

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/ Latino Affairs  
11/12/04 Meeting Minutes  
Conference Rms. 4 & 5**

**Present:**

Cheryl Sullivan  
Karen Martinez  
Lawrence McCormack  
Amy Mendoza  
John Aguilera  
Mara Candelaria-Reardon  
Gregorio Chavez  
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes  
Mary Ilu Altman  
Ronnie Cantu  
Rep. Richard McClain

**Audience:**

Mrs. Cantu  
Ivan Schumann  
Maria Pimentel- Gannon

Introductions:

No quorum established, not enough members in attendance.

Rep. Aguilera: We will adhere to the agenda and go over those items that don't require a majority vote. Will not review minutes from the 10-28-04 Commission meeting and 11-4-04 BMV meeting minutes, will have to do it next meeting

Commission Business:

*Annual Report:* Amy Mendoza asked if any sub committee chairs had updates to bring to the table. No response.

Rep. Aguilera mentioned the BMV is preparing a report to submit to the general assembly. Also mentioned that a task force had been formed to work on the Annual Report and suggested Amy to review past meeting minutes and get with the task force to provide an update at the next meeting.

*Opening next meeting to the Healthcare Translator/Interpreter Commission:* Rep. Aguilera mentioned he had attended one of their meetings and they are doing an excellent job. They have just released a report. Suggested Amy invite them to a future meeting.

*Hispanic Summit Update-Letter to Christie Gillespie:* John explained the importance of having a signature event for the commission. He had submitted a letter to Christie Gillespie, Exec. Dir. of IACED. No response received as of yet. John suggested Amy to call Christie directly for a response.

### Sub committee Reports

*Drivers License-* Rep. Aguilera informed the group that the Drivers License Sub committee is working on a proposal to submit to the General Assembly. The subcommittee agreed this is the best way to address the issue. Have brought together a number of attorneys, one of which is an Immigration lawyer.

Suggested writing a letter to Senator Wyss asking for his participation with the Subcommittee. This issue affects the entire state, there are safety & security issues involved, stressed the importance of making this a non-partisan decision.

We feel what we want to put forward is do-able but it will take educating both the General Assembly and the Governor's Office on the issue.

Dr. Jorge Chapa of IU Latino Studies, Pat Rios and Carmen Quintana, are also involved in preparing the report.

Mary Ilu Altman: requested to continue to receive the meeting minutes ahead of the meeting. It has been very helpful.

*Budget-* Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes gave an update on the numbers. We have \$71,000 left from our 2003 allocation. That means we have an additional \$125,000 for 2004. Rep. Aguilera mentioned one of the things that we would like to do (and the Commission will have to make these decisions,) is that there are a lot of entities out there that would be good to get Amy involved with. There are good networking opportunities she can utilize to understand how other states are dealing with similar issues. That may be a good use of some of those dollars, making sure that the Exec. Director can participate in some of these. The National Caucus of State Legislatures will be having a forum in December. They will be viewing the drivers license issue specifically. There will be experts and other legislators present to give their & their states position on issues. It is a good opportunity for us to see what is happened in other states

As a body we have had some review of the Tennessee & Utah legislation. Tennessee is giving certificates, not licenses. This is a certificate that allows them to drive. In some regard this helps because it gives them the opportunity to drive and have insurance and it is also a way of segmenting one group of people, suggested to continue to track this.

Relating back to the budget issues, would like to suggest the exec, director be involved in those networks that can bring great information to us

*Discussion:* Mary Ilu Altman questioned the issue of resume sending to Gov. elect Mitch Daniels.

Rep. Aguilera suggested it is a good idea for everyone from the commission: to write to the Gov. and ask for consideration in retaining the current Exec. Director. There is nothing that says they have to replace, but there is a chance that it could occur in transition. Suggested Commission members to do that on their own behalf. Suggested

the commission as a whole should put something forward to the Gov. on Executive Director's behalf. She was selected through a selection process. We want to make sure that we keep progress moving forward, and it would not be in our best interest to have the Governor appoint a new Exec. Director when we had just brought someone on and it was a bi-partisan group that made this selection. We cannot take a formal vote but it would be nice to have the commission send something, on behalf that we have full faith in her to move this commission forward. I can do that on behalf of the commission under my own heading.

Rep. Richard McClain requested that his name also be listed on the letter, to have bi-partisan support.

Mary Ilu Altman recommended that the commission submit the letter before the December meeting, and that Rep. Aguilera can do that as the chair.

Rep. Aguilera suggested that commission members can also do that on your own.

Rep. McClain suggested that it be done sooner than later.

Mara Candelaria-Reardon: I'm sorry I missed the last meeting, are you saying that we should submit our resumes to the transition team?

Rep. Aguilera: You would submit yours back to Speaker Bauer, you need to know who your appointed authority was.

#### Executive Director Report

Amy Mendoza asked commission members what types of organizations/ groups would the commission like representation in.

Rep. Aguilera: It would be nice for the Executive Director to start building a data base of hispanic/ latino social organizations throughout the state. Many people tell him that they are not aware of the meetings. There should also be a strong effort to get a website put up and notification of the meetings on an ongoing basis. If there are outside meetings where there are major issues, if there are things that happen that are relevant and urgent, please check with those commission members from other communities. Most of the commission members probably have organizations that they want tied into the commission, please inform Amy of what those organizations are.

Gregorio Chavez: Jenny had the addresses of several newspapers, I think that would be helpful to inform them of meetings.

Amy Mendoza: Jenny had passed the media list onto me, and the list was used to inform media of the meeting today. Also Ivan Schumann of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis gave me a listing of Hispanic/Latino pastors in Indiana. I have also subscribed to both Spanish and English newspapers around the state, so that we can keep a good vision and keep commission members informed of what is going on.

Rep. Aguilera: Those who want to make sure that local media is informed, please pass the contact information to Amy so they can be put on a contact list. Asked Amy to put together those lists so that commission members can see them.

Cheryl Sullivan: At the state level, the Family and Social Services Administration has a Family and Children Advisory Council which discusses policies around food stamps, medicaid eligibility, child protection, etc. It would be good for Amy to get onto that mailing list as well so that she knows when the DFC Council meets, etc. Her presence would be helpful.

*Commission's participation in programs:* Amy presented the Hispanic Core 40 Scholars Program, opened it up to the Commission to participate.

Rep. Aguilera: Suggested that Amy work with the Education Committee, possibly bring up a proposal at the next commission meeting. Mara Candelaria Reardon is the chair of the Education Subcommittee.

Amy Mendoza presented the State Employees 2005 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration- a program for state employees, they need photos & biographical information for Hispanic Leaders in the American Civil Rights movement. Also a short presentation might be involved. Asked the commission if they would like Amy to participate.

Mary Ilu Altman: I think it is a good idea, I have been a guest for the past two years to this event. The past two years have not had Hispanic representation. We may have to tap into the budget.

*Webpage:* Amy- Access Indiana has not done work on the webpage. Would like to suggest that a volunteer create the webpage, open to suggestions. We may get it finished faster.

Rep. Aguilera: Was under the impression that someone from Workforce Development was creating the webpage. Go back and check with them to see if someone is working on it. I agree that it is a priority. If necessary there is money in the budget to hire someone to do it also.

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes: I think we need to follow state procedures also, go through Access Indiana first, unless we get a volunteer.

Amy Mendoza: Agree, will make sure we adhere to those procedures. Webpage will be a great communication tool.

Rep. Aguilera: That was a priority from the retreat.

Amy Mendoza presented having a photographer for the commission, paid or unpaid. Having a photographer will show our progress, it is a way to interact with the community. Putting pictures on the webpage, into brochures.

Rep. Aguilera- Suggested getting a camera for the commission instead.

Mara Candelaria Reardon- agrees that it's important to document our progress, a camera is pretty well priced these days. The commission can get a camera

*Per Diem Reimbursement-* Amy Mendoza: For those of you who would like to collect your per diem reimbursement, please let me know, and I will have those forms to you.

Rep. Aguilera-there's no reason why you shouldn't be collecting your per diem reimbursement. Usually in the past, the papers were ready at the meetings.

Mara Candelaria-Reardon: What are the chances of losing money that we haven't used?

Rep. Aguilera: It reverts back to how the legislation is written

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes: The legislation is written so that the money does not revert back to the general fund.

Rep. Aguilera: We have been up and running for a year. There will be some things that we will be involved in, one being the Latino Summit. We have been pretty conservative with the money.

Rep. Aguilera introduced and welcomed Amy to the commission. Commented on the Sub committee structure, meets and decides what to bring to the Commission's attention. Suggested members get their subcommittees meeting and getting meeting dates to Amy.

Amy Mendoza suggested to revisit the status and structure of the subcommittees. Some sub committees only have one member, like the Budget sub committee.

John Aguilera: Originally there were three members. Suggested to use creative means to get sub committees to meet. Technology is available to have committees meet, but not burden people.

Amy Mendoza- Commission must adhere to the Open Access Laws, she will make sure that gets done. Would like to be involved in all sub committees. Asked present sub committee chairs to keep her informed on future meeting dates.

John Aguilera: Participation from the community is important.

#### Public Question/Answer:

Amy introduced Ivan Schumann of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. He would like to talk to the commission about the church federation.

Rep. Aguilera- Ivan was looking at the Exec. Director position and was looked upon favorably.

Ivan Schumann: Wished Amy the best on her new position with the commission. Thank you to the CHLA for allowing us to attend and present program information. I am the co chair for the Hispanic/Latino forum. Introduced Maria Pimentel Gannon. Has different

initiatives, one of those being in 2005, to visit Mexico to build an orphanage. These initiatives are to create a dialog between the Hispanic and African American community. Invited everyone to participate in local hispanic/latino forum this weekend, November 19 & 20.

The forum is focused on bridge building and cultural awareness between the African American and Hispanic population.

Maria Pimentel-Gannon- a presence from the hispanic groups is needed at the forum. The federation has three initiatives, here in Indy, in Cincinnati and one in Mexico. The local hispanic/latino forum would be a great networking opportunity. It will be focused on the greater Indianapolis area. Invited all to attend.

Rep. Aguilera: Thanked Mrs. Gannon & Mr. Schumann. Asked if there were any questions. No questions. Next meeting is on December 16, 2004 at 10:30am in Conference Rm. B. Meeting Adjourned