



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

MEETING Minutes
IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS MEETING
Thursday, March 28th, 2013
Lucas State Office Building, 4th Floor – Room 418
321 E. 12th, Des Moines Iowa
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 2:32pm.

Commissioners present: Rebecca Jackson, Alejandro Pino, Maria Lara, Ramon Rodriguez and Sal Alaniz.

Staff present: Heidi Smith and Alba Perez

Public present: Mary Weinand, Iowa State Extension and Outreach, Joe Enriguez, LULAC Iowa, and Rita Bettis from the ACLU of Iowa.

Approval of minutes (12/12/2012 & 1/9/2013)

There was a motion to approve the minutes from 12/12/2012 and 1/9/2013 from Ramon Rodriguez and Second from Alejandro Pino. Roll call vote: Alejandro Pino-yes, Ramon Rodriguez-yes, Maria Lara-yes, Sal Alaniz-yes, and Rebecca Jackson-yes.

DHR Director's Report

No Director report

DHR Deputy Director's Report, including financials

Thank you to Jackson for helping with the Outreach meeting in Denison. The Outreach reports are all most completed and they will be coming out in April.

Financials-\$8000.00 donation funds are available to be used. Smith will be checking with HR to determine if donation funds can be used for a stipend for volunteers. Perez suggested to the commission to bring their ideas about what type of projects they would like to see the donation funds used towards.

Jackson stated that the Outreach meetings were informative and it was an opportunity to network, but now Denison needs to come up with a plan and follow up on the discoveries.

Mary Weinland attended the Mount Pleasant meeting and felt it was a great group. She also stated it was good to hear the viewpoint of the school districts.

Executive Officer's Report

Perez stated that she hesitant to put the EO report in writing, as she had not a job description for the EO position since her hire date. Perez began keeping record of her work based on the job announcement (not a job description) since she arrived and will begin to include the reports as part of the documentation submitted for the public meeting. Perez also indicated that without a job

description she decided to work on issues and projects that directly align with the priorities set forth by the commission.

Commission PRIORITIES
1- Communications
2- Public Safety & Corrections – Disproportionate Confinement
3- Education
4- Health
5- Immigration
6- Workforce and Economic Development
7- Leadership Development and Civic Engagement
8- Legislation

Perez represented the office at the Disproportionate Minority CJP meeting.

Perez is collecting books for DOC in Spanish. The Mexican Consulate can help with the collecting of books. In addition Perez is co chair and curriculum chair for the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines. Regarding the health and the project to have them translated to Spanish by the DMACC Interpreters and Translators Program; it has been difficult to coordinate because of the academic year yet the Mexican Consulate has agreed to translate it. Perez will contact the original lead of the project to inquire and request authorization for the Office of Latino Affairs to have the guide translated to Spanish and placed on the LA page as a resource (in the form of a PDF).

Perez met with Vern Armstrong from the Dept. of Human Services (DHS). Vern is the agency director where she gets the most calls from. Alba shared that there are issues with DHS regarding children that are taken away. Vern has agreed to work together through an MOU with the Mexican Consulate regarding these issues.

Another primary issue that Perez receives calls about is about discrimination in the workplace. Alba is working in leadership development through the ISU extension, the DMACC at Perry leadership project is a little behind.

Perez explained she has been actively assisting the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute-GDMLI in reference to Diversity and Inclusion. Currently only Alumni can submit candidates. She was able to get an exception to policy and submitted 32 names. The cost for this program is almost \$2000 per person to attend. Sal Alaniz asked if the outcome of her efforts is for the program to be more inclusive of diversity and Perez stated yes. Perez indicated that graduates from GDMLI move into high-end commissions, boards, and committees.

The Leadership Iowa program sees them as potential leaders.

DHR legislative social that was hosted by the commission on Latino Affairs also invited other offices from DHR CAS Division. That was held on Feb. 6, 2013. Another DHR event has been scheduled for Feb. 6, 2014. Perez suggested having the Latino Affairs commission meeting the same day, so that commissioners can get their mileage reimbursed.

Perez requested a job description on Feb. 21st, 2013. Part of Alba's request for professional development is to attend a national conference, possibly attend the Hispanic Leadership Institute yearly conference.

Perez is attending the Diversity Council at the Des Moines partnership.

Perez is directly working and involved with several collaborators in the planning of Multi Consulate fair this summer (tentatively August 17). This should serve/remove barriers for approximately six hundred Latinos in Iowa.

Regarding the commission on the Status of African Americans, she is working on the logistics of commission meetings. She also has met with the organizer and founder of a newly formed African association. That commission is planning a strategic planning session in August.

Sal Alaniz asked that the EO report be provided prior to the commission meeting. Perez stated in the past she hasn't gone into this much detail but has all her report in writing. Alaniz stated that listening to so many different things; it's difficult to take it all in. For the future, offering an overview would be enough. Alaniz also stated that he wants a copy of the EO PDQ because the work is all connected, from the board, to DHR and it's important that the commission scope of work align with the work of the other parts of DHR. This means that the outcomes are more favorable.

Commission Report as it relates to the Iowa Code and the work by individual Commissioners in different priorities set by the commission

Sal Alaniz stated that instead of reporting as a committee; rather replace it with what's listed on the commission meeting agenda.

- Opportunities for & Changing Needs of Iowa Latino Population
- Liason & Partnership
- DHR Board – Recommendations, Studies & Action
- Legislative & Executive
- Advisory Committees, Work Groups & Partnerships

Alaniz asked that Perez records it this way. Alaniz stated that the commission wants to be effective in the state of Iowa. Alaniz said that they should consolidate their activities to align with DHR initiatives and with the DHR board. The duties of the commission should be aligned with the Iowa code. During the strategic planning session, the commission's priorities were linked to their duties. Alaniz also stated that the commission is charged to serve the Latinos within the state as well as call upon the Governor and legislator regarding issues and priorities.

Alaniz stated that they met with the Governor and that Perez can move forward to set up the next meeting with him. Alaniz shared that Jaimes and he met with the Governor in his formal office. He felt this was a good first step to establish a relationship with the Governor. He had allocated 30 minutes to meet with them, but they ended up meeting for 45 minutes. They discussed the president of China. The commission had not had the opportunity to build a relationship with the Governor before. Alaniz wants to continue the dialog with the Governor and to begin to capture and present information to him in such a way that is clear and measurable. Alaniz mentioned Jaimes' email that she sent to everyone regarding the meeting. Jaime stated that she was pleased with the Governor.

Perez read to the commission:

-Things need to be done and put in writing

-She is updating some, not all of the content the website. State has not announced when it will migrate all IT to CMS yet.

-She mentioned the DACA decision may repeat itself and commission should keep informed.

-Things that are written in English can be translated into Spanish via Google translate per the A.G. office.

Alejandro Pino asked how the health guide can be translated into Spanish. Perez mentioned it can be translated because it is being done by a third party and because it falls under a “health and safety” issue, the law allows it.

Alaniz asked about the calls that come into the Latino Affairs office, how does she track them?

Perez stated that there isn’t a uniform tool, but that she keeps track of the calls and walk-ins on a spreadsheet. Alaniz stated that the nature of the calls is a priority of the commission and that he would like to receive the data. R. Rodriguez stated that based on the nature of the work we do, we will need to create measurability.

Alaniz stated that the \$8000 donation funds should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Perez and Alaniz will work on the template of duties and using the strategic planning and putting them into key points, to place them in the agenda according to priority. They will then send it out to commissioners.

Department of Human Rights Board representative report

Joan Jaimes was not present to provide a board report. In her absence, the commission had a discussion about the DHR board. Perez asked the following questions:

- Can a board member provide an alternate to the board if Jaimes is not available?
- Please clarify a question asked several months ago: What is the relationship from the DHR board to the commission? (i.e.: support or non support of statements made by a specific commission).
- What actions is the DHR board able to take? Smith stated that they approve the Administrative Rules.

Alaniz asked about advocacy and his concern that staff could not advocate. Smith asked for clarification about what he meant by that? She stated that advocacy means different things to different people. Alaniz clarified that he wondered if Perez could attend a conference summit gathering. He asked if Perez could attend to listen in on that dialog. Smith stated that she can’t speak for the commission (as a lobbyist) but as long as the event was not political in nature, that Perez could attend and gather information and provide data related to the Latino community. Perez stated that the question is valid given the Iowa Code description of the Office (EO) to advocate for the community and Perez asked for that clarification to be in writing. Alaniz stated that everything needs to tie in with the Iowa code.

Public comment

Joe Enriquez from LULAC #307 Iowa chapter stated this was the first time he had been to a commission meeting. He is a lifelong Iowan and 3rd generation immigrant. He’s been in his role for

1 year as the state Director of LULAC. Part of what LULAC does is providing scholarships. LULAC is 54 years old in Iowa and founded Civil Rights. They are also providing voter registration education. They are currently involved in the lawsuit with the Secretary of State regarding voter suppression. (This is an ongoing issue.) Joe Enriquez stated that LULAC is a non-profit. They had their first Latino legislative day and about 100 people were at the event as well as about 40 legislators. He had a conversation with Linda Upmeyer a week after the event to continue discussing the issues. Joe stated that grassroots are organizing all over the state of Iowa. LULAC will be doing nationwide outreach and town hall meetings about the ability and right to vote. Des Moines and Davenport will be the two meetings in Iowa. They are working toward qualitative change regarding who Latinos are; at the state level, they want to form a stronger relationship. Joe also stated that he would like to be able to have a proclamation in Iowa like the Chinese have.

Joe stated that there are 15 individuals in 7 counties serving on city councils. He also stated that with all the Latino businesses in Iowa, there needs to be a Hispanic Chamber in Iowa as well as a Hispanic business association. Joe also mentioned that 1 in 4 Latinos live in poverty and 1 in 4 Latinos are without healthcare.

Joe Enriquez explained that the qualifications for LULAC scholarships are matching funds from the national organization. They try to give out as many as possible. The funds are raised from all different populations.

Rita Bettis from the ACLU of Iowa stated that she appreciated what the commission did with the letter to the Governor. They are developing a website through a third-party non-profit. Its content includes knowing your rights and a place to report racial profiling; the legal intake is available online.

Adjourn

Alejandro Pino made a motion to adjourn. Ramon Rodriguez seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Heidi Smith, Division Administrator

*Edits by Alba Perez
Executive Officer of Latino Affairs*