



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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NOTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
October 26, 2011
7:30am – 9:30am
Oregon Advocacy Commission Office
Rm. 308 U, 527 SW Hall St.
Portland, OR 97201

ATTENDEES

Chair: Andrea Cano
Commissioners: MaryAlecia Briggs on behalf of Senator Chip Shields, Representative Chris Harker, Lupita Maurer, Judith Parker, Santiago Ventura
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

Chair Cano called the meeting to order at 7:40am.
Quorum was not met for this meeting.

II. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Quorum was not met for this meeting. Minutes and agenda were not adopted.

III. Chair's Report

Chair Cano distributed a three- page Chair's Report (appended) and reviewed its contents with the Commissioners. In addition to the six Action Items listed, three more were added:

Action 7: A Northwest media project organized by OPB, in conjunction with cohorts in Washington State and Idaho. There is interest in having an intern work with OPB. OPB wants to create an official survey regarding participation of Latino community in Washington, Oregon and Idaho regarding economics, politics and living in the Northwest.

Action 8: Honoring and recognizing Hispanics in Oregon

Action 9: Communication

Regarding Action 2: MaryAlecia Briggs noted her office (Senator Chip Shields) has helped with proclamations being issued in the past and has offered her help.

Chair Cano and Vice Chair Haroldson met with Consuelo Saragoza, OLAA, and also with the Consulate of Mexico office.

IV. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Maurer noted that the Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) dinner was wonderful, and that she met honoree Astronaut Jose Hernandez.

Vice Chair Haroldson was unable to attend the OCHA meeting, and will report on the Gateway Cities Event he attended, and the USHLI conference in Oregon at the next OCHA meeting.

Considerations for Formal Partnerships [list appended]: The Commissioners discussed possible partners, with an emphasis on organizations that have an existing statewide presence so as to grow OCHA's reach across Oregon. The Commissioners agreed that they will consider what OCHA looks for in a partner and what is expected in its partnerships.

Suggestions to add to the list included:

- The sister commissions: OCAPIA, OCBA, OCFW
- OLAA
- Organization of Oaxacan Indigenous Migrant Communities (OCIMO)
- Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Latino Business Alliance in Salem
- Oregon Business Council
- Oregon Business Plan

The Oregon Business Plan has an annual summit in December, the Oregon Leadership Summit.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will set up an initial meeting between OCHA and the Oregon Business Plan.

Lucy Baker noted that at last year's Oregon Business Plan summit Governor Kitzhaber spoke about three areas of interest to OCHA: Education, access to healthcare, and overrepresentation of cultural groups in Corrections. She also noted that some members of the Business Council share some issues with OCHA, such as the association of nurserymen and the restaurant association.

Commissioner Parker went to a well-attended Town Hall in the Kenton neighborhood. Representative Frederick, Representative Kotek and Senator Shields were also there.

She also attended an annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, with a smaller Oregon showing than in previous years.

She is an honoree at the 10th Anniversary of the Convocation on Equality on November 4th.

She also noted that Paul De Muniz, the first Hispanic to be elected Chief Justice in the history of the Oregon Supreme Court, in 1990, will be finishing his term on January 7, 2013. This is significant because the Chief Justice is not running again, so the Governor won't be appointing anyone to fill the vacancy; instead there will be an election.

There was interest in honoring Chief Justice De Muniz's service on the bench and also in inviting the sister Advocacy Commissions to join OCHA in lobbying for more diversity on the bench.

Complaint Process: Commissioner Ventura receives numerous letters from inmates seeking help. The Commissioners discussed rights for any non-U.S. citizens arrested.

Commissioner Parker noted that under a treaty the United States signed, any non-U.S. citizen arrested must be permitted to talk to someone from their consulate. Refusal of this right is a severe federal and international violation. It was also noted that farm workers and people living in rural areas may be unaware of this right.

Commissioners Parker and Ventura will meet to pool resources and analyze the existing complaint process.

V. Administrator's Report:

Budget Update: Due to expected budget shortfalls, Lucy Baker has painstakingly trimmed the OAC's already lean budget, bringing the proposed cuts to a total of 19.5% since July 1st, 2011.

The travel budget is approximately \$650 per Commission for the biennium (roughly \$325 per Commission per year, and the same holds true for the OAC Office). Stipends are intact, calculated at one meeting every other month for the nine non-legislative Commissioners.

ACTION: Sen Shields is willing to meet to discuss strategies on ensuring that the Oregon Advocacy Commissions' funding continues.

ACTION: Lucy will coordinate a meeting with the sister Commissions to strategize in support of the OACO budget.

Intern for the Commission:

ACTION: Lucy will send an Internships update via email. She is working with interested Commissioners around graduate student interns in Education around achievement and other gaps.

The 10-Year Plan for Oregon: Chief Operating Office Michael Jordan is leading this undertaking. Lucy will work with the Chairs to meet with Mr. Jordan around aspects of the Plan. The Commission will want to explore their role in the plan.

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) held their 27th annual Women of Achievement awards in October, honoring four top women leaders in education, science and health, who are mentors for girls and role models for women and contributing to women's success. This coming year the OCFW will work with OCHA and the other commissions to solicit many more applicants of women of color. This was the 1st year the Governor presented and Secretary of State Brown spoke. The OCFW plans to continue working with the Governor and follow up with him throughout the year.

New Commissioner Orientation: Lucy will be reaching out to Commissioners Perez, Ventura and Representative Harker to schedule their orientations.

Governor's Priorities: The Governor's priorities are healthcare, education and jobs. The OAC Office will help the commissions spearhead these priorities and to create opportunities for having an audience with the Governor.

Complaint Form: Lucy and Nancy are working to standardize an OAC complaint form to be posted online.

Lucy and Nancy met with Ramona Perrault of the Citizens' Representative Office (CRO) and learned how to properly refer constituents to her office. There is now an agreement between the OACO and the CRO regarding referrals.

Key Performance Measures: The results of the customer satisfaction survey regarding OCHA and the OAC Office will be sent to the Commissioners in the near future. Lucy noted that the Department of Administrative Services' survey tool was very effective in tabulating the results and DAS' statisticians have been very productive. Moving forward, instead of conducting the survey annually, a new online mini-survey will be crafted that would be appropriate to send immediately after interacting with someone regarding Commission business.

Website: Nancy Kramer is working to keep the OCHA web pages up-to-date with events and minutes. All State web pages are migrating to a new platform, Sharepoint, and the OAC pages will be migrated early on. If you would like something posted and we will do our best to get it up within the week.

ACTION: OACO Office to launch a new FB page and establish Commissioner Parker and Chair Cano as Administrators.

There is continued interest in building a substantial database of names and emails for an OCHA mailing list.

ACTION: Nancy Kramer will create a spreadsheet on googledocs and all Commissioners can save their OCHA-related email contacts there.

The Commissioners discussed the importance on getting the word out about OCHA events and news and interest in having a newsletter was expressed. Constant Contact is an option, but is considered too expensive.

ACTION: MaryAlecia Briggs will send Commissioners information about other more affordable options for newsletters

Legislative Action days:

MaryAlecia Briggs noted that the next legislative days are November 16th – 18th, 2011, and January 18th – 20th, 2012. She suggested OCHA have a presence at both of those legislative days, by sending Commissioners to Salem. She also suggested that Commissioners come to Salem in November and January, to build relationships with the legislators, and have a statewide gathering in February.

January 20th was suggested as the “meet and greet” day. The February statewide event was suggested for February 3rd or 10th. Lucy Baker offered to help organize the Legislative Days trip for Commissioners.

ACTION: Representative Harker will broach the subject with the Co-Speakers of the House of specifically when is the most strategic time to meet with Legislators during the upcoming session. He will update the Commissioners on October 27th.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next OCHA meeting will be a longer planning meeting (possibly a full day), with as many Commissioners attending in person as possible. The most likely dates at this point are December 16th or 19th.

Fundraising:

Lucy Baker clarified that the Oregon Advocacy Commissions have tax exempt status as a government agency and so can accept tax deductible donations. The OACO provides any donator with the state’s tax exempt number. Any funds raised, however, would be considered state funds and are subject to sweeping by the legislature, which moves swept funds into the state General Fund.

Annual Report:

Statutorily OCHA is required to create a biennial report on its activities. It is agreed that an annual report is of great value in today’s economy, as a means of keeping OCHA visible in front of legislators, partners and other interested parties, and to serve as a reminder of OCHA’s good work.

This year’s report will be electronic and will be an Executive Summary rather than a multi-page report.

Commissioners need to compile the number of emails, phone calls and visits made on behalf of Commission business.

Commissioner Parker volunteered to be the point person to tabulate each Commissioner's number of Commission-related emails, phone calls and meetings over the past year for the annual report.

VI. Public Comment

Commissioner Ventura is seeking any data collected by schools regarding students from indigenous backgrounds (from Mexico and Central America) speaking languages other than Spanish. The suggestion was made that Commissioner Ventura speak with Commissioner Perez, who has many years experience in education at the state level and can make the connection with Artemio Paz who is on the School Board.

Representative Harker noted that, looking ahead to 2012 and 2013, the Talented and Gifted Program (TAG) in the schools, as underfunded as it is, is looking to work with immigrant students. He also noted that Measure 11 is having a disproportionate impact on the Latino community, as the rate of convictions in the Latino community is higher.

ACTION: Commissioners Parker and Representative Harker will put together a paragraph about the TAG Program and Measure 11 and distribute this to the other Commissioners.

VII. Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:20am.