

Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Meeting Minutes
2-24-05

Attendance:

Rep. John Aguilera, Chairman, House of Representatives (D-Lake)

Margie Chavez, Vice Chair

Pat Rios, Secretary

Ronnie Cantu, Governor Designee

Kip Chase, Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development, proxy for Commissioner Stiver

Gregorio Chavez, Jr., House lay member

Mara Candelaria-Reardon, House lay member

Karen Martinez, Indiana Dept. of Education designee

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes, Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Carmen Quintana, Indiana Dept. of Health designee

Gregory Scott, Executive Director, Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Sal Soto, Senate lay member

Gloria Thode, Indiana Dept. of Correction designee

I. Introductions

A quorum was established which consisted of 11 Commissioners. Chair John Aguilera introduced Amy Brown of Advantage Health Care as the guest speaker.

II. Commission Business

a. Review minutes

Chair Aguilera asked Commissioners to review the minutes of the 1-27-05 Commission meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu and seconded by Vice Chair Margie Chavez to accept the minutes from the 1-27-05 Commission meeting. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Commissioners introduced themselves. New Commissioners include: Justice Gregory Scott, Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, Gloria Thode, Department of Correction, (designee of Commissioner J. David Donahue) and Kip Chase, Department of Workforce Development (proxy for Commissioner Ron Stiver).

b. Annual Report

Amy Mendoza provided copies of an outline for the ICHLA 2004 Annual Report that was shared in Draft form at the January meeting. Amy will be working with Commissioner Pat Rios, the Committee Chairs, and Marisa Aguilar, the IU School of Law Intern assigned to ICHLA, to complete the report. The outline states that the 2004 Annual Report should be representative of the charge to ICHCLA in the Indiana code. The statute provides that ICHLA identify and research issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino community, promote cooperation and understanding between

the Hispanic/Latino community and another communities throughout the state and report to the Governor and Legislative Council on a variety of issues. A provision (Sec. 3) lists the issues for study and reporting. The outline also includes a paragraph on Subcommittee roles to achieve the annual report. Ms. Mendoza stated that Subcommittee reports are essential to completing the report. There is a need to have more communication between subcommittees to complete the 2004 report and to prepare for the report in 2005.

Prior to the February ICHLA meeting, the Hispanic Summit task force met and Commissioner Sal Soto had some suggestions that he wanted to share for the Annual Report.

Commissioner Sal Soto said that the Commission has not submitted a report for a few years, and it may be better to do a "State of the Hispanic/Latino Community" to encompass all issues in the past years.

Chair Aguilera clarified that 2003 was the first year of the ICHLA. The Chairman explained that the prior Latino Commission was an interim study body and the statute that created that body did not include a reporting requirement and thus the ICHLA is not behind in reporting. Chairman Aguilera stated that the ICHLA is on track with the preparation of the 2004 Annual Report.

Commissioner Rios stated that she had spoken with Director Mendoza about her experience working on the Governor's Commission Report to Governor O'Bannon as required by the executive order. She stated that much work goes into preparing an annual report and that the ICHLA Commissioners could be of great help preparing the report by submitting individual committee topic related reports. Commissioner Rios stated that this approach was an efficient way to work with Subcommittee chairs. In this way, the work actually comes through the committee chairs themselves through their commitment and expertise in particular areas and also by committee chair driven research, collection of information, and contributions to the report. The Chairs are chosen for their firm knowledge of their respective issues and can best report on the progress of their work. Commissioner Rios was asked by Chairman Aguilera to work on the Annual Report and she stated that the best approach would be to have Subcommittee chairs actually write their sections, and Commissioner Rios and the Commission's intern will bring the report together for a final draft.

Director Mendoza noted that the Subcommittee reports should reflect what ICHLA is mandated by statute to report including:

1. Conditions causing exclusion of Hispanics/Latinos from the larger Indiana community.
2. Measures to stimulate job skill training and related workforce development.
3. Measures to sustain cultural diversity while improving race and ethnic relations.
4. Public awareness of issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino communities.
5. Measures that could facilitate easier access to state and local government services by Hispanics/Latinos.
6. Challenges and opportunities arising out of the growth of the Hispanic/Latino population.

Director Mendoza suggested that the Commissioners set a deadline for subcommittees to submit reports for the Annual Report. She further stated that at the last Commission meeting, the

Business/Economic Development Subcommittee gave a good report with issues and recommendations about Hispanic/Latino business.

Chairman Aguilera questioned if, at the last Commission meeting, we had discussed a deadline. Amy Mendoza corrected that we did discuss the deadline for the Annual Report, and someone made the suggestion to have the report done close to the date of the ICHLA Summit.

Chairman Aguilera suggested late April, early May time frame. Chairman Aguilera pointed out that because of the Governor's Efficiency Study Committee, a result of House Bill 1188, the Commission along with all others will have to justify their existence. He suggested that we have the report ready before that, which would be an April/May Deadline. He asked Commissioner Rios how much time she thought would be needed to put the Annual Report together after receiving all the Subcommittee reports.

Commissioner Rios said that she thought the Subcommittee reports should be in by the end of March, so that she and Marisa could work on putting the Annual Report together, then send it back to Subcommittee chairs for final edits and revision, and then make the final copy and present it to the Commission. The end of March is her suggestion to have the Subcommittee reports ready.

Chair Aguilera suggested the end of March/ Early April time frame to have subcommittee reports in, and late April to have the Annual Report done. Chair Aguilera asked Commissioners if there were concerns.

Commissioner Soto asked if Director Mendoza could send out again the list of Subcommittee Chairs. Commissioner Rios informed Commissioner Soto that the list has already been sent out. There is only one Commissioner who is the chair of two subcommittees. Commissioner Rios informed the Commissioners that she and Amy share the opinion that it may be too much a responsibility for one person to be Chair of two Subcommittees, and that may be something that the Chair or Executive Committee may want to review.

Chairman Aguilera suggested that May 1st be the target date for the report. Chairman Aguilera stated that the Interim Study Committees generally do not begin until summer. He informed Commissioners that he wants to make sure that ICHLA has a report fully developed and available to the public before we go into the Interim study session, when we will have to justify our existence as a Commission. He suggested May 1st to have the deadline of the report available.

Commissioner Gregory Scott suggested that we specify dates for Subcommittee reports and Annual Report.

Chair Aguilera asked Commissioners if Mid April was good for Subcommittee reports to be submitted, therefore having the first draft of the report ready by May 1st. Chair Aguilera asked for a motion to approve the deadlines.

Commissioner Scott suggested April 15, 2005 as the deadline for Subcommittee reports and May 2, 2005 for the deadline of the draft of the Annual Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott and seconded by Commissioner Rios to approve April 15, 2005 as the Subcommittee Report Deadline and May 2, 2005 as the deadline for the drafted Annual Report. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Amy Mendoza reminded subcommittee chairs that the subcommittee reports should include the charge within the statute, i.e. education, business, health, etc. The results of research and recommendations for solutions to remedy various problems found should also be included.

Commissioner Maria Thode informed the Commission that she had to leave and asked Margie Chavez to send her information about the meeting and the next meeting. Director Mendoza informed Commissioner Thode that she would keep her informed.

c. Driver's License and Immigration Subcommittee Report

Chairman Aguilera acknowledged Commissioner Rios, Marisa Aguilar and the Driver's License and Immigration subcommittee members for their hard work on the report. He informed the ICHLA Commissioners that he had originally worked with the Subcommittee to develop legislation but decided not to submit it, in an effort to work with and educate the Legislature, the Governor and the community. In addition, the Subcommittee agreed to send a letter to the Governor to explain the history of the Subcommittee's actions. Chairman Aguilera also stated that there were a number of bills regarding the driver's license and immigration issues that had been introduced in the House. The Subcommittee has been following those bills, and as of today, all those bills have been put into a bill that creates a study committee. The Bill is moving through the House. If passed, the law will require review of those issues impacting the Latino community and will require the input of the ICHLA subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee, including the Mexican Consulate have been very active in voicing concerns about the bills.

Chairman Aguilera noted that at the federal level, Wisconsin Representative Sensenbrenner has introduced a bill regarding the driver's license that will have an impact at the state level. Chairman Aguilera thanked Consul Aguilera and attorney John Broyles for giving their time. Chairman asked Commissioner Rios to provide a summary of the contents of the report and answers questions, after which we will vote to send the report to the Governor and legislature.

Commissioner Rios informed Commissioners of the Final draft of the report provided to everyone. Commissioner Rios confirmed that upon acceptance by the Commission the report would be provided to House and Senate members and the Governor. Commissioner Rios urged Commissioners to, at a minimum, read the Executive Summary to get an idea of the report. She mentioned that this is an issue that is being considered nationally, and the report considered fully the action of other states as well as the action in Congress. Commissioner Rios explained that the recently passed U.S. Patriot Act allows states to address the issue of immigrant access to the driver's license and the Report was written with support for that principle.

The Report provides a background of the Hispanic/Latino population in Indiana. The Governor's Commission's Report provided demographics available just after the 2000 census. The Driver's License Report provided an opportunity to look at those numbers as well as the estimated number of Latinos in Indiana in 2003 for both the documented and undocumented. The Driver's License policy was reviewed historically since the Commission has considered the issue previously while also balancing other issues, like education health care, etc. There is a strong need for the driver's

license issue to be resolved and the ongoing debate at the state level regarding access to the license prompted the subcommittee to thoroughly research and provide solutions to the problem.

Both prior policy and current policy is reviewed in the report, and the current policy was reviewed as it impacts the documented and undocumented population, as the commission has experienced.

The current policy has had some unintended consequences and they are highlighted in the report. The national arguments are considered from both the opponents and proponents views. The argument for providing access to the driver's license is the need to balance security interests with public safety interests. There are States that have been responsive to constituents by adopting policies allowing access to the driver's license for the documented and undocumented. The Report provides information on federal policy and provides the position of the National Governor's Association, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, National Conference of State Legislators, and five (5) National Hispanic Latino organizations. State policies were reviewed regarding documents, such as substituting the Social Security number (SSN) with the Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN). Although Indiana has the affidavit of ineligibility for a SSN, it alone does not resolve the issue for immigrants. Both of those recommendations were made in the report.

The Report provides information on a state that allows a temporary driver's license for agricultural workers, and another state that allows a temporary driver's license if the person is ineligible for a SSN. The Report clarifies that neither of those policies completely resolve the issue. Recommendations for those concerns are noted in the report. Also, the elimination of the legal presence requirements is discussed; New Mexico and Utah were successful in those efforts, but many states were not. The Report provides ICHLA recommendations consistent with all of the issues. Finally, a brief conclusion summarizes the report.

Commissioner Rios asked that Mr. Chase from Workforce Development not only take note of the references in the report of balancing security interests with public safety interests, but also consider the contribution of this population to the state in terms of economy, in a time when the state is recovering from about 100,000 manufacturing jobs that have been lost in the last few years. While Indiana invests in higher technology and education for a higher skilled workforce, the issue still remains of this workforce filling that gap: service, light industry etc. The state should recognize the contributions of that workforce, along with the rich cultural contributions made, as part of Indiana's workforce. Commissioner Rios encouraged Commissioners to read the report, because at sometime, we will be called to explain our position further individually or together.

Chair Aguilera asked for questions on the report.

Commissioner Scott asked about the recommendation of the study task force.

Commissioner Rios explained that we included a recommendation in case the current bill does not survive the legislative process; the governor is asked to consider the creation of a task force. Recommendations are also made of who should be represented in the task force.

Commissioner Carmen Quintana made a correction on word usage in the report.

Commissioner Rios mentioned that it was language used from the National Immigration Law Center.

Vice Chair Margie Chavez asked if we were going to send it to the House and the Senate.

Director Mendoza answered yes, and we will vote to send it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mara Candelaria-Reardon and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu to accept the Driver's License and Immigration Subcommittee report, *Hispanic/Latino Access to the Indiana Driver's License: A Report on the Challenges of Obtaining an Indiana Driver's License*. Motion carried by all in attendance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Margie Chavez and seconded by Commissioner Gregory Scott to send the report to the Legislature and to those interested in ICHLA work on this matter. Motion carried by all in attendance.

d. Hispanic Summit Update

Commissioner Soto announced the task force met this morning at 9:30am. The task force came up with some themes and discussed scaling down the summit for 2005. It's the opinion of the task force that putting on a major Summit for 2005 will be too much work and not enough time to plan and prepare. He mentioned having a dinner for Hispanic/Latino leaders in September that would introduce our Annual report and preview the Hispanic Summit for 2006. We do have a theme that coincides with our Commission statute.

Director Mendoza informed everyone that the task force came up with a theme of promoting cooperation and understanding between the Hispanic/Latino community and others in Indiana. That is not final, but the idea was raised at the meeting. The task force also discussed the possibility of having Subcommittees do workshops.

Commissioner Rios mentioned that she attended a Hispanic conference in Fort Wayne, and part of the major draw was the Speaker. She noted that attendance at these types of functions is starting to drop off due to declining interest in the topic. Commissioner Rios recommended that the task force should consider two things: facilitating a speaker that draws an audience, or provide workshops that provide information on the latest issues impacting Latinos. Most funders will not pay for people to go if it's not worth their time.

Commissioner Rios suggested the task force partner with the Executive and Administrative branch for their assistance. The Civil Rights Commission and Workforce Development put on excellent workshops that are well attended. We need to utilize the expertise of the designees we have.

Commissioner Scott mentioned that he would be happy to partner with ICHLA for summit. He knows a Senator from Colorado who could be a speaker.

Chair Aguilera thanked Commissioner Scott for his suggestion. He expressed that he realizes the Commission needs to get familiar with taking over a summit, and for that, we are working close with the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED). He asked

Commissioner Soto to keep in mind what IACED has done in the past for the Summit. He mentioned that State Farm has expressed interest in funding the Summit, and asked for help from everyone to put on a good Summit for the fall timeframe.

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned Paula Parker-Sawyers, who is the new head of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In the past, such conferences stray away from including churches and the religious community, and if we make an effort to include this in the Summit, we will probably have the support of the Governor.

Chair Aguilera asked when the next meeting for the task force was.

Commissioner Soto announced the meeting will be the same time in March, 3-24-05, before the regular Commission meeting at 9:30am.

Chair Aguilera suggested that Commissioners have a phone conference meeting for the task force.

Amy Mendoza pointed out that the Commission is limited in phone conferencing. If a certain number of commissioners attend and it is a public meeting, which most meetings are, we are unable to have phone conferencing. Another meeting for the task force can be arranged.

Chair Aguilera asked Commissioner Soto if he had any comments about the Indiana Hispanic Leadership Summit.

Commissioner Soto mentioned that it is hosted by the Indiana Humanities Council. The Indiana Hispanic Leadership Summit will be held on June 21, 2005. It will be focused on Economic Development and Political leadership development. The Commission has agreed to support the summit with a letter of support.

Director Mendoza mentioned that she wrote the endorsement letter for the Summit and is currently waiting for the Executive Committee to approve it. Commissioner Soto has offered to translate it into Spanish.

e. Commission Public Forums 2005

Director Mendoza pointed out the outline for a discussion of Public Forums. In 2004, the Commission agreed to host public forums around the state. Lay members were to host the forums. It's important for the Commission to host forums because it helps to identify what the issues are straight from the community. Ms. Mendoza mentioned that she would travel to where the forums were held to help with and host them. A list of the lay members has been attached. She stated that she would like the Commission to vote to begin planning and designating dates for the public forums.

Chair Aguilera asked Vice Chair Chavez if she would lead a task force to work with lay members and Amy Mendoza on the public forums. Vice Chair Chavez agreed.

Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon asked if the Munster and East Chicago public forum could be combined into one public forum.

Vice Chair Chavez pointed out that Lake County has the highest population of Hispanics/Latinos. It may be necessary to have two public forums.

Amy Mendoza pointed out the differences between the Hispanic/Latino population in the areas of Lake County: Munster, East Chicago, Hammond. The Hispanic/Latino population is vast and consists of people just arriving to the country, not speaking English, some not reading or writing versus professionals who are 3rd and 4th generation Hispanics/Latinos, etc. The Lake County demographics call for two forums.

Chair Aguilera pointed out that those issues could be resolved in the task force.

A motion was made by Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon and seconded by Vice Chair Chavez to have the task force to work and arrange the public forums. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Commissioner Rios asked to reserve September for hosting a public forum for the Indianapolis area. There are many events going on during this time in Central Indiana.

Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr. reserved May as the month to host a public forum for the South Bend area.

Director Mendoza announced that she and Vice Chair Chavez will be contacting all the laymembers via email and phone to arrange the public forums. She asked that commissioners be aware and please respond to messages to get the forums arranged.

f. Regional Issues Update

Director Mendoza announced that she'd like to start a tradition of having Commissioners (laymembers and department heads) giving a verbal update on issues that they've observed in the past month regarding the Hispanic/Latino community. Lay members can give an update on what they've seen in their areas of representation, and department heads can voice what their agencies are doing or what they've noted. What are some topics that we think the Commission should take note of or what are some updates from your area?

Director Mendoza started by mentioning that, in her discussions with community leaders, educators, from reading the newspapers, she's noticed some unspoken tensions between the black and Hispanic/Latino community. These are noted at schools and in public debates.

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that she is working with Commissioner Carmen Quintana to gather health statistics for Hispanics/Latinos in Indiana. They will be working together to find ways to track issues that affect the Hispanic/Latino community. In most of the Hispanic/Latino dominated counties, FSSA will begin to go out to the community centers and hospitals and start to accumulate data.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators recently had a joint seminar with the National Black Caucus dealing with health issues, obesity and mental health in minority communities. Another seminar will occur in the summer. He informed Vice Chair Chavez that he would forward that information to her.

Commissioner Scott mentioned minority business enterprise is being looked at by many other agencies, and a lot of issues exist with it. He mentioned that minority Business Enterprise will continue to play a vital role in Indiana's economy, and the Commission should be prepared to study and address those issues.

Chair Aguilera referred to House Bill 1003, relating to the Indiana economic development corporation (IEDC). Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez has brought up many issues regarding minority business enterprise, networking certification before. Chair Aguilera encouraged Commissioner Scott to further investigate on issues in minority business in the Business Subcommittee.

Kip Chase, proxy for Commissioner Ron Stiver mentioned that it will be very important for DWD to capture information on the Hispanic/Latino workforce. Most of economic growth is from small businesses.

Commissioner Rios mentioned that the Commission's intern, Marisa Aguilar currently works in the Indiana Department of Education. They are examining cases of schools from preventing Hispanic/Latino kids from speaking Spanish during breaks at school. This is something the Dept. of Education is looking into. Chairman Aguilera mentioned that he is aware that this is happening in Lake County at the public schools.

Commissioner Cantu mentioned that he attended a local event where Consul Aguilera of the Consulate of Mexico was the guest speaker. At another meeting, Consul Aguilera stated that Evansville was the only big city in Indiana that did not accept the Matrícula Consular for identification. Commissioner Cantu stated that he is collecting information on what other cities have adopted respect to the Matrícula Consular, and asked the lay members for information for their areas.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that most urban areas, i.e. East Chicago, Hammond, Fort Wayne, accept the card.

Commissioner Rios mentioned that the only State policy related to the Matricula is the BMV acceptance of the Matricula as a secondary document for the Driver's License. Chairman Aguilera mentioned that there were bills that would have restricted acceptance of the Matricula, but those bills have been moved to a study committee.

Vice Chair Chavez pointed out that there are a lot of banks, mortgages and others in the private sector that accept the card. She suggested that Commissioner Cantu speak with Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez for more information.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon had brought up the issue of the tax reassessment impact on minority communities. A lot of homeowners have been hit very hard by the reassessment, and Hispanic/Latino minority may not be as aware as other communities.

III. Guest Speaker Presentation

a. Amy Brown, Advantage Health Care

Chair Aguilera introduced Amy Brown, who worked for state government for a number of years. She now works for Advantage Health Care with a program that may be of interest to the

Commission. Chair Aguilera encouraged other Commissioners to bring forward others who have programs targeting the Hispanic/Latino community.

Amy Brown stated that Advantage Health solutions is an HMO has about 60,000 members in the state. The company's main two areas are Indianapolis/Marion County and South Bend. One of the current major initiatives is to develop a health benefits product geared towards the Hispanic/Latino community. The program is currently in the developing stages. Advantage has developed a Hispanic Advisory Committee that meets with employees of Advantage monthly. The program is to educate Hispanics/Latinos about the benefits of health insurance, and also to educate Advantage employees about the Hispanic/Latino community. Advantage is also expanding its network. Amy Brown also informed Commissioners that Advantage received a powerpoint presentation about health disparities in the Hispanic/Latino community from Dr. Virginia Cain, who is the Director of the Marion County Department of health.

Commissioner Rios asked for information on who owns Advantage and for a website. Amy Brown answered that Advantage is Catholic-owned by St. Francis and St. Vincent hospital. The website, which is currently being translated into Spanish, is www.Advantageplan.com.

Chair Aguilera thanked Amy Brown for presenting and encouraged Commissioners to bring forward others with similar projects.

Amy Brown added that if the Commission is looking for sponsors, Advantage can be a partner. She asked Commissioners to please send names of employers of physicians who would be interested in Advantage's initiatives.

Amy Mendoza mentioned that Valparaiso, IN has opened the Hispana Foundation. It is a clinic that will serve Hispanics/Latinos in the area. All services will be in Spanish. Amy offered to write a letter of support to the Hispana Foundation.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Chair Aguilera excused himself from the meeting to attend a House Committee meeting and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Margie Chavez.

a. Driver's License/Immigration- Pat Rios, Chair

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned the Driver's License/Immigration Subcommittee report was already given by Commissioner Rios. Commissioner Rios also reported that House bill 1842 directs the task force to look at immigration issues. In some ways, that's outside of our scope at the state level. She informed Commissioners that the subcommittee will continue to look at immigration issues.

b. Media/Historian- Myrna Maldonado, Chair

Amy Mendoza mentioned that she had spoken with Commissioner Myrna Maldonado previously on some topics regarding Media and History. Amy presented an updated version of the Commission's Brochure. The Brochure was of better quality and included corrections to Commissioners' names. She mentioned she would like to send the brochure out to community organizations, Mayors' Offices and others in all 92 counties.

Vice Chair Chavez suggested including the Commissioners' emails (that could be used for public purpose). If people have concerns, they could contact the Commissioner from their area. If not, then include one email on the brochure.

Commissioner Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes mentioned that the Department of Commerce is now the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Commissioner Soto suggested that the brochure include pictures, the seal, our logo and the Governor's name on it.

Director Mendoza asked if she was required to bring the brochure back to the Commission for a vote after the changes. Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon mentioned that it wouldn't be necessary, since the content would be the same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chavez, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon to accept the brochure with any changes that would be made and send it out to community leaders in the state. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Amy also informed Commissioners that she is working with Media/Historian Subcommittee Chair Myrna Maldonado on ideas for booth materials, which have not been ordered yet. It's estimated to cost from \$700- \$1000.

c. Budget –Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes, Chair

Commissioner Ontiveros-Fuentes mentioned that she had asked for the report from Workforce Development but had not received it on time of the meeting. She mentioned that previously she could ask for it less than a week ahead of time and she would receive it right away. She mentioned that after she receives the report, she would send it out to Commissioners. There have not been any major expenses in the past month except for the Executive Director's salary.

Commissioner Soto asked which money is left over from what time period.

Commissioner Ontiveros-Fuentes clarified that there is still money from the 2003 allocation and 2004 allocation, which is untouched. The only expenses have been for supplies, travel reimbursement, and Executive Director salary. She suggested getting an estimate from Commissioner Soto on how much the Summit will cost.

V. Executive Director Report

a. Suggestion Chart to complete Commission duties

Director Mendoza pointed out the chart on Commission duties in 2005. The chart outlines the three main duties of the Commission, work strategies to get them completed, and all parties involved. Parties involved include Commissioners individually, Subcommittees, Executive Director, Indiana agencies and the Hispanic/Latino community. The first goal of identifying and researching issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino community could be done through open communication, lay member updates, attending meetings, public forums, etc. The second duty, promote cooperation and understanding between the Hispanic/Latino community and others in Indiana, can be done through hosting open discussions between Hispanics/Latinos and non-Hispanics/Latinos, generating some general facts on Indiana's Hispanic/Latino population, or

publishing literature to educate others about the community. The third duty, reporting to the Governor and Legislative council will be done through Subcommittee reports and our observations over the year. Director Mendoza asked that Commissioners keep in mind our duties when talking with others, doing programs and reports, etc. and also to utilize the chart as a reminder of what our Commission is all about.

b. USDA Report

Director Mendoza informed the Commission of the meeting she attended in Chicago last week. The meeting was regarding a partnership between the Mexican Consulate in Chicago and the USDA to promote Food and Nutrition Programs of the USDA. This is a partnership that will encompass Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. She mentioned that she was the only person who attended from Indiana, most people were from Chicago. They have asked for the Commission's assistance as community leaders to get their information out about their Food and Nutrition Programs and identify sites that would be able to host the programs that are offered. More information is included with the meeting packet. Director Mendoza mentioned her suggestions were to recruit more bilingual and bi-cultural employees at local offices, translate more materials and offer education workshops in Spanish about the different programs. More meetings will be held to offer more suggestions and measure progress.

c. Program Review

i. College Youth Day

Director Mendoza presented the handout on College Youth Day. The Indiana Social Status of Black Males Commission and Vincennes University have approached the Commission with this program, which is still in the planning stages. There is no cost to the Commission, besides travel reimbursement for the Executive Director. The purpose of the program is to educate Black and Hispanic/Latino high school students together about college opportunities at Vincennes University and foster an open dialog between Black and Hispanic/Latino students. The program would consist of 20 Black and 20 Hispanic/Latino students, during lunch and the bus ride, the Executive Director of the Black males Commission and Hispanic/Latino Commission would hold open discussions with the students, to talk about differences and similarities with each other. Some reasons why the Commission should participate are: it promotes cooperation and understanding between the students and will identify issues between the students. This program may also be a starting point for the Commission to host other College tours. The Commission could contact other universities and see if they would be willing to partner with us to host similar programs.

Vice Chair Chavez asked who would pay for the costs.

Director Mendoza answered that Vincennes has offered to pay for everything.

Kip Chase of Workforce Development mentioned that he is a graduate of Wabash University, and these types of positive efforts to bring together Black and Hispanic/Latino students cannot be stressed enough.

Commissioner Sal Soto suggested that we refer this project to the Education Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gregory Scott mentioned that this program appears to be a great opportunity to get the dialog started between Black and Hispanic/Latino students.

Questions were raised about recruitment of students. Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon offered that the Education Subcommittee work out the details.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregory Scott and seconded by Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr. to have the Commission participate in the proposed program, College Youth Day. Motion carried by all in attendance.

ii. Indiana Women's Trails Program

Director Mendoza presented the handout on the Indiana Women's Trails Program. The Indiana Commission for Women approached the Commission for partnership with this program. The objective is to profile Indiana women leaders and sites where major change has occurred by women. The program is a partnership with the Indiana State Library, Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Commission for Women. The purpose is to educate Hoosiers about women leaders across the state. The program consists of a press release, press conference, and book that would go out to all 92 counties. Currently what is needed is a woman leader and site from Lake County. Amy Mendoza suggested utilizing Victoria Candelaria, an educational leader.

Commissioner Rios mentioned that it's important to educate people in the state about Hispanic/Latina leaders. She also said that Victoria Candelaria was an outstanding leader on educational issues and she was also a supporter of the Commission. Commissioner Rios endorsed Victoria Candelaria's selection for the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregory Scott and seconded by Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr. to have the Commission participate in Indiana Women's Trails Program.

iii. Northwest Indiana Cultural Program

Director Mendoza presented the handouts about the Northwest Indiana Cultural Program which showcases Lake County, it was brought to the Commission by the Office of Senator Lugar. It's being put on by the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council. The program showcases the different cultures in Lake County. There are different levels of support, sponsorships or booths. Sponsorships are costly, ranging from \$1000- \$1200. It costs nothing to have a booth. More details are included in the handouts. The program runs from March 14- April 24, 2005.

Commissioner Soto mentioned that if the Commission participates more in these local programs, more sponsorships requests will be made, which means added costs for the Commission.

Director Mendoza pointed out that there is no cost to have a booth, it is an educational piece. She also mentioned that besides this program, it may be a good idea for the Commission to be involved and partnership with other Statewide Agencies and Commissions so that we become more visible and increase our productivity.

Vice Chair Chavez pointed out her opinion that it's important that the Commission starts to get out in other counties and become more visible. Lake County in particular has a lot to offer to the Commission, being the county with the highest concentration of Hispanics/Latinos.

Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon asked for the details of sponsorships and asked who would be supervising the booths.

Director Mendoza pointed out that she wasn't provided with the details of the sponsorships, but the booths can be up for as long as possible. Someone from the Commission would have to man the booth.

Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon suggested that the booth showcase the Commission and what our accomplishments and goals are for 2005.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sal Soto and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu to have the Commission participate in the Northwest Indiana Cultural Program. Motion carried by all in attendance.

VI. Updates/Open Discussion

a. Bilingual Employment in State Government, Margie Chavez

Vice Chair Margie Chavez announced that she's been approached by the Governor's Office and the Personnel Department to continue to recruit bilingual State employees. She asked Commissioners for people or resumes for State Government. She initially received about 75 resumes and emphasized that the Administration has been patient in finding the right people for State employee positions. Vice Chair Chavez asked for everyone to forward resumes to her from anyone who was interested.

b. T.B.N. Enlace Presentation

Ivan Schuman, of Dream Vision, Inc. emphasized the need for stronger relations between the Black and Hispanic/Latino community. He suggested that the Commission collaborate with the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis for research and ideas on how eliminate conflicts and promote cooperation and understanding. Mr. Schumann made a computer presentation to the Commission about the Trinity Broadcasting Networking (TBN) Enlace, a 24 hour 7 day broadcasting network in Spanish. It is currently broadcasted in 52 cities, and there will be a local site in Greenwood, Indiana. There is no cost for the programming. Most of the programming will be via satellite from Mexico and parts of South America. Ultimately, TBN would like to have local programming from Hispanic/Latinos church leaders on the station. Mr. Schumann encouraged the Commission to embrace faith based initiatives; from his observations, the African American community has attempted to reach out to the Hispanic/Latino community.

c. Further comments

Vice Chair Chavez asked for further comments from the audience.

Frances Vega of Ivy Tech State College suggested separating the Commission's public forums to cover different subjects, i.e. Education, Health, Business, etc.

Vice Chair Chavez announced the Education Subcommittee will be meeting in the same location after the Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00pm.