

Commission on Hispanic Affairs



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- 2007 Recap
- Newly Appointed Commissioner
- 2008 Latino Legislative Day Reminder

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Message from the Director

It is, once again, that time of the year when

CHA is doing an evaluation of the achievements, memorable moments, and successes that we chronicled during the course of the year. We look at 2007 with satisfaction knowing that we made great use of opportunities that came our way and we look with anticipation, confidence, and a fresh perspective for the coming year.

We were faced with numerous challenges in 2007; however, we have risen to the occasion and seized the moment to intensify the implementation of our Strategic Plan objectives including our new public meeting format and the resilience of our newly formed partnerships.

2007 was set in motion with an absorbing and

lengthy legislative session that brought us some triumphs in the education and health care arena.

Great programs & initiatives that enhanced education for Latinos were also developed. We strengthened our relationship with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and we partnered with Tacoma Community College to co-sponsor the first Latino Parent Involvement Summit. In addition we participated in the Heritage Leadership program for at-risk junior high youth in the Federal Way School District.

In the Justice and Equity arena, we amplified our efforts based on feedback that we received from the Hispanic communities, media, and from community leaders and members that attended our public meet-

ings. Youth violence and gangs was unquestionably the center of people's concerns.

With help from The Work Group on Gang Related Crime which was created by the Washington Legislature through SB5987 we hope to get additional funding and assistance in 2008 to combat this issue. I certainly hope that everyone took the time to attend one of several community meetings that were held throughout the state.

Small strides were made in the economic development arena with the assistance of state agencies and the University of Washington. Through a partnership with the Dan J. Evans School of Public Affairs we co-produced "Keeping Count: An Assessment of the Data on Washington's Latino-Owned Businesses". With the support of the following



“We however, have reason to look back to 2007 with confidence and determination to maintain the forward momentum of progress and advance greater achievements.”

Message from the Director *continued*

state agencies: Labor & Industries, Department of Revenue, Employment Security Department, Department of Licensing, Department of Financial Institutions, General Administration, Washington Lottery, Office of the Secretary of State, Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise, and the Governor’s Office of Regulatory Assistance we formed the Washington State Latino-Owned Business Outreach group (WALOBO) which focuses on improving outreach efforts to Latino-owned businesses and collaboration amongst state agencies and the Commission.

Various other diverse partnerships were formed to reach out to our Hispanic communities. With the Department of Financial Institutions we were able to record two Spanish public service announcements to inform Hispanic communities regarding issues with pay-day loans, money transmitters, and sub prime lending. We

teamed up with the Attorney General’s office to co-host a financial literacy series on Jaime Mendez’s Radio Sol program. We joined the Department of Social and Health Services Diversity Committee to ensure that there is diversity in their workforce. We also hosted a Latino voter information meeting on in-depth research regarding Washington State Latino voters that was facilitated by NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected Officials).

Last but not least is the expansion of our website, www.cha.wa.gov and database.

It is ironic that this period of celebration of goodness is also defined by a high rate of Latino high school dropouts, immigration raids with devastating impact on the lives of many families, Latino youth violence and gangs on the rise, domestic violence, lack of strong pesticide regulations, large numbers of Latinos without health insurance, etc.

We, however, have reason to look back to 2007 with confidence and determination to maintain the forward momentum of progress and advancement to greater achievements.

Concentrated planning for Hispanic Legislative Day 2008 has been happening for much of 2007. This annual event is scheduled to take place Jan. 16th in Olympia, WA. The committee is chaired by Carlos Jimenez along with twelve members representing different areas in Washington State. Their legislative agenda will focus on education, health care, economic development and farm worker issues. For more information please visit www.hispaniclegislativeday.org or contact Carlos Jimenez on 206.762.3926.

The Commission’s Legislative Priorities will once again address Education, Justice, Equity, Economic Development, Healthcare and Farm worker issues. Much remains to

Message from the Director Continued

be done in each of these areas. We will also advocate for the passage for a comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the many barriers faced by all immigrants living in this country. It will be a reform that recognizes their diligence, hard work, and that protects immigrant workers and their families.

Our aim in 2008 is to strengthen our partnerships with community leaders, OSPI, Legislators, law enforcement, state agencies, etc. to insure that in this time of anti-immigrant notions and tendencies that we can continue working

together for a better tomorrow. As declared by Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard, "We are no longer a lily white neighborhood". It is quite evident that we aren't, therefore, we must all make a consorted effort to come together in a diplomatic and non-confrontational manner and be part of the solution of the many issues that we face.

As Director of this Commission, I rededicate myself to continue to be the servant of the people and continue to be the champion of our people. In the same spirit, I would like to

salute the Commissioners past and present, our volunteers, interns, and our many partners and wish them well in the coming year. They are the backbone of our Commission and we hope that they will continue to play their respective roles in advancing our mission when we call upon them.

In closing, I wish to thank all those institutions, agencies, organizations, media establishment, faith based groups, etc. who have partnered with CHA during 2007.

"As declared by Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard, we are no longer a lily white neighborhood."

Latino Legislative Day 2008 Olympia, WA Wednesday, January 16, 2008

CHA Public Meeting Dates for 2008

	<p>April 25-26 Omak</p> <p>June 27-28 Shelton</p> <p>August 22-23 Mt. Vernon</p> <p>October 24-25 Tacoma</p>	
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2007 CHA Public Meetings

The bulk of our 2007 public meetings were held in the eastern part of the state; Pullman, Othello, Walla Walla, and Sunnyside. Meetings were also held in Olympia, in conjunction with LEAP and in Vancouver this past year.

This year's public meetings were unique in the Commission's history because of our new meeting format which is de-

signed to assist us in meeting our strategic plan goals. This structure also provided a constructive venue for Latino communities and community leaders to coalesce and confer on issues affecting their communities.

Participation in our public meetings increased in 2007 and has grown significantly since 2004. In 2007 our public meeting

attendance was 332 compared to 95 in 2004. We hope that this trend will continue in 2008.

Heartfelt thanks to all who attended, especially those that were part of the community leader's panel. In addition, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our hosts for their overwhelming hospitality and the use of their facilities for our meeting venues.

"In 2007 our public meeting attendance was 332 compared to 95 in 2004."



2007 Public Meeting Attendees



Education Goals for 2008

We believe that education is a partnership with schools, parents, members of the community being the sum of its part. Our goals with no specific order are:

- More parent teacher involvement
- More diverse ideas and opinions from community members
- Expand grant program for school district and community organization partnerships that focuses on drop out prevention
- Create career academics in Washington high schools
- Expand Navigation 101 to all schools with low performance
- Create an effective age-appropriate educational pathway or alternative assessment for students who at the end of their senior year are unable to pass the WASL
- Require that all current and future teachers receive extensive information/training on how to teach in a multicultural classroom
- Develop two initial exams for new immigrants; one to evaluate English skills and one to assess writing and math skills
- Implement programs that coordinate curriculum, assessment, teacher training and family involvement
- Promote the development and implementation of new comers programs for ELL students
- Encourage post-secondary institutions to expand their admission processes to be more comprehensive
- Encourage bilingual college students to become teachers in Washington State
- Expand the Guest Teacher program from other countries, especially from Latin America.

“ We believe that education is a partnership with schools, parents, members of the community being the sum of its part.”

Newly Appointed Commissioner

Lillian Ortiz-Self

Lillian has a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters in Counseling from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

She has worked across child serving systems, which gives her a deep appreciation and understanding for all human services. Her job experiences include: serving as the Clinical Director of a Mental Health Center, Regional Coordinator for the Illinois State Board of Education, Education Advisor for the Department of Children and Family Services, and Director and Founder of the CU Project, a center for Latino families and youth. She has extensive clinical practice serving youth with severe emotional disorders and their families.

She is currently a Counselor at Everett High School where she has started the Latin Image Club to help Latino youth bridge barriers to achieve academic success. She is also the co-founder of *The Neema Center*; a center that provides counseling, consultation and training regarding youth and family issues.





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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to represent the Hispanic community in state government in order to empower Hispanics to exercise their right to equal opportunity in education, housing, health and economic development. The Commission strives to define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Hispanics in order to provide recommendations to the Governor, the legislature, and state agencies. The recommendations can have a profound effect on state policies and lead to the improvement and the overall quality of life and future for the Hispanic community in the State of Washington.



Goodbye and Thanks for your Service



Commissioner Baca



Commissioner Villareal



Commissioner Lopez-Morton

On behalf of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, we would like to extend our warm thanks to Commissioner Baca, Villareal, and Lopez- Morton for their valuable contributions to our organization during their terms.

We appreciate your energy and zeal to improve the life of our Washington State Hispanic communities. Your participation in our events have been fundamental in bringing the vision and mission of this organization.

May you have good memories of your role as a CHA Commissioner and may you find more opportunities to continue serving our people.

We wish you all the best and we want to reassure you that you will not be forgotten, you left your mark on many people and you will always have a friend at the Commission.

CHA Staff & Commissioners

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