



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

**Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
527 SW Hall St., Suite 308U  
Portland, OR 97201  
503.725.9980  
Fax 503.725.9984  
Email [oaco.mail@state.or.us](mailto:oaco.mail@state.or.us)

**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
**April 20, 2011**  
**9 am – 1 pm**  
**Oregon State Capitol, House Conference Room 243**  
**900 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon**

## **ATTENDEES**

**Chair:** José Ibarra  
**Vice Chair:** Andrea Cano  
**Commissioners:** Steven Bender, Gilbert Carrasco, Marcela Mendoza, Judith Parker  
(by phone), John Haroldson  
**Speakers:** Susan Castillo, PhD., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for the U S Department of  
Housing and Urban Development  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker and Joy Howard

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Ibarra called the meeting to order at 9:10am

### **II. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion (Mendoza/Carrasco) - to approve the agenda. Carried**

### **III. Approval of the minutes**

**Motion (Carrasco/Haroldson) - to approve the minutes of 2/16/11. Carried**

### **IV. Kendall Clawson, Director, Governor's Office of Executive Appointments**

The Commission welcomed Kendall Clawson.

Ms. Clawson reported on the work of her office. She appoints the Commission members for 200+ Boards and Commissions and encourages members of OCHA to help recruit candidates for appointments. They select appointments based on their willingness to serve and to provide a diverse selection of candidates for Commissions and Boards and understands the importance of including the viewpoints of women, communities of color, and youth among the executive appointments

The Commission thanked Ms. Clawson for her work. Commissioner Haroldson noted that retaining the cultural flavor of the communities they represent on the Commissions is critical to including honest discussion of deeply felt issues as part of the work of appointees. Commissioner Carrasco considers the growing diversity in the President's appointments to the Federal bench to be an encouraging sign. Commissioner Mendoza noted that recruitment from outlying and rural areas is very important. Ms. Clawson responded that she will be going to rural areas and working on recruitment there.

The Commission discussed the marginalizing of populations and the escalation of hate crimes aimed at Latinos as part of a high level of rhetoric that targets Latinos. They encouraged Ms. Clawson to keep the trend in the Governor's Office positive, moving away from hate speech, and assuring inclusive appointments. She agreed that including Latinos and Latinas on key Boards is important. Ms. Clawson manages 2000 Commissioners and Board members. She wants to use these individuals as a talent bank. She would like to see private business use the Commissions as recruitment pools as well.

The Commission thanked Ms. Clawson for her report and commended her work on growing inclusion.

#### **V. Legislative Committee Report**

Commissioner Carrasco reported on SB 1080 on the alternative drivers license. He testified on behalf of the Commission at its hearing on Monday evening. The testimony from community members as compelling regarding needs for driving safely, getting to school, work and health care were all part of the testimony. Also the number of uninsured drivers increases because of it. The legislation was not passed out of committee. They hope that it will pass the Senate and the House in 2013.

Ericka Steinbrenner of CAUSA reported that OCHA and CAUSA are also working to support SB 742 on tuition equity has passed the Senate and is in the Rules committee. The Coalition for tuition equity is looking to grow its membership. The Commission thanked Ms Steinbrenner and noted how grateful they are for the leadership that CAUSA has provided.

Chair Ibarra recognized the leadership of Sen. Shields, Rep. Cannon, Rep. Kotek and others who have worked tirelessly to progress the discussion and legislative action around key bills.

Vice Chair Cano reported that the Joint Commissions and OCHA also testified on Public Accommodation and Equal Pay for Equal Work and also for continued funding for the OAC.

#### **VI. Chair's Report**

Chair Ibarra announced that Lupita Maurer has submitted her interest form to become an OCHA Commissioner. He expects to hear soon about that executive appointment and will keep the Commission informed.

#### **VII. Superintendent Susan Castillo, report on the State of Latinos in OR Public Education**

Chair Ibarra welcomed Superintendent Susan Castillo, PhD. to discussion the State of Latinos in the Oregon Public Education System.

Superintendent Castillo and Connie West, ESL Specialist provided a presentation on State of Latinos in the Oregon Public Education System. The presentation is appended to minutes as part of the meeting record. Commissioner Carrasco asked which teaching style is being used. Connie West answered that Oregon does not use immersion based models. There are also difficulties in implementing bi-lingual programs.

The Commission discussed the disparity in graduation rates between white and Latino students. Dr. Castillo noted that the primary reason students drop out when interviewed, is that they have fallen behind and feeling hopeless that they can ever catch up. She feels sure that language is part of the cause. Participation in Headstart helps. There is currently a bill that will extend kindergarten statewide, which will be very helpful. Her office is focusing on how to make sure that ELL students don't fall behind. Commissioner Haroldson asked about the importance of maintaining culture for student success. Superintendent Castillo agreed. The most successful schools for ELL Latino Students work closely with parents and engage them around their role in success for their kids. Her office promotes sharing of best practice by these schools with others. They have made videos of the best practices and offer opportunities for other schools to visit and experience what works at the successful schools. They also have noted that the role and approaches of the school principal in success is key. The Wallace Foundation has funded for the past 10 years on building leadership for equity and helping grow a welcoming atmosphere in schools. The currently support the Organization for Latino Administrators and share best practice with them.

The Commission asked about the use of federal funds including Title I and Title III. Connie West reported that the fiscal reports from schools are reviewed for how they use their federal funds and the Districts are also required to make program decisions based on data that informs professional data.

The Commission noted that Portland Public Schools has not achieved ELL goals for 10 years and asked what is happening to address that? The Superintendent's office visits and monitors their programs each year for the past 4 years and will continue to do so until the goals are achieved.

Chair Ibarra asked what the Superintended sees at the future for Latino kids in the next 4 years. Dr. Castillo responded that the high achieving schools are working differently with the budget they have, and have high populations of students in poverty and still are achieving. These are sustainable models. However, schools are closing in this budget environment. The Governor's office and the Superintendent's office are looking for ways of doing business differently and more effectively. She feels that we must keep our standards and expectations high for all kids. We need to be more strategic. As part of the Recovery Act there has been a large investment in improving data systems, improving work with parents and early learners and other areas. But still, most of the funds for schools are tax and lottery funds.

Commissioner Haroldson asked how culture is celebrated and how vocational experience plays into their approach. Dr. Castillo replied that they are implementing a research behavioral program around positive behavior. It is being tracked for success. In those schools that are adopting the approach, success rates have gone up,. They are working with researchers on how to ramp up these approaches that increase successful outcomes. These approaches are based in growing respect for self and others.

Regarding vocational experience, graduation requirements now includes applied learning for vocations and/or projects. They are working to make graduation requirements be more student based.

Chair Ibarra opened the discussion to include members of the public. It was noted that in the Eugene school district, graduation rates are not acceptable to the Latino community and lack of culturally based teaching has negative effects. Graduating students end up not speaking English. They are concerned that graduation rates will worsen. Superintendent Castillo replied that proficiency in reading will be a requirement of graduation in 2012. To prepare, they are working with schools statewide to see what can be done now to assure that students are proficient, especially for ELL students.

The Commission thanked Superintendent Castillo and her staff for working hard with less to improve success for all communities.

**VIII. The Honorable John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development.**

Commissioner Carrasco introduced Assistant Secretary of HUD, John Trasviña, appointed into that post by President Obama 2 years ago. He has had a long career in immigration law. The commission welcomed the Assistant Secretary.

The Assistant Secretary noted the excellent work of the OCHA. The work that his office does on fair housing and equal opportunity requires the same commitment to excellence. This year the nation is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Act that was enacted in the year the Dr. MLK was assassinated. In the intervening years the array of civil rights, bilingual education, public accommodation, the ADA, workplace discrimination has been enacted.

Mr. Trasviña introduced his lead staff in Portland and Seattle who are visiting with him today. He invites the Commission to become well acquainted with them and work closely to provide access to housing and assuring fair housing.

The changing demographic in the population has focused his office on assuring the real time translation and materials in Spanish are assured. The Fair Housing Act addresses the changing needs of families with diverse backgrounds and needs. Currently they are investigating lending practices for specific cultural and gender groups. Women on maternity leave are part of a group that is being discriminated against in lending due to assumptions that they have lost their jobs or have no income. Other areas include investigation on overt discrimination in renting requirements. He asked the Commission to partner with the Housing Authority around its work with Latino communities.

Tomorrow, he will be at PSU discussing partnerships with Universities to train the next generation of Fair Housing leaders. Also they will be working with students to assure that they know their rights. It will help local Fair Housing Councils to do testing. The Oregon Fair Housing Council recently released a study on Fair housing and people with disabilities.

Commissioner Carrasco noted that he is pleased to hear that HUD is following discrimination against immigrants. The Assistant Secretary responded that they monitor how HUD funding is spent and to assure that it is spent fairly.

Commissioner Cano noted that housing for farm workers is important as well as housing development that allows aging in place, and contracting for Latino contractors. The

Assistant Secretary welcomes partnership in each state to address these issues. He would like to partner with state groups around sharing best practices around farm work housing and other areas.

Commissioner Mendoza recounted a situation in Eugene around CBBG funding that appears discriminatory. He noted that undocumented individuals are eligible for HUD funding. They are if they are part of a mixed family. He will put Commissioner Mendoza in touch with his staff that reviews these practices.

The Commission thanked the Assistant Secretary for his remarks. Chair Ibarra also invited the audience to attend a reception for Assistant Secretary Trasviña that evening at City Hall in Portland, 6 – 7 pm.

### **IX. Public Comment**

Miguel Salinas addressed the Commission on his packet of information on helping people of Mexican Roots. He noted that in 1965, there was a long standing issue of high Latino dropout rates. It still exists. He considers the lack of informed families to nurture success is part of the ongoing issue. He encouraged the Commission to provide a translated audio proceeding of commission proceedings.

### **X. OCHA Bylaw Changes**

Chair Ibarra opened discussed the proposed changes of the bylaws, and staff reviewed each proposed change.

Motion (Carrasco/Mendoza) - to approve bylaw changes. Carried

### **XI. Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned by common consent at 1 pm.