



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

MEETING AGENDA
IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS MEETING
Tuesday, February 18 2014
1111 9th Street, Room D – Des Moines Iowa
10:30 AM- 12:30PM

Persons who wish to participate by phone should call 866-685-1580.
When prompted, enter conference code: 0009991931 #

- I 10:30 AM** Call to Order and Introductions. **Sal Alaniz**
Call to order at 10:45AM
Present: Sal Alaniz – Chair, Rebecca Jackson (conference call) Alejandro Pino (conference call), Ramon Rodriguez, Alba Perez (staff).
- II 10:35 AM** Approval of minutes for November 14, 2013. **Sal Alaniz**
Alejandro Pino had a question about possible layoffs, do you Alba Perez have any updates. Perez, unfortunately I do not have any information. Perez will inquire about it and let the commission know. Roll call on minutes. Ramon moved to accept the minutes as presented, Pino seconded, all in favor none opposed.
- III 10:40 AM** DHR Director’s Report **San Wong**
Director Wong and Deputy Director Smith are attending the DHR board meeting. Perez reported that Open House received good attendance. The Governor and Lt. Governor attended this event and Lt. Governor expressed to Perez her interest in meeting with the Latino community. Perez shared information with Lt. Governor about LLI, Latino’s economic impact and Public Policy Priorities. A of events are taking place today, Open house at DHR, and LULAC day at the hill, Immigration press conference, MLK celebration at noon and Ted Cruz and Steve King at the hill supporting home schooling Jackson, good work Alba Perez.
- IV 10:50 AM** DHR Deputy Director’s Report, including financials. **Heidi Smith**
Heidi Smith was unable to attend due to the DHR Board meeting. Last CAS meeting we had a guest from the Affordable Healthcare, Ms. Rios who provided a lot of helpful information. We do have guests during our CAS meetings so if you think of someone on Latino issues that you think would be beneficial to have as a guest please let me know and I will pass that name to H. Smith.
- V 11:00 AM** Executive Officer’s Report. **Alba Perez**
Perez continues to serve Latino persons over the phone and taking inquiries. Two inquiries that have taken a lot of research have been one with DHS about the disproportionality of Latino children removed from their homes. The second was a housing discrimination for a recently arrived Latina immigrant who came to marry her US citizen husband. The property management company denied adding the wife to the lease because they assumed lack of proper



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ID and immigration status. The Iowa Commission of Civil Rights denied the claim. Other inquiries include discrimination in the workplace, housing search, employment search, etc. Perez continues to coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Latino person in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and by providing assistance to those who request it. Most recent contact has been with the Department of Human Services, the Iowa Commission of Civil rights, Department of Corrections, Iowa Secretary of State's office, CJJP, Iowa Department of Education. This last was a meeting in response to the Public Policy Priorities sent to the director. Perez continues to develop, coordinate, and assist other public organizations, which serve Latino persons. Perez has served the Latina Leadership Initiative (LLI) in different capacities since its inception: co-chair, curriculum chair, facilitator and presenter. This endeavor began in 2012 and the inaugural class will graduate on May 3. The Lt. Governor has accepted the invitation to attend the event. The graduation is not a public event given the size of the building so invitations are in the mail to collaborators. Perez continues to be involved to prepare for the 2014-2015 class in re tuning the curriculum, recruiting new board members and assisting at the graduation. The second program where Perez had a development role was the Latin American Consulate meeting.

After the First Latin American Consulate Meeting, the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Iowa Economic Development Authority followed up with two additional trade events: On November 14, 2013, the Trade Commissioner of Mexico Mr. Jose Antonio Peral presented to Iowa businesses. The second presentation was "Doing Business with Peru" on April 3, 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Governor Branstad and the Peruvian Ambassador to the US the Honorable Harold Forsyth on the same day. Mr. Ryan Carroll did recognize the Office of Latino affairs at this last event for our leadership in this area. In an email to Perez Mr. Carroll sent an email and I quote: "Due to the success of this event, we have strengthened our relationship with Latin America which has lead to further interactions with this region of the world and the potential for business opportunities with Central Iowa".

Perez has also volunteered to collect educational initiatives for Latinos for a group of Latinos involved in education in Iowa.

Perez provided technical assistance for a local organization on cultural offerings to Latinos. Perez continues to update the Links and Resources document currently posted online and shares it with any interested constituents.

Perez assisted in drafting the Latino Public Policy Priorities document. The Public Policy Priorities document was been well received. Perez also emailed the commission the messages sent to the legislature. In addition Perez emailed the commission the excel document containing the names and other information as listed in the database of the Legislative Agency Services for legislators and the Latino media list as well. Perez thanked commissioner Jaimes for her work on the priorities; Commissioner Jaimes lead the Public Policy Priorities document. Perez thanked the Marshalltown Community College students who volunteered the translation of the document. Perez contacted infoNET to see if they could share some copies of the Iowa's Disability Policy Resource booklet. This booklet is a guide for advocates. The organizations that put this booklet together are the Iowans with Disabilities in Action and the Iowa Developmental



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Disabilities Council. Perez provided copies of the booklet for the commissioners present and will either mail or present additional copies to commissioners at the next meeting.

VI 11:10 AM Commissioners Reports based on template proposed by Sal Alaniz

Sal Alaniz

Latino Outreach Discussion

Perez will solicit the assistance of the commission to bring people to the Latino Outreach meetings planned for the spring. Perez will begin working in the planning of this outreach, which should take place before the end of the school year. Chair Alaniz, asked if this would be a Latino only outreach. Perez indicated yes. Chair Alaniz also indicated this is a big task. Perez shared that Director Wong assured that there are funds for this outreach.

Perez shared that the approach for the outreach will be sharing the purpose of the office and the commission and possibly helps prioritize the list of issues that surface from the meetings and barriers for the Latino community. Chair Alaniz requested feedback from the commissioners. Commissioner Jackson indicated that they have meetings like those that the meetings conducted by DHR during the DHR outreach and that the meetings are very successful but after the meetings, we realize the lack of resources to follow through and we keep stopping and do not get anywhere. In those meetings we do get to share information, make connections and learn about local resources, initiatives and ideas. There are ways to get from point "a" to point "b" and attendees share about how other people are getting things accomplished and what resources are available. That exchange is very valuable. Communities in general know and understand their issues but do not know how to solve some of the issues. Commissioner Pino agreed with Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson added that this type of meetings are a good way to centralize the issues because they seem to be disjointed and bring people to the table will help focus and take the actions steps to improve the climate. In order to continue and do it as a follow up to the DHR outreach. Commissioner R. Rodriguez asked what format Perez will be using. Perez indicated a forum format.

Commissioner Jackson added: "What we learned with our DHR meetings is the lack of involvement. We lost our workforce office and lost many of the support services we had so a lot of people are looking for ways to get to some of that or at least have the models to get there. Right now we are lacking a huge amount or resources that came from the state and now we have nothing and we are in our own and the community is trying to find volunteers but is not what it was. There is no way to get those funds back. One of the issues we have is that there is no central place for people to go. When I worked in the New Iowan, center people had a central hub and they do not have that any more. When I worked at the center people would come to my office for everything and now they do not have that anymore. People are having a hard time organizing something like that. Perez, does that mean that the resources you are lacking are something you could advocate for? Commissioner Jackson, yes we tried to do that but we got a lot of brick walls specially with the IWD plan to want to go the other way but there is so much need in that area of workforce specially where there are high concentrations of Latinos of more targeted resources specially when people lack transportation from county to county or staff that can handle different cultures and handle the need for language specific services. I know in



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Denison that would be one of the first things that people will be talking about is the lack of resources.

Chair Alaniz, we don't have the new lowan centers and they were very helpful but that does not exist anymore and I don't see they are coming back however the suggestion I would have to Perez is that in any community there needs to be an invitation for the Latino public to be aware of this and attend at the same time within any community regardless of its lack of resources there are key individuals and organizations that would welcome an opportunity to participate in the dialogue I guess what I am suggestion to Perez is to look who are those people who may be the point people. What I would like to see come out of the outreach is that we provide at the conclusion of the findings of the needs a linkage to us, state government to call upon themselves, to the people gathering at the Latino outreach to sustain themselves to seek a way of networking together to form that coalition that can work on the frontlines of those issues. They might not be able to accomplish it but they can be linked. For instance in Henry county where I live we don't have a New lowan Center anymore but those who attended the DHR meetings represented education, healthcare, law enforcement, some diversity, a lot of different aspects. Still today, some work somewhat together in some of the issues but there is still a lot work to be done. For you Perez, to go into a community and for it to be successful just by being able to listen and get people there or call upon those people that are close to that community base to get people there.

Perez, part of my thoughts on this are the expectations that attendee's may have. Large Latino communities like Des Moines have multiple resources and people and many are working on the economic development side of things. In rural Iowa the New Iowa Centers were the answers for many issues and those areas do not have the same resources as urban areas. For instance, Cedar Rapids has Diversity Focus and I wonder if they have become that central place of information and resources for minorities. Cedar Rapids also has Rockwell Collins and therefore more resources than other areas. The Latino Center in DSM is possibly ten years away from a building. In some cases where there is leadership and support, then the coalitions may work but not everywhere and many of our Latinos are working in rural Iowa. As a sided note when I spoke to the Lt. Governor with who I shared the workforce issues Latinos face. She indicated she wants to meet with the community; it was a nice and short visit at the DHR open house. There are many questions about resources; many things require money and many areas do not have the resources. Commissioner R. Ramon asked if commissioners could solicit resources. Perez, I believe you can facilitate those conversations. Chair Alaniz, you have selected the different communities based on concentration of Latino population I would suggest and I believe that these five communities have their own strategies and what is in place by leadership and resources and based on that build an outreach in each community and have those people present will be invaluable to you. How do we come to a solution and I do not think there are clear-cut solutions I believe they have to be community based. Is not all going to come from the state but that is sustainable from the community standpoint. Diversity Focus has existed for a while and there have been many people involved in it. Perez, I have spoken with the community there, I am not familiar with their work, and I am happy to check with the community. There is a stronger civil rights commission there. Commissioner Pino, there has to be grassroots



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movement. Diversity Focus is business oriented and programming. We have started with the school trying to start a multicultural center that can serve the minority communities, refugees included. People do not know where to go. There is a spark there that can expand from the Latino outreach meetings. Our project needs resources. Commissioner Jackson, many do not have access or the knowledge on how the system works. We need to provide that education in our communities, leadership and advocacy. Perez, civic engagement is crucial. LULAC and the Latino Forum both are working diligently in the leadership and civic engagement pieces. I am personally very proud of the commission's Public Policy Priorities document. The community is learning about this document and they are responding well to that. Perez will ask someone at DHR about the follow up for the DHR outreach. Commissioner R. Ramon, when will you do the outreach? Perez in the spring, I can draft the plan. I want to prepare and make sure that these meetings and the outcomes are something that we all follow up on after the fact. I do believe that the three documents that have come out of the commission will allow me not to go out with samples of the work of the commission. Commissioner R. Rodriguez, I don't think you have to go out there with the promise that you will provide anything and you explain you are going out there for information gathering and that we care about them. We are there find out what the problems are and we are not telling them that we will solve the problems right away. I think people are very receptive to that. Commissioner Jackson, developing relationships is important too and they want to see that you care about them. Perez, can I post your email addresses on the web? Commissioner Jackson, they were there in the past. Perez, I did not want to post your email address without your permission. Perez, thanked commissioners for their feedback. Alaniz, so those cities are the ones that you mentioned. Perez, the ones in the Iowa Data Center's map with the most concentrations of Latinos. IN addition to those five populations if there is another community nearby that I could visit I will, keeping in mind that it cannot be too far from where the major five communities since I will be doing these by myself. Commissioner Pino, I would like to hear from the legislature and what their response was to the public policy priorities. Perez, we did get a good reception at the day at the hill but so far no emails. I will share any emails I receive from legislators with the commission. No media inquiries so far except from Jaime Herrera from La Ley 105.5FM, he called but he did not leave a message. If I receive inquiries from English or Spanish media I refer them to Plogmann since she is our Public Information Officer. As commissioners who voted on this document you may also respond to the media. Chair Alaniz, we were informed that we can respond to the media. Perez, you may speak on behalf of the commission and the business you conduct as a body, no individual or personal opinions. I am the press person at the office so I do not respond; I pass it on to Mrs. Plogmann. Chair Alaniz, I have the longest time of service with the commission and different administrations and different CAS administrators or executive officers and this has been the period of the most activity where commissioner Jaimes has spend a considerable amount of time in forging this so there is a credibility like this that is very critical. In the future of how do we engage with those resources like LULAC and similar organizations and how we work together we have not had up until your work (Perez)and that of the commission to be able to seek that relationship. Whatever programming came through came from the office such as a movie or an interpretation project and that is no longer the case and I think that is a good thing. What I am interpreting from this is that Perez will go and represent the commission and the commissioners are called to be engage and advocate for those you represent and



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learn how to do that and many of us have not done that in the past, we do it in our own communities. We do address our community issues and as a whole I think we are learning, we are very committed, we need to be more passionate we need to understand how to play the game and do so with passion. Perez, now you have three deliverables and Latinos are learning about them. The community has not attended the commission meetings and this is a good time to have them attend the meetings and the commission is able to share the diligent work you have been doing for Latinos in Iowa. Chair Alaniz, I agree, we need to make the time to attend events such as the day at the hill and they came to us and appreciated our presence there and want to work together. The difficulty in many cases is our geographical location. We don't have public here today. How do we engage our constituents and the legislature, and at the outreach we need to be there for you and be present and you say here are you commissioners, speak up share your concerns and issues with them. We need to build up within the leadership skills of our communities to help build coalitions in their communities and state government to address the issues of discrimination, education, etc.

Perez, with the public policy priorities I am doing added research. For instance, the disparity and over representation of children in Woodberry County I solicited information from DHS region on data collected by race and ethnicity in order to address the concern. Perez shared that the commission and the office must be prepared with information/data to better engage agencies that are listed in the public policy priorities document to be ready for any further discussion. Perez is asking help from the commission on the research portion of it to be prepared in the event that an agency director or a legislator contacts the office for further discussion on the five issues listed on the document. The commissioner's local perspective is always helpful. Chair Alaniz brought up the rental issue in Nebraska as an example of an issue that would affect Latinos and is addressed in the document. Perez also shared the property management policies towards documented Latinos who are being denied leases based on immigration information where companies have very little knowledge about immigration processes and based their denial to add someone to a lease. Research is necessary to respond and assist our constituents.

Financials, Perez shared that the only item is her salary before benefits and nothing else. The donations account was authorized by Smith for Perez to use at her own discretion. Two events have been supported by the account and they are MLK celebration, MLK celebration today, transportation for the consulate event and Al Exito has approached LA for support for an event. There is about six thousand dollars in the account, I traditionally am very conservative in spending any type of funds and currently don't have any other requests for support or any other projects that require funds. The reports are separate because the donations account is not subject to the fiscal restrains as the appropriations account. If you are interested in learning more about how to start a friends group the office of the status of women has their own friends account and I can put you in touch with them. Alaniz indicated he would like that information.

- Commissioners Reports based on template proposed by Sal Alaniz
- Opportunities for & Changing Needs of Iowa Latino Population
 - Liaison & Partnership
 - DHR Board – Recommendations, Studies & Action
 - Legislative & Executive

Division of Community Advocacy and Services



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- Advisory Committees, Work Groups & Partnerships

Chair Alaniz, the primary actions with Commissioner Jaime's assistance has been the Public Policy Priorities. Has there been another meeting scheduled with the governor? Perez, no but I can inquire about that since there was an agreement to hold quarterly meetings. Chair Alaniz, should we do that before or after outreach meetings. It would be beneficial to meet with the governor after the outreach so you (Perez) can provide a document that we can use for basis for discussion. Perez, ask if she should indicate to Mrs. Plogmann that a date after July 1st would be ideal. Chair Alaniz, any time after your outreach and before summer.

Alaniz, there is so much, just sitting at the LULAC day at the hill was very helpful and it is difficult to attend those events that are so beneficial. The same happens in our communities such as Red Cross for me in my community. I had a family who lost their mobile home with no insurance and afraid. If they are documented or not they are still in poverty of education, resources and it bothers me a lot.

Perez, at the Open House she met the new person in charge of commissions, his name is Ben Hammes and this was a reminder that some commissioners terms are ending soon. Perez it was a reminder that the commission that some terms are up and solicited the commissioners assistance in letting others know about the opportunity to serve. Alaniz, if you can also share some information Perez may receive and other commissioners may receive. Alaniz, please share the LULAC document.

VII 12:00 PM Department of Human Rights Board representative report.

Joan Jaimes

The DHR board is meeting today as well.

VIII 12:20 PM Public comment.
No public present.

Public (Signup sheet available).

IX Adjourn. At 1:50pm

ACCESSIBILITY - Commission meetings are open to the public. The sites are accessible for people with mobility limitations. If other accommodations are needed, please contact the office prior to the meeting. For further information, contact Alba Perez at 515.281.4080.