



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Othello
Study Session Minutes
June 22, 2007

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 1:13 PM by Chair Lopez-Morton

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Víctor Chacón, Jorge Chacón, Ty Córdova, Rosalba D. Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Ninfa Gutierrez and Yvonne Lopez Morton.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Chair Lopez Morton welcomed our new Commissioners; Jorge Chacón and Ty Córdova.

Jorge R. Chacón

- Born in Torreon, Mexico and lives in Wenatchee, WA
- Mental Health Arena which he studied both here and in Mexico
- Does Diversity presentations

Ty Córdova

- Born in San Francisco, raised in Tierra Maria, New Mexico and lives in Lakewood, WA
- Degree in Business Administration from New Mexico University
- Works for State Farm Insurance; Public Affairs and Marketing Dept.

III. Final Review of Administrative Policies

The following changes have been approved by the Commission and will be in effect immediately:

- **1.50.20.10** – Added “Director”
- **1.50.20.20** – Deleted “members of” and added “three Commissioners to; deleted “members of” and added “commissioners to”
- **3.10.50** – Deleted “the department and state” and added “CHA’s”
- **3.10.90** – Deleted “will be asked to voluntarily resign by the Executive Committee” and added “the Executive Committee will recommend in writing to the Governor that the Commissioner be immediately suspended or removed from the Commission.
- **3.4.050** – Deleted this Item which read as follows: The Executive committee assists the Chair in the coordination of the annual performance review of the Executive Director.
- **3.40.50.11** – Added “at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will have 20 days to act on the complaint.

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All Complaints involving the Director will be forwarded to the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff.

- **3.50.30.10.** – Deleted “provide the Commissioner with an initial written warning with the specific reason(s) for the warning and corrective action(s) that the Commissioner should take” and added “take the following steps within 7 days of the decision.
 1. Verbal advisory by Chair or Vice Chair with a written follow-up documenting the conversation
 2. If behavior is not corrected an advisory letter will be sent promptly as an initial written warning with the specific reason(s) for the warning and corrective action(s) that the commissioner should take.
- **4.20.90** – Deleted “Director will be asked to voluntarily resign by the Executive Committee” and added “Executive Committee may recommend in writing to the Governor that the Director be immediately suspended or removed from the Commission. The recommendation must be presented to the full Commission and approved prior to its delivery.
- **4.10.70** – Deleted “The Commission will conduct the Executive Director's performance evaluation annually. The evaluation will be scheduled in executive session at the regular or special Commission meeting that is the closest in the time to the Director's anniversary date of hiring” and added “The Commission may provide information to the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff on the Director's performance.
- **5.50.10.40** – Deleted “as described”
- **5.50.30.10** – Deleted “vehicles”
- **5.50.30.10** – Will read as follows: Only CHA staff and Commissioners are permitted to drive rental vehicles.
- **5.50.40.20** – Added “commissioners and volunteers” and “Only state employees are authorized to drive state motor pool vehicles.
- **6.50.10** – Deleted “such as the annual performance review of the Executive Director and/or”; changed “charges” to “concerns”; and deleted “public to” and added “front of the entire Commission to”
- **6.50.40** – Changed “investigators” to “investigations”
- **6.80.10** – Changed “commission chair” to “Commission's Chair”

Action Item for tonight's public meeting: Commissioner Victor Chacón will move to accept the Administrative Policy changes and Commissioner Portillo Salazar will second the motion.

IV. Justice and Equity Issues

Commissioner Gutierrez made the following comments regarding the Sunnyside Ordinance:

- Public was not aware of Ordinance; Sunnyside City Council listened to the public comments, took a vote and passed the Ordinance
- Sunnyside Chief of Police and the City Attorney were surprised that the Sunnyside City Council voted and passed the Ordinance
- Parents are supposed to be part of the ordinance implementation process; however two meetings have been cancelled and there has been no further contact with parents

- Chief of Police and a Hispanic Police Officer were on Radio KDNA to explain the Ordinance
- Other towns are contemplating passage of a similar ordinance

Comments and suggestions from Commissioners included the following:

- Commissioner Baca suggested that the community hold the meeting and invite the City Council
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar suggested that all steps taken to work with Chief of Police be documented
- Commissioner Baca said that Communities have to start taking ownership and volunteering time to address the gang problem. A start would be calling a meeting and inviting the Chief of Police from Sunnyside, Tri-Cities, Grandview, etc.
- Some questions to ponder: What can we do as a state? Are there funds available for local governments? Are there funds available for summer programs?

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if the Commission could send a letter to the School District in regards to the closure of the playgrounds and also a letter to the municipalities that are considering passage of an ordinance similar to Sunnyside's.

- Ninfa and her community will come up with the content of the letter to the school district
- A draft of the letter which should include specifics will be send to CHA office for review and comments

Discussion on the development of the criteria for a forum was tabled for tomorrow's Study Session.

Action Item: Commissioner Gutierrez will send draft letter to CHA Staff

V. Governor's Immigration Letter

The Spanish translation of Governor Gregoire's Immigration letter dated March 31, 2006 was given to all Commissioners.

- A letter will be sent to the Governor advising her of what's currently going on and the impact it's having i.e. separation of families, unlawful entry into homes, etc.
- Letter should be similar to Marc Brenman's (include issues and stories)

Action Item: Commissioners are to send stories to the CHA Office as soon as possible

VI. DSHS –Disparate Treatment Issue

A letter signed by the ethnic commissions was sent to the Governor asking her to look into the disparate treatment allegations posed by DSHS employees of color.

- Chief of Staff Joyce Turner has since spoken to these employees
- Ethnic Commissions have asked that Governor write a letter to DSHS Director and cc the ethnic Commissions

Another such allegation has surfaced from the Department of Ecology; refer any other similar allegations to the CHA office.

VII. Commissioner Vacancies

Currently there is one commissioner vacancy in the Kitsap Peninsula; recommendations for this position in order of priority are as follows:

- Henry Cruz
- Olga Fuste

VIII. Other CHA Business

Public Meeting Protocol

- Initial introduction will be done by Commissioner Lopez Morton
- Commissioner Portugal will introduce Panel
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar will be timekeeper

CHA Strategic Plan - Per Director Iñiguez, no feedback has been received

Action Item: Commissioners need to provide feedback by July 30, 2007

2007-2009 Budget

- Budget is very TIGHT
- Travel will again be a significant issue

Action Item: Commissioners are encouraged to carpool to public meetings and study sessions

Justice and Equity Committee Members as of June 22, 2007

- Ruben Baca
- Ty Cordova
- Ninfa Gutierrez
- Lourdes Portillo Salazar - Chair

Education Committee Members as of June 22, 2007

- Jorge Chacón
- Victor Chacón
- Félix Negrón
- Rosalba Pitkin
- Gabriel Portugal

Annual Report

- WSU Student will be helping with the write up of the report
- Commissioner Cordova and the Hispanic Chambers will do the write up for the Economic Development section

Action Item: Draft Letter to the Governor regarding the Latino Small Business Report; Commissioner's provide input to Director by July 15, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 5PM



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June 23, 2007

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Lopez-Morton

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Víctor Chacón, Jorge Chacón, Ty Córdova, Rosalba D. Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Ninfa Gutierrez and Yvonne Lopez Morton.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Chair Lopez Morton thanked and congratulated the Commissioners on a well executed public meeting.

The following comments were made:

- Meeting went well and very professional per our new Commissioners
- More involvement by people in the council meetings; perhaps this could be integrated into CHA's presentation
- Advocate for leadership and empowerment rather than representation
- Include a local religious leader in the panel or a community panel of folks that are in the frontlines
- Hispanic community needs to be engaged in Boards and Commissions

Action Items:

- Follow-up meeting in Othello in two weeks by Commissioners Gutierrez, V. Chacón, J. Chacón, and Portugal and invite Columbia Basin Education Center and Azteca Group
- Commissioner Baca and Portillo Salazar will follow-up with Dora Treviño on the gang issue
- Director Iñiguez will follow-up with Debra Fisher regarding Mr. Gaeta's Othello housing issue
- Commissioner Portugal will send Thank You notes to the panel participants
- Commissioner Portugal will also write a letter to community leaders to thank them for attending the public meeting and in addition ask them what they plan on doing to increase the involvement and participation in council meetings
- Justice & Equity Committee will plan and organize the August public meeting

Terry Bergeson stated that Jesus Villahermosa from University Place would be a great contact for the August meeting. Craig Apperson from OSPI is also available for assistance with this meeting.

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III. Public Meeting Change

The following public meeting changes are effective immediately:

- Pasco August 10-11 public meeting/study session has been changed; it will now be held in Walla Walla
- Walla Walla October 19-20 public meeting/study session has been changed; it will now be held in Yakima

IV. Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Commissioner V. Chacón facilitated the meeting with Terry Bergeson. Commissioner concerns included Parental Involvement, the WASL, Drop-out Rate, etc. The Commission was interested in Ms. Bergeson's stance on these issues and OSPI's thoughts/views.

Terry Bergeson's comments included the following:

- Enough quarrelling over the WASL; the issue is getting kids ready to take the test
- More appropriate testing is needed
- Segmented Math program can be done over the course of the year
- Need to develop connections throughout the state
- Education of children and family involvement is essential
- Accountability is the goal
- She will be tracking language and academics to ensure language proficiency is achieved before ELL students are tested
- CISL will establish statewide networks and thereby build capacity to reach out to all ethnic groups; Adie Simmons, Director of the Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman and Janet Hayakawa, Director of CISL will be working together in this endeavor
- Navigation 101 – Program that engages kids and families; Currently 89 school districts have grants for this program and the goal is for every school district to have access to this program
- Most challenged schools are on an improvement plan; A District Improvement Coordinator is currently helping the Othello School District
- Mattawa School District has a new Superintendent and trust is being built
- Other programs available are K-12 Program and the PAC Group

Commissioner Chacón stated that there has to be a two way understanding between parents and teachers or administrators. The communication gap; however, is still there due to the absence of cultural competency programs. This is of great concern with targets, policies, etc.

Dr. Bergeson suggested that perhaps several meetings a year with OSPI which could be used as a forum for a dialogue with OSPI Facilitators that work on cultural competency issues.

Commissioner Baca asked Dr. Bergeson if they were bringing these programs into the Alternative schools.

Dr. Bergeson stated that very few alternative schools have these programs in place. The crisis is that most of the teachers in these schools have the heart but not the skill to teach

these kids. In addition, what is troublesome is that some high schools are moving kids to alternative schools in order for their record to look good. Terry will be looking into why and how these kids get moved from high school to alternative schools.

Director Iñiguez suggested that perhaps folks from the Speakers Bureau of Professionals could come and speak to kids who are struggling in school and or use the media to speak to parents and start working on changing the mentality of Hispanic families in regards to education.

Commissioner Chacon stated that the following were essential communication components and asked Dr. Bergeson if she was going to create a Cultural Liaison position that would do cultural competency training:

- Family
- Work
- Religion
- Culture
- Different communication skills
- Political system

Dr. Bergeson said that they could present/discuss these components in the following venues:

- AWSP (Association of Washington School Principals) October Conference
- Organization of Superintendent's conference (Paul Rosher is the contact)
- November Conference (AESD)
- Other similar conferences

Dr. Bergeson also shared that Bob Harmon from her office is in charge of all the OSPI Federal Programs of which 296 school districts get federal money.

Commissioners Portugal and V. Chacón asked Dr. Bergeson if we could have a state position specific for Hispanics/Latinos (State Cultural Liaison) that would act on behalf of her office (OSPI) and bring in the real facts of cultural competency training to the schools that are in danger.

Dr. Bergeson said that she will make ELL issues part of the P20 Council. She will inform Judy Hartmann of Director Iñiguez's need to be included in these meetings. Judy, Uriel, and Dr. Bergeson will address cultural competency in their September meeting.

Next Year's Legislation (how are we going to handle graduation next year for ELL Students?):

- How do we buy time for these kids who don't have the language proficiency and can't pass the WASL test
- How can we work with the Colleges; they've worked with adults who had the language issue and were able to learn
- Dr. Bergeson asked CHA to review and consider the ELL Plan

Dr. Bergeson will be working with Israel Mendoza and Charlie Earl to put a plan in place for these kids so that they can graduate. Another big issue is that kids don't have enough credits.

V. Sally Brownfield, CISL Facilitator

Prior to becoming a Facilitator for the CISL program, Ms. Brownfield worked as a teacher for over 20 years. She has also been involved with the Multi Ethnic Think Tank and is a Cultural Competency trainer. She has been in her current position as of January of this year. She shared the following comments:

- CISL is legislated to work within OSPI
- CISL website is www.yourlearningcenter.org
- Definition of Parent Involvement needs to be consistent on what it looks like so that there is no confusion
- Parent Involvement is beyond parent involvement; it encompasses true partnerships with schools, administrators, superintendents, communities, businesses, etc.
- Will be working on a continuum; need to ask each district what they are doing and how they are embracing the families of their communities
- Need things that are meaningful
- Need interpreters
- Much fear predominantly amongst Hispanics and Native Americans
- OSPI will be getting the Government to Government training which is a historical prospective of the Native American people, policy development, and culture
- Currently working on a resource guide for parents; it will list all the departments within OSPI, what each department does, and how to contact them (due out this September)
- CISL brochure is translated into eight different languages including Spanish
- Looking into LEAP Conference and whether kids participating in this conference can get credits

Director Iñiguez requested the following from Ms. Brownfield:

- A copy of the draft resource guide so that the Commissioners could provide their input
- For someone to go on the radio and speak about the CISL program

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.