



STATE OF INDIANA

**INDIANA COMMISSION ON
HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS**
Mitchell E Daniels, Jr., Governor

ICHLA

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2012
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room 18
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne (Vice-Chair)
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction
Rep. Rebecca Kubacki
Gerardo Gonzalez, House Lay Member, Bloomington
Jesusa Rivera, House Lay Member, South Bend
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Chair)
Pedro Ledo, Senate Lay Member, Ft. Wayne

Commissioners Not Present:

Virginia Hernandez, Designee, Civil Rights Commission
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Treasurer)
Charlie Garcia, House Lay Member, Indianapolis
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee, Indianapolis
Teresa Velez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration
Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon
Joseph Cortes-Gurule, Designee, Dept of Education
Senator Greg Walker
Senator Frank Mrvan

Visitors:

Angeles Martinez-Mier, IUPUI-BiCCHEC
Andres Mantilla, IUPUI-BiCCHEC

Staff Present:

Danny Lopez, Executive Director

Opening

Vice-chairman Richard Espinosa called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

He noted the lack of quorum, with eight members in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Espinosa asked the new House Lay appointment, Gerardo Gonzalez, to introduce himself. Dr. Gonzalez is the Dean of IU's School of Education. Commissioners subsequently introduced themselves for Gonzalez's benefit.

Approval of Minutes

With no quorum, the minutes could not be approved. Executive Director Danny Lopez asked if any commissioners requested any changes to the minutes.

Approval of Financials

With no quorum, financials could not be approved. Lopez noted that through mid-April, the commission remains roughly \$15,000 under budget. He said that the commission would decide if there were outstanding priorities to which the remaining funds could be allocated. While he stressed that the monies would not be spent for spending sake, he urged commissioners to think about priorities laid out in the strategic plan and determine whether new partnerships could be forged using existing dollars.

Lopez mentioned that Commissioner Charlie Garcia and others had previously referenced the need for a comprehensive statewide messaging campaign in an effort to promote education, business, and healthcare initiatives.

Commissioner Freddie Thon asked if not spending the dollars would affect allocations for subsequent years. Lopez said that budgetary decisions are made through the Legislature. Commissioner Rebecca Kubacki, a member of the House of Representatives, said that this was something that had been changed by the previous Legislature in an effort to combat agency waste and frivolous spending. She noted that allocations would be made in accordance with the request made by the agency and the real need of the agency with respect to its initiatives and overall mission. Lopez said that monies would not revert but would also not be available for use in subsequent years.

Kubacki asked if the funds could be used for scholarships. Lopez said that, because ICHLA is not a granting agency, funds could be obligated only through strategic partnerships and not as stipends, sponsorships, or grants. Commissioner Jesusa Rivera asked if funds could be used to help develop surveys in accordance with the work being done by the Education subcommittee. Lopez said that while stipends could not be paid out, expenses associated with the actual construction of the survey – maybe a partnership with an institution of higher education – could be possible points for obligation. Lopez referenced a partnership between the Civil Rights Commission and Butler University to develop messaging and Public Service Announcements for the agency.

Espinosa stressed the importance of quorum and attendance, as this decision would be put off again due to lack of quorum. He said that any effort to make substantive gains by the commission was offset by the perception that no business could be conducted due to lack of participation.

Lopez then asked Gonzalez if a partnership could be formed with a researcher, and Gonzalez referenced the IU Center for Evaluation and Education Policy and offered to make the connection for the commission.

Executive Director's Report

Lopez said that a considerable amount of time during the month of April had been dedicated to fostering the working partnership with the Parents As Teachers group in South Bend. Along with staff from the ICRC, Lopez had attended several workshops and provided information to new immigrant Latino parents about the commission, its role, and the services available at the State.

One thing that was evident, he said, was that a considerable amount of misinformation was being provided to parents with respect to education. Lopez referenced one workshop at which representatives from the local school district was providing incorrect information about school choice, Head Start programming, and other statewide things. He said that efforts should be made by IDOE to engage locals to ensure that sound information is available at the grassroots level.

Lopez then discussed the collaboration with Comcast that facilitated the development of four TV PSAs through which the commission was able to discuss education and parental engagement topics.

Lopez said that several organizations and entities had contacted him about potential partnerships, and a discussion would need to take place about zero-based budgeting for the coming fiscal year. Kubacki asked if there was a way to measure the effectiveness of marketing materials developed by the commission. Lopez said that, unfortunately, the only metric used currently is to evaluate the potential effectiveness of a media partner by looking at reach into the community. Other than that, he said, it is difficult to determine how many people are actually touched by each specific piece of messaging developed. He said that the benefit, however, of working within Spanish-language media in Indiana is that because of the lack of outlets, it is easy to hit most of the population through a smaller number of partnerships.

Lopez then discussed HEA 1002 and HEA 1003, legislation passed by the Assembly affecting the commission. The former brings ICHLA under the administrative umbrella of the Civil Rights Commission, a nominal move given that Lopez has for more than a year been a director in that office and many of the budgetary functions been handled there by way of an MOU with the Department of Workforce Development. The latter makes electronic voting and meeting allowable should the commission choose to use such means. Thon insisted that he prefers to meet face-to-face each month and thinks that this interaction is important.

Rivera said that commissioners should hold each other accountable for not attending meetings. Kubacki said that HEA 1003 originated because so many commissions were not establishing quorum consistently and suggested that technology should be used as much as possible.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Christian Gallo said that when immigrants start their paperwork for legalization in the US due to marriage, they have to submit some documentation to demonstrate that they are married in good faith. One of the required documents is a bank account statement, and Gallo noted that some banks are refusing to allow these couples to open accounts if their last names are not the same, they don't have a valid identification, etc. They are no longer accepting foreign identifications, either. He said he is continuously asked to advocate for these individuals, but he is not always available. Espinosa said that he has seen similar issues at Chase bank in Fort Wayne. He suggested that the commission identify a spokesperson who can speak on behalf of Latinos to the banks.

Guest Presentation - BiCCHEC

Dr. Angeles Martinez-Mier and her research assistant, Andres Mantilla, discussed progress on the ICHLA-IUPUI partnership to look at DEEP Diabetes education programming throughout the state and evaluate the implementation of the program. As of now, no qualitative or quantitative measures are in place to accomplish this at the State level. The program was developed out of the University of Chicago in Illinois, but that university has not made their evaluation of the program public. In the end, the determination by the team was made that the curriculum that has been developed in Indiana has not be implemented as was intended.

The BiCCHEC team would like the opportunity to, in collaboration with ICHLA, develop focus groups, a feasibility study, and an evaluation tool to analyze the program as it is implemented here currently. This is one of the considerations commissioners will be asked to make when crafting the strategic budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Adjournment

At 4:32pm, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.