

Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs Meeting April 28, 2004

Attendance

Present:

Mr. Salvador Soto – Vice Chair
Ms. Jenny Sarabia – Executive Director
Ms. Carmen Quintana
Ms. Cheryl Sullivan
Mr. Mike Draper
Dr. Mary Ilu Altman
Mrs. Karen Martinez
Mrs. Claudia Fuentes
Mr. Gregorio Chavez
Mrs. Ridley-Turner

Staff Present:

Mr. Lawrence McCormack

- I. Introductions:
 - a. Mr. Soto called the meeting, but there were not enough members present for quorum. He passed along that Rep. Aguilera wanted the Commission to meet with the BMV alone before taking comment from the public.

- II. Commission Business:
 - a. Issues
 - i. Brief discussion: Statewide Conference
Ms. Sarabia said that Rep. Aguilera bought it up before the Commission during the last meeting. The Commission will have a booth at the statewide Hispanic summit and will facilitate a workshop to inform the public about the Commission.
 - ii. Guest Speaker: Commissioner Mary DePrez and Dan Hagle of the BMV.
Commissioner DePrez brought in bi-lingual publication from the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (previous job). BMV has started the Central Verification Processing Initiative to check the documentation of individuals before issuing a license. The process can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. There are also bi-lingual postings of policies and BMV documents.
Mr. Hagle added that 80-90% of documents are verified through CIS.
Commissioner DePrez continued that unidentified documents are not necessarily illegal. Current BMV policy only allows for use of documents that are valid. She changed the rule to allow use of out-

dated documentation as long as it is valid at the time of application.

She has also been working with Ms. Sarabia on projects such as translating the driver's manual in Spanish and BMV policies. The BMV is also working to use certain centralized branches to provide bi-lingual services. Ms. Sarabia has volunteered to help with cultural sensitivity training in June.

Ms. Sarabia said she is waiting on the Governor's approval. The statute requires that the commissioners and the Governor establish the Commission's directives. Governor has approved the idea which came from Mr. Chavez's Notre Dame Bank example.

Dr. Altman asked if the centralized system would be in Indianapolis and the rest of the state. Mr. Hagle responded that it is a pilot program for now. Commissioner DePrez added that there has been a problem with un-certified translators who charged between \$100-\$500 for services. The BMV is trying to control this issue.

Mr. Chavez suggested the Supreme Court translator training, but Mr. Soto said that only two have passed it. Commissioner DePrez interjected that the BMV has thought about tape recording translation service and Ms. Sarabia noted that the court system testing is the only system in place. Mr. Soto said that he owns an interpreter service in Ft. Wayne. There are problems with the standard and the need for minimum credentials.

Dr. Altman questioned the need for a translator. Mr. Hagle noted that Spanish is in greatest demand and Commission DePrez stated that the BMV has a driving test in Spanish. Dr. Altman continued that the Anglo community is worried about people getting licenses without knowing signs. The BMV needs to be concerned with safety. After doing this process for a month, how many applications have been declined?

Commissioner DePrez did not have numbers to check. Dr. Altman said the BMV should keep statistics and the Commission should monitor as well. The BMV also did not have information about new procedures for enforcement of driving without a license. There was a discussion of the penalties for driving without a license initiated by Dr. Altman. It was concluded that offenders do not go to jail, but Rep. Aguilera will bring a judge as a guest next meeting who can answer questions.

Mr. Chavez asked what documents are needed when applying for a license. Mr. Soto then asked who sets these rules and when they were revised. They were last revised in 2003. Commission DePrez added that the BMV is tightening up the regulations for a social security number. The BMV is using pilot software to verify social security numbers.

Mr. Soto questioned the use of the matrícula consular and TIN. The BMV accepts the matrícula as a secondary ID. Dr. Altman then asked what is needed to renew a license. It can be renewed online with a 60 day temporary license issued during documentation verification after passing a driving test. After 60 days the BMV notifies CIS and not law-enforcement.

Mr. Chavez noted cases in Elkhart where people were turned into police for fraudulent documents. Commissioner DePrez responded that it was at the request of local police. Mr. Soto asked if it is the duty of a state agency to turn people in. Commissioner DePrez said the BMV have an obligation to work with the police which is a slippery slope because they don't know if it is required by law.

Ms. Sullivan asked if it would be possible to post BMV documents in other state agencies. Commissioner DePrez would like to expand the poster policy to include literature from other agencies to let people be aware of the services that are available.

Mr. Chavez finished by asking why the pilot program was only available in Indy. Because it can be easily monitored by the state headquarters and there is a big demand.

iii. Statewide conference:

Mr. Soto wants to model it after the statewide Hispanic/Latino Conference. Ms. Sarabia responded that there is already an organization who wants to give it to the Commission. The cost would have to be reduced though. We can invite them to come and talk to the Commission.

Dr. Altman asked why they wanted to give it up. Ms. Sarabia responded that they are not doing it for money. It is done for outreach, which is an area where the Commission can cut costs. Waiting on volunteers from various parts of the state to help out with the conference

iv. Budget

Mrs. Fuentes stated that the Department of Workforce Development takes care of the budget. The Commission has minimal expenditures with the only real expense being salary. However, there will be a 5% cut in the budget due to state revenue restraints. She then answered various technical questions about the budget.

Ms. Sarabia said that 5% will be returned to the general fund this year with a 2% permanent cut next year. She has been traveling to various summits and paying her own entrance fees to cut costs. There is a need for members to donate to the committee their per diem and all have except for one member. The money is needed for a program for the community. There is also no cap on statewide travel.

Mrs. Ridley-Turner noted that Ms. Sarabia should set aside an amount for all supplies in a proposed budget. A proposed budget

would let the Commission know how much money they have to work with. There was a discussion of how to set up the budget. Mrs. Fuentes reminded the Commission that it needs to show that something has been accomplished before July 1. Dr. Altman recommended that Ms. Sarabia get a letter from Commissioner DePrez for documentation to prove the Commission's work. Commission members agreed with this point.

Ms. Sarabia also asked the Commission members to help out by meeting with the sub-committees. The Commission is the only Latino voice at many meetings. Dr. Altman suggested that Ms. Sarabia prioritize so that she attends only the important events.

Ms. Sarabia stated that she is invited to many events and has to choose. However, everyone is welcoming the Commission.

Mrs. Fuentes concluded by sharing that the special funds account is tax-deductible if cheques are made to the State of Indiana and memo states that it is a gift to the Commission.

v. Brief Discussion of Webpage Design

Ms. Sarabia is working with Access Indiana, but the site is not completed yet. Asked if the members wanted photos and bios on the page.

vi. Re-visit Lay member traveling meetings (open-mic) forums in various regions.

Mr. Soto asked that everyone bring something back to the meetings from the community. Mr. Chavez will be organizing an event.

vii. Dialog for Commission's Annual Report

Ms. Sarabia stated that the statute requires an annual report and needs help. Will use the report from the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males as a blueprint, then use "white pages" on specific issues. Dr. Krause from the Urban League will volunteer his help and Commission members will aid with editing. There was concern from members about giving recommendations so early and the size of the project.

viii. Review Sample Mission Statement and Sample Bylaws

Ms. Sarabia found the Idaho Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs mission statement as a good example. There was then a group discussion with wording changes to the Idaho statement. The new mission statement with revisions will be sent out with the minutes to be voted upon during the next meeting.

b. Executive Director Report

i. Outreach Report

A. Pilot Program is going well with between 10 and 150 students participating each night.

B. Latino Summit will be interesting because one panel will be telling stories about coming to America.

C. LULAC was visited by Ms. Sarabia and she was impressed by the structure and organization. Mr. Chavez then elaborated on the group and about the state conference.

ii. Interns and Volunteers

There will be two interns: Yvonne Armendariz, who has an interest in law and Marisa Aguilar, who is more interested in the legislature.

III. Public: Question and Answer

- a. Lee O'Connor from the Hispanic Law Center legal services – out of South Bend. Talked about how they challenged the point system used by the BMV to prove lawful documentation in the U.S. It was changed behind closed doors. Everyone who applies for a license must prove they are legally in the U.S. However, treating people differently if they are citizens or not is in violation of the constitution.