



**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2017  
1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Conference Center  
Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Commissioners Present:**

Virginia Hernandez-Ocasio, Designee, Civil Rights Commission  
Tina Little, Designee, Department of Correction  
Sabrina Rahn, Department of Workforce Development  
Richard Espinosa, President Pro Tempore Appointee, Fort Wayne  
Christian Gallo, President Pro Tempore Appointee, Lafayette  
Herb Hernandez, President Pro Tempore Appointee, Fort Wayne  
Teresa Mora, President Pro Tempore Appointee (via telephone)  
Rebecca Kubacki, Speaker of the House Appointee  
Francisco Garcia, Speaker of the House Appointee  
Lillian Casillas, Speaker of the House Appointee, Bloomington (via telephone)  
Jesusa Rivera, Speaker of the House Appointee, South Bend (via telephone)

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Senator Frank Mrvan  
Senator Mark Messmer  
Rep. Peggy Mayfield  
Brenda Graves, Croom, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration  
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health  
Seth Morales, Governor's Appointee

**Visitors:**

Christine Meyer  
Regina Ashley  
Leslie Crist

**Staff Present:**

Danielle Dean, Executive Director

**Opening:**

Rebecca Kubacki called the meeting to order at 1:15pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioners approved the minutes from the last meeting.

**Approval of Financials**

Commissioners approved most recent budget.

**Chairman's Report:**

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 1:15pm.

Jesusa then wanted to give a few updates including a resolution that would be given by the legislature recognizing the efforts of our farmworkers. There will also be an awards ceremony at Ivy Tech.

Rebecca asked Jesusa to send the group the details.

Rebecca then continued her report. She thanked the commissioners for their presence at the ILI legislative breakfast and said it was great to have so many commissioners show their support.

She also attended the Latino Scholarship Dinner in Goshen and it raised \$80,000, up from \$50,000 the year before.

There was a motion to go over and approve the last meeting's minutes. They were approved.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Danielle then started her report. She started by informing the commission on the current vacancies. She also gave an update on the opinion she asked for from the AG's office regarding funding for City ID in South Bend. No one ever responded to the request after Abby Kuzma left, so we never received an answer.

The presenters from DWD then joined us so Danielle took a break from her report to let the presenters have the floor.

Regina Ashley and Leslie Crist from DWD then talked to the group about JAG (Jobs for American's Graduates) and how students benefit. Key takeaways were:

- JAG is in 110 schools across Indiana
- 287 Hispanic/Latino students are participating in JAG across Indiana.

- They represent 8% of the JAG population
- The 2015 class graduation rate was 94%
- Employment was 72%

Jesusa mentioned that Proteus partners with JAG and thanked them for their work.

Danielle then resumed her report. She stated that our CFO, Pam, is now back. She explained that the budget is incorrect because her salary was coming out of ICRC's budget, so Pam is working to fix that.

Elections were held and the commissioners discussed two year terms instead of one for officers, but the "each year" language is in the code, so the code would need to be changed.

Rebecca suggested that perhaps in the future Mara could introduce a bill to change this. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be better to craft the language in such a way that made election automatically renew unless there are objections. Herb said he could send some language to this effect.

There was then discussion about sponsoring t-shirts for Latino Page Day. This year it would cost the commission over \$3,000. Commissioners agreed that this year we will pay, but going forward, the commission is not going to sponsor this type of item for Latino Page Day. The commission's contribution will come in the form on a scholarship or not at all. It was agreed that this is a better use of resources.

Danielle then went over the usual events that ICHLA attends and the cost.

She then informed the group on the Notifica app that notifies the proper contacts when one is being detained/deported. Christian stated that he thinks the community would panic if they heard about this.

She then updated everyone on the progress of Adelante and asked for the group to help select a date.

She also talked about the family preparedness pack for undocumented families. She will email that information to everyone. There was discussion about that and the general political climate/fear in the community.

Lastly, she talked about going into IPS with ICRC and immigration attorneys to help families make sense of everything they were hearing and helping them be prepared for the future.

### **Adjournment**

At 3:10 pm, the meeting was adjourned.