



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Yakima
Study Session Minutes
June 23, 2006

I. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 12:27 PM by Vice-Chair Portugal

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Víctor Chacón, Félix L. Negrón, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Graciela Villanueva López, Rebecca Villareal, and Yonne Lopez Morton.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, Rogelio Burgos, & Caitlin Simmons

Guests Present: Cheryl Hanks

III. Commissioner Reports – All reports were received within the due date except for Commissioner Contreras, Villareal, and Portillo Salazar.

Commissioner Villanueva Lopez

- ❖ Attended May 1st Rally in Yakima
- ❖ Planned and Organized the Yakima public meeting in conjunction with DSHS

Commissioner Villareal

- ❖ Met with Rev. Dennis Payne from CAA. Discussed issues relating to gang violence in Kitsap County and his church's involvement. Rev. Payne and the NAACP have met with the Sheriff Dept. Chief and the Bremerton Chief of Police regarding the gang issue. Commissioner Villareal plans to meet with the Mayor to discuss this issue further and she will ask the Bremerton Chief of Police to join them.

Commissioner Portugal

- ❖ Participated in the Prescott High School issue regarding suspension of a high school Hispanic Student (was very involved and time consuming)

Commissioner Portugal feels that these types of investigations are not always to our benefit due to time constraints. He stated that cases that have a pattern of behavior are what we should be involved with; not isolated cases such as the Prescott case.

Commissioner Baca asked for an explanation of the type of issues that the Commission should be involved with. He stated that Commissioners in their role as volunteers do not necessarily have the expertise to handle many of the issues that come up. He suggested that perhaps we should be referring or recommending issues to other agencies or

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organizations that do have the expertise for assistance/resolution. Commissioner Baca also suggested that we have a resource guide with contact numbers of agencies/organizations.

Executive Assistant Luna stated that the Attorney General's office has a website with various contact numbers that deal with consumer protection and fraud. She also stated that the Utilities Commission and other state agencies were working on a one call number where people can call for assistance on various issues/concerns.

Commissioner Baca asked if the Commission could look into a Resource Guide.

Director Iñiguez stated that there was a Resource Guide; however, it was out-dated (2000) and that due to our limited staff it was impossible to revise and keep current.

Commissioner Chacón

- ❖ Participated in the May 1 International Day of the Worker march in Walla Walla and made a presentation on the need for legislation in the Education arena

Commissioner Baca

- ❖ Keymolen-Mejia's false allegations regarding the Monroe Police Department resulted in an ethics investigation in which the allegations were unfounded/false

Commissioner Portillo Salazar

- ❖ Attended several President Fox events which included greeting him at Boeing Field, Community Meeting, and the Dinner Gala.

Chair Lopez Morton arrived at 1:00 PM and took over Chair duties from Vice-Chair Portugal.

IV. Director's Report

- ❖ Will be working with the Attorney General's office on an upcoming conference on "fraud" which will be specifically tailored for Hispanics
- ❖ Has been appointed as Technical Support member for the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission for the remainder of 2006
- ❖ Continues doing radio broadcasts every Thursday with Radio KDNA where he talks about different issues such as Water and Boating safety, Money transfers, etc.
- ❖ Facilitated a meeting with DSHS and NW Family Therapy Institute (foster care provider)
- ❖ Did a presentation to the Title Insurance Company and is featured along with other Latino leaders in the June issue of Washington CEO
- ❖ Budget - We are right on the penny regarding our budget. We brought in \$1200 from interpreter equipment rental, donations, and honorariums. We have \$19,000 in savings and will be pulling \$3000 to insure that we balance at the end of the year.

The Director asked the Commission to consider endorsing the National Board Certification Training for Certified Teachers (NBCT) which will hold a conference on October 21, 2006 in Sea-Tac.

Vice-Chair Portugal will be drafting a letter specifying what our NBCT involvement will be.

Action Item: Commissioner Baca will make the motion to endorse the NBCT at the Public Meeting.

V. Committee Reports

Education Committee – The Education Committee Chair was not in attendance, therefore, no report was given

Economic Development Committee – Commissioner Villareal stated that her committee has discussed the CHA Strategic plan and talked about future conferences. She also stated that her job has changed and that she will not have the time to continue organizing and setting-up these conferences. She has tried to get volunteers to do the conferences; unfortunately she has not been successful in this endeavor. There is a possibility that Luz Gutierrez will do the Yakima conference either in September or November. It is tentative at this point and time.

Commissioner Villareal strongly believes that the community should be taking the lead with these conferences. She stated that she had contacted AHANA in Spokane but has not had a response.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton stated that AHANA is going statewide.

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez stated that she has a friend that works for a banking institution who might be interested in taking the leadership role in the economic development conferences.

Action Item: Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez will provide name and contact information to Commissioner Villareal.

Commissioner Baca stated that Commissioner Villareal has set a sound foundation for the economic conferences and that as a Commission we need to rethink our participation in future conferences. He said that our role should only be to join and participate with the communities.

Commissioner Villareal stated that the Committee will be looking at reforming and restructuring and that only Commissioners will be part of the Committee.

Justice and Equity Committee – Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that she will be establishing conference calls for this committee.

Action Item: Commissioner Portillo Salazar will forward all the pertinent information to the Executive Assistant for set-up of the Justice and Equity conference calls.

Vice-Chair Portugal informed the Commission that he had attended a Language Access summit that Columbia Legal had sponsored and that it dealt with all forms of language access.

VI. Other Issues

Vice-Chair Portugal stated that a personnel issue, the resignation of Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez needed to be addressed.

Action Item: Vice-Chair Portugal will make the motion to accept Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez's resignation at the Public Meeting.

Discussion ensued on when to post Commissioner Vacancies' once Commissioners have resigned.

Action Item: Commissioner Baca, Negrón, Portugal, and Portillo Salazar will look into this and set up process/protocol.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton stated that the Executive Committee should be utilized as an opportunity to gain leadership skills and that all should be given an opportunity to serve in this committee. She also said that the existing times set up for the conferences calls is not working for all, therefore, will need to be looked at.

Action Items: Alicia will remove Commissioner Villanueva Lopez from the Executive Committee Conference call roster. Executive Committee will find replacement to fill the open slot and address the conference call time issue.

Cheryl Hanks shared information on suspected pesticides-related illness and informed the Commission that all their Emergency Responders are bilingual. She also informed the Commission that the Environmental Health and Safety office is moving to Israel Road in Tumwater and that Rob Duff is the Director of Environmental Health Assessments (EHA) where the Pesticides Program will reside after July 1, 2006.

Caitlin Simmons, CHA volunteer explained the 60 day public meeting planner to the Commissioners and asked for their comments.

Commissioner Baca suggested that we share public meeting planning tips and templates with each other.

Action Item: Commissioner Negrón and Chair Lopez-Morton will put together a list of media contacts to facilitate press releases for our study session and public meetings.

Emerging Issues- Chair Lopez-Morton asked the Commission to voice what they saw as emerging issues in their communities. A laundry list of the emerging issues that included Immigration, domestic violence, gang violence, etc was compiled and will be distributed via email to all Commissioners.

Action Item: Caitlin will type up emerging issue list and Alicia will email to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Baca asked for input on how we can influence people to change and thereby end corruption, fraud, and violence.

Vice-Chair Portugal suggested that we have a statewide immigration forum where we could bring speakers from different organizations/agencies that have the expertise to address questions/concerns on immigration.

Chair Lopez-Morton stated that we need to look at the following:

- ❖ How do we influence?
- ❖ Who do we go to make an impact?
- ❖ Who are the ally's/stakeholders?

Vice-Chair Portugal suggested that we write a letter to the Governor and ask her for her stand in regards to 946.

Action Item: Executive Committee will write a letter to the Governor asking for her position on 946.

Director Iñiguez acknowledged staff and volunteers for their great work on finalizing the CHA Strategic Plan. He asked the Commission to look at the following:

- ❖ Now that the plan is completed what happens next
- ❖ How do we implement the actions steps
- ❖ Do we need to set priorities and where do we start
- ❖ Evaluation of realistic timelines

Commissioner Villareal asked if the Committees should be looking at goals and timelines individually and then be making recommendations.

Commissioner Chacón asked, "Who is going to do the hiring regarding Item #2 in the Justice and Equity portion of the strategic plan"?

Vice-Chair Portugal stated that perhaps the Committee should come up with a game plan/work plan that can be commented on by the Commission.

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez stated that she has a work plan template that she can share with the Commission.

Action Item: Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez will email the work plan template to staff and Commissioners.

Commissioner Baca stated that we need to look at the resources and tools that we have available and start here but before we take action we need to take a good look at what we are doing.

Director Iñiguez asked the Commission to think about our mandate and remember that we are advisors of policy.

Commissioner Baca stated that although our strategic plan may seem daunting there are actions, events, etc that we have accomplished/fulfilled as a Commission that fit into the identified strategic plan goals. He suggested that the first step is to have each Committee look at the goals.

Chair Lopez-Morton challenged each Commissioner to give a presentation of the strategic plan to two significant organizations/agencies. She stated that she would first like for each committee to put together a fact sheet by August 18th and present at the Quincy meeting. The presentations would occur after the Committee's come together and completion of the fact sheets.

Action Item: Each Committee needs to put together a fact sheet by August 18th.

Commissioner Villareal stated that Committee's should review work plans via a conference call.

Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez stated that Study Session Committee updates be in accordance with the strategic plan goals.

Chair Lopez-Morton stated that the Human Rights Commission meeting protocol was public meetings occurred before the study session. This allowed them the opportunity to address issues/concerns that were discussed the previous day at the public meeting.

Much discussion occurred regarding the change of protocol on CHA's future meetings and the following was decided:

- ❖ Action Items will be discussed one hour prior to Friday night's public meeting
- ❖ CHA will trial the new meeting protocol at the October South Park public meeting
- ❖ Commissioner Chacón will make the motion at the public meeting

Action Item: Commissioner Chacón will make the change in meeting protocol at the public meeting.

There was much discussion regarding our new website design with many suggestions on what to change, remove, or add. Some of the suggestions were as follows:

- ❖ Remove the calendar (5 for removal and 3 for keeping he calendar)
- ❖ Include a picture of a Latina professional
- ❖ Remove the pictures and leave the text

Since the identified changes are somewhat late, (we are at 80% complete in the website design project) Commissioner Negrón will follow-up with Carlene Covey to ascertain the costs involved.

Action Item: Alicia will send Carlene Covey's contact information to Commissioner Negrón.

CHA Database – Director Iñiguez gave a presentation on the newly designed database. He informed the Commissioners that a subscriber's sign up would be added to the CHA webpage and went over the Commissioner's report template.

Some of the changes that were identified are as follows:

- ❖ Change the last entry to read, “Select topics of Interest” and add “Select all”
- ❖ Performance Measures – Correct the misspelling of invoices
- ❖ Commissioner Report Form- Can a calendar be added and correct the misspelling of invoices
- ❖ Send Message change to updated verbiage
- ❖ Constituent Reports – Change “by interest” to “topic of interest” and add “by County
- ❖ View Commissioner Reports – Correct misspelling of invoices
- ❖ Find out if attachments can be sent from the Commissioners template

Action Item: Alicia will send corrections to Steve Sage.

The Commission discussed the public meeting protocol and DSHS’s responsibilities. Commissioner Villanueva-Lopez advised the Commission that DSHS will assign a case number and do the follow-up on any specific case that is presented at the meeting. Each presenter will be given ten minutes for their presentation and Chair Lopez-Morton will be the timekeeper.

Director Iñiguez passed out a Commissioner Activity report for everyone’s review and comments.

Vice’Chair Portugal stated that there were two components to the Spanish versus English issue that was raised by Commissioner Portillo Salazar, one that the community that really needs our help is the folks that are undocumented and those that do not speak English. He said there is no less empathy if you are not bilingual; however, we need to be able to represent all Latinos in the state of Washington. He also said that we need to do our best to get Commissioners that are bilingual so that we can speak with professionals, farm workers, immigrants, etc.

Executive Assistant Luna informed the Commissioners that we have two new interns that will be working on the CHA Annual Report this summer. They are Nissa Iversen, recent graduate of PLU and Lea Andrews, student at WSU. Their email addresses are as follows

- ❖ Nissa’s is CHAIntern1@cha.wa.gov
- ❖ Lea’s is CHAIntern2@cha.wa.gov

She also informed the Commissioners that articles for the Summer Newsletter are due in the CHA office by August 30th and that she needed all to turn in their hotel receipts, vouchers, and folders at the end of the public meeting. A Commissioner Exit form was also given to Commissioner Villanueva Lopez for her action.

Action Item: Commissioner Villanueva Lopez will fill out Commissioner Exit form and return to the CHA office.

Chair Lopez-Morton asked that interns and or volunteers include a subject line when sending out emails.

Action Item: Alicia will inform interns and volunteers regarding the email subject line.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.