



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Pullman
Study Session Minutes
April 28, 2007

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by Chair Lopez-Morton

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Víctor Chacón, Félix L. Negrón, Rosalba D. Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Ninfa Gutiérrez, and Yvonne Lopez Morton.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Chair Lopez Morton asked all Commissioners to thoroughly read the CHA Administrative Guideline. Time was spend reviewing Commissioner, Chair, and Personnel Duties including the following

- Chapter 3 (3.10.10) – Important to maintain local communication in order to keep your community informed and treated with respect.
- Chapter 3 (3.10.50) – Don't defend yourself; Define yourself! Read Governor updates so that you are informed on her polices
- Attendance Report will be provided and reviewed twice a year; June and December
- Of utmost importance is input of your Commissioners reports into the CHA database
- Chair term ends this August; possible changes in the Executive Committee
- Annual Report – Executive Committee will assist in the publishing of the report; write-ups for report, review the report, etc.

Commissioner Gutierrez and the Executive Committee met regarding an internal personnel issue.

III. Evaluation of Public Meeting

Comments on the new public meeting format were favorable; however, Commissioner Portugal noted that the meeting attendance was poor.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton stated that Pullman is not an agricultural area and that the Hispanic demographics are low. She added that Ms. Reyes, Pullman School District Assistant Superintendent had problems connecting with Hispanic families.

Lessons Learned from this meeting:

- Acknowledge Comments and continue with meeting
- Keep control of meeting

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- Assign a Timekeeper
- Set-up of Interpreter needs to be where he/she can be able to hear

Items that need a response/action:

- Language Access Summit in Spokane
- Future public meeting in 2008 in Spokane
- Follow-up with Pullman School District Superintendent and inquire about number of Hispanic teachers and their action plan for the future
- Follow-up with the Pullman Chief of Police and inquire about his plan to change the number of Hispanic officers
- Thank you letter to panel invitees and Vanessa will be done by the Host Chair
- Commissioner Chacón will call Mr. Saldana
- Invite Aide Simmons to our next public meeting
- Future Meetings: Provide an information sheet that lists the political folks for the area in which our public meeting is taking place i.e. Representatives, Senators, Councilpersons, etc.
- Future meetings: Provide a survey and pencils

IV. Working lunch was with the following folks from WSU:

- Brian McNeil, Professor and Director of Doctoral Training Educational Leadership and Counseling Psychology
- Raymond (Ramon) Herrera, Ph.D Associate Director McNair Achievement Program
- Lucy Loera, Dean of Students responsible for policy and procedures, campus involvement, TRiO and Camp programs.
- Manuel Acevedo, Retention Counselor Office of Multi Cultural Services which has 4 specific centers, an academic achievement center, and free computer access labs for students. Over 40 groups (political, social, multi-cultural, etc.)
- Cristina Robles Gaeta, Assistant Director CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program)
- Vanessa Martinez, 1st year Doctoral Program student

They explained the different federally funded programs that provide access and opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. They include the following TRiO programs:

- Upward Bound Program and McNair; Upward Bound serves high school students who are preparing to enter postsecondary education from families of low-income and first generation college students. It includes a 4-week summer program in Pullman.
- McNair offers valuable research and graduate school preparation for McNair. It unites students with faculty mentors to conduct research projects and supports research conference participation.

In addition there is CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) which assists students from migrant or seasonal farm worker backgrounds reach and succeed in college. It includes the fishing, lumber, forestry, and agricultural industry. CAMP is only offered in two universities in the nation; Pullman WSU being one of them and University of Portland. They can serve up to 50 students through this program.

Concerns at WSU are:

- Need someone who has Latino student's interest in mind to serve in the Board of Regents. Carmen Otero served seven years on the Board sometime ago. Currently there are vacancies and they are Governor appointed positions.
- Governor's Budget – Retention and Completion Programs get \$500,00 for a 2 year period; \$250,00 per college
- 1st Generation low income students (TRiO programs) – Encourage the Governor's actions via a letter (CHA Education Committee)
- Numbers of Latino Men in higher education is low; 53% for women
- Students are unprepared when they enter higher education
- Lack of Parent Involvement

V. CHA Strategic measures and targets

Went over measures and targets and made changes to the master plan. Each Committee will go over the measures and targets more thoroughly and make any necessary changes. Changes are to be submitted to Uriel.

VI. Rose Vidal, ACLU Racial Justice in Education

Ms. Vidal's comments included the following:

- Constitutional right for every child to have an equal education
- Racial Disparity in School Discipline
- State Truancy System in regards to the BECCA Bill
- Police in School
- Language Issues are being looked at (Title 6 Federal Law) Schools need to comply and offer interpreters
- School Board Advocacy – Outreach to parents during summer 2006
- Schools that claim they do not have a "budget" for translation of material to other languages is not a valid excuse

Ms. Vidal, Aide Simmons in conjunction with the Commission could conceivably hold a workshop at the Othello public meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.