



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
February 20, 2012

10:15am – 2:00pm
Oregon Civic Justice Center, Room 213, 790 State St.,
Willamette University, Salem, OR 97301

2:15pm – 4:00pm
Capitol Building Conference Room
800 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

ATTENDEES

Chair: Andrea Cano
Commissioners: Gil Carrasco, Lupita Maurer, Judith Parker (phone), Santiago Ventura
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Mireysi Ventura; Eduardo Angulo, Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality; Ester Angulo; Anthony Veliz, IZO Marketing; Roberto Gutierrez, Aide to Alysya Keny-Guyer; Ryan Mann, Policy Analyst to Sen. Courtney; Martin Campos-Davis, Hood River, Oregon Human Development Corporation; Luis Nava, Washington County

I. Call to Order

Chair Cano called the meeting to order at 10:15 and called the roll. A quorum was not established until 11 am, when the agenda and minutes were approved.

Chair Cano noted that at 2PM the Commission will break and the meeting would move to the Capitol building. Commissioner Carrasco was thanked for arranging the room at the Willamette University Civic Justice Center.

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

II. Introduction of Guests

The Commission welcomed the guests attending and invited them to introduce themselves. Martin Campos-Davis works for the Oregon Human Development Corporation, part of the National Farmworker Jobs Program run by the U.S. Department of Labor. This organization offers training services across the state for people associated with agriculture, to help them find long-term year-round

employment, not necessarily in agriculture. He can be reached at 503.245.2600 x205 or mcamposdavis@ohdc.org There are seven offices around the state.

Anthony Veliz, founder of IZO Marketing worked with the Oregon Child Development Commission on its gala last year that honored a Latino astronaut.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION (Maurer/Carrasco): To adopt the agenda. CARRIED.

IV. Review of Minutes from 1/14/12

MOTION (Maurer/Carrasco): To approve the minutes with corrections noted by Commissioner Carrasco. CARRIED.

V. Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) Report

The Commission welcomed Eduardo Angulo, Executive Director of the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality (SKCE):

SKCE supports the Governor's OEIB plan and is working to build coalitions with other organizations. He noted that many Latino organizations, such as Mano a Mano, PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) and CAUSA, are working together with OCHA to achieve education reform, increase school enrollment and highlight the successes. Mr. Angulo will be involved in the discussion around Achievement Compacts, and noted that transparency and accountability will be crucial to their success.

The compact is a contract between OEIB/Governor with each education district. All stakeholders need to be involved: parents need to be trained on how to advocate for their children with teachers. The Teachers' Union, School Districts and the School Boards need to be supportive as well. And there are only three or four Latinos on the school board. There is concern about who is advocating for the Latino community.

SKCE is looking to build group of community leaders statewide to develop an agenda for 2013 Legislative session. It was noted that the graduation rate from 10 years of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is 50% and it needs to be at least 70%.

Mr. Angulo shared some statistics, such as a 50% graduation rate for Latino school children, which were of concern. The number of English Language Learner (ELL) students in Gresham has quadrupled with little being done in the public schools to support this growing population. The numbers used in his presentation and handouts are from the Oregon Department of Education.

He distributed handouts of a 2/3/12 Statesman Journal article; a memo from the COO of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools to the Budget Committee; handouts about the Achievement Compacts and student outcomes from the OEIB and an SKEC brochure in Spanish and English. It was noted that the State of Oregon

provides a certain amount of money per student to the schools, but in some areas, of the \$3,000 allocated per ELL student only \$1,000 is spent on the student and the other \$2,000 goes in to the General Fund. SKCA says the money needs to

Regarding the current Oregon Legislative Session, there is a Department of Education meeting/hearing on SB 1581, which includes the Achievement Compacts, March 13, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. SKCE will be testifying and all were invited to attend.

A proposal was made to invite school district staff to an OCHA meeting to discuss successful plans and areas of struggle. Nyssa's schools, in Eastern Oregon, were an example of success, with a 90% graduation rate, whereas Ontario schools had only a 20% graduation rate.

He noted that Latino educators are the last ones hired and therefore the first ones fired during this economic downturn.

The Commission thanked Mr. Angulo for his report.

Anthony Veliz, City of Woodburn:

Mr. Veliz was interested in what a good education model that factors in bicultural and bilingual children would look like and what would it cost. He recommended including business alliances, such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, in to the coalition building.

Luis Nava:

Mr. Nava has worked with several nonprofits in the Portland metro area. He is traveling around the state doing a workshop for Latino small business owners. OCHA will connect him with Cheryl Myers, Director of the Business Equity Office.

It was noted that the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs does not have legislators as part of its Commission, and there is interest in understanding the role of the legislators on the OCHA. He proposed a summit of Hispanics in Oregon or in Vancouver, Washington, during Hispanic Heritage Month (mid-September to mid-October) and invite Governors of both states and legislators. Chair Cano has spoken to the Washington Chair and also mentioned the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

VI. Chair's Report

The Chair recognized and thanked Commissioner Judith Parker for the time and effort she dedicated to editing the 2011 OCHA Annual Report, that was shared and promoted widely throughout the State Legislature, departments, and our OCHA throughout Oregon. It is now posted on the OCHA website.

OCHA was invited to speak at the Democratic Party of Washington County Democrats; and awaits an invitation from the Republican Party of Washington County.

Chair Cano presented the OCHA Powerpoint that she has prepared and uses in her presentations to interested groups. Nancy Kramer was asked to post the file on the OCHA website and attach it to the meeting minutes and she will do so. [[OCHA Powerpoint link](#)]. It was noted that the slideshow needs to be translated into Spanish and Indigenous languages. Commissioner Maurer attended Chair Cano's presentation and said it was a success.

Commissioner Ventura volunteered to bring a Powerpoint about the Indigena peoples for the next OCHA meeting.

Chair Cano has been attending many town halls and meetings, to ensure there is a Latino presence in the audience. While the Legislature was in session she attended hearings and sessions twice a week.

Potential Commissioner Alberto Moreno has not yet been appointed to OCHA after three cycles of appointments. There has been some discussion around this issue. OCHA is looking ahead to the May appointments, anticipating filling the empty slot. Lucy Baker has asked Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Frank Garcia, to offer insight as to why Mr. Moreno's nomination has seemingly stalled. Executive Appointments has been working hard; at the most recent hearing the room was overflowing with appointees. The Executive Appointments office has not yet responded to questions regarding possible candidates.

The Advisory Committee is taking shape. Chair Cano has spoken with many people who are interested in being involved.

Representative Bonamici contacted Chair Cano to discuss issues of importance to Hispanic voters.

The Oregon Latino Action Agenda (OLAA) Summit will take place again in 2013.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Carrasco:

Drivers License Task Force to reinstate driver's licenses for individuals who cannot prove legal residence: The proposed driver's license bill is an issue of great importance to the Latino community. There is interest in having the bill in draft form shortly, so as to be on track for the 2013 Legislative session.

At the last Task Force meeting Commissioner Carrasco put forth OCHA's proposal from the January 14, 2012 meeting and it was well received. However, there are still some important points to work out, such as whether this license

could be used to obtain a gun license or buy alcohol, and whether fingerprinting should be a part of the license granting process.

The Task Force concluded that more specific action items needed to be discussed so a subcommittee formed. Commissioner Carrasco was asked to be on the subcommittee, as were lobbying groups for nurseries and law enforcement groups. This as an issue of public safety and the Task Force sees value in including the insurance industry as well. Anyone with connections to the insurance industry was asked to notify Chair Cano or Commissioner Carrasco. The insurance industry doesn't have much incentive to support this bill because the more uninsured people there are, the higher everyone's rates become. Currently the only person from the insurance industry involved is from Insurance Commission office.

The Commission briefly discussed proposed cuts to TANF that will have a serious impact on Oregon's refugee services. The Governor has been working to keep TANF funding intact. OCHA is interested in supporting the Governor in this. The decision regarding TANF is being worked out now. Lucy will contact the Governor's office to get an update and let them know that the OCHA will submit a letter of support.

Hate Crimes in Oregon Internship:

This internship originated in the OCBA which worked collaboratively with Frank Garcia's office to identify the underlying issues with Hate Crimes. OCHA and Commissioner Carrasco have partnered on this internship to craft an internship concept suitable for a law student intern. Commissioner Carrasco will serve as the supervising attorney for the internship. Diane Sykes of the Civil Rights Unit of the Governor's Office will also be collaborating along with the OCBA. Because Oregon has struck down certain parts of hate crime law, the internship will analyze ways to close loopholes that exist under current law. Senator Shields and Representative Frederick will serve as mentors for the student around public policy and carry legislation around hate crimes if it is determined that legislation would be helpful. A handout of this internship was distributed.

Commissioner Maurer:

Housing Discrimination: Commissioner Maurer met with Representative Tina Kotek earlier in February for a preliminary meeting on housing issues.

Attorney General Candidates:

Attorney General (AG) candidate Dwight Holton contacted Commissioner Maurer to learn what the issues are for the Hispanic community. It was noted that Vice Chair Haroldson knows Dwight Holton. The last filing day for the (AG) is March 3, 2012. The OCBA is interested in having a discussion with the AG candidates as well regarding supporting the Civil Rights Unit at the Department of Justice. Commissioner Maurer will contact OCBA Chair Richard about a joint forum.

Motion (Carrasco/Maurer): OCHA and OCBA will explore having a joint meeting and forum and invite all Attorney General candidates as a vehicle of discussion regarding their civil rights interests and other issues. **CARRIED.**

There was a brief discussion of voter registration. It was noted that Anthony Veliz and Frank Garcia formed a coalition in 1996 which evolved into CAUSA. The demand for voter registration was big and the Oregon Latino Voter Registration project emerged. They developed a voter registration toolkit for organizations statewide and formed key partnerships with national organizations. CAUSA continues to do voter registration and education but the demand is big. There is room for more supporters at the table. Digital media is the focus for distributing voter registration information out, especially to young people. Secretary of State Kate Brown is very interested in this topic but could not attend today's OCHA meeting.

Commissioner Parker:

Judge Lopez is on the shortlist of candidates to replace District Judge Mike Hogan. Judge Lopez lives in North Portland. They would move to Eugene if he received the post. It is a very prestigious post.

Vice Chair Haroldson was asked to be on the selection committee. The list of others on the selection committee was read aloud by Commissioner Parker.

VIII. Administrator's Report:

Budget:

Lucy Baker submitted 3 budget reduction packages of 3.5% (\$13,000) each as per DAS. The first reduction package removes staff step increases (for future staff hiring) the State shuttle service. The 2nd package includes ending the current office lease and moving to the nearby Executive Office satellite suite as of July 1st. Last week Governor notes that he did not like the budget compromise reached by the legislature so the budget is being balanced again.

DAS' 10 Year Plan creates a new system for reviewing Agency Request Budgets, called Buying Teams, and will begin with the 2013-2015 biennium. Each state agency is now aligned one of five state plan sections. The OACO is part of the and Improving Government section.

Status of Oregon Women Report:

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) has been working on a status of Oregon Women report, focusing on wage equity. They have a graduate level intern, Carrie Haddad, who is working on statistics. The OCFW wants to know what areas would like to know about for communities of color, so the intern can focus on those as well. Sunny Petit, OCFW Chair will be meeting with DAS COO Michael Jordan and see how these statistics can be helpful to his team. It was noted that Commissioners were interested in having Carrie Haddad break out

numbers by ethnicity, and by region, meaning urban, suburban and rural if possible.

The YWCA in Portland has a new Executive Director and wants to meet with Chairs in March, with particular interest in domestic violence issues.

Website Migration:

Nancy Kramer explained that the OACs webpages are in the Pilot group and Group 2 for migrating to a different platform.

Commissioner Parker and Nancy Kramer were thanked for their efforts on the OCHA 2011 Annual Report.

It was noted that House Bill 4146, regarding the expungement of criminal records when an individual turns at age 18, passed the House and was going in to the Senate.

IX. Legislative Session

Roberto Gutierrez, legislative aide to Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, introduced himself. It was noted that he may be the only Hispanic legislative aide in the House of Representatives.

Human trafficking is a key issue and HB 4146 passed the House unanimously. Other bills he noted are the OEIB and the proposed TANF cut. The E-verify bill is off the table. Eight days remain in the Session.

It was noted that given the 50-50 split between political parties in the Senate people appear to have a genuine interest in working together.

It was suggested that whatever initiative OCHA wants to pursue during the 2013 Legislative session needs to be well worked out and planned. Pre-natal care is a big issue for undocumented women and if there is interest in having a bill to support this the next six months need to be used to look at the issues and discuss it.

It was recommended that OCHA contact Roberto's office regarding the Public Safety Driver's License concept Commissioner Carrasco is working on.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gutierrez for his report.

X. Public Outreach

The Commissioners discussed raising awareness about OCHA in the community, as a lot of the people OCHA represents are unaware of OCHA. A concern is whether Latino parents are active in their communities around education disparities. It was suggested that OCHA consider partnering with community

colleges and high school juniors and seniors to implement programs with a focus on education, particularly that a higher degree in education offers more opportunity. It was noted the Portland community College is offering citizenship classes.

Chair Cano has been active in raising awareness around OCHA. It was noted that the Mexican Consulate and the Guatemalan Consulate were not on the list of potential partners that OCHA developed in the January 14, 2012 OCHA work session.

XI. OCHA 30th Anniversary

The Commission discussed planning a year-long 30th Anniversary celebration of OCHA. Points included:

- It is important to know the date OCHA came in to being.
- Plan events for Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 – October 15.
- The focus of the celebration needs to be on more than just Mexico.
- OCHA could have celebrations around the state, and end in Portland.
- Honor 30 Latinos across Oregon for their achievements and contributions and how they have made positive changes in their community.
- Partner with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Implement a fundraising letter project, requesting \$30 for the 30th anniversary of OCHA.
- Conduct a voter registration drive: each Commissioner registers 30 people to vote.
- An association of Mayors in Oregon is interested in presenting an event this summer and have funds to do so. OCHA could consider partnering with them.

Chair Cano called for a break in the meeting at 1:53pm. During the break the Commission meeting moved to a room in the Capitol.

Chair Cano reconvened the meeting at 2:38.

Ryan Mann, Policy Analyst to Senator Courtney, met with the Commissioners. It was noted that Senator Courtney appoints Senators for 90 of Oregon's Boards and Commissions including OACO. Mr. Mann also mentioned Senator Courtney's interest in the recently released Racial Equity Report Card.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Mann for his report.

Calendar of Key Events 2012-2013

Next meeting dates for OCHA were decided:

- Wednesday, March 21st, from 7pm - 9pm via conference call
- Monday, May 21st, from 8am – noon in Salem. Secretary of State Kate Brown is scheduled to attend this meeting. Nancy Kramer will reserve a room in the Capitol Building for this event. The commissioners agreed that one agenda

item would be a presentation to be prepared by Commissioner Ventura about the indigenous communities of Oregon.

In April OCHA will develop a slate of officers and nominations. It will explore conducting that part of the process via email.

It was noted that the legislature will be in session May 21 – 23, 2012 and that Commissioner Carrasco will be out of the country until mid-June.

More people were suggested as potential OCHA Commissioners, to be added to the list begun at the January 2012 OCHA Work Session:

- Perla Rodriguez, OALA
- Barbara Ghio
- Mario Mañana
- Luis Martin del Campo
- Chris Kuka in Bend
- Emilio Cañas from Intel

The Commissioners who suggested names were asked to contact them about their interest in Commission service.

It was noted that Commissioners would like to know what the next deadline is for the Executive Appointments Interest Forms and how long are they kept on file.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by common consent at 3:45pm.