



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Commission Meeting**

Zoom Meeting  
 September 19, 2020, 10:00am to 12:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Bernal Baca	Chair	CHA	Yes
Brian Moreno	Vice Chair	CHA	Yes
Candice Garza	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Jessica Hernandez	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Lili Navarrete	Commissioner	CHA	No
Lina Alvarez	Vice Chair	CHA	Yes
Lola Flores	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Randy Nuñez	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Rodrigo Renteria	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
<b>STAFF</b>			
María Sigüenza	Executive Director	CHA	Yes
Nancy Rocha Aguilar	Communications and External Relations Manager	CHA	Yes
Myra Hernandez	Operations and Special Projects Manager	CHA	Yes
<b>GUESTS</b>			
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI); Nina Martinez, Board Chair, Latino Civic Alliance (LCA); Dr. Bish Paul, Washington STEM; Jim Stoffer Sequim School District School Board			

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Bernal would like to list as Chris Reykdal as a guest for OSPI update, Nina Martinez placed on the agenda from LCA for the record.

With no further discussion, the agenda was approved.

**WELCOME/ICE BREAKER**

Introductions and acknowledgement of the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

**LATINO CIVIC ALLIANCE**

Latino Civic Alliance Board Chair, Nina Martinez, explained the COVID Community Call intent was to listen to communities, avoid duplications, elevate voices etc. From these calls persistent issues were reported and community leaders reported them out to Latinx Legislators 3 weeks ago to address gaps. The next step is to create a White Paper based off the report out to the Legislators:

- Language Access
- COVID Testing Access
- Access to free/affordable healthcare
- Unemployment benefits for undocumented workers
- Unemployment language barriers



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## COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

### *COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

- Resources for undocumented folks – grassroots organizing to help these communities
- State agencies not launching in-person information
- Worker protection especially in the agricultural industry
- Automated L&I Hotline number
- Agencies working together and communicating in the best way
- PPE and insufficient supply at the beginning
- DOH oversight of local Health departments
- Small business resources
- State response – lack of communication in the rural areas with essential workers, no central database, no clear guidelines from the state etc.

Three (3) asks of the Legislature:

- Legislative hearing
- Advisory committee comprised of Latinx leaders
- Funding for research on the impact of COVID in the Latino community

Board Chair Nina Martinez stressed the importance of conversations regarding Latinos not volunteering for vaccine testing and what the vaccine means for the Latino community i.e. costs and access.

### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OSPI)**

Superintendent Chris Reykdal explained how the Governor has the decision power to close down schools not OSPI and the reopening of school districts.

School districts have their own systems in place and many were saying they were not ready to come back to in-person learning. Many communities did not have an infrastructure in place to integrate distance learning and no state was prepared for the pandemic or the training to get instructors ready for distance learning.

Governor Inslee created three (3) levels: high risk, medium risk, and low risk. Many districts have numbers coming down and looking to open in October. OSPI continues to give guidance on how to implement health district decisions in schools.

We are continuing meals for families as many inequities exist. While there is no substitute for in-person learning as kids need to learn from each other with each other, hybrid models are being developed. The hybrid model is taking into account the other models such as in Georgia's fall back and universities having to shift back to distance learning for going back in-person too soon.

Local health districts to decide when to open, many of them are feeling political pressure but the case numbers have in them in medium/high risk levels. Many families are asking to reopen because they need childcare, meal access etc. Many places are pushing too hard and this needs to be done slowly and well.

Internet connectivity – are there areas/resources for SW WA students?

- Staff person to be the contact person for family's needs to be Spanish speaking. Things are being translated but not many families are tech savvy – there is a need for a community liaison.

Funding put towards tech infrastructure, brokering child care needs, getting people to locations with connectivity etc. will be dispersed to community organizations for them to help families and districts.



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Dept. of Commerce has a map of the hotspots in all of WA.

- <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/>
- <https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/2020-21-community-based-organization-grants>

Lessons learned:

- About 200k families started this crisis without access to resources.
- Revitalize our indigenous languages and engage with our indigenous communities.
- Standard Based Grading - Giving students the support they need and advancing those who have mastered the curriculum.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Moreno submitted typo change to the Zoom June 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

Chair Baca asked for further comments. None were shared.

Chair Baca: Minutes stand approved as read with the addition of the s.

Without further discussion, amendments were approved.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Siguenza shared the highlights of the ED Report.

#### **Finance:**

CHA is in phenomenal financial standing but we are still in line for a 15% cut (60-70k). There is plan on using some of our funding for a State of Latino Community post COVID-19 Report but we are being cautious.

#### **Audit:**

CHA's audit began the second week of August and our original auditor told us it would take two (2) weeks. There was unexpected internal staff change in the Auditor's Office that resulted in CHA receiving a new auditor and our audit timeline has changed.

Auditor meets weekly with the Operations and Special Projects Manager to audit payroll, OPMA, and travel. DES Small Agency Services are working closely with us and auditor. We are expecting lessons learned from this audit.

What triggered it? Audits are done regularly and they usually like to focus on big agencies and every once in a while they will audit small agencies.

#### **CCW Grant:**

We are in month seven (7) of the grant that is set to expire in mid-February. Everett, Pasco, and Lake Washington Institute of Tech were chosen because of their ability to engage and provide capacity.

We are working with WA STEM to provide guidance and help put together a playbook for Washington State to implement the program. CHA is not managing or overseeing it but the funding is used to put the program together.



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Attendance Report:

A monthly attendance report is to be sent out to the Boards and Commissions Office. Meeting minutes will be used to reflect attendance.

*Discussion:*

Chair Baca asked where the grant comes from and how it's managed.

Executive Director Siguenza explained Career Connect Washington (CCW), made up of different state agencies, awarded CHA the grant but it is being managed by ESD. The grant pays for a small portion of staff salaries – ED Siguenza and part-time Grant Manager Myra Hernandez. There is an indirect 10% that we are not using but of that full percent some of it will be going to WA STEM.

**DR. BISH PAUL, WASHINGTON STEM**

Vice Chair Moreno explained CHA's partnership with WA STEM.

Scaling the P-TECH model to Washington as Career Connect Tech (CCT). Industry partner education, not specific to the business but the industry. It is to give students portability amongst sectors. We have identified three (3) pilot programs: Everett, Pasco, and Lake Washington Institute of Tech. Emphasis on equity – no testing to enter the program, removing financial barriers for students. At no cost to the students, CCT would provide them with transportation and the materials needed, students would participate in above minimum wage paid internships that are relevant to the credentials.

Dr. Bish Paul, Policy Director for WA STEM gave background on WA STEM and a partnership with CHA to help in advocacy to reform Dual Credit – set as a legislative priority.

About WA STEM

- WA STEM is a statewide nonprofit with focus on cradle to career with DEI emphasis.
- Provide equitable access to education and pathways to careers that earn a family-sustaining wage.

How WA STEM Works

- Convene and partner with eleven (11) Regional STEM networks alongside business, education, and community leaders to identify and scale effective local solutions.
- Provide direct support through open-source access to data and measurement tools and targeted financial investments.
- Advocate for change through education decision makers, storytelling, and collaboration in order to create the foundation for lasting, equitable change in our state.

Dual Credit Reform – CHA Advocacy Ask

- Dual credit and dual enrollment used interchangeably.
- Only 50% of students who did not do a dual credit pursued higher education.

Dual Credit Program Overview

- Concurrent Enrollment Washington Programs
  - College in the High School (CiHS)
  - Running Start
  - Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- College Preparatory Programs with Exams Washington Programs
  - Advanced Placement (AP)
  - International Baccalaureate (IB)



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- Cambridge International (CI)

WA Dual Credit Data for Latinx

- 54% of Latinx students in 9-12 grade completed at least 1 dual credit course – but unsure of the support they are receiving.
- Latinx students make up 24% of K-12 enrollment in WA State.
- 20% of students enrolled in CTE Dual Credit identified as Latinx.

*Discussion:*

Any cost associated for dual credit program for the students? Working with university to recognize the credits?

- Yes we are working on it. Equity map on how to achieve equity on 6 programs. Policy recommendations. All those programs cost students differently. Statewide articulation for CTE. Yakima is good at dual credit and getting students and families involved.

Are there any restrictions for the six dual college credit programs you shared for undocumented students? Also, are College Bound Scholarship students guided into these programs, considering that many are Latino students and promised college funding?

- 2 of the dual programs don't have restrictions for undocumented students (2/4) – still needs to be worked on.
- Especially for the exam based.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Chair Baca asked for Commissioners to come back on Oct. 9 during the CHA conference call with their committee's legislative priorities.

Higher Ed and K-12 Committee

- Commissioners Nuñez, Renteria, Garza, and Moreno

Physical, Behavioral, and Environmental Health Committee

- Commissioners Hernandez, Navarrete, and Flores

Law and Justice Committee

- Commissioners Garza, Baca, and Flores

Econ Workforce Development Committee

- Commissioners Moreno and Alvarez

Commissioner Flores interested in environmental justice and health. Can fit into health and into justice. Make a note that it is a special interest area of mine

Rename taskforces to:

Higher Education and K-12

Physical, Behavioral, Environmental Health

Law and Justice

Economic and Workforce Development

Vice Chair Moreno explained every commissioner needs to serve on one of the committees but no committee can have more than five (5) members. They were designed to follow the committees of the legislature so that you know where you'll go with your priorities. Names more generic than the bylaws, those committees are to create their identity and have a platform for the legislature.

Commissioners expressed their interest:



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Vice Chair Alvarez: Law and justice, Econ Workforce Dev  
Commissioner Garza: Law and Justice, Education  
Chair Baca: Law and Justice

Chair Baca asked for a structure to flush out charters and for a schedule to be put out. ED Siguenza cautioned meeting quorum but meeting can be publicized for the community to join.

Leads for each committee:  
Higher Ed and K-12: Randy Nuñez  
PBE Health: Lola Flores  
Law & Justice: Candice Garza  
Economic and Workforce Development: Lina Alvarez

**COMMENTS**

Guest Jim Stoffer of the Sequim School Board and member of WASDA expressed his appreciation for being invited to the meeting and the importance of the legislative priorities that they are also working on explaining that it is all connected.

**NEXT STEPS**

Committee charters will be sent out to leads and members to begin work.  
First committee meeting deadline: October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Report out from each committee chair: October 9<sup>th</sup> Commission conference call

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Garza.  
Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.



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CHAT BOX:

One of our local school board directors, Jim Stoffer, is here joining us. Welcome Jim!

From Maria Siguenza to Everyone: 10:38 AM

Thank you for joining us! Welcome!

From Bernal Baca to Everyone: 10:39 AM

Great welcome Jim Stoffer!!!!

From Me to Everyone: 10:40 AM

can we have everyone mute?

there is an echo

From Bish Paul (he/him) Washington STEM to Everyone: 10:55 AM

Drive-In WiFi Hotspots Location Finder. <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/>

From Brian Moreno to Everyone: 10:55 AM

Thanks, Bish!

From Maria Siguenza to Everyone: 10:55 AM

Thank you, Bish!

From Bish Paul (he/him) Washington STEM to Everyone: 10:56 AM

Grants Available for Community-Based Organizations to Support Student Learning. <https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/2020-21-community-based-organization-grants>

From Mayra Hernandez to Everyone: 10:57 AM

I'll add these links to the notes. Thank you!

From Lina to Everyone: 10:58 AM

Thank you, Mayra

From Jim Stoffer to Everyone: 11:05 AM

Thank you & thank you Jessica for the invite. Jessica I will send you an email from my SB page re WSSDA's legislative program, which should be helpful & please share. Here is a link for all things WSSDA General Assemble which is coming up on Friday the 25th:) WSSDA.org

From Jess Hernandez, CHA Commissioner to Everyone: 11:05 AM

thank you Jim!

From Rodrigo Renteria / CHA to Everyone: 11:07 AM

That is fantastic!

From Brian Moreno to Everyone: 11:17 AM

We can always email Bish questions as well.

From Brian Moreno to Everyone: 11:34 AM

If anyone would like to learn more about the Career Connect Tech Academies (CCT), happy to follow up after this meeting.

From Bish Paul (he/him) WA STEM to Everyone: 11:34 AM

FYI: statewide Career Connect WA funding \$ comes from HB2158 (2019) the Workforce Education Investment Act (WEIA), which also pays for the Washington State Grant the state's "free college" program

From Randy Nuñez to Everyone: 11:50 AM

Bish, I have a couple questions.

Are there any restrictions for the six dual college credit programs you shared for undocumented students?





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Also, are College Bound Scholarship students guided into these programs, considering that many are Latino students and promised college funding?

From Candice Garza to Everyone: 11:52 AM

I also have a couple questions, Bish.

From Jim Stoffer to Everyone: 11:57 AM

a quick comment if allowed

From Rodrigo Renteria / CHA to Everyone: 11:58 AM

Isabel Carrera Zamanillo at UW is a great resource; she is in charge of STEM initiatives.

<https://environment.uw.edu/about/office-of-the-dean/deans-office-staff/>

From Candice Garza to Everyone: 12:03 PM

YES SO GREAT TO HAVE GUESTS GIVE US INFO!!

From Jess Hernandez, CHA Commissioner to Everyone: 12:04 PM

Agreed, guests to speak to us was really wonderful

ORIGINAL