



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, August 27th, 2009
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room 12
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon
Senator Frank Mrvan
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend
Angel Rivera, Senate Lay member, Indianapolis (Vice Chair)
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Chair)
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health
Doris Waters, proxy, Department of Education
Josie Williams, Designee, Indiana Civil rights Commission
Brenda Summers, Proxy, Department of Workforce Development
Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration

Commissioners Not Present:

Rep. Rich McClain
Senator Carlin Yoder
Teddy Flores, House Member, East Chicago
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Muenster

Visitors:

Mark Everson, Department of Administration (Indiana Census)
Tatiana Alvarez

Staff Present:

Pat Sanchez, Executive Director
Judy York, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

A. Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Quorum was established at 3:20 p.m. by roll call with 13 voting commissioners present and two proxies.

II. Commission Business

Approval of Minutes June 2009

Chair Hernandez asked for a motion to approve June 09 minutes. Thon motioned to approve, Espinosa seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Hernandez asked for a motion to approve July 09 minutes. Thon mentioned that he and several other commissioners opposed the approval of funds for sponsorships. Thon added that this was not mentioned in July minutes. Thon also added that it was explained later how the distribution would be carried forward. The minutes will be amended pending.

Candelaria Reardon asked for clarification that the urgency that the money needed to be allocated. Candelaria Reardon further added that she has a concern for this organization becoming a foundation for the community. It is not the intention of this organization to give away all of its resources rather than having a conference. Rather than give the money away, we could have had a conference this year or next year. She has a concern about what our focus is.

Hernandez added that there are guidelines that were approved and put in place to help with the allocation of funds. Hernandez added that this was done in order to help us keep focus.

Candelaria Reardon further added that we should not be supporting projects like Project Stepping Stones and all the other projects supported. She is concerned about our role for supporting these organizations. Candelaria Reardon feels that we should not be supporting these types of projects but rather be a resource for the community. She is concerned that we should be building our organization as a resource rather than contributing money to Project Stepping Stones. Why did we support the Puerto Rican Parade? She does not understand why we should support these events. Is that our role?

Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Thon made the motion to approve July 09 minutes. Rivera seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

III. Reports

A. Chair Reports

Chair Hernandez reported that he reviewed the budget. They did not receive the full amount requested but instead received \$124,000. Items that have to come from that money are salaries and Department of Workforce Development, who provide a service for us. The commission made the decision to be a sponsor of La Plaza and Fiesta instead of sponsoring a Hispanic Heritage day as discussed earlier. This will allow the commission to get more exposure than previous years.

Latino 100, a defacto organization that Chair Hernandez is on, is looking at the same issues the commission is looking at: business, economic development, government, health and education. Their intent is to find out what is happening in each quadrant of the state so they will know where the problems are. The information will help the committee so when they have their retreat they can focus on what the commission should be doing, setting a goal and a plan on how to achieve it then it will benefit the commission and the Hispanics and Latinos of Indiana.

Thon thought it was appropriate that Chair Hernandez be part of Latino 100. The community needs to see the commission as a sounding board and a place for help.

B. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Report reflects the outreach that Sanchez does on behalf of the commission. The outreach has been aggressive to make sure that departments and organizations, Latino organizations and non-Latino organizations, are made aware of the outreach.

Several commissioners have not received their payments. Sanchez will provide the commissioners a spreadsheet that shows what the state says the commissioners have been paid, allowing the commissions to confirm if they have been paid that amount or not. Sanchez asks for patience until the state works out problems due to the state changing systems.

The website will be going through some changes. Information regarding the Hispanic Heritage month, the Census, and the H1N1 will be added to the site in Spanish and English. The site will be going from three banners to five banners to allow other departments who have partnered with the commission to get their information out to the community.

Sanchez was in Chicago two weeks ago, sponsored with the USHLI (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute). She has been utilizing them a lot for Census and the Department of Education. Legislatures can use USHLI to see what legislations have been passed in other states and use the same language. Sanchez was named as Policy Director Chair for the council and will be working with the Pennsylvania Latino director who is the chair of the States Commission Delaware who is the Secretary of the commission. This puts Indiana on the map as part of the United States council and

puts the state in the forefront of all of the national events, giving them the ability to meet with anyone addressing Latino issues.

The state councils have decided that they are not satisfied as a national organization with the lack of Spanish information provided by the census on the federal level. The materials need to get out now instead of March or April when the census occurs. The council will draft a letter that will express their concern that they are not supporting us if they want the Latinos counted.

Hispanic Heritage month will be posted on the website within the next day or two, invitations have been sent out and we're trying to confirm the last minute items now. Attached to the report is a mockup of what has been done so far. Every commissioner has been invited and efforts are being made to ensure everyone is on stage and recognized for their designated area.

The Annual Report is still in the draft stage. It is focusing on education, business and health. One issue that has come up is Real ID. The Mexican ID card will not be accepted as a form of identification from the Mexican government. Sanchez has been working with Senator Lugar's office and Office of Civil Rights to look at some issues that can be anticipated. The goal is to have the draft sent to the commission by November with the final report done by December.

Mr. Everson presented what the plan of action for census will be for the state of Indiana. The governor asked him to coordinate the state's efforts on the census which is a federal exercise. There are nine committees sponsored by different state agencies to act as a convener to the private sector to overcome the fear, mistrust and anti-government feelings. There is no state money for this, but there are grants available for things like renting a hall or printing t-shirts. Sanchez reported that a \$3,000 grant had been written for the t-shirts. She asked the commission to set aside some money for census. Mr. Everson encouraged the commission to get as many Hispanic organizations as possible to help. Sanchez was able to get the federal video downloaded to DVD in Spanish and English; it will be made available to the committee members to use. The videos will also be put on the website. Sanchez has already started representing the committee to get the word out that the census is coming and the importance of being counted. Stein-Ordoniez suggested that the rural areas and ten major counties should come up with ideas for Pat on how to reach the people. Gallo moved to accept the money from the applied grant and Perez second the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Financial Report

2010 Budget Review

There are nine points: Personal Service (payroll and benefits); Other Services; Contract Services which includes contract with DWD; Supplies; Equipment; Land and Structures; and Grants, Subsidies and Awards.

The budget is for \$124,000 which has been approved. Salaries include Sanchez salary as well as the \$35 each commissioner receives for coming to the meeting. There were no distributions made in July. Since the report for July was not received the discussion was tabled.

IV. Old Business

A. Hispanic Heritage Month

The commission has been allocated an hour and a half for the opening ceremony. The chair wants to recognize everyone who will be at the ceremony. The chair encouraged everyone to participate. A draft of the program was presented to the commission.

B. 2009 Retreat Dates

The retreat will start at 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Please let us know if there's something specific that should be brought up for the retreat, but there won't be a speaker. We want to look at, for the new commissioners, what the mission of the commission is, what's the role of the commission, what's the duty of the executive director, what is the role and duties of the officers, and what are some of the issues the commission should be working on.

The commission was started by Governor Ottis Bowen and it was called the Governor's Commission instead of the Hispanic Heritage Commission and was started in 1973.

The dates to choose from are September 12, September 26, October 3, October 17 or November 14. E-mail Pat what dates work the best and the majority will be chosen. Also, let Pat know what you would like to see at the Retreat.

C. Town Hall Forums

It's up to each commissioner to have a forum with their legislature. You can bring in census information or bring Pat Sanchez in to explain what the purpose of the Indiana Commission are a couple of ideas.

D. The decision to have a meeting in November and/or December will be voted on the next meeting.

Christian Gallo made a motion to pay for a booth at the Latino Coalition of Tippecanoe County Health Fair who has asked the commission to participate. In the past there has been no charge, but in case there is a \$35 charge for the booth Christian would like to have the commission vote on it. It will be noon to 7:00 p.m. The event is supported by Mexican Consulate. There was no second motion.

Chair Hernandez asked for a motion to adjourn
Thon moved to adjourn. Espinosa seconded the motion
Adjournment was 4:40 p.m.