



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Walla Walla Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2007

**Roll Call:**

Commissioners present: Jorge Chacón, Víctor Chacón, Ty Córdova, Ninfa Gutiérrez, Félix Negrón, Rosalba Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal

Commissioners Absent: Henry Cruz (excused)

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM

Commissioner V. Chacon introduced Duane Cole, Walla Walla City Manager. Mr. Cole gave CHA a warm welcome and offered Walla Walla's great weather, onions and wine.

An official welcome was made to the panelists who included Kevin Bain, Walla Walla Police Officer, Chuck Fulton, Walla Walla Chief of Police, Ann Golden, School Board President, Toni Rudnick, School Board Member, Father Pat, St. Patrick's Catholic, Church, Ella Hanks, DSHS Regional Administrator Alcohol Substance Abuse, Don Jones, DSHS Region 1 Juvenile Rehabilitation Administrator, and Carlos Carrillo, DSHS Supervisor – Division of Children and Family Services.

Chair Portillo Salazar thanked Commissioner Portugal for his leadership during his two years as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Córdova made a motion to accept Commissioner Portillo Salazar as CHA Chair; Commissioner V. Chacon seconded the motion. Vote followed with all in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Negrón thanked the community for their attendance and acknowledged the past Chair, Commissioner Lopez Morton for her leadership during her two years as Chair.

Commissioner Gutiérrez made a motion to accept Commissioner Negrón as Vice Chair; Commissioner V. Chacon seconded the motion. Vote followed with all in favor; the motion carried.

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Introduction of Commissioners, staff, and volunteers was made.

**Chair Portillo Salazar** covered the following:

- CHA's Mandate
- CHA's Accomplishments
- Commissioner Activity & Public Meeting attendance
- Goals for 2007-2008
- Washington's Hispanic Population & Walla Walla County Hispanic Population

**Commissioner Victor Chacón** with the assistance of the Education Committee members covered the following:

- Washington's Definition of Basic Education
- Equal education; a priority for all schools
- WASL Score Graphs both for Walla Walla and for the state
- Parental Involvement in Schools
- ELL Learners and the importance of special care so that they can also learn; affirmation of language is also important in the equation of Basic Education
- Bilingual Education; a program that assists a teacher in teaching ELL students
- Graduation Rates by Ethnicity and Higher Education

**Ms. Golden, President of the School Board** shared the following:

- Crossing cultural bridges with parents a real challenge
- Tremendous inroads with family involvement, however it would be better if parents could get involved sooner
- Model 5050 for immersion of a language; the sooner it is started the better
- One on one; pair person who speaks Spanish with someone who speaks English
- Only one Elementary school is doing the Model 5050 Immersion
- Limiting factor in finding teachers that can do these classes
- Walla Walla doing well but can't slack off on this endeavor

Commissioner Portugal stated that bilingual programs are state funded while Immersion programs are funded by the school districts. He asked Ms. Golden about the WASL scores, measures, and targets.

Ms. Golden and Ms. Rudnik stated that they plan on addressing the disparities.

**Commissioner Portillo Salazar** covered the following Justice and Equity info:

- Minority Youth age 10-17 in detention; 33.3 percent Hispanic
- Detention Population during 2004; 13% Hispanic
- Walla Walla County detained 173 Juveniles; 99 were Hispanic
- Walla Walla Juvenile Offense referrals; 244 whites & 173 Hispanics; charges filed on 80 Hispanics

**Chief of Police Fulton** stated that Prevention & Intervention was the key. He introduced Police Officer Bain who shared the following:

- Has been 7 years with the Police department's gang unit
- Does monthly meetings with school and probation officers including meetings with parents of kids that are at risk; meetings are held in the kid's homes
- Suppression is done in a more personal manner; with permission from the parents

- kid's rooms are looked over - most parents very receptive
- Referrals are made to youth center and teen center; kids are taught business skills through programs such as the repair and selling of bikes, computers, etc.
- Presentations on gangs are made to teachers; gang recognition, enforcement, and training

**Ms. Golden, School Board President** shared the following:

- Dave Cortez heads the Gear UP program in Yakima; high school and middle class students attend
- There are Gear-Up Grants for after school educational and fun programs
- Communication of these activities is not the problem; perhaps parents don't have the means to get kids to these activities
- FRIENDS group and other groups also assist kids at risk

**Mr. Jones, DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administrator** shared the following:

- They need to communicate to Police and community when kids are coming out of State institutions
- Functional Family Therapy Program; All family members need to be involved
- Cognitive Behavioral Training teaches kids skills and brings the family together as a unit; helps tremendously in getting kids involved in activities
- Family appointments are done when family is available
- Holding a meeting in Yakima on October 29<sup>th</sup>; CHA will be invited

**Ms. Hanks, Alcohol/Substance Abuse Regional Administrator** shared the following:

- DASA funds prevention programs
- The key to prevention is to stop it before it happens; best practices are not always best matched to communities
- She would like to hear CHA's recommendations

**Carlos Carrillo, DSHS Supervision Division of Children and Family Services** shared the following:

- Incidence of child abuse and neglect amongst Hispanics is low in Walla Walla' or perhaps not being reported
- Alcohol and meta amphetamines is high
- High depression rates amongst Latino women
- There are 4 bilingual staff in his office; no bilingual mental health services
- 62 foster homes in Walla Walla, however, they are all FULL; only 5 Hispanic Foster homes
- Interested in forming partnerships with Police department and schools; goal is to increase the high school graduation rate
- Child violence on the rise

**Christina Navarro**, a young Hispanic adolescent is an advocate of youth involvement in civic and community meetings. She stated that she encourages Hispanic youth and her friends to attend CHA public meetings.

Commissioner V. Chacon acknowledged and applauded her involvement and concern.

**Father Pat, St Patrick's Catholic Church** shared the following:

- Religion, church, & family are of utmost importance to the Hispanic people

- Flexibility is vital; reach out to people where they are and recognize diversity
- Friday night functions draw a large Latino group; there are a variety of different groups such as Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, etc.

**Jesse Briones, Walla Walla School District Teacher** shared the following:

- Heading voter registration drive in Walla Walla County
- Offers citizenship classes for the community

**Action Item:**

- Commissioner V. Chacon will send Mr. Briones NALEO voter registration Material

**Conrado Cavazos, community member** shared the following:

- Running for City Council
- Happy to see that CHA is advocating for Education
- Informing and educating folks on voting is necessary

**Jose Garcia Pabon** shared the following:

- With the Latino Community Development office in Richland
- Partners and collaborates with other organizations

Commission Portugal commended Mr. Pabon for the work he has done and is doing.

**Bill Erickson** shared the following:

- Heads the Latino Club at the Walla Walla High School
- Out of the 18,000 college students only 285 are Hispanic
- More collaboration from schools and community is needed
- More private industry and community involvement; including churches
- 10-15 hours of volunteer work; lots of changes happen through volunteering
- Many kids are in need of our help; lots of resources available but not being accessed by Hispanics
- Honored all those that helped him

Commissioner V. Chacón acknowledged Mr. Erickson for his work with the Hispanic students/community.

**Naomi Ortega** shared the following:

- WA State Migrant Council in Tri Cities invites all to their Beyond Disabilities 2007 Conference
- Depression is on the rise both in Hispanic men and women
- Invitation to their September 13-14 Gang Migration and Awareness

**Alicia Cardenas-Short, Employment Security Department** shared the following:

- ESD programs for youth involving one on one contact; contract with youth so that they stay in school
- Jobs for youth; geared at keeping youth out of gangs
- Ex-Offender program; works with employers to hire these individuals
- Offers housing and mental health resources
- Agricultural Unemployment Program; basic eligibility

**Rosanna Lugo, WorkSource** shared the following:

- Walla Walla Community partnership to offer GED classes; process on how to apply is not always known
- Hispanics are not aware of the Running Start program
- Consider posting “How to Fill out a College Application for Dummies” on CHA’s website

Commissioner V. Chacón stated that Garrison School has an information session in April that helps and encourages kids in coping with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and prepares them for high school and higher education.

Jose Garcia Pabon, community member, requested a copy of the CHA PowerPoint presentation.

Officer Bain said that there is a law that gives immigrant victims of violent crimes temporary visa status; CHA will get additional information regarding this law.

Commissioner V. Chacón thanked the community and panel members for their attendance, participation, and collaboration.

Official CHA business commenced at 9:05 PM

Commissioner V. Chacón moved to approve the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Othello Public minutes; Commissioner Gutiérrez seconded the motion. Vote followed with all in favor; the motion carried.

Commissioner V. Chacón moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Negrón seconded the motion. Vote followed with all were in favor; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

