

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 31, 2008**  
**2:00pm – 4:00pm**  
**Conference Center Room 2**  
**Indiana Government Center South**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

**Commissioners Present:**

Alfonso Vidal (Chair)  
Adolfo Solis, House Lay member (Vice-Chair)  
Pat Rios, House Lay member (Treasurer)  
Guadalupe Hernandez, Senate Lay member (Secretary)  
Andrea Perez, Designee, Dept. of Health  
Lauren Harvey, Dept. of Education  
Mike Barnhart, Proxy, Dept. of Workforce Development  
Rep. Mara Candelaria-Reardon, House Democrat  
Amber Mar, Representative for Sen. Vi Simpson, Senate Democrat  
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay member  
Federico Thon, House Lay member  
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay member

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Angel Velez, Designee, Dept. of Correction Dir.  
Tony Kirkland, Civil Rights Commission  
Rep. Richard McClain, House Republican  
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Senate Republican  
Dr. John Nieto-Phillips, Senate Lay member  
Ivan Hernandez, Senate Lay member  
Sid Norton, Proxy, Family & Social Services Agency  
Andrea Bueno, Proxy, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman

**Staff Present:**

Patricia Sanchez, Executive Director

**Audience Present:**

Chris Lacefield, Communication/Dept. of Revenue  
Sarah Anderson, Latino Outreach/Dept. of Revenue  
Martha Pabon, Sentor Bayh Office  
Morella Dominguez, Indiana Minority Coalition

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Chair Alfonso Vidal called the meeting to order 2:02pm. A quorum was not yet established.

## **Commission Business**

### **A. Approval of Minutes May 2008**

Approval of minutes was moved until later when quorum can be established.

## **II. Reports**

### **A. Executive Director's Report**

Sanchez mentions that her minutes get longer and longer because she is very busy and that shows the progress of the commission. She gave a summary of her report that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting.

Sanchez mentions that the ICHLA has two active subcommittees. The education committee meets the most because they have the most to do. She mentioned that there was a Latino Education Summit that will be coming up, the 1<sup>st</sup> one that Indianapolis will be hosting. She mentioned that the conferences began back in 2003 by the President to assist Latino education throughout the United States. She mentioned that she would like to see the ICHLA support this event.

Sanchez discussed the round table discussion with German delegates about immigration, particularly to the State of Indiana. We had Aaron Kelly from the Historical Society, Caroline Requiz from the Mayor's Office, the offices of Senator Lugar and Bayh sent statements, Pastor Samuel Reese from the Faith Based Organization, and John Boyles an Immigration Attorney.

It was her 1<sup>st</sup> time using translators the way they are normally used. She has a thank you letter from the senator for the round table discussion. The German delegates and the interpreters said that our forum was the best forum they have ever seen, even better than the forum they had in Washington, DC. She passed the thank you letter around.

She mentioned the Fiesta is coming up and said that they approached her to put together a job fair for business and economic development for the fiesta. She discussed that they needed to decide how to put that together and what they needed to do for this event. La Plaza is our fiscal agent and they have supported us in the past as we have always supported them. She makes her recommendation for us to continue to support Fiesta and La Plaza's efforts.

Sanchez mentions Hispanic Heritage month. The commission always hosts the opening event for this and she suggests that we put together a sub-committee to help with this event. The opening event is September 16, 2008, and it is not far away. She said that she has already requested the use of the Rotunda and that is where the event will be.

Sanchez began to discuss the conferences that the committee members attended this past month. This month was travel month because of all the conferences. She has in the packet

written reports from the individuals that went to the conferences. Sanchez mentions that she made some very key contacts that she can communicate with and gain some major funding from.

Sanchez and Hernandez went to a MALDEF conference in Chicago in June. Their Chamber of Commerce invited the Commission to a meeting on August 14, 2008. Their Chamber has also offered their help to the ICHLA on any front from financial to how we write grants. According to the United States Chamber, the Chicago Chamber is one of the fore runners in commerce's.

Thon asked if there has been any assistance from the Indiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He believes we need to connect more to chamber of commerce's across the country.

Sanchez responds that the only commerce that she has approached is the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Herb wants to clarify that they met with the chamber of commerce because Herb made a call and set up the meeting. The Chicago chamber of commerce is the number one chamber of commerce in the United States. They have a large budget and a large number of members, but they do want to meet with the Indiana State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Sanchez mentions that we have a business and economic committee that is dormant and they want to revive those committees.

Vidal mentions that it is a good point that there are many Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in Indiana and we should be communicating with them.

Candelaria-Reardon mentions that there were some meetings in Merriville and she and Kusiak would like to be invited to meetings close in the area.

Sanchez introduces Andrea Perez, a new commission member from the Department of Health.

## **B. Chair's Report**

Hernandez comments on the Executive Committee meeting with Sen. Long that Sanchez arranged. He felt like Sen. Long wasn't open to discuss the bills on immigration, but he was open to talk about ESL and was very for it. He's wondering if ICHLA should create a committee to put together a committee to research immigration information from the summer study program.

Sanchez mentions that ICHLA will have an intern starting in August who will be focusing on Legislative issues. However, she will only be with us one day a week.

Vidal then mentions if Sanchez could put together a list of names that could be a committee who could research the immigration bills.

Vidal then mentions the ESL classes and how the Senator would like the commission to fund adult ESL classes. He also mentioned the summer study program on immigration.

Sanchez asks Hernandez to discuss the meeting he had in July with some Senators about ICHLA and their mission. After the meeting they discussed the summer committee about immigration. One of the senators mentioned that immigration was a Government factor not a state factor and how much Indiana would have to pay for illegal immigration. He guessed that the Hispanic community is financially supporting Indiana and the National Government.

Sanchez adds to Hernandez that there was a benefit of Hispanic households adding money to the economy.

Alfonso mentions how the commission would like to increase funding to be able to support 501c3s.

Solis likes the conversation with Long because he thinks it is a good idea. He mentions that there are many situations and the conversations helped in showing what the important topics were.

Rios wants to know how non-profits can get funding to pay for non-profits.

Vidal just wants to know the best way to teach English across the state.

They discuss ESL classes and funding. It is mentioned that there is \$7 million in funding for schooling and adult ESL programs.

Harvey states that this year there was \$149 per student in financing for non-English speaking programs, and last year it was \$162.

Candelaria-Reardon mentioned that the Summer Study Committee and its start date is within the next 2 weeks.

Vidal asked how we could get on the agenda and Candelaria-Reardon mentioned that she could talk to the head. Everyone agrees that the commission should speak at this study group.

Vidal will put together a group by Monday.

Hernandez mentions that at 2:47pm quorum was established.

Rios said we should do it now and task force it, she said she would co-chair this committee with Hernandez.

Vidal said that he will put together the committee members.

Thon mentions that we need to get the committees moving.

### **C. Budget Report**

The budget report was handed out.

Rios thinks that the report needs to be more specific and that she thinks there should be a committee put together to work with Sanchez. Usually, the members on the committee provide someone from the dept of revenue or commerce or have DWD provide someone to help out with this report.

Hernandez brings up the question about the rollover.

Rios says that rollover in a small business is a good thing, but rollover in a government agency isn't exactly a good thing. The committee isn't always allowed a rollover, so she thinks there should be a finance committee to look at the budget to be safe.

Thon thinks that there should be a report at every meeting about things that need to be paid or what has been paid so we know where we are. He thinks there should be a budget that is worked on and approved for the year by the commission.

### **D. Committee Reports**

Sanchez mentions that the reports are ready for all areas except civil rights/housing committee and Business.

Vidal says to just finish your reports and get them in. He adds that if Hernandez needs help, to call him and Vidal will help.

#### **1. Health Committee**

The Health Committee has a report that is finished.

#### **2. Education Committee**

The education committee is finished and they pass out their report.

#### **3. Business Committee**

Hernandez wants to know how many Hispanics have submitted an application for a small business and how many reached certification and received acceptance and the representative said that they don't keep track of those statistics. The people that he spoke to did not know how to answer those questions because people only state if they are a minority or women/men on the application. The commission can pose the

questions asked and say that due to the specificity of the questions there is no good data on the information.

Sanchez mentions that if we need the data, it would be a good idea to go to someone who is good at doing the research to help us. She believes that we need to take our time rather than throw something together to be questioned later.

Hernandez continued with the Latinos who work for the state government. He was going to contact someone but didn't know anyone that we could contact.

Someone mentions that there is a business registry at the secretary of state's office and that is a good place to get information about Hispanic businesses that have been approved.

It is mentioned that Hernandez volunteered to take charge of this committee and that it wasn't his committee.

Vidal mentions that we need to finish the 2007 report, either no data or a partial. It is asked if there is a way to approve the report via e-mail. Hernandez responds yes. Vidal then proposed that the reports have an over haul with the information that is only important, as opposed to the information that is going into the report.

Now that we have quorum Vidal makes a move to approve the minutes. It was seconded and it was approved.

#### **4. Civil Rights/Housing Committee**

There is nothing to report.

#### **5. Legislative Committee**

The legislative committee has the report finished and they pass out the report.

All the committees will send in an e-mail report and they will all be put together.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A. Retreat Notes**

Vidal mentions that everyone has a copy of the retreat notes and asks everyone to look at the report and at the next meeting we will report about it and what we can accomplish with what happened.

## **B. Review of Retreat Notes**

Vidal is going to review the retreat notes and see who is no longer there and replace them with the people that are now currently on the committee.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. Monthly Meetings**

The idea of monthly meetings was brought up again. Vidal suggests doing monthly meetings and asked what the commissioners opinions.

The question is raised about being on conference call to establish quorum. For commission meetings everyone has to be present to create quorum. Executive meetings can be done over a conference call to establish quorum.

It is brought up that in the bylaws it states that the meetings should be every month.

It is stated that every month, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month.

Vidal asks about what time people would prefer for the committee meeting time, 2pm or 3pm. There was a rising of hands. The vote went for 3pm and the meetings are moved for 3pm. No motion was made but a vote was taken.

The comment was raised about getting out later, but Hernandez mentions that once quorum is established, people can leave and we will still have quorum.

We are going to keep an attendance sheet and e-mail it out.

### **B. Hispanic Heritage Month, September 16, 2008 at State House Rotunda**

Sanchez asks if we should do it and welcomes assistance if we want to. Sanchez wants to make the event big because other minorities make events big. She wants to show the culture.

Candelaria-Reardon mentions that we recognize a Latino business or civic leader.

Vidal mentions that Sanchez picks a topic and we recognize a person.

Sanchez asks for help because she has never done this event before and wants help with people who have not only been on the committee before to help.

Vidal opens it up to the room for comments.

Thon mentions that he would like Sanchez to bring in people from the entire area.

Rios thinks that we can bridge with other areas to get dance groups that happen to be in our area.

Candelaria-Reardon mentions that in the tunnels there were pictures of Latino leaders on the walls.

Rios mentions that the historical society could have some information that could be useful.

It is mentioned that we could use health to not only honor a person, but to help get money because there will be a national call to action in the Latino community to affect HIV and AIDS.

Sanchez asks the committee to e-mail her anyone who they would think that would be able to receive this reward, specifically, people involved in health.

A nomination form will be created and sent out to everyone.

Candelaria-Reardon asked if anyone would like to attend an event in Sacramento, in September. Hernandez said that he will 'look' into the meeting.

Sanchez says that she will need to know yesterday so she can submit the budget. She needs at least 60 days to get things approved.

Harvey passes out information on the Educational Equity for Indiana's Latino Students Conference on October 23, 2008 that she has been working on with Juana Watson. She wanted to get formal approval for ICHLA to be a sponsor this event.

Vidal asks what the role of the commission is for events like these. He wonders is the commission has to give funding to that conference.

Sanchez mentions that Watson is looking at the budget to see where they are financially and what they need.

Watson wasn't sure. She is still looking at the budget for the conference.

Thon offers the option of collaboration instead of assistance.

Vidal mentions that we need to define how we can sponsor events like this.

Sanchez mentions that we need to have someone from state government because there are rules that we need to follow.

Vidal asked for a conference call together with Daniels, Vidal, and other members to create this possibility.

Hernandez mentions that we could discuss calling this a workshop if this is a one time event and that is how we can fund the conference.



It is brought up that this would work with what the commission wants to do with education.

More information about this will be brought up and what she needs. The biggest problem is giving help with preparation and gaining help.

Motion to adjourn, the motion is passed.

**V. Next Meeting**

August 28, 2008 at 3pm