



STATE OF INDIANA

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

ICHLA

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 30th, 2009
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room 12
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon
Ryan Begerman, Proxy for Sen. Carlin Yoder
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Munster
Teddy Flores, House Lay Member, East Chicago
Federico Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend
Angel Rivera, Senate Lay Member, Indianapolis
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette
G. Herb Hernandez, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne
Alfonso Vidal, Governor Appointee
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office
Tina Little, Designee, Department of Corrections
Janie Duke, Designee, Department of Education
Marco Deckard, Designee, Civil Rights Commission
Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Designee, Family and Social Services Agency

Commissioners Not Present:

Rep. Richard McClain
Sen. Frank Mrvan
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health
Kristy Musall, Designee, Department of Workforce Development

Staff Present:

Pat Sanchez, Executive Director
Judy York, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order

Vidal called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.
Quorum was established with 13 voting members present at roll call.
(As noted above) 2 proxies were noted.

Vidal asked for discussion on holding elections.

Gallo cited Indiana Code regarding Public Access law concerning canceling a meeting. Gallo's opinion was that an election should not be held today.

Hernandez raised a point of order to confirm whether the Commission's voting members are of Hispanic heritage to assure that voting is not flawed.

Rios asked for clarification from Vidal about a proposed slate of officers. She suggested a meeting to develop a slate of officers. Hernandez advised that the election be delayed until next month.

A motion was presented by Rivera to hold the election at the May meeting. Seconded by Rios. Passed by consent of the voting members.

Harvey announced that this is her last meeting and the new designee from the Department of Education will be Janie Duke. Bueno recognized Harvey's contributions as education committee chair and as secretary for the commission.

II. Commission Business

A. Approval of Minutes February 09

Rivera made a motion to approve the February 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Hernandez. The motion passed with Rivera abstaining.

B. Approval of Minutes March 09

Rivera made a motion to approve the March 2009 minutes. It was seconded and passed.

III. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

In the interest of time, Sanchez deferred discussion of the report. A copy of the report was included with the packet of information provided to the members.

B. Chair's Report

Hernandez referred to the unofficial meeting held prior to the meeting beginning.

C. Budget Report

Sanchez discussed the current budget that has \$38,000 remaining to be spent by May 30. If that amount is not spent, the money will roll over into the 2009/2010 budget which is awaiting approval at the State House. An additional \$80,000 was requested for the 2009/2010 budget. There is also a \$10,000 line item as well as a \$935 special fund line item that can be allocated to spend next year. A copy of the budget was included in the packet of information provided to members.

Discussion was held regarding the full-time staff budget for the Executive Director. Sanchez explained that the State will not fund staff due to benefit costs. However, temporary contractor service is permitted.

Thon pointed out that people of Latino heritage and those who speak Spanish should be hired since that is a mandate of the Commission. Sanchez responded that the position is more administrative and does not require Spanish language ability.

Rios suggested changing the paradigm for staff requirements for the position reporting to the Executive Director. Rios added that a position assisting the Executive Director can provide real time experience in state government for a Latino man or woman.

Hernandez made a motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Thon. Candelaria-Reardon asked for discussion.

Candelaria-Reardon pointed out that the 2009/2010 budget is still in the General Assembly and it may not be the total amount requested. Thon corrected that the action is for approval of the financial report, not the budget.

Vidal moved on the motion made to approve the financial report and change the wording in the agenda from budget to financial. Approved by consent.

IV. Old Business

A. Upcoming Conference Attendance

Vidal asked whether anyone was planning to attend the conferences listed on the agenda: MALDEF Dinner June 18; NALEO June 26-27 (noted incorrectly as NAELO); NCLR July 25-28; and USHCC Sept 16-19.

Candelaria Reardon asked for discussion on the freeze on travel. Hernandez responded that any out-of-state travel must be approved by three state departments. Candelaria Reardon asked if there had been notification about this information given to the group. Sanchez responded that there was a clarification in the meeting minutes. Sanchez also explained how the policy requires that the travel request be sent to the Governor's office first, then to the Department of Workforce Development, and on to the Department of Administration for final approval.

Candelaria-Reardon made a motion that, based on the current economic climate, all travel approved be suspended by this body. Vidal called for a vote. Those present voted in the affirmative. However, Hernandez opposed because there was no discussion on the motion.

Hernandez discussed the learning experience and the information gained in his previously attended conference and that is beneficial to both the attendee and the Commission. He suggested requiring a minimum 300 word report to the Commission about the conference attended.

Gallo agreed that spending money at this time is prohibitive; however, he believes that some basic essential travel is worthwhile for the opportunity to develop contacts that can help in solving issues.

Bueno suggested that, similar to Tony Kirkland's travel policy, the person who attends a conference be an active member of the board.

Candelaria Reardon stated that the board should have a moratorium on travel since there is no conference to prepare for this year. She further stated that many organizations have best practices on their websites if fact gathering is required.

Rivera stated that there have been no changes to the by-laws regarding travel and he requested those interested in attending a conference to make an argument to the commission as to why they want to attend.

Gallo said that carrying on business is still helpful even if the board is not planning a conference.

Vidal asked who is going to MALDEF from the Commission? Sanchez indicated that someone should attend that conference.

Vidal stated that there is a motion that if anyone wants to go to one of the conferences, contact Pat Sanchez.

Hernandez made a point of order to reread the motion.

Candelaria Reardon said that the motion was to place a moratorium on travel and it passed.

Hernandez stated that he voted against it.

Vidal asked for a roll call vote.

The roll call on votes to place a moratorium on travel were as follow:

Rep. Candelaria Reardon – Affirmative
House Lay Member Pat Rios – Affirmative
House Lay Member Lisa Kusiak – Affirmative
House Lay Member Teddy Flores – Affirmative
House Lay Member Freddie Thon – Affirmative
Senate Lay Member Angel Riviera – Affirmative
Senate Lay Member Christian Gallo – Nay
Senate Lay Member Herb Hernandez – Nay
Governor Appointee Alphonso Vidal – Affirmative
Designee, Lt. Governor's office Andrea Bueno – Affirmative
Designee, Department of Corrections Tina Little – Affirmative

By order of roll call the votes to place a moratorium on travel were 9 affirmative and two no answer. Motion lost for lack of the 11 votes needed to pass.

There was continued discussion regarding travel. Hernandez pointed out that travel requests require 60 days for the process to be completed. An explanation of MALDEF was also given. Vidal urged those interested in attending a conference to see Sanchez about the process and then bring it to the board.

B. Implementation of specific actions for 2009-2010

Vidal tabled the specific actions for 2009-2010.

C. Hispanic Heritage Month

Vidal tabled discussion of Hispanic Heritage Month due to time constraints.

D. 2009 Retreat

Vidal tabled discussion of 2009 Retreat.

VI. New Business

H1N1 Flu

Sanchez distributed a packet of press releases to each attendee regarding the swine flu (H1N1) outbreak in Indiana. She discussed the work being done to get information out to the Hispanic/Latino community. Sanchez stressed the urgency and the need for the Commission's help in identifying media outlets, key people, or organizations in their area so she can add the information to our database and get the translated information out to the media immediately. She shared the frustration of phone numbers that were posted for hotlines that had no bilingual representatives or recordings available when she dialed them.

Rios offered her department's office for media contact information. She also stated that there is a state 211 phone number, similar to the 911 number, that is a great resource for social services information and it is staffed with bilingual personnel.

Sanchez added that she is working with Homeland Security and the Department of Health which created a pandemic plan six years ago. One requirement that is pertinent to the Commission is to establish a succession plan of action going forward.

Dream Act

Rios gave a DREAM Act update and urged everyone to write their state representative to supporting this resolution.

Vidal adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.