



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
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## MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
December 9, 2011  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
State Office Building  
Rm. 615, 800 NE Oregon St.  
Portland, OR 97232

### ATTENDEES

**Chair:** Andrea Cano  
**Commissioners:** Vice Chair Haroldson, Gil Carrasco, Marcela Mendoza, Judith Parker, Carlos Perez  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer  
**Guests:** Vladimir Avalos, Juan Muros, Frank Garcia (Director of Diversity & Inclusion)

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Cano called the meeting to order at 10:12am and took roll call. Quorum was established for this meeting. Vladimir Avalos and Juan Muros, the two guests, briefly introduced themselves. They live in Northeast Portland and are community volunteers and advocates.

### **II. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

Commissioner Carrasco added drafting a letter to the Governor about the death penalty to the agenda.

**MOTION (Haroldson/Carrasco): Adopt agenda as amended. Carried.**

**MOTION (Haroldson/Carrasco): Adopt June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 minutes. Carried.**

The October 26<sup>th</sup> did not establish a quorum, so the notes from that meeting were not adopted. They will be posted online as notes rather than Minutes.

### **III. Chair's Report**

**NW Latino survey:** The "Proposal for the Northwest Latino Survey Project - October 2011" handout was distributed and is appended to these minutes.

A coalition of news journalists, from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, led by Colin Fogarty (formerly of OPB) recognizes that there is a dearth of critical information about Latino opinions in the U.S. Northwest. Colin approached the Commission and explained they are looking for resources to fund an actual scientific survey (not just a SurveyMonkey survey) and also engage the Hispanic commissions in

Oregon as well as in Washington and Idaho. The issues confronting Latinos in Hermiston, Coos Bay and Salem are all different, and this project aims to be inclusive of Latinos throughout the state.

The idea of dedicating an OCHA intern to this project was of interest to Colin. The Washington Hispanic Commission is seeking an intern as well. The survey will be in Spanish and English. As most journalists do not speak Spanish, a bilingual intern would assist in the cultural competency needed for the project.

Legislative week: Chair Cano met with Rep. Chris Harker & also with Sen. Shields. The proposed legislation for the 2012 will be limited. We anticipate more legislation and issues very relevant to the Latino community will be presented during the 2013 session.

The strategy to build relationships with legislators is for Commissioners, Latino organizational leadership and voters to meet with legislators in their home offices at the end of January, and then ask the same to go to Salem to meet with the legislators in February. It is important to lay the groundwork of trust and communication in anticipation of the 2013 session. Many important bills that would positively impact the Latino community and the community at large were lost by 1 vote in the Senate, because the Senate is split 50/50. The goal is to get 31 votes in the Senator for favorable legislation.

According to the 2010 U.S. census, Oregon is home to 450,000 Latinos. This number does not take into account people who are of mixed origin. Voter registration needs to increase, as does civic engagement on public policy.

Another goal is to develop a memorable slogan to use when meeting with legislators, and to develop communications that effectively convey the wealth and richness of the Latino population.

OCHA will have representation at two meetings of the Tri-County Latino group, convened by Jose Ibarra. Chair Andrea Cano and Vice Chair Haroldson will attend a planning meeting of theirs today at the Latino Network office, and on December 13<sup>th</sup> the Tri-County Latino group will meet with the Governor to express discomfort around the lack of Latino representation. Vice Chair Haroldson will attend this meeting as well.

New Commissioner Orientation: Chair Cano and Commissioner Perez attended the New Commissioner Orientation held in Salem on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. New Commissioners for the sister groups attended. Frank Garcia IV, Kendall Clawson of Executive Appointments and Cheryl Myers of Business Equity presented.

Open Commissioner Slot: It was expected that the open slot on OCHA would be filled at the November Oregon Senate hearings, but it was not. Chair Cano

followed up with Kendall Clawson and learned that Executive Appointments ‘ran out of time’.

OACO/OCHA Budget: The Commissioners in general expressed their disappointment and frustration in the lack of financial resources provided for OCHA to do its good work. Concern was raised that only Latinos in Portland and Salem will be involved and that feels inadequate as far as true public governance.

#### **IV. Commissioner Reports**

Vice Chair Haroldson: He attended an Americas Society event in New York City on behalf of Chair Cano and OCHA that focused on immigration policy for all the Americas, not just the United States Oregon was well represented. The major takeaway was that most discussions of immigration and immigrants are clouded with harmful language that de-values immigrants and invites hate crimes and hate speech. Great suggestions made on how to take steps to create a humane value for immigrants, so we are encouraging a perspective of all humans as equal.

Carmen Rubio from Latino Network, Alberto Moreno, Jeff Stone of the Oregon Association of Nurseries and Maria Steffy-Rojas attended. Each individual representing Oregon made meaningful contributions.

It was noted that there was a racist incident at the conference hotel in Manhattan. Vice Chair Haroldson and others were in the bar speaking Spanish and the bartender intentionally turned up the music so it hurt people’s ears. The bartender explained that he didn’t want to hear them speak Spanish anymore. Complaints were made to the hotel manager and the Americas Society and good follow up was made due to their complaints.

Commissioner Gil Carrasco: He has represented OCHA along with Chair Cano on the Governor’s Oregon Driver License Task Force which has been meeting for several months, the last time on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Others attending the meeting included law enforcement, advocates, the director of the DMV and staff, ODOT, the Dairymen’s Association, the Nurserymen’s Association, restaurateurs, agricultural associations and business people. He feels they are making progress towards a special drivers’ permit specifically for the privilege of driving, not for use as a document for identification or immigration status.

Drivers permit models the Task Force is studying include: the Washington state driver’s license system has something called an enhanced driver’s license, meaning it can be used to cross international borders, in addition to a standard driver’s license which is for driving only. New Mexico’s driver’s license is strictly for proving one has the competence to drive.

Oregon has not complied with the Real ID Act. A Real ID indicates that the owner is a legal resident of the United States. The Task Force is brainstorming the best approach for Oregon to take on this issue, as far as being inclusive of the

large population of undocumented workers who are an integral part of Oregon's work force in nurseries, restaurants and agricultural businesses.

Utah's driver's license does not prove legal residence in the United States so it can be issued to undocumented workers.

Commissioner Carrasco noted that it is essential for the Task Force to bring the insurance industry to the table. The current members of the Task Force want to change the driver's license law for good.

The Commissioner also noted his appreciation of Frank Garcia, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, who invited the Commissioner and Chair Cano to the discussion. Mr. Garcia has been instrumental in bringing key players to the table including Ramon Ramirez, who is a nationally recognized leader for immigrant rights.

Commissioner Carrasco is possibly the only lawyer on the Task Force, and he is able to answer technical questions that come up. The next meeting January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, and will be about what specifically will be included in the next iteration of this bill, and how to proceed with lobbying and meeting with legislators. Commissioner Carrasco is feeling there will be a positive outcome.

Chair Cano noted that Commissioner Carrasco drafted the initial legislation for this bill and that this is a public safety issue, not an issue of immigration. She also noted the importance and strength of this effort being a collective one, rather than having one Latino organization leading.

Commissioner Carrasco went on to talk about the Governor's recent change of policy regarding the death penalty and proposed writing a letter of thanks to the Governor, who has taken much criticism for taking a stand based on his moral convictions, which was noted as being unusual. Many people and organizations have sent letters of support appreciation to the Governor. The letter would be from Chair Cano, on behalf of OCHA.

**MOTION (Carrasco/Perez): To draft an appropriate letter to the Governor and approve the letter, to the effect that the undersigned Commissioners supports his recent action in support of the death penalty. Vice Chair Haroldson abstains from this vote and requests that his name be removed from the letterhead. CARRIED.**

The draft will be reviewed by all Commissioners before being approved.

Mural project: Commissioner Carrasco noted that the mural project, to honor Cesar Chavez, received a matching grant from the Endowment for the Arts and so far no other money has come in. The grant is believed to be for \$10,000, so another \$10,000 in contributions is needed. One of the challenges of this project is finding a location for the actual mural. The Commissioner and former Chair Jose Ibarra went to look for a location for the mural along Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard

(formerly SE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue) but were unsuccessful. The Fred Meyer's the faces the Boulevard declined the request.

Lucy Baker noted that she touched base with Esteban and he still wants to do the project. It was also suggested that the entire project could be completed for under \$20,000.

Commissioner Carrasco will contact Esteban. Lucy Baker noted that the impermanence of paint could be an issue, and that many buildings now use a wrap rather than paint. Perhaps over the course of 5 years different buildings could be asked to host the wrap.

Commissioner Carlos Perez: He attended the unveiling of the new education initiative, the 40/40/20 plan, by the Oregon Education Investment Board. This is supposed to increase education attainment by 2025. The presentation covered demographics and the business community. The group that continues to lag behind is students of color, specifically Latinos, but the representation of Latinos at the presentation was minimal. He felt there is much more that can be done to ensure the Latinos will make strides in education attainment, but this presentation did not focus on this.

Vice Chair Haroldson also attended, and his concerns were similar to Commissioner Perez's. Vice Chair Haroldson raised the question with the panelists and was surprised that there was little response. As a result, he ended up engaging with one of the panelists, Dave Conway, of the University of Oregon, around the work ethic, lack of entitlement and lack of hope of Latino youth. The Vice Chair will be meeting with Mr. Conway in January 2012 to continue their discussion about Latino youth.

Commissioner Perez also noted that the Vice Chair's question was deferred to the last panel of the day, which had people of color on it. The panel affirmed the point but did not answer the question as it was not their place to do so. Commissioner Perez noted that the issue of Latino youth and education attainment is an important issue for him.

Chair Cano noted that the head of the Oregon Education Investment Board, Ben Cannon is formerly of OCHA and that he has invited her and the Vice Chair to attend OEIB meetings, and also invited Commissioner Perez.

Commissioner Judith Parker: The Convocation on Equality was a huge success, with 400 attorneys attending at the Convention Center. The specialty diversity bars pledged to work together, to gain greater representation of diversity on the bar and the bench.

She noted there has been a lot of attention from Senator (Wyden?)'s office for the district bench in Eugene, and the diversity bars were asked to talk to as many candidates as possible. The importance of diversity is understood in this situation.

Vice Chair Haroldson noted that the Oregon Hispanic Bar takes an active role in talking to candidates and the selection committee.

Commissioner Parker noted that there are 2 Oregon Latinos of distinction: Justice Darlene Ortega was the recipient of the professionalism award – it was noted that this is the award the Vice Chair won last year – and Ramon Hernandez was recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Lucy Baker suggested that these recognitions need to be posted on the OCHA website.

Commissioner Parker spoke to the Oregon minority law students at Willamette University in November 2011, encouraging them to maintain their true sense of identity. She will also be speaking with the students at the University of Oregon. Jackie Kim is the head of the Oregon Minority Law Association.

Regarding the compilation of the OCHA Annual Report, this project is going well. She reviewed all the minutes and compiled figures for number of events attended, etc., and copy OCHA and the OAC staff so the figures can be vetted for accuracy. Lucy Baker asked that OCHA working with its first intern be added to the list of accomplishments, and that Commissioner Mendoza just approved the final draft of intern Rolando Cruz's thesis paper.

There was discussion of how to honor prominent Latinos and these points came up:

- OCHA needs to figure this out during the January 2012 work session
- Judge de Munoz will be honored in February 2013
- OCHA could co-sponsor with the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association (OHBA) and the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and provide a plaque
- OCHA can help honor people in other ways than financial
- It would be significant for Commissioner Ventura to introduce the Justice, given the Commissioner's background
- Commissioner Parker will bring these ideas back to the OHBA board
- The Hispanic National Bar Association's 2012 convention will be in Seattle, WA, in mid-August
- Commissioner Parker will check if any of her associates could be plugged into the February 2012 Oregon legislative weeks

Commissioner Lupita Maurer: She is staying abreast of housing issues. Commissioner Maurer wrote a letter of complaint on behalf of a Latino family being charged fees by a housing agency on OCHA letterhead.

Commissioner Marcela Mendoza: She participated at the CAUSA event in Salem, Oregon in November 2011 and in December 2011 she met with the police commission regarding ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) issues. She noted that this continues to be a very important issue that always has to be up there on the agenda until it ceases to happen. She does what she can locally and continues to pressure the Eugene Police Department and will start with the Springfield Police Department as well. She would like a meeting at her organization, Centro LatinoAmericano, in Eugene, about ICE and the Police Department.

This led to a discussion of the current status of the Secure Communities Program in Oregon. Frank Garcia IV, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, explained that all 36 counties of Oregon adopted the Secure Communities model in the summer of 2011. He noted that there was no chance for states to opt out; it was a misrepresentation that states could think about opting out. He believes this was handled by Steven Powers, Public Safety Advisor to the Governor and that the Federal Government was aggressive in putting this program in place.

The Commissioners discussed this and several points were made:

- By state statute, Oregon does not want to fund anything related to federal immigration law.
- Individuals who have committed no crimes are pulled over for driving with a taillight out, for a DUI or an expired license, and can end up getting deported if it is discovered that they are illegally living in the United States. This has become an everyday occurrence.
- Cheap labor is invited in, so people enter the United States illegally, looking for an opportunity to improve their lives. They can establish a good life for themselves, only to end up getting deported years later, punished severely because of a DUI.
- Deep concern that OCHA has been left out of the loop on the Secure Communities issue, with no opportunity to speak with other stakeholders. OCHA does not want this to happen again.

Frank Garcia promised to meet with Steve Powers to gain a better understanding of what happened and get back to OCHA with more information. Commissioners Carrasco and Parker want to be involved in this discussion. It was expressed that OCHA needs to be able to speak to their constituency to be sure their concerns are made clear to the Governor and the Federal government.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Frank Garcia: Some of the sister Commissions want to create a statute or statement about hate crimes in Oregon so there is better accountability and law enforcement protections, because Hate Crimes continue to exist. This idea is in the beginning stages. The work may be

completed by an intern from one of the law schools. Ideally this would create a clearer path for people who are victims of Hate Crimes to take. This may involve the Department of Justice and/or the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).

Mr. Garcia reviewed the progress made by the Driver's License Task Force and added that a goal is to have a legislative concept for the 2013 session.

There is another legislative concept underway for education reform.

Regarding balancing the State budget, he noted that of the 3 budget reduction packages submitted by all agencies, he expects the B model will go through (budget reduction packages A and B will be put into effect.)

Mr. Garcia noted the progress of the Office of Executive Appointments in placing more women and people of color on Boards and Commissions, as of August 2011, with 34 appointments so far:

Women were 56%

Hispanics were 12%

People of color were 30%

He added that for the Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses Office (MWESB) contracting through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, there was a \$10 million increase over all of 2010.

Finally, Mr. Garcia noted that the Kitchen Cabinet meetings he is running are starting to create some significant things,

Commissioner Carrasco reminded Mr. Garcia that someone from the auto insurance industry needs to be added to the Driver's License Task Force.

The Commission thanked Mr. Garcia for his participation.

#### **V. Administrator's Report**

Internships: Other sister Commissions share an interest in education, particularly around achievement gaps. Commissioner Perez and Lucy spoke to Dr. Patrick Burk at Portland State University about a Master's or Doctorate level intern. The discussion began with a disparity study that encompasses the judicial system and the disproportionate levels of graduates. One internship idea is to review the Governor's Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) initiative, from kindergarten to higher education, and would be mapping it with people like Ben Cannon (legislative liaison). The goal is to locate where in this new system OCHA can work on narrowing the achievement gaps. Ben Cannon will be briefing the Commissioners about the vision of the OEIB in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Perez noted that an intern would be focusing on the implementation piece of the OEIB plan, the implications for kids of color and for non-native speaker kids. The intern can help us understand who will have overall governance in this new structure. Ideally an intern will be in place by February.

Dr. Burk will be responsible for finding the intern. It was noted that Dr. Isaac Dixon of Lewis and Clark College, and a member of the Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) wants to recruit an intern from his institution. Lucy Baker distributed a handout of Dr. Dixon's concept around education gaps.

Lucy Baker would be a co-field supervisor with the Commissions and the legislators. Senator Rod Monroe, who sits on OCBA is very interested in education and early childhood development. It was noted that Representative Harker is also interested in education issues.

Chair Cano noted that a political science intern would be ideal for the OPB Latino survey project and an intern from a law school is a strong choice for the hate crimes internship.

Vice Chair Haroldson expressed interest in being a co-field supervisor for the possible hate crimes internship with the caveat that it be a well-focused project, as the legislature has already defined this under law. He added that if a hate crime is committed it means the prosecutor has more to prove but it does not change the sentencing for the crime. Also, someone who is victimized by a hate crime can still be subject to deportation. Federal laws for visas do not extend to hate crimes.

Commissioner Carrasco will work with Lucy to create wording for the hate crime concept that is solid. The OCBA is extremely interested in an internship on hate crimes.

Chair Cano and Lucy will work together on a political science intern for the Latino survey.

Lucy added that Chair Sunny Petit of the Commission for Women, is working on gender parity for boards and commissions. Commissioner Perez and Chair Petit will be attending the December 12, 2011, Oregon Business Summit.

**Motion (Carrasco/Parker): To approve these three ideas of internships on behalf of OCHA, for education mapping, hate crimes and political science with OPB. CARRIED.**

Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant, reported that she was working on web updates, and owes OCHA a GoogleDocs spreadsheet for email addresses. Commissioner Parker expressed interest in working with Nancy on Twitter.

Nancy will explore whether the new Statewide web platform, Sharepoint, is friendlier for creating a database email list.

Budget: Lucy Baker reviewed the suggested budget reduction strategies developed by staff. She noted that all agencies, no matter how small, are taking cuts.

Three new reduction packages were proposed:

1. Remove two step increases (staff salary), drop the State Mail Shuttle in exchange for using postage stamps;
2. Reduce Netbook, drop landlines, switch over to different service for Intercall and asking for bridge number donations, asking DAS for a reduction of \$8,900 or free rent;
3. Personnel cuts of 58 additional furlough days totaling savings of \$13,389.

The Commissioners commented that it was unfortunate to have to approve all the budget reduction packages.

**Motion (Parker/Carrasco):** OCHA does not endorse the cuts bestowed upon us but we recognize we must consider these proposals. Motion to approve the budget cuts as presented by Lucy Baker. CARRIED.

The issue of OCHA fundraising was discussed. Given that OCHA's primary purpose is to advise the Governor, some of the Commissioners felt uncomfortable at the prospect of opening the door for individuals to make donations in lieu of having a budget. The suggestion of creating a "Friends of OCHA" organization was less well received. It was also noted that funds raised can be swept by the legislature, although the Commissions have never been swept.

It was agreed that Lucy Baker would talk with Frank Garcia about fundraising guidelines.

## **VI. OCHA Calendar of Meetings**

- A Joint hearing will be December 20<sup>th</sup> and critical testimony is needed.
- Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> work session from 9:30am – 3:30pm at Centro Latino.
- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Salem would be a plenary day and a kick-off for the legislature. Other Latino organizations would be invited. Commissioner Carrasco may be able to find a meeting space in the Law School.
- The March meeting (tentatively Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and possibly in Hood River) may be dropped.
- Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in Washington County. Commissioner Maurer would be the point person for this.
- Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in Salem. Chair Cano noted that she would want all Commissioners to attend. Elections could be held at this meeting or in the June 2012 meeting.

- Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Woodburn with Commissioner Ventura as the point person.

It was noted that 2012 is an election year for Vice Chair Haroldson and he will be spending some time campaigning.

There are pending invitations for OCHA to meet in LaGrande and Hermiston.

Nancy Kramer will follow up about teleconferencing possibilities around the State. She will also send out the terms for all OCHA Commissioners and when they end.

#### **VII. Public Comments**

Vladimir Avalos and Juan Muros came to the OCHA meeting to hear about budgeting and to introduce themselves. They are volunteers, and do street-level advocacy. They believe that at the street-level people are not being involved or informed. A working person does not know about the issues discussed at this meeting. Vladimir and Juan have met with the Portland Police Bureau and families. They are concerned about domestic violence, gangs, education and prevention. They hope to create a nonprofit that helps the community. The Commissioners offered contact names and Nancy Kramer will distribute Juan and Vladimir's contact information to all the Commissioners.

Commissioner Perez noted that the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators (OALA) Conference is February 4<sup>th</sup> at Marylhurst University. Ben Cannon will be speaking and Dr. Barbara Flores and Dr. Francisco Reveles are the keynote speakers. The theme is Education Equity: Fact or Fiction?

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

**MOTION (Carrasco/Perez): Adjourn. Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm.