



STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA COMMISSION ON  
HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS  
Mitchell E Daniels, Jr., Governor

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**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 29, 2010  
3:00pm – 4:30pm  
Conference Center Room B  
Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Commissioners Present:**

Angel Rivera, Senate Lay member, Indianapolis (Vice Chair)  
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis  
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne  
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)  
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Chair)  
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee  
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office  
Janie Duke, Designee, Dept of Education  
Michelle Stein-Ordóñez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration  
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health  
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend (Treasurer)  
Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon  
Rep. Rich McClain  
Senator Greg Walker  
Senator Frank Mrvan  
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Muenster  
Teddy Flores, House Member, East Chicago  
Tony Kirkland, Indiana Civil Rights Commission

**Visitors:**

Patricia Castañeda  
Terrie Daniel  
Samuel Ruiz

**Staff Present:**

- I. Chairman Hernandez had not arrived, and Vice-Chairman Rivera called the meeting to order at 3:16pm.

Due to an absence of quorum, the minutes from the previous two meetings could not be approved. Rivera turned the floor over to Executive Director Danny Lopez for the Executive Director's report.

- II. Reports

- A. Executive Director's Report

Lopez began by expressing his hope that the periodic updates he has been sending to commissioners has been helpful. He claimed that this was part of a larger attempt to enhance communications both outward from Indianapolis and between communities themselves in the hopes of creating synergies.

Lopez stressed a couple of the items in the written report submitted. He began by discussing the community meeting in Hammond, IN, on April 6. Lopez noted that much of the discussion centered around the Immigration issue, and he indicated that he has stressed that ICHLA is looking to address the impacts of those challenges facing the Latino community in the state rather than focusing on federal policy.

Lopez mentioned one idea that surfaced from the Hammond meeting of having quarterly meetings in the area, and additionally discussed the need for commissioners to be conduits between ICHLA and their communities.

Lopez then went on to discuss his meeting with Terrie Daniel, who handles the M/WBE certification programs for the Indiana Department of Administration. Lopez summarized their meeting and reinforced the notion that the two agencies will be working together in the future as part of the strategic plan for ICHLA to increase participation among Latinos.

Lopez spoke about his conference call with Dr. Magdalena Herdoiza-Estevez at IU-Southeast and the grant she has received to create a cultural competency program for schools in the area. Lopez mentioned that he will be visiting the program in May to explore ways in which best practices can be pulled and the program can be expanded, in conjunction with ICHLA's strategic plan. The grant, he said, enables Dr. Herdoiza-Estevez to educate parents, administrators, and teachers comprehensively.

Lopez discussed his meeting with the Hispanic Business Council with regards to the ICHLA Leadership Development Program. He suggested that commissioners extend the scope of the program to be implemented in 2011 rather than 2010 in order to mitigate some of the concerns that have been raised in previous discussions.

Finally, Lopez mentioned his meeting with Sherry Early-Aden at CANI in Ft. Wayne. CANI is in the process of becoming a certified micro-lender, and as such they are willing to partner with ICHLA to fulfill a similar pilot project in conjunction with the Strategic Plan. It is a significant project, and ICHLA's role will be recruiting and helping with a training program to be implemented with this project.

For the month of May, Lopez said he is looking to increase participation from the subcommittees as they work toward ICHLA's strategic goals.

Following Lopez's report, Rivera asked the three guests attending to introduce themselves. He also informed Hernandez, who had just arrived, on the agenda items that had been completed and suggested that Terrie Daniel of IDOA make her presentation.

#### B. Report from Terrie Daniel, IDOA

Daniel discussed her role in certifying minority-owned businesses for IDOA. Her goal was to update the commissioners on the discussions that she and Lopez have been having on the topic.

Daniel realized upon first assuming her post in 2008 that educating Latinos on the value of certification was a growing need. She also provided a breakdown of the various roles that her division plays and discussed the idea that she was increasingly responsible for monitoring small bids from businesses of all sizes.

Daniel mentioned that August 4 had been discussed as a possible date for a seminar for Latinos in South Bend and talked about what is actually done in the seminar, going step-by-step in an effort to help Latinos get through the certification application process.

She also mentioned that certification is good for 3 years.

Lopez asked the other advantages to certification, other than simply competing at the state level.

Daniel noted that certification is only one tool businesses can use to help grow, from networking to training opportunities that exist through the state. Many companies, Daniel said, call her asking for a list of minority-owned businesses.

Commissioner Espinosa asked about certification costs, to which Daniel responded that there is no cost for certification with IDOA, while some other private certifying entities do charge.

Espinosa asked about different types of certifications with different state agencies, and Daniel noted that she works with other departments and can

usually help businesses get multiple certifications. She promised to leave her card.

Hernandez talked about his understanding that registration would have to happen online. Daniel stated that the IDOA process is manual, and that certification also requires that businesses attain a bidder ID number through the Secretary of State's office.

Hernandez then thanked Daniel for her time and stated that he is looking forward to the agencies working together.

#### C. Minutes

Hernandez then stated that quorum now existed, and the commissioners present proceeded to approve the February and March minutes. Commissioner Gallo moved, and Commissioner Little seconded.

Only one exception was made to the March minutes, from Little. She noted that she was not in attendance in March and that her absence was not reflected in the minutes. Hernandez suggested that the minutes would be corrected.

#### D. Commission Financial Report

Hernandez discussed the financial reports for January, February, and March of 2010. He stressed that "the dust has settled" and that the finances for the commission have appeared to stabilize. He then opened the floor to questions.

No commissioners had questions on the financial report from January, 2010, and Rivera moved to approve the report. Commissioner Espinosa seconded, and the motion carried.

No commissioners had questions concerning the financial report for February, 2010, and Rivera moved to approve. Commissioner Gallo seconded, and the motion carried.

Lopez then gave a brief summary on the current financial status as of the close of March, 2010. Lopez commented on the expenditures for the month, including backlogged per diems and mileage as well as approximately \$6,500 that was outstanding to be paid for temporary worker services. Lopez stressed that the commission is back on track to close the fiscal year in June.

Hernandez noted that roughly 80% of the budget had been spent with three months remaining and reiterated to the other commissioners that we are in fact on track to close the year.

Rivera asked Lopez whether the State's additional 5% reduction would affect the commission's budget. Lopez said that it would, and reiterated his belief that the commission should take a zero-based budgeting approach to the FY 2011 budget.

Hernandez asked for a motion to accept the March financials. Rivera seconded, and Commissioner Bueno seconded. The motion carried. Hernandez then noted that Lopez has been extremely active the past two months and asked Lopez to provide his Executive Director's report. Lopez said that the report had already been given earlier in the meeting, prior to Hernandez's arrival.

Hernandez began talking about budgeting and the budgeting process for 2011. He noted that the easy way to budget would be to reduce last year's request by 10%, though he was not in favor of that.

He also mentioned that Lopez's salary is split between ICHLA and the Department of Workforce Development, something which should also be kept in mind while budgeting.

Lopez commented that the budget needs to stem from ICHLA's priorities. He said he would not be comfortable with an across the board cut, but instead would suggest that as a state agency the commission must be responsible with taxpayer dollars. In the coming year, he suggested, the priorities for the commission should be funded to make them a reality.

Espinosa suggested that the commission should outline its calendar of events for the year and ensure funding for those. Lopez replied that indeed that would be a part of the budgeting process and noted the importance of reprioritizing as the year moves on.

Commissioner Rios asked if Lopez was working with DWD on constructing the budget. Lopez answered in the affirmative.

Rios said she was not aware that Lopez was working both with DWD and ICHLA. She asked if the arrangement was a new one, and she asked that the budget reflect the salary breakdown. Lopez noted that the current budget does indeed reflect this breakdown, and Rios felt that Lopez might run into conflicts between the two sets of responsibilities. Lopez commented that he did not foresee that being a problem.

Hernandez commented that the commission had in fact discussed this and that the transparency of Lopez's responsibilities was evident. He said that Lopez is responsible to both entities and has worked well so far on balancing them. Lopez also stressed the importance of a concrete, well-organized plan.

Hernandez also noted that the commission must be realistic about the coming budget and said that some past priorities might not be addressed next year.

## E. Chairman's Report

Hernandez began by asking that commissioners keep Commissioner Freddie Thon, ICHLA's Treasurer, and his family in their thoughts and prayers, and noted that Thon's absence was the result of very recent heart surgery.

He then stated his desire to gather feedback from commissioners on deadlines listed in the Strategic Plan. He mentioned the importance of the deadlines to keeping subcommittees on track.

Bueno asked Lopez what kind of feedback had been received since the last meeting. Lopez commented that all feedback was positive and that changes had already been implemented from that feedback. Hernandez thanked all commissioners for their feedback.

Hernandez asked Lopez about the Ethics training, noted the technological glitches and said he thought everyone had completed it. Lopez said everyone was up to date.

Hernandez discussed the marketing plan developed in 2009. He asked Lopez his definition of marketing and asked for direction on ways in which the commission could best position itself. Lopez said that the critical step at this point would be utilizing existing vehicles for communication. Resources should not be allocated, but instead social media outlets and other earned media would be useful in spreading the word about the projects the commission was working on.

He noted that emails and news being sent out by the commission was important in empowering the community leaders as they service their populations. Lopez also said it would be important to reach out to local news outlets for help in promoting ICHLA initiatives.

Finally, Lopez said the website would be a crucial tool and reiterated that the commission's marketing strategy should be primarily to utilize free existing and earned media. Additionally, he said that the first step would be to begin accomplishing things from the Strategic Plan.

Bueno agreed and said that through the Strategic Plan the commission would have tangible plans to promote. She asked Lopez what he would need the commission to move on or take action on in order to help. Lopez asked whether the commission would need to take action on the Strategic Plan.

After some discussion, commissioners agreed that perhaps a vote on adopting the plan would not be prudent since it will undoubtedly change, but that the commission could move to put it online. Hernandez suggested that we move to accept the plan as the working document for the group with the understanding that it would constantly be changing.

Hernandez asked for a voice vote on support for having the document placed online, with a majority approving. The majority also agreed that it should contain verbiage making it clear that the document is a fluid one. Finally, the majority agreed that a formal motion would not be necessary.

Hernandez said he agreed with Lopez that increasing awareness and visibility for the commission would be critical. He said Lopez has done a great job of being visible and traveling throughout the state. Lopez said that the one thing that has been brought up in different communities consistently is that the commission is not visible enough. He said it was a misperception but that it needed to be dispelled.

Bueno said that getting to community events is challenging because so many commissioners are stationed in Indianapolis. Lopez said having relationships with leaders around the state is important because those leaders could help organize larger events, and he said it was critical to be asking communities for feedback.

Gallo asked that we incorporate pictures and updates about events on the website, and Lopez noted that he had just been trained on manipulating the web page and would be able to make those additions in the future.

#### F. Subcommittee Reports

##### 1. Business

Rivera said that he and Lopez had discussed and were actively recruiting regional commissioners for the Business subcommittee from across the state. Those commissioners would then help carry out the projects in the plan.

##### 2. Civil Rights

Gallo said he has received many calls from people in the Lafayette area asking for information on immigrant rights. He said it would be helpful for the commission to piece together some talking points listing the constitutional protections and rights of documented vs undocumented individuals.

Espinosa gave a personal anecdote about her cousin who lives in Arizona and is married to a Hispanic individual. He said the couple was stopped by Arizona police and asked for identification, in accordance with the new state law passed last month. Espinosa said that gathering information on civil rights would be helpful to Latinos in Indiana.

Rios noted that the Immigration issue is a federal one, and as a state agency the commission would need to be careful about the level and content of information put forth for public consumption. She said she

would be more than happy to work with other commissioners on information that could be used.

Lopez said that the information was likely out there and available anyway, and perhaps it would be accumulated by ICHLA.

Hernandez also said he would want to run any documents to be posted online with respect to the immigration issue with the Attorney General.

3. Education

Commissioner Duke said that the Education subcommittee had had a conference call, and Lopez said that the information shared was great and that from that conversation the idea of making the OJT Strategic Plan project a year-long one had stemmed.

4. Health

Commissioner Stein-Ordoñez said that conversations with DOE and FSSA are ongoing to register schools to be access sites for Hoosier Healthwise. She said the same concept could be applied to public libraries.

Also, Stein-Ordoñez said that Medicaid has started a bilingual member information page, and that she would forward the link to Lopez to be disseminated to the other commissioners.

She discussed the Bienvenido program and the idea of working toward grants for mental health training. The Commission could partner with Bievenido on such grant applications to help them continue to expand much-needed training programs throughout the state.

Finally, Stein-Ordoñez mentioned the Diabetes awareness project in the Strategic Plan and said that the subcommittee would be meeting to begin identifying a starting point for evaluating the DEEP program. Rios asked for the minutes from the subcommittee meeting.

G. Adjournment

Rivera moved to adjourn, and Bueno seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:33p.m.