

INDIANA COMMISSION ON HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
7/29/04

Present:

Rep. John Aguilera

Sal Soto

Carmen Quintana

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes

Mike Draper

Sen. Vi Simpson

Mary Ilu Altman

Cheryl Sullivan

Call Meeting/Minutes Review

Commission Chair Aguilera called the meeting to order at approximately 10:40a.m. No quorum was established; commission unable to accept May and June 2004 minutes.

Board Retreat & Discussion

Chair Aguilera announced that the Commission Board Retreat was originally intended for August 13 and 14. In his opinion, more time is needed and he suggested pushing the retreat back until September. The Retreat will take place on a Friday and the following Saturday for a half day. The Retreat will address the issues of the Commission's bylaws, strategic plan, and budget.

Vice Chair Soto announced that Steve Corona will be the free consultant for the board retreat. Steve is the president of Work One in Fort Wayne and also the School Board President in Fort Wayne.

Chair Aguilera announced that drafts would be worked on for the Commission Retreat.

Subcommittee Reports & Commission Reports

Commissioner Altman informed the Commission that she attended the National Hispanic Leadership Summit on July 12 & 13. Senator Lugar met with the Indiana Delegates in his office. Senator Lugar informed the delegates that he supports the DREAM Act and other immigration issues. Unfortunately the DREAM Act will probably not pass this year. Commissioner Altman also met with the Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C. and met with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. Commissioner Cantu also attended the Summit. Overall, it was a great opportunity for networking.

General discussion followed regarding the DREAM Act. Chair Aguilera mentioned that he spoke with the Chancellor of Purdue University. Most universities are working to accommodate the Hispanic community. Chair Aguilera also met with Vincennes University and the Black Caucus. He attended the National Caucus of State Legislatures Conference and attended transportation committee meetings. Utah allows undocumented

immigrants to obtain a driver's license. The Commission should research temporary driver's licenses. Chair Aguilera asked the BMV to speak with Utah about implementation efforts.

Commissioner Altman suggested contacting Senator Orin Hatch's office in Utah.

Vice Chair Soto announced he was nominated for an award for those who have worked hard in the community.

Commissioner Chavez announced that he received an email (in packet) concerning an amendment that would remove the Matricula Consular as an I.D. for banks. Ciro Rodriguez is the contact person 202/225-1640.

Chair Aguilera suggested sending a letter from the Commission in support of the Matricula Consular. Indiana accepts and supports its use.

Commissioner Ontiveros-Fuentes reported on the budget. Currently \$85,000 remains of the \$125,000.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that the budget should be a topic at the Commission Retreat. Also, we should factor in the costs of the Statewide Hispanic Summit.

Commissioner Simpson mentioned that if the Commission does not spend the money, it will not be re-appropriated.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that the reported total does not yet include the cost of the signature event (Hispanic Summit). It should be included in the budget.

Vice Chair Soto suggested using the Commission Budget money for the retreat.

Chair Aguilera agreed with Vice Chair Soto's suggestion.

Commissioner Altman mentioned that Executive Director Jenny Sarabia should book hotel rooms for the retreat.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that Commissioners should receive per diem reimbursement if necessary. There is enough money in the budget. He asked for any further comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Altman announced that September is Hispanic Heritage month. She suggested that Jenny should research the events taking place around the state.

Commission Intern Marisa Aguilar mentioned that she will be submitting a report about the DREAM Act.

Chair Aguilera announced that he was reelected as Secretary Treasurer of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators.

Commissioner Simpson announced that there will be a Healthcare Conference held in La Jolla, California and that she would be attending.

Chair Aguilera announced a Health Conference he will be attending in Boston, MA. The conference will address obesity and mental health in minorities.

Public Questions/Comments:

Audience members introduced themselves. Martha Carvajal announced Senator Evan Bayh's Hispanic Roundtable to take place later this month. She also said there should be better notification of Commission meetings. Ricardo Gambetta said that this was the first time he received notification of Commission meetings.