissioner report's by the Wednesday prior to the study session.

The Commissioners asked for an explanation of the Outcome/Results column on the commissioner report template.

The Director shared his report and how to fill out the outcome/results column. He added that whenever we give advice to school administrators, Legislators, state agencies, etc we should include a summary of the advice that was given.

The executive assistant asked the Commissioners to include the complete name of the person receiving the advice along with contact information. She added that the contact information is useful when sending out the CHA performance survey forms.

Action Item: Send a sample of a commissioner report template that includes an entry in the outcome/results column

The Director informed the Commissioners that the annual report is to be completed and submitted by January of the following year. He said that all information by the different committees should be sent to our office **no later than October 2, 2006**. He added that this year other community organizations will have input for our report.

Cheryl Hanks shared the weekly DMDS report.

Executive Assistant Report

Alicia stated that the minutes of both the public meeting and study session are sent to all Commissioners for feedback regarding changes, deletions, additions, etc. She added that if she does not receive feedback she assumes that no changes are needed.

She reminded the Commissioners that they need to return the folders for future meetings and to please turn in their hotel receipts and travel vouchers after the public meeting. She added that she needs to have all input regarding the Commissioner Exit form by **Friday, April 21st**.

She informed the Commissioners that the next Newsletter will be coming out the first week of June; therefore, she needs to receive articles for the Newsletter by **May 15, 2006**. She also shared two drafts of the CHA Pamphlet for input (**provide input by June 30, 2006**). She will follow up with an electronic copy to all Commissioners and Cheryl Hanks.

Action Item: Send electronic copy of CHA Pamphlet to all Commissioners and Cheryl Hanks

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez asked if we were going to take a stance on the denial of prescriptions by pharmacists. She added that there were going to be two hearings

regarding this issue, one in Yakima which she plans to attend and the other one in Olympia which she suggested the Director attend.

The Director said that he was unaware of this issue but that they could send a letter to the Board of Pharmacists with a copy to the Governor. He added that a motion to write such letter should be made at the public meeting.

Commissioner Baca asked what the Governor's position was on this issue and that surely she could put pressure on this issue if she chose to.

The Director stated that he would check with the Governor's office before he could provide advice on whether to write the letter or not.

Action Item: The Director will check with the Governor's office on this issue.

Commissioner Chacon stated that it was necessary to have further information before we proceeded with our actions

Discussion ensued regarding what motions can be presented for vote in the public meeting.

Commissioner Portugal stated that per the Public Meetings Act, when we take a position with the state we need to present it at the public meeting. He added that bills should have been sent to the Commission prior to providing bill testimony to the Governor.

Commissioner Portugal also stated that the protocol for the letter to the Board of Pharmacists was to have Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez make the motion at the public meeting, have it seconded, move for discussion and then take a vote.

Action Item: Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez will write the letter to the Board of Pharmacists

Commissioner Portugal asked the Commissioners for approval of the public meeting agenda.

All were in agreement and the agenda was approved. Commissioner Portillo-Salazar will be the Timekeeper and Commissioner Contreras will do the introductions since it is her area of responsibility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM