



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, February 25, 2010
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room A
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Aaron Short for Senator Greg Walker
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend
Angel Rivera, Senate Lay member, Indianapolis (Vice Chair)
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Chair)
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction (Treasurer)
Janie Duke, Designee, Dept of Education
Michelle Stein-Ordóñez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health
Tony Kirkland, Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Commissioners Not Present:

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon
Rep. Rich McClain
Senator Frank Mrvan
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Muenster
Teddy Flores, House Member, East Chicago - excused
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)

Visitors:

Karen Weber, Chief Compliance Ethics Officer, DWD
Cythia Carroscio, State Ethics Director, IG
David Thomas, Inspector General

Staff Present:

Daniel Lopez
A. Michelle Simmons

- I. Vice-Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Quorum was made at 3:58 p.m.
- II. Vice-Chair Rivera introduced Karen Weber, Chief Compliance Ethics Officer; Cythia Carroscio, State Ethics Director and David Thomas, Inspector General.

Carroscio, who devised the online training that the commissioners will be taking, talked about the advisory function that she and her attorneys' offers as well as conflict of interest. Her office offers Informal Advisory Opinions, which is intended to give quick, confidential advice, and the State Ethics Commission offers Formal Advisory Opinions.

Commissioners are subject to the application of the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics is a set of fifteen rules that deals with things from gifts to conflict of interest to post employment.

Conflict of Interest and the Code of Ethics are addressed in two separate rules. One is fairly intuitive, but the state Code of Ethics also deals with conflict of interest in contracts that aren't as intuitive. If a potential conflict of interest arises then you must disclose that potential conflict of interest to your appointed authority and you need to request a Formal Advisory Opinion from your commission.

Weber informed the commission that she will be contacting them via e-mail on when the training will be available and when it needs to be done by.

III. Reports

A. Chair's report

1. Vice-Chair Rivera introduced Daniel Lopez, the new Executive Director for ICHLA. Rivera commented that the commission will benefit with Lopez's ability to write grants. Thon expressed a desire to have more of an outreach throughout the state. Lopez responded that he looked at all of the cities around Indiana with a population of least 20,000 to familiarize himself with what their demographics and infrastructure in terms of the commission looks like. One of the commission's challenges is to become more visible. A network needs to be set up in the commissioners' communities to make their jobs easier and make them the face of the commission. Espinosa suggested that Lopez occasionally go to the meetings of Hispanic commissions around the state so people would get to know him.

Thon asked Lopez for a copy of his job description so the commission would know what to expect. Lopez agreed to send them a copy of his job description. He stressed that his role is to facilitate the commissioners' agenda and the direction they want to take the commission.

2. The hiring process for Lopez was done through DWD. Thon expressed concern that the commission didn't have anything to do with the hiring process and what Lopez's relationship is to the commission. The job description will clarify the relationship.
3. Retreat topics: Espinosa moved to table the discussion until Lopez and Hernandez have a chance to discuss it. Thon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Sub-Committee Reports

Chair Hernandez suggested that there be at least three people on the committee and they don't have to be ICHLA commissioners. The meeting should be conducted similarly to the board meeting. The chair suggested the sub-committees initially meet monthly then quarterly or as workflow dictates. The report to the board only needs to be about two to three minutes long. Issues to work on can be found in the Annual Report.

1. Business: Nothing to report
2. Civil Rights: Nothing to report
3. Education: Duke reported that the SB 258 is now eligible for Second Reading amendment before the full Indiana Senate. The first meeting for the education sub-committee will be next week. Thon commented on the issue of the decrease of Hispanic children coming into the bilingual program due to job situations and emigration fears. Many Mexicans are returning to Mexico.
4. Health: Ordóñez met with Marcus Barlow, the director of Communications. There is a portion of the FSSA website that has a section of History and Overview that was translated to Spanish. Once Barlow approves the translation it will be shared with the Health committee since they work in the field. It will then be put on the DWD website as a banner page.

IV. Commission Business

- A. Financial report: Thon wanted an explanation on items that he had questions on that the commission needed to know. Lopez said that DWD was currently going through all of the expenses. Lopez encouraged the commissioners to move forward and not look back at past mistakes. Thon pointed out that DWD is the one who puts together the financial report and the director will be putting the budget together. Thon would like to know what his job is as the treasurer of the commission. Vice-Chair Rivera suggested that Thon's roll is to make sure the budget reflects the priorities established by the commission and to maintain that oversight and continuity. Ordóñez suggested that a DWD financial person come to the meeting quarterly and explain the financial report to the commissioners.

Kirkland moved to table the report due to some concerns, Espinosa seconded. The

motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Retreat, December 17, 2009: Espinosa moved to accept the minutes, Thon seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously with no abstentions.
2. January 28, 2010: Kirkland moved to accept the minutes, Thon seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Annual Report: There were no questions or discussions of the Annual Report. Chair Hernandez informed the commissioners that they can bring up questions and discussions at any meeting.
- B. Commission meetings for 2010: A copy of the meeting schedule and a commissioners' list of contact information will be sent out via e-mail by Simmons.

VI. New Business

A. Upcoming Events

1. The Indiana MultiEthnic Conference will occur on April 25th.
2. Community Health Engagement Program will occur on March 5th at 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The purpose will be to explore ways to include communications between universities researchers and community organizations and to provide and receive expert information about health issues in Indiana.
3. 2010 Fatherhood Summit will occur on June 26th at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The purpose will be to allow non-profit organizations to promote fatherhood.

B. Announcements

Chair Hernandez, as well as several commissioners, received a letter from the Consulate of Mexico stating their satisfaction with former executive director Sanchez and a desire to keep the positive relationship with the future executive director. Chair Hernandez tried to call them to no avail so will write to them.

VII. Adjournment

Bueno moved to adjourn, Thon seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.