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Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
October 9, 2014, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
800 NE Oregon Street, Room 915, Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Alberto Moreno
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Andrea Cano, Cynthia Gomez, Diego Hernandez, Judy Parker
Absent: John Haroldson, Gil Carrasco, Rep. Vega Pederson
Senator Shields
Guest: Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries;
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call meeting to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm. A quorum was established at 1:30 pm

II. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION (Parker/Gomez): To adopt the agenda. CARRIED.

III. Approval of OCHA meeting Minutes from August 2014

MOTION (Parker/Gomez): To approve the August Meeting minutes. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Old Business

A. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) guidelines for state agencies letter

This item was on the OCHA Health Committee agenda. Commissioner Gomez wrote an excellent letter with the Oregon Law Center on behalf of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF), to encourage the state of Oregon to develop guidelines for all agencies around LEP. OCHA was invited to support this effort. Robin Morris Collin, a founder of the EJTF and also a member of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, reviewed the letter and asked that it be sent to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The EJTF is looking for traction for this letter. Commissioner Gomez and Chair Moreno will meet to discuss the letter, and then they will meet with Robin Morris Collin and Lucy to determine next steps. There was interest in this issue becoming a legislative concept. Cynthia will re-send the letter via email.

VI. New Business

A. Legislative issues of interest to OCHA

Closer to February 2015 Lucy will ask the OCHA for key words to use when searching the Legislative database system for possible bills of interest to track during session.

1. Health Care for All Children – Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), Farmworkers Union, PCUN and OHEA are moving forward on a legislative and potentially administrative remedy for the roughly 20,000 undocumented children living in Oregon who do not qualify for the Affordable Care Act or Medicaid and do not have medical coverage. There is a robust team working on bills already in the pipeline for the 2015 Oregon Legislative session to create to create a Health Care for All Children Fund.

The bills are being drafted by Representative Keny-Guyer and OLHC and have placeholders.

2. Statewide Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Guidelines - this item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
3. Unaccompanied Minors – the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Morrison Family Services will handle unaccompanied minors arriving in Oregon. OLHC will have a follow-up meeting with DHS to discuss specifics of how the agency will support these children.

4. The OCHA Immigration Committee (Vice Chair Haroldson and Commissioner Parker) are working on core issues:

A. Notario Fraud – the Latino community is particularly victimized by Notario Fraud. Legitimate Notarios possess certain licensing accreditation. In the United States and Canada Notary Publics attest that the person who is signing the document is that person, and are less about drafting documents and legal services. Notarios do not have a law degree, and they are not advocates or held to the standards of South and Central America. The District Attorney's office is working on a new law, the wording of which will need to appear in English and their native language, in all advertising and contracts for individuals. A Notario is not permitted to work on immigration law. The American Immigration Lawyers Association is aware of this issue.

Commissioner Parker briefly explained that undocumented victims of some crimes can receive certain benefits. For example: victims of violent crimes (murder or rape) or obstruction of justice crimes (perjury, tampering with or withholding evidence) are eligible for an immigration benefit called a U visa. She proposed that Notarios who break the law by willful violation be prosecuted for an obstruction of justice crime, thereby offering victims of such crimes to the opportunity to apply for a U visa. She is interested in OCHA pursuing this idea.

It is a class A felony to practice law without being licensed in Oregon. Notario fraud is of concern to the Oregon State Bar for this and other reasons. The Bar is working in 4 areas regarding Notario fraud: improving the education of notaries; improving testing of notaries; partnering with prosecutors; and increasing education within the legal community about Notario fraud. OCHA is particularly interested in increasing education within the legal community about Notario fraud.

Commissioner Parker suggested employing Customs and Immigration Services (CIS) and training them to be on the lookout for a certain name (or names) appearing on immigration documents, cross-reference the names in the OS Bar database and if a person is not licensed to draft immigration documents, to begin an investigation.

B. Labor Trafficking – the OCHA is partnering with OCFW on a sex trafficking public policy research internship but does not yet have a research project on labor trafficking, with tends to victimize particular communities. Vice Chair Haroldson is involved with the US Attorney's office to identify areas where sentencing can become more severe on those involved in trafficking and to focus on prevention. This may provide a foundation for a helpful research project in support of an aspect of this.

B. Partner Discussion on Community Issues – Jeff Stone, OR Association of Nurseries
Chair Moreno welcomed Jeff Stone to the meeting. Jeff reviewed how the short-term driver card is a limited 4 year driver card, and involves taking and passing a written test as well as passing a driving test. He spoke about the interest in the Nursery Association in assuring there is such a card. Discussion followed.

Chair Moreno thanked Mr. Stone for his presentation.

C. Predatory lending reform/research with other OACs – this item was tabled until the next meeting.

D. Outcomes of 8/19/14 Joint Advocacy Commission meeting
Nancy will send the outcomes of the joint OACs meeting (brainstorming) notes to all commissioners.

A possible outcome from the joint meeting is 1 joint cross-committee, probably a Legislative Committee. Discussion followed with interest in having a joint legislative committee for the OAC's in the 2015 session. It would be understood, however that each Commission would still identify and support its own legislative agenda but the joint committee would allow all Commissions to hear from community and state partners as well as legislators about equity oriented legislation in their key areas. It would also allow easier collaboration and reporting across commissions on key pieces of legislation.

E. Committee discussions

1. The OCHA established 3 committees: Health, Education and Immigration
Commissioners will have bills of interest to their committee and community tracked by the OACO and receive weekly reports on the status of bills of interest, during the 2015 session.

The Immigration Committee chair is Commissioner Carrasco, who is currently out of the country until summer 2015. The office will ask Commissioner Carrasco to clarify his ability to participate in his current role on the committee.

F. Commissioner Reports

1. Notario Publico issue – this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.
2. OR Depart of Transportation (ODOT) Workforce & Small Business Task Force

Commissioner Parker was invited to join ODOT's new Workforce and Small Business Task Force, which consists of about 30 people including stakeholders from State and Federal government, the Office of Civil Rights, Workforce Development Managers, small business owners and more. OCBA Commissioner Julie Grey is also on the Task Force. They meet every 6 months.

The Task Force is looking at the effect of small business licensing and MWESB certification on ODOT's contractor pool. ODOT's Director called the meeting to address concerns about civil rights and diversity issues. Regarding the small number of Hispanic contractors ODOT uses, ODOT's study shows Hispanic contractors are an underutilized group but not significantly underutilized. Latinos are generally not prime contractors, which has an impact as well. The majority of money the state spends on contractors goes to construction, whereas the Hispanic community excels at agriculture and landscaping. There is also growing momentum to make sure the contracting RFPs are translated to Spanish and indigenous languages and distributed widely.

Judy will share the OCBA's report on apprenticeships to journeyman numbers, for minorities and the low rates with ODOT. ODOT was shocked to hear her describe the report.

3. Other reports? There were no other reports.

G. Next OCHA meeting dates for Dec 2014, Feb 2015, Apr 2015

Nancy proposed future meeting dates for the OCHA, and Commissioners chose 12/11/14 in Portland, 2/12/15 in Salem, and possibly 4/9/14.

VIII. Administrator's Report

A. Financial Report – Lucy reviewed the September financial report. With few exceptions, which she discussed, the OACO expenditures are at the expected levels for this time in the biennium. At the December OCHA meeting Lucy will include a more lengthy analysis, and will review Commissioner travel and Commissioner stipends.

B. Update on Agency Request Budget (ARB) – The OACO has received word from the CFO's office that its entire request of 3 new staff and 1 upgrade have been sent to the Governor for his consideration to include in recommended budget to the legislature. Notification for all agencies on what is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget to the legislature in mid to late November. Also, the OACs were recognized at the recent 50th Anniversary of Civil Rights celebration by Frank Garcia who spoke at the event. The OAC's new budget request for 3 additional staff were part of Frank's comments at which he congratulated the Advocacy Commissions for their forward thinking request for 3 equity focused positions.

C. Civic Engagement/Communications Plan – Nancy spoke briefly about Laura Aguon, the OACO's new part-time Communications Assistant. She will be developing Communications Plans for each OAC, with their input.

D. Update on Sex Trafficking internship – this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm.

OUTCOMES OF THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE OACs ON 8/19/14

Looking Ahead – Joint Action Areas

Joint meeting Chair, Stephanie Vardavas, briefly reviewed the four statutory areas of focus of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and the interests of the OAC's in further building their collaborations with joint actions and efforts. She noted the joint work already going forward in advocacy and public policy research and asked the Commissioners attending the Joint meeting to break into small groups to begin a conversation on additional areas for collaborative work between the OAC's. The conversations begun today at the meeting will be continued within the regular meetings of the Commissions and inform the joint discussions of the Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Breakout discussion groups:

The Commissioners counted off and broke into small groups covering 1) Advocacy, 2) Policy research, 3) Leadership development and 4) Community engagement, partnership and communication.

The discussion groups met for 20 minutes and reported back:

1. Advocacy

- Work with partners to develop materials and joint OAC trainings on legislative and policy advocacy
- Develop overviews and other materials for Commissioners that clarify the advocacy process, along with supporting protocols and parameters.
- Provide capacity building experience for Commissioners in the area of advocacy and take inventory of each Commissioner's issue areas, expertise and wisdom
- Further collaboration and cross referencing of work, info, among commission advocacy oriented committees.
- Develop metrics to measure advocacy achievements and efficacy and create reports.
- Continue to collaborate with Community Partners in support of advocacy efforts.
- Explore a joint committee approach to support legislation and advocacy work of the OAC's.

2. Policy Research

- Collaborate among the OAC's in a policy research study on trafficking for labor.
- Conduct joint public policy research on transparency of school funding for English Language Learners.
- Add a joint policy research project on workforce diversity to take a broader view of underlying causes of gender disparity in several sectors including tech.
- Jointly research job rates of constituent communities including of students that are able to find employment in 6 months after graduating from high school, vocational school or college and possible disparities

3. Leadership development:

- Develop opportunities for cross-Commission work including opportunities to work jointly in committees and/or attend other Commission's meeting and learn more, first hand, about the issues and strategies to address them.
 - Invite Commissioners to work with the Joint Chairs/Vice Chairs discussing emerging issues or consider collaborations with the joint leadership of the OAC's and provide more access to these discussions and their notes.
4. Partnership, community engagement, and communication:
- Host OAC meetings in diverse areas across Oregon including urban, rural and frontier counties in partnership with local chambers of commerce.
 - Develop a joint OAC communication plan including media, social media and newsletter to share policy and advocacy work of the OACs with diverse audiences.
 - Engage community and partners in issue and policy discussions.
 - Develop a portal for OAC related news: one place for ALL Commissions to check. Share policy research amongst commissions.
 - Develop a LinkedIn group for Commissioners as part of the plan. Commissioner Parker will help develop it and invite everyone.
 - Develop joint committees of interest among the Commissions.

Chair Vardavas thanked all the OAC Commissioners for their reports. More discussion will take place in the upcoming regular meetings of the OAC's to further plans for collaborations between the Commissions as discussed today.