



**STATE OF INDIANA**

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

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**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 24, 2010  
3:00pm – 4:30pm  
Conference Center Room A  
Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Commissioners Present:**

Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne  
Guadalupe ‘Herb’ Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Chair)  
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee  
Shanida Sharp-Byrnes, Designee, Dept of Education  
Michelle Stein-Ordóñez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration  
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction  
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend (Treasurer)  
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor’s Office

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)  
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis  
Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon  
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Munster  
Rep. Rich McClain  
Senator Greg Walker  
Senator Frank Mrvan  
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health

**Visitors:**

**Staff Present:**

Danny Lopez, Executive Director

- I. Chairman Hernandez noted the absence of quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:15p.m.

Due to the lack of quorum, minutes for the May meeting could not be approved.

Executive Director Danny Lopez reviewed the financials through May, 2010, noting that no funds outside of Line 1 (wages) and Per Diems/Travel Reimbursements had been paid out due to budget constraints for the remainder of the year.

Lopez then addressed the issues raised by Commissioner Rios at the May meeting regarding the DWD Federal Indirect Reimbursement, as well as those raised by Rios and Commissioner Reardon regarding carry-over funds.

With respect to the former, Lopez stated that he had spoke with Sharleen Daniels, budget specialist for ICHLA at DWD, who explained that because of the federal nature of the funding for Workforce Development a reimbursement rate of just over 10% had been previously negotiated as a mandatory reimbursement. Daniels went on to explain that this charge would show on all expenditures made by the Commission and covered primarily personnel costs for the department. She also said that all commissions have similar agreements with the departments in which they are housed, but that the 10.95% rate negotiated between DWD and the Federal government is lower than what most other commissions are paying.

On the latter issue, Lopez noted that he had spoken extensively with Budget Analyst Michael Kos who had explained to him that because the language in ICHLA's enabling statute does not specifically indicate that the funds are continuously appropriated, the Budget Director has authority on allotments and funds must be petitioned for release. That said, the funds cannot be transferred to another use in DWD unless requested by the agency, and no such requests had been made.

Moreover, Lopez said Kos assured him that no such request was a consideration and that the funds, standing at \$126,904, were currently being held steady in an account. While ICHLA can request their use, Kos noted that the Budget Director had asked agencies across the board to live within the funds currently available to them in the 2009 budget. A review of previous commission minutes indicated that nearly \$80,000 of the roll-over funds currently held in the account date back to 2003, when those funds had not been utilized and effectively rolled over.

## II. Reports

### A. Executive Director's Report and Budget Discussion

Lopez briefly touched upon a few of the important events that had taken place during the month of June. He discussed the Indianapolis community meeting he had attended, along with Commissioner Rivera, with a number of the Latino pastors from local faith-based organizations. He also commented on the status of the August 4 MWBE workshop in South Bend, which he said is on schedule and should be well attended. Additionally, he once again encouraged commissioners to reach out to the local leaders in their communities in an effort to let them know that ICHLA does indeed have a presence.

Finally, Lopez provided an update on the parental education project listed in the Strategic Plan, indicating that an organizational meeting had been carried out in Bloomington at his request and that a date in September was currently under discussion to carry out a pilot "parent night" there. Lopez noted that a number of ICHLA projects have moved forward considerably through the hard work of the subcommittees as guided by the Strategic Plan,

and that he had heard positive feedback from a number of sources about the work the Commission is carrying out.

## B. Chairman's Report

Chairman Hernandez began by discussing the Marketing Plan, providing copies for the Commissioners to review. He noted that no list of citations or references had been provided in the report but that some of the recommendations were valid and should be reviewed more thoroughly. He also asked that the report be placed online by Lopez.

Hernandez then noted that two ICHLA Commissioners, Rivera and Commissioner Teddy Flores, had resigned due to time constraints. He asked Lopez to prepare letters of appreciation and asked other Commissioners to comment on who they believed should sign the letter. Commissioners were in agreement that any such letter should be signed both by Hernandez and Lopez, and Lopez indicated that he would provide the letter at the meeting in July.

Additionally, Hernandez asked Lopez if he had had any conversations with the individuals responsible for appointing replacements to ICHLA. Lopez said he had exchanged information with the staffs of Senator Long and Speaker Bauer, and both staffs were working on replacements.

Hernandez then asked Lopez to briefly provide an update on INversión, the Statewide Virtual Strategy Summit ICHLA is holding at the end of September. Lopez stated that so far, sites had been secured and other logistical details, such as catering, speakers, and materials for presentations, would be confirmed prior to the July meeting. Hernandez promised that Commissioners would be asked to provide input for the Summit.

## C. Subcommittee reports

1. Business – Lopez reiterated that the MWBE workshop in South Bend is scheduled and being promoted, and that he would be working with Commissioner Thon during the month to ensure participation.
2. Civil Rights – Lopez stated that the Access to Capital/Community Building project was well underway and that a finalized MOU between ICHLA and Community Action of Northeast Indiana would be provided to commissioners at the next meeting for their formal approval.
3. Education – Lopez reiterated the progress being made on the parental education project and noted that the goal was to finalize agreements with similar groups in Indianapolis and Northwest Indiana to hold similar events.
4. Health – Commissioner Stein-Ordoñez discussed the progress being made on the diabetes awareness project for the Health Subcommittee. She noted that she had been in discussions with Waldo Mikels-Carrasco at Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies who was helping the subcommittee develop an evaluation tool for the DEEP program. She also said that the goal was to identify three

communities in which the DEEP was already significantly in use and evaluate those programs.

III. New Business

A. Fall retreat

1. Hernandez then raised the issue of potentially holding a fall retreat to set priorities for the coming year. In particular, timing for the retreat would need to be determined before other logistical considerations could be taken up. September, October, and November were listed as possible months.

Commissioners noted that because of the planning process for the Strategy Summit, September would be difficult. Likewise, November would be tough because of the holidays. In the end, no vote was taken because of the lack of quorum, but Commissioners agreed that looking for an October date would be optimal.

IV. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27pm.