

Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission meeting minutes
3-24-05

Attendance:

Rep. John Aguilera, House Democrat- **Chair**
Myrna Maldonado, House Lay member
Gregorio Chavez, Jr., House Lay member
Juana Watson, Senate Lay member
Manuel T. Gonzalez, Senate Lay member
Salvador Soto, Senate Lay member
Ronnie Cantu, Governor Appointee
Gloria Thode, Dept. of Correction designee
Carmen Quintana, Dept. of Health designee
Karen Martinez, Dept. of Education designee
Margie Chavez, Family and Social Services Administration- **Vice Chair**
Judge Gregory Kellam Scott, Civil Rights Commission Executive Director

Staff:

Amy Mendoza, Executive Director
Lawrence McCormack

Guest Speaker:

Paula Parker-Sawyers, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI)

Audience:

Martha Carvajal, Office of Senator Evan Bayh
Ricardo Gambetta, Office of Mayor Bart Peterson
Margaret Gomez, Ballet Folklorico de Holy Rosary
Edwin Rosado, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), District II Director
Alberto Hernandez, Purdue Calumet
Ivan Schumann, Dream Vision Media Marketing
Jose Arevalo, Midwest Homes

I. Introductions

Chairman John Aguilera called the meeting to order at approximately 10:43am and established a quorum which consisted of 12 Commissioners. Chairman Aguilera introduced Guest Speaker Paula Parker Sawyers, Executive Director of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, and invited her to begin her presentation.

II. Guest Speaker Presentation

a. Paula Parker-Sawyers, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives

Paula Parker-Sawyers explained that, on January 11, 2005, one day after taking office, Governor Daniels signed Executive Order 516, establishing the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI). She clarified that while the office is new; component parts of it existed under the previous administration. Previously, the Faith Works initiative, a contracted service under the Family and Social Services Administration was

utilized. This provided information for identifying opportunities for faith based organizations. The OFBCI is a combined office that brings in faith-based work and also the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV). She mentioned that the office has 2 main responsibilities, and the first is to national service programs. All the national service programs that come to the state come from OFBCI. These include the Americore programs, which have 10 major grantees across the state, from Evansville to Fort Wayne, South Gary, Indianapolis, etc. This serves hundreds of Americore members, who receive a small stipend depending on the length of the grant. Upon completing their term of service, they receive an education stipend that can then be used for active education, or they can use it for school loans. Additionally, Americore programs support Citizens Core. This is a network of volunteers who provide support in urgencies and disasters. These individuals have made a service commitment to the state to help communities during disasters. They meet every week on a conference call to update each other on what's going on with respect to emergencies and disasters. They stay engaged well after the Red Cross, FEMA, Salvation Army etc. have moved on after a disaster.

Chairman Aguilera asked if the OFBCI ties in with Homeland security.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers answered yes. She mentioned that Citizens' Core is an active participant with the Counter terrorism Task Force (CTASC). She said members of her office sit on the CTASC committee to be in connection with Homeland Security preparations. She mentioned that the OFBCI is also in partnership with the state program office, which is represented in each state, this is the administrative arm of the VISTA, RSVP, Senior Core and Foster Grandparent Programs. Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned that she helps coordinate some of those programs, along with the State Program Director, Louis Lopez. They both stay in touch and make sure that they are well coordinated, and make sure that services are leveraged between the two offices. Another piece of the national service responsibility is the Learn Serve Grants, which serve K-12 community. Dr. Suellen Reed administers these through the Department of Education. Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned the last piece is called VISTA, which is the domestic version of the peace core volunteers; they make a one-year and sometimes 2 year commitment to serving their community. They can do almost anything for a non-for profit organizations such as special projects or fundraising.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers moved on to explain the new side of the OFBCI. This is the Faith based initiatives side. The purpose is to carry on and expand the work of the former program, Faith Works. The office has basically 3 goals: first is outreach. This is outreach to faith based organizations and to identify and link up with those faith based organizations. The office has a staff of just under a dozen.

The Office has established two regular communications that will go out. The first is Funding Opportunities, and the state agency directors should receive that this week. This bulleting will be monthly, intended to include as many people as possible and it will have a list of funding opportunities that are available. These opportunities may be at a state level, they may be some state agencies with grants, and it also includes federal grants. There are 10 federal agencies that now have centers for Faith Based and Community Initiatives. Their offices are issuing funding opportunities. Additionally the office received notification from private organizations who would like to issue grants. The bulletin chronologically arranges grants, putting them in the order of deadline.

The second way of communication the office offers is a weekly electronic bulletin called Friday night facts. This will contain any last minute funding opportunities and other news and information. The first will come out next Friday, April 1, 2005, and will highlight Rx for Indiana.

The second goal of the office is technical assistance and training. Faith Works attempted to provide technical assistance and training to faith based organizations in the past, but it wasn't consistent. The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives will continue and broaden that effort. The office will target those that are moderate to small in size (with less than 5 employees). Many of those are not set up to be recipients of federal grants. Federal grants have a lot monitoring, and there is much that is needed to prepare for a grant. The office will help to determine if there is a readiness for receipt of a grant by technical assistance and training. Training will not always be something that originates from the office; the office will also identify and partner with in state trainers, such as the Indiana Minority Health Coalition.

The third piece is barriers assessment. This is an original idea of mind. The President of U.S. has instructed all his agencies to do a barriers assessment. That is to determine which rules, regulations or laws present an obstacle to faith based organizations. These assessments will be completed by July of this year. The OFBCI will begin with that process beginning in the next month. The office will look at laws, rules, regulations established in Indiana that may or may not serve as a barrier to Faith Based organizations. An example is from the Civil Rights perspective. Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned that she is working with the Civil Rights Commission to look at the recent ruling in respect to the hiring of individuals of a particular faith: what does that mean to our rules and laws in regard to Civil Rights?

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned that the office looks forward to working with the Hispanic/Latino Affairs Commission in reaching out to the community and faith based institutions that serve the Hispanic/Latino community. She mentioned that she looks to the Commission as collaborators on different projects. She offered to answer any questions about the office.

Chairman Aguilera thanked Mrs. Parker-Sawyers for her presentation and asked to be put on the office's email list to receive updates and other information. He also pointed out that Ricardo Gambetta from Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson's Office and Martha Carvajal from Senator Bayh's Office will probably want to also receive information and participate. He asked Mrs. Parker-Sawyers to explain her reporting structure.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers explained that she reports directly to the Governor. This is different than the previous Faith Works organization, which was part of the Family and Social Services Administration. She also mentioned the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism previously reported through the Department of Administration and then to a Policy Analyst in the Governor's Office. Mrs. Parker-Sawyers explained that the Governor has also charged the office to marshal volunteers in support for Rx for Indiana, she explained that she was working with Commissioner Margie Chavez to recruit more Hispanic/Latino volunteers around the state. There are also working together to make sure that the information about the program is being distributed throughout the state.

Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr. introduced Mr. Edwin Rosado, the district II Director for LULAC, which is also a state/national organization. Commissioner Chavez, Jr. informed Mrs. Parker-Sawyers that LULAC would work with her office to assist with their efforts.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers announced that currently, there are 5 openings on the Commission for Community Service and Volunteerism, and there is currently no one representing the Hispanic/Latino community. These are voluntary positions, the Commission has been meeting quarterly, these are gubernatorial appointments by national standards, this calls for 49% / 51% as far as party affiliation, so that should not be a concern for anyone. There are some specific requirements for those openings, for example the Commission is in need of a labor representative. The Commission will be meeting once every other month, starting in June. The role of the Commission will be to review grant applications in the 1st stage, which go to the Corporation for National Services, or Americore grants. The way the Americore grant funding works is the Corporation for National Services has competitive money, which can be distributed based on merit, or how well the grant is written. After those grants are awarded, then each state, based on their census have another portion of money which goes to the formula grants. So, the 1st stage of approval starts with the ICCSV and it would be an important role to have someone representing the Hispanic/Latino community on ICCSV.

Chairman Aguilera offered to help and participate with the Commission. He mentioned that he is a member of the Black Caucus, and he asked Mrs. Parker-Sawyers to come and speak to the caucus. He asked his assistant, Lawrence McCormack to make necessary arrangements.

Commissioner Gloria Thode asked if there are any plans from the OFBCI in terms of transition of inmates on a faith-based level.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned that she has spoken with Commissioner Donahue of the Dept. of Correction, and informed the Commission that Indianapolis has been chosen as a pilot site for an offender re-entry initiative through VISTA workers. There will be 6 vista workers who will work with a Christian re-entry programs in Indianapolis to assist in strengthening their programs and look for ways to expand what they are doing. Secondly, through this process in working with the Corporation of National Services, and the Dept. of Justice discovered a mapping project that she will share with the Commissioner. This program has to do with research using technology called geographic information systems, and they have Indianapolis has been chosen as a pilot site for a mapping project, this will detail where offenders are going after they're released. And so what they will do is take this info and overlay it in the GIS map to know what neighborhoods they're going to and what services are provided in that neighborhood. Mrs. Parker-Sawyer addressed Chairman Aguilera and mentioned that, while that's being done only in one city, one thing to be considered is how can we expand that type of GIS technology statewide?

Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez asked how the funding works. He mentioned that there are dozens new Latino churches of all denominations. He asked, if there is funding available for some of their programs? Some of the important programs are economic development and job training, some of these churches can be leaders in trying to make

more developments in their own communities. He asked, is there funding for those programs from the state, or would they be directed to federal funding?

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers answered that both opportunities exist, but there is the possibility of stronger collaboration. She offered that a lot of times, working from a non-for-profit standpoint, there are different community or religious organizations that are overlapping and a lot of the time serving the same population. What is needed is more collaboration between the groups and working together. This may mean new money, and probably more than the organizations were initially looking for, since there now exists collaboration, and what's needed is a more effective use of money. She mentioned that OFBCI will help to find as much new money as possible, but there is an effectiveness question that needs to be addressed simultaneously upon looking for new money.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that there is a "list" receives a lot of federal funding, and it may be that they are not sharing with Hispanic/Latino organizations. There is a Community Development Corporation entity in almost every city. He mentioned that may be something the Hispanic/Latino Affairs Commission can help direct with the OFBCI.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers mentioned that the goal of the OFBCI is to bring the two (very different) parties together and help them to find commonality. She mentioned that, of all the federal departments, there exist two that are very aggressive, about this flow of faith based institutions, the first is the Department of Labor, particularly the Department of Workforce Development. In working with those departments, the key is to first find churches and organizations that have an interest in working together to find funding and partnerships. Mrs. Parker-Sawyers also pointed out that there are a number of faith based organizations that have chosen not to pursue federal and/or state dollars, for all kinds of reasons, mainly because there exists a perception of strings attached.

Chairman Aguilera thanked Ms. Parker-Sawyers for her presentation and welcomed her continued participation with the Commission.

II. Commission Business

a. Review and accept 2-24-05 Commission meeting minutes

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that the other guest speaker, Gilberto Perez, was unable to attend today's meeting, and he will be put on next month's agenda to speak. Chairman Aguilera asked the Commissioners to review the minutes of the 2-24-05 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ronnie Cantu reported the following corrections to the minutes: eliminate the duplication of Commissioner Pat Rios' name in the attendance list on page 1, change of word order on page 5, second paragraph, time correction on page 6, section d, word corrections on page 7, grammatical corrections on page 8 and word correction on page 9, paragraph 5. Commissioner Gloria Thode made the correction of her name on the minutes (first page) and name tent. A motion was made by Commissioner Cantu and seconded by Vice Chair Margie Chavez to accept the minutes with corrections. Motion carried by all in attendance.

b. Hispanic Summit Update

Commissioner Sal Soto provided an update from the Hispanic Summit task force. Commissioner Soto informed the Commission that the task force met before the regular Commission meeting. The Commission has agreed to host a state-wide Hispanic Summit

this year in mid October or September, which will occur during Hispanic Heritage month. The task force has confirmed the theme to be “Healthy Communities” or “Healthy Indiana.” With this theme, the Summit can touch on topics like health of the economy, health and education, etc. Commissioner Soto mentioned that the task force is working around other activities during Hispanic Heritage month, and will be receiving schedules of events going on. He informed that the task force is still seeking speakers, and figuring out the specifics on funding, so that there is an idea of how much money will be used from the Commission’s budget, and how much will have to be raised.

Chairman Aguilera explained the history of the Hispanic Summit and explained that this would be a signature event for the Commission. He asked that suggestions and ideas be sent to Commissioner Soto. He mentioned that the Subcommittees are open to the public and encouraged audience participation. He reiterated that the Summit would be a state event, not solely an Indianapolis event. Chairman Aguilera also mentioned the special fund that the Commission has, which is available for donations and gifts to the Commission. He also mentioned that there are some prospective funders that are waiting to fund the Commission also.

Commissioner Soto mentioned that, as far as the Hispanic Summit, the task force wants to ask for the right amount, so that’s why we are doing research first as to how much money can be used for the Summit.

Commissioner Gregory Kellam Scott asked when the Hispanic Summit task force meetings are usually held.

Commissioner Soto responded that the meetings are usually held an hour before the regular Commission meetings. The next meeting will be the same.

Chairman Aguilera invited Martha Carvajal of Senator Evan Bayh’s Office and Ricardo Gambetta of Mayor Peterson’s Office to also participate in planning the Hispanic Summit.

Commissioner Soto mentioned the members of the task force and pointed out that Jose Arevalo of South Bend is also participating with the task force and made the suggestion for the theme.

c. Update on Public Forums

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that she met with Director Mendoza as a task force to start planning the public forums. She announced that lay members will be hosting the forums around the state, so the Commission would be traveling. She announced the first forum will be in East Chicago, IN. Commissioner Myrna Maldonado will be hosting the forum on April 7, 2005. The forum will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Roberto Clemente Center. The next day (April 8, 2005), Governor Mitch Daniels will be in East Chicago to launch Rx for Indiana. Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that a powerpoint presentation will be presented and the forum will be in a town hall format. The goal is to get the community to bring their concerns to the Commission. Vice Chair Chavez also announced that a tentative forum is scheduled for South Bend on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and Indiana University South Bend. She mentioned that all the forums will be in the same format. Also, Commissioner Cantu will be hosting a forum in Evansville and Commissioner Juana Watson will host a forum in Columbus, IN.

Another public forum will be hosted by Commissioner Mara Candelaria-Reardon in South Lake County, Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez will host a forum in Kokomo, because the area he represents, which is Carmel, IN is so close to Indianapolis, and there already is a forum scheduled for Indianapolis. The dates are not yet confirmed for these forums. Vice Chair Chavez encouraged other Commissioners to host public forums if their areas are not represented already. She mentioned that Commissioner Soto would host a forum in Fort Wayne in July.

Commissioner Soto asked if the time limits were planned for members of the community to speak.

Vice Chair Chavez informed everyone that the East Chicago forum would be used as a test and the formation of the other forums would depend on how well it went.

Commissioner Scott mentioned that there was a Race and Cultural Commission in Colorado, which was sponsored by the Supreme Court. He mentioned that time limits were needed often when similar events were held. He mentioned that it is important to give everyone the opportunity to speak, but it works much better if time limits are specified.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that it was important to make sure that local legislators are aware of the forums.

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that East Chicago Mayor George Pabey is scheduled to attend the forum, as well as Roy Dominguez, the Lake County Sheriff. She clarified that the Hispanic/Latino community was the purpose of the forums and not politics.

Chairman Aguilera thanked Vice Chair Chavez for her work. He mentioned the forums would be helpful not only for the community but for the Commission in building its network.

Chairman Aguilera discussed the Voter ID Bill, which may be in Senate Bill 18 or Senate Bill 52. He mentioned that he would speak about the bill from the standpoint of the community, not any partisan party. He mentioned that he has some concerns of the bill, being very hard on the Hispanic/Latino community and possibly the African American community as well. He mentioned that his concerns stem from the issues regarding getting proper identification. Chairman Aguilera said that the bill is known as one of the most stringent bills in the country. The bill restricts voting to people who are able to provide a state identification card. Although there were many amendments that were offered to ease the restrictions of the bill, they were not accepted. He mentioned that the bill has passed both the House and Senate and will now go before the Governor. He mentioned that he spoke against the bill based on his opinion that it unfavorably impacts minority communities by making it difficult to cast what is the most basic right, voting. He mentioned some amendments were offered to issue identification for free and those amendments were rejected. He said it was a concern because it means that, for the community, there will have to be a lot of time and energy to make sure that people are receiving the identification to participate, if the bill gets passed. He said that minority communities do not support the bill, and the Black Caucus does not support it. He also informed the Commission that he's expressed concern about the Hispanic/Latino community, which will become marginalized because they will probably be unaware of

the changes. He encouraged everyone that, if they have concerns, to write to legislators and voice those concerns. He voiced his opinion that he supports the idea of identification for voting, but not as harsh, as this bill is.

Commissioner Juana Watson asked Chairman Aguilera how bill would prevent the Hispanic/Latino community from voting.

Chairman Aguilera gave an example of an elderly person who may not drive, if the individual wants to vote and does not have a drivers license, they will not be able to vote. He corrected that actually, a provisional ballot would be used in that case, but there are issues within provisional ballots also. He illustrated the problem with provisional balloting with an instance where the ballots were counted because the individual that was helping with the ballot did not sign the envelope.

Vice Chair Chavez pointed out that those issues arise out of lack of training.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned there should be training involved with that and there should be a real effort to make sure that no one gets disenfranchised. Those who will not be aware of the changes will likely be those who do not understand English, those not reading the newspaper, etc. He expressed concern that people will be at the polling place before finding out about the changed law. In that way, the community will be disenfranchised. He mentioned that in his opinion the bill is very similar to a poll tax. He mentioned that he is willing to engage anyone on the issue, and that everyone needs to make sure that they do what they can as a community to make sure there is no intent to disenfranchise. He said this will be law at the end of session if nothing is done.

Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez asked that Lawrence McCormack email everyone a copy of the bill.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Business/Economic Development

Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez mentioned that, at the 1-27-05 Commission meeting, the subcommittee provided a preliminary report. A public meeting was held on 3-22-05 to receive feedback on the findings of the Subcommittee. He said that Director Mendoza composed a report of the 3-22-05 meeting, and he wanted to submit that today to the Commission. He also said that in the public forums, the subcommittee reports can serve as "living document." In other words, the Commission can present the subcommittee findings at the public forums and ask for more feedback. This way the reports can grow and evolve. There would not be specific authorship of the report, but it would be changing as the Commission has more input from the community. This way we can get information on what issues the Commission should be discussing with the legislature.

Director Mendoza mentioned that the Business meeting was very informative and a lot of information was brought to the table. She mentioned that the Subcommittee reports will be used at the public meetings, in an effort to inform the community of what is known already, and also receive additional feedback and more issues.

Vice Chair Chavez thanked Commissioner Gonzalez for holding the meeting and mentioned that there was representation from banks, small businesses and others.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu and seconded by Commissioner Gregorio Chavez to accept the minutes of the 3-22-05 Business Subcommittee meeting. Motion carried by all in attendance.

b. Budget

Director Mendoza pointed out the attached ledger of the Commission's budget. She pointed out the 2003 balance was roughly \$48,000. She pointed out that there are still some travel reimbursements being calculated and printing expenses to be deducted from the 2003 allocation. She pointed out that the second ledger attached indicates the remaining 2004 allocation, which was originally \$125,000, but after recent budget cuts, it is actually \$118,750. She mentioned that the last ledger shows the Commission's special fund, which has a balance of \$25.00. Director Mendoza also presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. She mentioned that the MOU details that the Department of Workforce Development provides administrative support, legal counsel, marketing services and other services detailed in the report. She encouraged Commissioners to read through the MOU thoroughly and informed everyone that the MOU was effective in June 2004 and would expire in June 2005. She mentioned that the Commission could vote now to renew the MOU or could wait until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Margie Chavez and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Cantu to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Motion carried by all in attendance.

c. Health

Vice Chair Margie Chavez announced that the Health Subcommittee held a meeting recently. She mentioned that while at the last Commission meeting she had announced that there was difficulty in locating statistical health information, the Subcommittee has been working together to bring more information. She mentioned that the top four Latino diseases are diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart disease. She mentioned that currently there are 3 physicians that sit on the committee: Javier Sevilla, Alfredo Lopez and Sarah Steltzer, all from Indiana University. She mentioned the Department of Health has also been very helpful in this effort. She mentioned that people came from Lake County, so it seems that the community is recognizing that the Commission is moving forward. She mentioned that there exist many language barriers, lack of bilingual, bi-cultural employees in the health industry, etc.

Commissioner Chavez, Jr. asked when the next Health Subcommittee meeting was scheduled.

Vice Chair Chavez answered that the meeting has not yet been scheduled, but it would be scheduled based on the health subcommittee physicians' availability.

Commissioner Chavez mentioned that he would notify health interpreters about the subcommittee meeting.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that there is currently a health care interpreters law that will help with some of the recommendations that the Commission on Healthcare

Translators and Interpreters offered in their report. He mentioned that the Commission had presented their report to the Hispanic/Latino Affairs Commission previously. He mentioned that, as an officer of the National Hispanic Caucus, he had the opportunity to participate in a Health Summit, which consisted of presentations by minority physicians and health representatives, and last year four minority legislators attended from Indiana. He also mentioned that last year's focus was obesity and mental health.

Commissioner Soto pointed out that, while Spanish competency should be tested for health care interpreters, English competency should be tested also. He clarified that an interpreter should be both competent in English and Spanish.

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that on March 23, 2005 there was a swearing in ceremony given by Chief Justice Shephard for 5 new court interpreters that were certified on a state level. She pointed out that 12 % was the passing rate in Indiana for the rigorous program.

d. Media

Commissioner Myrna Maldonado asked that Commission begin writing "op-ed" (opposite the editorial page) articles that would go to both English and Spanish newspapers and media. She mentioned that she is working with Director Mendoza to come up with a complete listing of all the Spanish newspapers in the state, and also the top newspapers in the state. She said the op-ed pieces would be to inform the community of what the Commission has done and what future goals are. She asked Commissioners to share their thoughts on that idea.

Vice Chair Chavez mentioned that it was a good idea.

Commissioner Maldonado mentioned that the papers would be very responsive, she mentioned the difficulty of getting people to come to Indianapolis; it would be more successful to have op-ed pieces from the Commission in papers. She mentioned that two newspapers in Lake County have agreed to work with the Commission.

Commissioner Soto asked that the Commission approve the topics and articles.

Commissioner Maldonado said that she was not asking to be the voice of the Commission. She said that all Commissioners should be that voice.

Commissioner Manuel Gonzalez mentioned that if any Commissioner wants to write something, that can be passed around and all Commissioners can add their comments. He pointed out that there should be someone designated to be the voice of the Commission, possibly the Media Subcommittee, in the interest of time. He also mentioned that most of the Spanish newspapers are in need of content; if the Commission gives it to them, they will print it.

Director Mendoza mentioned that public awareness of issues is something that the Commission reports on in the annual report. She also mentioned a newsletter she brought to the Commission meeting. It will be finalized and translated into Spanish.

Vice Chair Chavez suggested that as Subcommittees meet and reports are created, that the Subcommittee Chairs can then use the information to write an op-ed piece and send it

to Commissioner Myrna Maldonado. In that way the whole state will learn about the different subcommittees and their work.

V. Executive Director Report

Director Mendoza gave an update on programs already approved by the Commission. She mentioned that the CASE cultural program by the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council was overbooked already so the Commission would not be participating. She also mentioned another program, the Indiana Women's History Trail, which is a partnership program with the Indiana Women's Commission and the State Library. That program will consist of a press conference and book of different Indiana woman leaders. The Commission is participating by providing historical information on Hispanic/Latina leaders and sites. She mentioned that the project with the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, College Youth Day is still in the planning and arrangement stages. She mentioned the program would occur later this year.

Director Mendoza presented an outline for a new program in partnership with Ivy Tech State College. Ivy Tech has 14 regions that cover the entire state. This program, Hispanic Student Tour Day at Ivy Tech, would take Hispanic/Latino students from every Ivy Tech region, and bring them to the local Ivy Tech campus to learn about opportunities there and more about financial aid, admissions, etc. The day would be initiated by a video greeting by Frances Vega, Ivy Tech Hispanic Outreach Coordinator and Director Mendoza. She explained the schedule of the day and mentioned that the costs to the Commission would be \$100.00 - \$200.00 for some basic folders for the students, with the Commission's logo and state seal.

Commissioner Chavez, Jr. if the costs were overall or for each region.

Director Mendoza answered that \$100.00 - \$200.00 is the overall cost for the Commission, the cost of the folders would be shared with Ivy Tech since the folders would have their logo displayed also.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregory Kellam Scott and seconded by Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr. to participate in the proposed Hispanic College Tour Day with Ivy Tech State College. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Director Mendoza presented a handout of an annual conference that held by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) this June in Puerto Rico. She mentioned that the information was given by Commissioner Mara Candelaria-Reardon, who was interested in attending or having someone from the Commission attend. Director Mendoza explained that part of the NALEO conference would address educational issues in the Puerto Rican community.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that the conference would focus on general issues within the Hispanic/Latino community, and said that it would be a good opportunity to send someone so that the Commission would connect with a bigger network. He mentioned that the organization represents every level of government, i.e. school boards, congressional officers etc. He mentioned that he would like to see from the Department of Workforce Development how a representative of the Commission could attend.

Director Mendoza pointed out that she had recently received the information about the conference, and the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) would have to approve all out of state travel. She mentioned that the conference does not take place until June, and if the Commission feels that there should be approval first, it could be voted on at the next meeting.

Commissioner Soto mentioned that there are a lot of conferences held around the state. He mentioned that the Commission does need some criteria as far as participation and sponsorship of programs and events.

Director Mendoza announced that she had spoken with the Legal Counsel of DWD about participation in conferences and sponsorships already. The commission is able to participate in or sponsor any event or program as long as it carries out the mission of the Commission.

Chairman Aguilera made the comment that the conference would fit with the Commission's mission.

Commissioner Watson asked that the Commission have something in writing about participating in or sponsoring events or programs.

Director Mendoza said that she would ask DWD's legal counsel for information in writing, but that it will be the same information that was discussed before.

Chairman Aguilera asked that the Commission schedule a meeting with the legal Counsel in DWD to discuss what the intentions of the Commission are in participating in the conference and if it's possible.

Commissioner Gonzalez made the comment that, if the Commission is paying for an Executive Director to represent the Commission and be fully informed it's necessary that the Commission pay to train and develop its staff. He mentioned that the Commission still has \$48,000 left from a previous allocation.

Chairman Aguilera mentioned that he had proposed to send the Executive Director to national conferences before and the Commission was not able to because there wasn't information on whether the Commission could participate.

Director Mendoza corrected that the reason for denial of the previous conferences was that there was a suspension on all out of state travel at that time. She also mentioned that before bringing these programs to the Commission, she had a discussion with DWD's legal counsel to address the questions that would be asked. She informed everyone that currently, all out of state travel and any participation in programs or events have to be evaluated by DWD on a case-by-case basis. She said that, although programs may not have been approved by DWD, there are deadlines to meet and that's why programs are brought to the Commission when they are.

Further discussion followed on the benefits and coverage of the conference on important issues.

Chairman Aguilera requested a motion to send Director Mendoza to the NALEO conference that will be held June 22-25, 2005. He also asked that the Commission consider sending another representative.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gregory Kellam Scott and seconded by Commissioner Myrna Maldonado to have Director Mendoza attend the 2005 NALEO Conference and possibly send another representative of the Commission. Motion carried by all in attendance.

Chairman Aguilera asked Vice Chair Chavez to speak about Rx for Indiana.

VI. Announcements
a. Rx for Indiana

Vice Chair Chavez announced that Rx for Indiana is a prescription discount program that will be introduced by Governor Daniels on April 8, 2005 in East Chicago, IN. The Governor is also doing similar launches of the program in Indianapolis and other areas of the state. Rx for Indiana is an online prescription drug discount program that does not cost the state money; Spanish-speaking operators are available for assistance 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Training of how to access the program will be given at different centers in the state in Spanish. She pointed out the attached powerpoint presentation of the program. She mentioned that she is working with Paula Parker-Sawyers to recruit volunteers to help with the training and that the program is in need of partners for support of the program. The support would not be financial, but would assist in promoting the program and recruiting volunteers. She asked that the Commission vote to be a partner of the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Juana Watson and seconded by Commissioner Gregorio Chavez, Jr for ICHLA to be a partner organization for Rx for Indiana. Motion carried by all in attendance.

b. Hispanic Student Outreach Days

Lawrence McCormack announced that the Indiana State House would be hosting Hispanic Student Outreach Days March 29-30, 2005. He distributed an agenda for the event and pointed out that the program will consist of guest speakers and panel discussions with students. He also mentioned that more students are welcome and encouraged Commissioners to send students from their area for the event.

Executive Director Report (continued)

Director Mendoza pointed out that there were more programs to be discussed from her section of the report. She pointed out the agenda and registration form attached for this year's League of United Latin American Citizen's (LULAC) state convention that will be held April 23, 2005 in Whiting, IN. She informed Commissioners that she would attend and she pointed out the opportunity for the Commission to have an advertisement in the convention's program book. She mentioned that it's important for the Commission to be visible at these events and asked Commissioners to consider purchase an advertisement. She also explained the price range for advertisements.

No vote was taken to purchase an advertisement for the Commission in the 2005 LULAC state convention program book.

Director Mendoza announced that she is working on a program proposal to have the Commission publish a book, "Profiling Indiana's Hispanic/Latino leaders." She mentioned that Indiana has a sufficient lack of information and events that recognize Hispanic/Latino leaders. She mentioned that more information would be provided at the next meeting.

Director Mendoza announced that Commissioner Juana Watson will be receiving the, "Woman of Character" award from Clarian Health and the Indystar. She mentioned that this was the first time the award would recognize a Latina leader.

Comments from audience

Ivan Schumann mentioned that the new Enlace network which offers free, 24 hour broadcasting in Spanish. The goal it to have local religious programming from Hispanic/Latinos.

Edwin Rosado of LULAC explained the background of LULAC and mentioned the upcoming state convention. He mentioned that the organization is in need of volunteers.

Chairman Aguilera announced the Commission's Hispanic Summit that will take place this October and asked for participation from organizations who would like to have a display.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45pm.