

***ICHLA* Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs**

**Commission Meeting Minutes
IVY Tech Community College
President's Board Room
4-26-06**

Commissioners Present:

Manuel Gonzalez – Senate Lay Member, Commission Chair
Frances Vega – Senate Lay Member, Commission Vice Chair
Carmen Quintana – Designee, Dept. of Health
Mary Ilu Altman – Senate Lay Member
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes – Designee, Indiana Economic Development Corporation,
Commission Treasurer
Rita Cano – House Lay Member
Ronnie Cantu – Governor Appointee
Rep. John Aguilera – House Democrat
Juana Watson – Senate Lay Member
Judge Gregory Kellam-Scott – Indiana Civil Rights Commission Director
Department of Correction Commissioner David Donahue
Proxy, Senator Vi Simpson

Staff

Amy Mendoza, Executive Director
Laura Barrett, Staff

I. Call to Order

A. Establish Quorum

A quorum was established that consisted of 12 Commissioners.

Chair Gonzalez asked all visitors to give a brief introduction.

Those visitors present: BMV representative, Glenn Tebbe from the Indiana Catholic Conference, U.S. Post Office representative, Commission Intern Carrie Lynn, National City Bank investment officer, Gloria King from the Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Juan Gonzalez, Morella Dominguez from the Indiana Minority Health Coalition and Gloria King from Wishard Health Services.

Chair Gonzalez also welcomed Commissioner J. David Donahue from the Indiana Department of Correction.

II. Guest Speaker

A. Gloria King, Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Chair Gonzalez introduced guest speaker Gloria King from the Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence and asked her to begin her presentation.

Gloria King introduced herself as a board member from the Latino Coalition. She informed the Commission that their organization is planning a Conference in September 2006 to be held in Indianapolis, IN at the Radisson Hotel. The goal of this conference is to help create a better awareness of domestic violence in the Latino community. She explained that when Latino immigrants come to the United States, a number of issues arise due to lack of awareness. Latinos struggle with alcohol abuse, substance abuse, housing problems, lack insurance and jobs. Gloria King mentioned that the Latino Coalition has already submitted several grant proposals for funding to various organizations. The Latino Coalition is asking for the Commission's support with funding assistance for the upcoming fall 2006 conference.

Chair Gonzalez informed Gloria King that the Commission plans to discuss the Annual Statewide Hispanic/Latino Conference later during the meeting. He mentioned that the Commission has received similar requests for funding from many different organizations. Chair Gonzalez asked Gloria King if her organization would consider being a part of the 2006 Annual Statewide Hispanic/Latino Conference. He explained that organizers and community leaders from around the state participate in a truly statewide event. He spoke about mayors from across the state that had similar questions/concerns pertaining to Hispanic/Latino issues. He felt that a collaborative conference would be most beneficial to answer questions and provide assistance. Chair Gonzalez would like those conference attendees to feel that it is worthwhile coming.

Gloria King agreed that a collaborative effort would be a good idea.

Chair Gonzalez commended Gloria and the Latino Coalition and encouraged their participation with the 2006 annual statewide conference.

III. Commission Business

A. Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Altman asked if the Commission sent a letter to Commissioner Watson asking how she will be working with the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez stated that a letter was sent to Commissioner Watson.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2006 Commission.

Commissioner Altman asked if the Commission had received any feedback from the Governor's office concerning the Commission's Annual Report.

Director Mendoza confirmed that an August 2006 meeting with Governor Daniels was scheduled. She is awaiting a response from his office regarding the Commission's report and future initiatives.

Commissioner Altman asked if the Commission received acknowledgement that the Governor's office had indeed received the report.

Director Mendoza acknowledged report confirmation from the Governor's office.

A motion was made by Commission Vice Chair Frances Vega and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu to accept the minutes of the 3-16-06 Commission meeting. Motion carried by all in attendance.

B. 2005 Conference Budget Update Report

Director Mendoza reviewed the 2005 conference budget and gave statistics. She informed the Commission that approximately \$62,000 was spent on the 2005 conference.

Chair Gonzalez commented on the 2005 conference budget. He said, "the goal of the 2005 conference was not to make a profit." He mentioned that the 2005 conference should not be measured by either good or poor, as it was the Commission's first time organizing this conference. Chair Gonzalez said, "if we were to spend \$63,000 again, what could we do to really maximize that after we spend a year going all over the state talking about what the state needs, what the leaders need, what the community needs and be able to reach all of the grass roots leaders and all of the way to the elected officials that would have an interest in this." He explained that he plans to discuss these ideas at a later date.

Commissioner Altman concurred with Chair Gonzalez's statement and expressed the importance of looking at the positive and negative points of last year's conference.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that the 2005 Conference evaluation sheets were discussed at a previous meeting and commissioner feedback was gathered. She also suggested that the Conference Task Force should review over these evaluation sheets.

C. Update on Committee Progress

Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza about committee progress.

Director Mendoza announced that the first Education Committee meeting is planned for next week. The Civil Rights/Housing Committee is still in need of member appointments. The Health Committee, Driver's License/Immigration Committee, Research Committee Tax Issues Committee and the Education Committee have all appointed members. The Media Committee is also in need of members.

Commissioner Altman asked if Mistie Morales or Commissioner Donahue would chair this committee. She also asked if there were any changes made.

Director Mendoza informed Commissioner Altman that, as far as she knows, Commissioner Mistie Morales is still the Research Committee Chair.

Chair Gonzalez explained to the audience that anyone can sit on a committee. A committee member does not have to be a commissioner. He encouraged everyone's participation outside of the Commission. He asked for more outside expertise on committees.

Vice Chair Vega asked if anyone present had volunteered to sit on a committee.

Morella Dominguez from the Minority Health Coalition informed the Commission that she would like to volunteer to sit on the Health Committee.

Chair Gonzalez welcomed Mrs. Dominguez's participation on the Health Committee. He also mentioned that the Business Committee is in need of a committee chair. The commitment as Business Committee Chair would require 6 meetings outside of monthly Commission meetings.

D. Update on Commission Report Correspondence

Director Mendoza spoke about state agency feedback on the annual report. She explained that staff member Ryan Marques has been contacting agency directors and scheduling meetings to discuss the Commission's report. Director Mendoza listed the many state agencies that the ICHLA office has successfully contacted. Director Mendoza said that the responses have been very positive. The ICHLA office will continue to update the Commission on report responses at future commission meetings.

Vice-Chair Vega asked Director Mendoza about the progress of the report translation and press conferences discussed at the previous Commission meeting.

Director Mendoza said that the Commission did not vote to have a press conference at the March 2006 Commission meeting. She told the Commission that Vice-Chair Vega found a reliable resource to translate the entire report and the report brief into Spanish for free. The Driver's License/Immigration report is also expected to be translated. The translated report in its entirety is anticipated to be completed by mid-May 2006. This report will be distributed to the community immediately.

Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza if she requested a vote from the Commission to hold a press conference.

Director Mendoza said that the best thing to do is to have a vote.

Commissioner Altman encouraged Chair Gonzalez to think carefully about a press conference. She said, "Here we have a jewel; we have some proof of the Commission." "Some people have invested a tremendous amount of time and energy in writing this."

She also stated that she feels that this document proves to the citizens of Indiana that the Commission is really working.

Chair Gonzalez agrees that the Commission's report must offer solutions and be proactive. He stated that he does not feel that a vote is necessary as the report is a very important document. He explained that if the Commission sets precedent on everything, then there must be a vote every time. He asked for any comments.

Commissioner Cano agreed that the Commission accomplishes many things and informs the community.

Commissioner Scott explained that the Commission's report was already approved. He felt that Director Mendoza can achieve as many good public relations.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that she has already sent out press releases and is awaiting Commission approval before holding a press conference.

Commissioner Altman mentioned her contacts with the media and how they receive hundreds of press releases daily. She explained how important it is for Director Mendoza to personally cultivate a relationship with the media such as the Indianapolis Star.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that the press conference be held in the State Rotunda. A date/time must be determined. He requests that all commissioners be present at the press conference. Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza to organize the conference date and location.

Chair Gonzalez suggested calling individuals such as Mickey Maurer and asking him to send a representative. Every commissioner must make a few contacts. Chair Gonzalez asked all Commissioners to start informing people about the upcoming press conference.

Commissioner Altman said that the Commission must talk to other cities such as Fort Wayne, Evansville, Hammond, Gary, South Bend and Lafayette. She would like to see reporters present such as Univisión.

Director Mendoza agreed to build more relationships. She assured the Commission that press releases are sent throughout the state.

Commissioner Altman recommended that Director Mendoza create a personal directory.

Vice-Chair Vega reminded all commissioners to take on responsibility and to forward Director Mendoza their contacts.

Director Mendoza said that she would encourage the Commissioners again to actively respond. She discussed a proposal to purchase an Electronic Media Directory for \$250.00.

Commissioner Altman agreed that a directory was a very good idea.

Commissioner Scott asked whether or not the Commission had set aside a specific date to receive responses from state agencies regarding the report.

Director Mendoza mentioned that the commission decided that 3 months was sufficient time to receive responses.

E. National Hispanic/Latino Conferences

Chair Gonzalez explained that attending national conferences will help expose the Commission.

Director Mendoza said that the next annual Hispanic/Latino directors meeting will take place in November/December of 2006.

Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza to review the national conferences and budgets.

Director Mendoza began the NALEO Conference discussion. NALEO is an annual conference. She mentioned that this conference covers issues such as the aging Latino population, which is not normally covered. This conference would include a significant networking opportunity. She explained that two commissioners attended in 2005. Director Mendoza spoke about the budget request. She suggested her attendance at this conference and that of another commissioner. The estimated cost for one individual to attend is approximately \$1,179.00

Commissioner Altman discussed the importance of having a Commission literature/marketing table present at each conference. She suggested that the Commission spend extra money for this necessity, as this is the most effective use. She asked for the budget to include funds for a table.

Chair Gonzalez agreed with Commissioner Altman.

Commissioner Aguilera mentioned that he is a part of the NALEO organization. He suggested that the Commission have a seminar to show how the Commission started and to have others participate.

Chair Gonzalez agreed with Commissioner Aguilera. He said that this is the reason why conferences are important.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that since the Commission deals with different levels of government, it is very important to attend.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a vote to accept the NALEO conference request.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion to accept the NALEO request.

Vice-Chair Vega made a second motion to accept the NALEO request.

Director Mendoza plans to investigate more about Commission participation and table display information.

Chair Aguilera plans to attend the NALEO conference.

Vice-Chair Vega will also be attending the NALEO conference.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that Director Mendoza and Commissioner Watson would be good representatives for seminars at the conference. He asked for another vote to send 2 people to the NALEO conference.

Commissioner Scott requested that the Commission indicate to Ivy Tech's President to send Vice-Chair Vega to the conference. She would also be a good benefit to the Commission.

Director Mendoza confirmed the request to send a letter to Ivy Tech to support/assist with Vice-Chair Vega's conference expenses.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to amend the number of NALEO conference attendees to 2.

Vice-Chair Vega made a motion to amend those attending the NALEO conference to 2.

Commissioner Aguilera made a second motion.

Chair Gonzalez confirmed the amended motion, and the motion was carried by all in attendance.

Chair Gonzalez informed the Commission that La Raza received from State Farm Insurance an \$8 million dollar donation of which \$2.3 million is earmarked for Indiana. This is community development money and economic development funding. He said that no one in Indiana has approached La Raza for this money. He encouraged the importance of connecting national leadership.

Director Mendoza spoke about the National Council of La Raza conference that will take place July 7-11, 2006 in Los Angeles, CA. The cost per person is approximately \$2,000. Director Mendoza spoke about the conference schedule and the issues covered in the workshops.

Chair Gonzalez asked if anyone had attended the La Raza conference.

Commissioner Cano said that she had previously attended this conference held in San Diego, CA. She confirmed that this conference was very important to attend.

Commissioner Altman reminded the Commission to include expenses for a networking table.

Director Mendoza asked Treasurer Fuentes for if money was set aside.

Treasurer Fuentes confirmed that \$3,000-\$4,000 for 6 months (Jan-July 2006) and then \$6,000 from July 2006 until the end of the year (plus conference \$) was allocated for the year 2006.

Chair Gonzalez said, "We want to encourage the different committee chairs to look at what their specialty is and look at things that they already go to because of their job or what they should be going to because of their involvement with the Commission." He said that this is not a complete list.

Director Mendoza said that there are more general conferences. She plans to include a more specific list later in the year.

Chair Gonzalez explained that the Commission cannot vote on this conference's budget approval without assigning someone to attend.

Commissioner Altman preferred not to vote without the estimated table/booth costs.

Chair Gonzalez explained the time restraint with postponing a vote. He suggested that the wording read as... can't exceed...

Commissioner Scott said, "With time requirements, there are exceptions." The Commission must use this to their advantage.

Commissioner Scott made a motion to authorize Chair Gonzalez and Director Mendoza to supervise participation of conferences and to authorize 2 Commissioners to attend and establish a booth with specific wording that states no more than \$500.00 will be spent on a booth. He also mentioned that the Commission can decide to come back and amend the booth expenses.

Vice-Chair Vega seconded the motion.

Chair Gonzalez confirmed the motion. (He specified the importance of this vote due to time restraints). Motion carried by all in attendance.

Chair Gonzalez stated that if no one attends, the money will not be spent.

Director Mendoza asked whether or not a staff member and/or a commissioner should attend.

Commissioner Scott stated that a Commissioner or Director should attend.

Commissioner Fuentes explained that the Executive Director would be out of the office for three weeks if she attended all three events.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that the third conference was not necessary.

Commissioner Altman agreed and encouraged the Commissioners to go to the conferences.

Director Mendoza explained that the right cost and the right time is the big issue. She stressed the importance of submitting a budget request as soon as possible.

Commissioner Fuentes asked those attending the conferences to complete and submit a full report on the conference to the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez agreed with Commissioner Fuentes. He reminded everyone about the \$2.3 million dollar State Farm funding available at the La Raza conference.

Commissioner Scott proposed that those attending the conferences complete a short and written report.

Commissioner Altman agreed that both conferences should have the same report requirements.

F. 2006 Statewide Conference on Hispanic/Latino Issues

Director Mendoza explained the following conference items that the Commission must act upon: Task Force and appointees, theme, workshops, partners, speakers, fundraising, hotel bill and etc. She explained that the Commission will have more time and experience in planning this conference than last year's conference.

Chair Gonzalez asked Gloria King from the Minority Health Coalition if her organization would be interested in collaborating with this conference.

Gloria King agreed that her organization would be interested. She plans to ask permission from the president of her organization.

Chair Gonzalez asked what the Commission could do to leverage everyone's resources statewide.

Commissioner Aguilera explained that the Commission tried to move the conference last year, but there were budget issues. He wanted to make sure that the Commission put money out into the community. The Legislature will see that the Commission is using their funding. He agreed that community involvement and organization participation is ideal. Commissioner Aguilera explained that the first few conferences were well-attended. The Commission felt the need to move on something to justify a long-term goal. He said that the Commission is not a part of the general fund, as it is funded out of tobacco money.

Chair Gonzalez said that the Commission must focus on what the people really expect out of a conference. It must include federal, state and local initiatives. He said that many mayors have the same questions. He opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Watson said that the history of the Summit is very important. She appreciated the input from the community. Commissioner Watson informed the Commission that she is working on a large conference with economic development.

Commissioner Altman asked that the Commission address the importance of immigration before the conference.

Commissioner Aguilera said that the Commission must first form a committee to discuss conference details at another meeting.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that someone in the Task Force report on themes, collaborations and reviews the minutes.

Commissioner Altman requested to propose a model on the Task Force.

Commissioner Watson explained that immigration is a federal issue. She requests that the Commission not to waste a lot of energy on something that the state cannot solve alone. She asked that the Commission be ready and realistic.

Chair Aguilera stated that immigration is an issue that the states are picking up on. Georgia has very strict laws for impacting immigrants. He felt that the Commission needs to recognize those interested in changes at a state level.

Director Mendoza asked if the Commission will proceed with the conference and who will be in charge.

Chair Gonzalez asked if it was within protocol to assign himself to the Task Force.

Commissioner Aguilera accepted Chair Gonzalez's appointment to the Task Force.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to form a conference Task Force that will report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion to form a Conference Task Force.

Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in attendance.

IV. Old Business

A. Entérate Educational Program

Chair Gonzalez discussed this proposal that was brought to the Commission by Mara Casanova and Marco Dominguez. He reminded the Commissioners that it was postponed at the previous Commission meeting.

Director Mendoza explained that the new Entérate program has yet to be initiated. This program will educate Hispanic/Latino immigrants on Indiana laws and various issues. The Entérate proposal examines the benefits.

Commissioner Watson said that Entérate is a statewide cost.

Director Mendoza said that the proposal is for \$86,000 statewide.

Commissioner Altman asked if the Entérate DVDs are free.

Director Mendoza confirmed that the DVDs would be free to the community.

Commissioner Watson said that it is important to educate with morals and customs, as it will reach the Hispanic/Latino population. She would like for the DVD's to be disbursed everywhere statewide.

Commissioner Altman asked about the other sources of funding for this proposal.

Commissioner Watson said that the Entérate proposal is requesting funding from other agencies and organizations. They are not requesting a specific amount from the Commission.

Commissioner Scott asked that the Commission ensures that the proposal is truly a statewide initiative. The proposal reads "Indianapolis." Commissioner Scott requested that something is sent in writing. It should clearly state that this proposal is not only for the benefit of Marion County, but will include all Indiana counties.

Chair Gonzalez explained how many Indiana rural counties are in great need of these DVDs.

Commissioner Altman asked that the DVD's be available in a specific location for public access.

Commissioner Watson volunteered to share her data with the Commission, as she has all of the resource center contacts throughout the state of Indiana.

Director Mendoza plans to create a letter for the Entérate proposal asking who will be the recipients. She will also exchange the resource center contacts with Commissioner Watson.

Chair Gonzalez asked about the timeframe for the proposal.

Director Mendoza stated that there was not an exact timeframe given for this proposal. She plans to draft the letters as soon as possible.

Commissioner Cantu asked the size of contribution needed from the Commission to be listed as an endorsement.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to table the Entérate proposal for the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion to table the Entérate proposal for the next meeting.

Commissioner Cantu seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in attendance.

B. Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence Proposal

Director Mendoza explained that this proposal was discussed at the previous Commission meeting. He mentioned that this was the same proposal given by guest speaker Gloria King.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that the Coalition communicate with the Conference Task Force for collaborations with upcoming fall events/conferences. He asked for a motion to table this discussion.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion to postpone the Latino Coalition proposal.

Commissioner Quintana seconded the motion.

Chair Gonzalez informed the Commissioners that the next Commission meeting will be May 24, 2006 in the Indiana Government Center Conference Center. He asked for commissioners to volunteer/host a different meeting location to get more exposure.

Commissioner Scott said that the Civil Rights Commission has begun meeting outside of Indianapolis. He feels that it is very important to take the Commission on the road. He asked that the Commissioners host a meeting in their own community for local news coverage. They should send out a media advisory, which will help get the word out. Community members will be able to communicate with their local Commissioner and become more aware of Commission activities.

Chair Gonzalez agreed with Commissioner Scott. He would like Commissioners to come up with a different meeting location at the May Commission meeting. Chair Gonzalez requests input from all Commissioners.

Commissioner Altman stated that she might have a proxy for the May Commission meeting, as she will be out of the country.

Chair Gonzalez asked for closing comments.

Commissioner Aguilera informed the Commission that Glenn Tebbe from the Catholic Conference did a tremendous amount of work in preventing the negative legislation that would have eliminated services and public education to new immigrants in the State of Indiana. Commissioner Aguilera asked for the Commission's support in writing to the legislators and senators about the immigration issue. He specifically asked that the letters read: "Consider taking up immigration legislation in the spirit of the Hagel Martinez Ammendment; moving forward."

Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza to send electronic copies of this legislation to all of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion to send a letter from the Commission asking that legislators and senators "Consider taking up immigration legislation in the spirit of the Hagel Martinez Ammendment; moving forward."

Commissioner Scott made a second motion for the Commission letter.

Commissioner Altman requested that the Catholic Conference be a Commission guest from time to time.

V. Audience Commentary

Chair Gonzalez asked for comments from the audience at this time.

Juan Gonzalez suggested that the Commission commemorate those organizers of the April immigrant march. He also suggested that a phone bank be accessible to new immigrants with questions.

Chair Gonzalez thanked Juan Gonzalez and assured him that the Entérate proposal will assist those individuals with information.

Commissioner Watson explained that that Commission cannot solve all of the problems. Every Commissioner is also involved in other organizations.

Chair Gonzalez said that some individuals might have a misunderstanding of the Commission.

Melinda Kennedy thanked the Commission for their hard work. She said that she used to be the Deputy Mayor for Mayor Bart Peterson.

Morella Dominguez informed the Commission that her organization produces and distributes free statewide magazines called "Lifestyle." She explained how John Aguilera and bill 1383 were previously featured in the magazine. Morella Dominguez encouraged the Commission to write an article to be published in the magazine.

Commissioner Altman suggested that the Commission's report be discussed in the magazine.

Commissioner Quintana asked that comment on the Immigrant Rights Rally should be included in the minutes. This enormous immigrant march took place throughout the nation, including Indianapolis on April 10, 2006. Commissioner Quintana said, "This march was a time when we were concerned what would happen." She described the intent of the march: peaceful and productive. Thousands of immigrant families, students, single adults, children and even non-immigrant participants marched to express their pride of their communities.

Chair Gonzalez asked that the Commission create a formal recognition for the Immigrant Rally.

Commissioner Scott asked that a formal recognition be included as an agenda item for the next Commission meeting. He asked that the Commission determine to see if there had been an impact in the primary elections due to the outcome of the immigrants.

Vice-Chair Vega discussed the upcoming Cinco de Mayo festival organized by ALMA to be held at Garfield Park in Indianapolis, IN on Sunday, May 14, 2006 from 12pm-8pm. The event will take place on Mother's Day instead of the usual May 5 celebration. Vice-Chair Vega also mentioned a Latino forum to be held in July also at Garfield Park.

Commissioner Watson discussed the boycott for immigrant rights to be held on May 1, 2006. She explained that the local Indiana communities were not encouraging the similar demonstrations from California and Chicago. Commissioner Watson said that immigrants in Indiana plan to meet at night and demonstrate a peaceful connection. She mentioned how Mexico is coming against it.

Vice-Chair made a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting

Commissioner Altman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in attendance.

VI. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55pm.