



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Thursday, January 22, 2009

9AM-4PM

Morning session held at Labor and Industries Building, Room 260

Afternoon session held at State Capitol in the Tribal Treaty Room

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ibarra at 9:09AM in the Director's Conference Room of the Labor and Industries Building.

Chair Ibarra introduced Helen Hoang, the new administrator for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office. The other attendees introduced themselves. Those in attendance, in addition to Administrator Helen Hoang were: Commissioner Ray Caballero, Commissioner Erlinda Gonzales-Berry, Chair Jose Ibarra, Commissioner Lily Caceres, Commissioner Dagoberto Morales Duran, Commissioner Nina Sobotta, Commissioner David Molina, Guest Arturo Shirez, Guest Ana Consuelo Matiella and Staff Darlene Hulzebosch, Commissioner Verence Gutierrez.

Chair Ibarra talked about the bomb blast in Woodburn. He requested a resolution to families of the fallen officers in appreciation for their services. Chair Ibarra moved to proceed with the resolution, Commissioner Caballero seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Caballero will draft the resolution.

The minutes of July 24, 2008 were moved to be approved by Commissioner Gonzales Berry and seconded by Chair Ibarra and approved unanimously with the following corrections:

- Commissioner Caballero asked that item IV. B. delete the comment about his email.
- Commissioner Molina said the URL needed to be changed under IV. D.
- Commissioner Caceres said in the 3rd paragraph on page 2, take the hyphen out and reword.

The minutes of October 16, 2008 were moved to be approved by Commissioner Caballero and seconded by Commissioner Molina and approved unanimously with the following corrections:

- Commissioner Caceres asked that her name be changed to Commissioner Gonzales-Berry at the bottom of page 1 C preceding the comment that each candidate have a clear understanding of what they are to do and their roles and responsibilities.
- Commissioner Gonzales Berry asked that the statement by Sen. Girod on page 2, paragraph E be changed to say that he would not guarantee a 100% vote with the Latino communities.

Commissioner Gonzales Berry suggested commissioners read the minutes prior to the meeting. She requested that minutes be transcribed and sent to them within a week of the meeting.

Commissioner Molina led the discussion about committee assignments. Commissioner Moran Duran is head of Programs. Commissioner Caballero is chair of meetings and agendas. Chair Ibarra talked with Administrator Hoang about the annual report. The committee formation discussion will continue later. Under the Executive Committee report by Chair Ibarra, he said Commissioner Gonzales Berry had been doing good research. It was decided that Chair Ibarra, Commissioner Molina and staff would work together on relevant issues and Chair Ibarra, Commissioner Molina and Commissioner Gonzales Berry along with staff would prepare the annual report. Under monitoring, Chair Ibarra questioned monitoring possible legislation and asked staff to do that as before. Commissioner Boyer and Commissioner Caceres will develop liaison with the State and Commissioner Boyer, Commissioner Caceres and Commissioner Gutierrez will work on a liaison with the community business organizations. Accountability and reporting will be monitored by Commissioner Caceres. Commissioner Caballero will monitor the performance measures. Commissioner Caceres will monitor accountability and reporting.

Administrator Hoang discussed the strategic plan and Chair Ibarra said the annual report must be done as soon as possible. Administrator Hoang said a survey is going out by the OACO. The survey is one of the performance measures for 2007-09. This is part of the outreach performance measure.

Chair Ibarra introduced Ms. Jennifer Flood who is the Ombudsman for Injured Workers, an independent advocate state agency for injured workers in Oregon. She handed out a booklet on "What happens if I'm hurt on the job?" in both English and Spanish. She explained that her office has a bilingual telephone line and helps injured workers understand their right and responsibilities, investigates complaints and acts to resolve those complaints. They answer questions about the rights and responsibilities of workers and what happens when they get hurt. She discussed time-loss benefits along with medical benefits. In 1996 and 1997 the most cases were reported to their office. Commissioner Morales Duran asked how the office responds to cases. Ms. Flood explained that Form 3283 needs to be filled out right away and the employer has 14 days to process the claim and the insurer has 60 days to accept or deny a claim. Undocumented workers are not eligible for vocational assistance or for preferred worker status. Chair Ibarra thanked Ms. Flood for her presentation and was thanked with applause.

The meeting was moved to the Tribal Treaty Room in the State Capitol during the lunch break.

Commissioner Caballero talked about the Environmental Justice Task Force and he felt that Commissioner Morales Duran would be more suited to sit on the group. Commissioner Caballero said Commissioner Morales Duran would be suitable because of his work with farm workers. A decision can be made at the April meeting. Commissioner Caballero said another commission that needs assistance from the Hispanic community is the Medical Translation Board. Commissioner Caballero stated that community meetings are necessary. He will send out suggestions for how to do it and suggested starting in Woodburn or Hillsboro. Commissioner Molina suggested a casual affair where they serve hot dogs, then make a brief presentation about what the OCHA is and then lead into the community issues. Chair Ibarra said he has been talking about going to the 7 colleges in Southern Oregon to talk with students. He was looking for a consensus from the Commission for this. They discussed getting out to Eastern Oregon, such as Ontario and La Grande.

Attorney General John Kroger was introduced by Chair Ibarra. Mr. Kroger stated that his office is not getting information about Latinos in legal and child support. He urged commissioners to provide input on issues to his office. Number 1 issue is children's issues – 90% of children abused are by drug and alcohol abusers. In a recent national survey, Oregon on child support received a 'D' rating. The drug

and alcohol programs in Oregon are not good enough. Issue #2 is the consumer protection issues. There are specific scams that target the Latino community. The department receives 30,000 contacts a year. He is very concerned about civil rights and currently there is no civil rights enforcement unit under the Attorney General's office. There are serious civil rights issues in the State of Oregon. In his budget this year he is submitting a proposal to restore the civil rights enforcement unit. The civil rights enforcement unit will not conflict the work BOLI does. BOLI cannot try cases and some need to be tried. Commissioner Gonzales Berry asked about racism and undocumented immigrants locally. Mr. Kroger responded that he does not want local enforcement involved with immigration. Issue needs to be addressed nationally, not by individual states. If local law enforcement cannot be trusted, people will not come to them and officers will not be successful. Commissioner Sobotta said lawyers are needed that not only are good lawyers but also treat clients well, need lawyers who are culturally competent. Mr. Kroger said he will be chair of the Diversity Committee and turn the Ethics Commission in the Department of Justice over to someone else. He said he would strive to make the face of the Justice Department more diversified. Drugs and alcohol issues are almost totally involved in criminal justice system. This is the biggest issue for the state to deal with. It is absolutely critical to put resources into drug and alcohol programs. It is 7 times more cost effective to spend money on drug and alcohol treatment than to spend it on street enforcement. Mr. Kroger said he welcomed invitations to events to talk to people, to let him know about an event or questions or comments contact Julie Rutherford at 503-378-6002. Mr. Kroger was thanked with applause.

Ms. Patricia Martinez was introduced by Chair Ibarra as the former director of the Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement. Commissioner Caceres complimented her on her appearance on OPB. She gave a brief biography of where she got her passion for education. Some of the issues students mentioned when asked about why they weren't successful were academic issues, lack of classes in culture and heritage, family issues, antagonism toward them. Schools are set up for generic populations, not diverse groups. Schools are not set up to cope with socio-economic status, English language learners, low education level of parents, students of color, special education students, mobility issues. To impact learning, teachers can give students knowledge, skill capacity and the will. Social justice cannot be taught without talking about the haves and the have nots. All education is political. She said 87% of eighth grade Latinos are not proficient in mathematics. Ninth graders are four years behind. 60% of Latino students have a diploma while 89% of white students have a diploma. Six percent of Latino students graduate from college. Communication is the essence to success for Latino students. Learning is a combination of passion and creativity. There is not room for fear in the schools. She was thanked by applause from the group.

END OF TAPES.