



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

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Study Session Minutes
June 27, 2008

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

II. Roll Call. Commissioner Bob Cepeda, Ty Cordova, Victor Chacón, Henry Cruz, Felix Negrón, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Gabriel Portugal, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Staff Present: Alicia Luna and Intern Nina Hinton

III. New Commissioner

Bob Cepeda, newly appointed Commissioner shared the following:

- 20 years in law enforcement; mostly educating officers on how to do their jobs
- Involved in Gonzaga's Bridge program; purpose is to assist ethnic students transition into an all Caucasian student body
- Has a 22 year old daughter and a 10 year old son
- Grew up in the Harlem district of New York

IV. Public Meeting and Other CHA Business

Comments regarding public meeting

- Everyone present by 5:30 PM to greet and meet panelists and community
- Went over the meeting format; Vice Chair Cordova will design a meeting template
- Questions to ask panel; diversity within the departments & outreach to the Hispanic community

Other CHA Business

- Discussion regarding Maria Fernandez's letter
- Creation of a PSA defining the role of an effective Commissioner versus an ineffective one
- Commissioner Cordova will contact "tu decides" regarding an article in the newspaper about the role of Commissioners
- Study session guests; person who invites guest sends them the agenda
- Commissioner Cruz asked why do we need to have community meetings; he feels that each Commissioner should be addressing issues and having their own meetings
- Need latest copy of CHA WAC and Admin Guidelines

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- Need to include a written criteria for why we are having public meetings and how we are going to select cities/towns
- Seattle Parental Committee - need a representative in this committee; will ask Commissioner Pitkin and Commissioner J. Chacón. Committee has three state meeting during the year.

ACTION ITEMS: Commissioner Cordova will contact “tu Decides about Commissioner PSA and Alicia will submit copy of latest CHA WAC to all Commissioners.

V. Guest

Gladys Romero,

- Redistricting of Legislative communities
- Federal dollars divided based on the people count
- Less people counted less money for services such as health
- Region encompasses five states including Washington
- Needs our help with the count the Hispanic communities
- Large advertising campaign to inform folks of Census 2010 (April 1, 2010)

Commissioner Portugal offered his radio program in getting the word out.

VI. Commissioner Vacancies

Yakima & Kittitas County vacancy

- Commissioner Negrón interviewed Yakima candidates
- After discussion on candidates; three names will be submitted to the Governor’s office by Commissioner Negrón

Other Commissioner Vacancies

- Tri-Cities & Walla Walla vacancies; July 10th deadline for candidates

ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Negrón will submit Yakima candidate’s recommendations to the Governor’s office.

VII. Achievement Gap Study

Interagency Proposal

- Copies of the latest “draft” of the achievement gap study proposal shared with all Commissioners; OFM has made their changes
- Commissioners will read the proposal and note any concerns/issues
- Will need to establish monthly meetings
- Press conference at our Everett meeting in August

Meeting adjourned at 4 PM!



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Shelton
Study Session Minutes
June 28, 2008

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 8: PM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

II. Roll Call. Commissioner Bob Cepeda, Ty Cordova, Victor Chacón, Henry Cruz, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Gabriel Portugal, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Staff Present: Alicia Luna and Intern Nina Hinton

III. Public Meeting Readout

- Commissioner Cruz connected with Shelton Chief of Police; will follow up to and form a diversity committee
- Shelton Mayor not so open; will follow up with city to uncover why nothing was done about the Elwood Apartments

IV. Achievement Gap Study

Tom Striticus, UW – Achievement Gap Study components include:

- What is contributing to the achievement gap
- Higher Education numbers; Latino student 4.2% of total enrollment
- 57% of Latinos are graduating from High School
- Race, ethnicity, and language
- Achievement Indicators will be: WASL scores, graduation rates, etc.
- Parental involvement compared to parent empowerment
- Possible public service announcements by Holly and Edgar Martinez
- Empirical data collection will be done with older kids; 10th grade kids in all math classes
- Data will include Latino and all others
- Framing: negative connotation if you say achievement gap; will change to what are the practices of high achieving Latinos
- Methods and data sources will include; secondary data analysis of OSPI data, college board data, best practices for Latinos, survey of 8th and 10th grade students, and teacher interviews
- Survey will be done in both English and Spanish; will be done through existing school partnerships
- 12 to 14 school district will be participating

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Comments and questions from Commissioners included:

- Commissioner Cepeda suggested that faith based communities and clinics be included in the survey process
- Commissioner Cordova asked if they had considered surveying drop outs; Tom stated that not in this study
- Commissioner Portillo-Salazar stated that 8th graders are dropping out of school and asked if they would be looking at this data; Tom stated that Frances and he would have a discussion on the sampling of high schools and middle schools. He added that selection of key middle schools would make the survey more difficult
- Commissioner V. Chacón asked that the following school districts be included: Longview, Sunnyside, Pasco, Brewster, Othello, Mt. Vernon, and Mattawa; he also asked that they use non traditional methods of getting to families with the surveys

Tom stated that the people doing the surveys were all bilingual and bicultural.

Concerns/Questions on CHA-UW Interagency Agreement were:

- Will the information gathered in study be owned by both parties
- Records Maintenance section; who retains the records
- Termination agreement; statement needs to be clarified

Tom will address with UW and CHA will discuss with OFM contract folks.

Advisory Committee; suggestions included:

- Researchers
- Luis Fraga
- Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney
- CHA Education Committee

Monthly meetings will need to be established for the remainder of the year. Next meeting will be at UW campus on July 21st; parking will be provided for all those attending. Tom to send additional information to Alicia!

V. Guests

Jesse Gilliam, Big Brothers of Puget Sound shared the following:

- Latino Mentoring Initiative started last September
- Staff for this initiative includes UW Intern and Laura who is in charge of match enrollment; she has 7 bilingual staff
- Adults and kids are matched based on interests; low cost and most important is to spend time together to form a relationship
- Mentoring programs help with school performance and good relationship with families and communities
- 175 Latino matches; 75 were due to the Latino Mentoring program
- Candidates go through a very stringent check process which includes state and federal check; letters of recommendation are also part of the process
- Of those that apply to be mentors 27% follow through and become mentors
- They hope to open an office in Yakima or the Tri-Cities; will welcome any assistance from CHA to make this happen

- Would also welcome CHA's assistance and participation at their Legislative Day; will be requesting funding for children of incarcerated parents

Sally Brumfield, CISL Program shared the following:

- ESD School survey regarding what is being done that is working revealed that most school districts operate from the traditional model; most are unaware of research and best practice models
- Top needs of schools: training, networking with families/community groups, access to database
- CISL's top priorities; provide more guidance and resources, training, and establish a network
- October Conference in Yakima; concerned regarding outreach to Latino parents

Commissioner Ortiz-Self asked if they had considered other strategies besides a conference/workshop.

Sally stated that a new Director was being announced next week and that CHA should make suggestions/recommendations regarding other strategies.

Commissioner V. Chacon stated that parental involvement was very important to the Commission and wondered what the new Director is going to do to address the parental involvement gap.

VI. Other Business (facilitated by Vice Chair)

Punctuality and Absences

- Public Meeting and study session attendance is mandatory as stated in the CHA administrative guidelines
- Letter, fax, email needs to be sent to Chair/Director regarding non attendance
- Punctuality is of utmost importance; call should be made if running late or lost
- Commissioner Negrón June 29th absence is unexcused

Action Items

- Commissioner Cruz will send thank you cards to panel members and guests; include a statement regarding joining our database
- Alicia will send CHA letterhead to Commissioner Cepeda and Ortiz-Self
- Commissioner Cruz will follow-up with WASP regarding consensus on roster lists to ICE
- Commissioner Cruz will follow-up with Shelton Mayor regarding the Elwood Apartments
- Commissioner Cordova and Commissioner Ortiz-Self will create meeting template
- Commissioner Cepeda will replace Commissioner Portugal on the Justice & Equity Committee

Parting comments from Commissioner Portugal

- Enjoyed his 6 years as Commissioner
- Commission not a venue for an activist heart

Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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Parting comments from Commissioner V. Chacon

- Enjoyed his role as Commissioner and stated that CHA needs to continue “echandole ganas”
- Governmental controls sometime get in the way
- Commitment has to be real

Parting comments from Nina Hinton, Evergreen Intern

- Enjoyed and learned much during her internship
- Thanked the Commission for the opportunity

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM!