



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Thursday, July 16, 2009

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Oregon State Capitol

Capitol Treaty Room 167A

900 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon

ATTENDEES

Chair: José Ibarra
Vice Chair: Raymond C. Caballero
Commissioners: Gilbert Carrasco, Lily Caceres, Dr. Verenice Gutierrez, David Molina, Dagoberto Morales
Speakers: Commissioner Brad Avakian, John P. Minahan, Duncan Wyse
Guest(s): Mary Alecia K. Briggs, Diana A. Leos, Joe O'Leary, Danny Santos, Katherine Manglona
Teleconference: María Durón, Uriel Iñiguez

I. Call to Order

Chair Ibarra called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. Welcome new Commissioners

Professor Gil Carrasco has been a lawyer for 30 years and is an expert in civil rights law, immigration law and constitutional law. He is currently a Professor at Willamette University where he teaches Civil Rights, Constitutional Law, and Employment Discrimination. Professor Carrasco was involved in the successful renaming of 39th Avenue in Portland to Cesar Chavez.

III. Approval of April 16, 2009 meeting minutes [Action]

- 1) Corrections were made and minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) Corrected minutes will be posted on OCHA website.

IV. Confirmation of Chair and Election of Vice-Chair [Action]

- 1) Chair
 - a) The election of Chair Ibarra was confirmed and approved unanimously.
- 2) Vice Chair
 - a) Vice Chair Molina withdrew his Vice Chair nomination
 - b) Commissioner Caballero accepted role as Vice Chair and thanked Commissioners.

V. Approval of meetings schedule and location for coming year:

- 1) Dates:
 - a) October 15, 2009
 - i. Commissioner Morales asked if Commissioners would like to attend the Latino Partnership event for youth in Medford on October 16, 2009 from 8 AM – 12 PM.
 - ii. Commissioner Caballero motioned to change October 15 OCHA meeting to October 16 to attend the Latino Partnership event. Commissioner Molina seconded, approved unanimously.
 - b) January 21, 2010
 - c) April 15, 2010
 - d) July 15, 2010
- 2) Locations:
 - a) October 16 meeting will be held in Medford. Exact time location to be announced.
 - b) January through July 2010 meetings to be held in the Capitol Treaty Room, 167A.
- 3) **MOTION:**
 - a) Meeting dates and locations motioned and approved unanimously

VI. Year End Report: Executive Committee: Monitoring/Reporting, finance, internal review

- 1) Budget:
 - a) Commissions received a 3% (\$13,000) reduction. Funding for staff and commissions are continued for now, but are not free from cuts next session. The Governor issued a letter stating he will continue to recommend that boards and commissions be suspended or eliminated at the next session.
 - b) General Funds vs. Other Funds
 - i. General funds include money for staff, mileage, services, supplies, etc.
 - ii. Other funds consist of donations, fundraisers, money from private citizens, etc.
This is money for the Commissions use and it is their duty to manage these funds.
 - c) If the Office is suspended, Helen will go to the Emergency Board to request that OCHA's Other Funds is protected and commissions are authorized to use what they have raised.
- 2) Upcoming Events
 - a) La Raza sponsored follow-up meeting to Commission on Hispanic Affairs National Conference
 - i. Chair Ibarra will be attending the conference next month and asked permission to have the Commission pay for the hotel.
 - ii. **MOTION:** Commissioner Caballero motioned, Commissioner Molina seconded, was approved unanimously.

VII. Duncan Wyse, President, [Oregon Business Council](#)

The Oregon Business Council is an association of more than 40 top business executives focused on public issues that affect Oregon's life and future. OBC's mission is to mobilize business leaders to contribute to Oregon's quality of life and economic prosperity.

Questions from the floor:

Q: What types of changes are being made in Oregon employment?

A: The core redesign of the new education system is that all students can learn. In order to fulfill this goal, these components must be implemented:

- 1) Have a level of proficiency that each grade level should reach, with the understanding that all students may not reach it at that grade level, but will achieve eventually.
- 2) Have an alignment of the curriculum statewide.
- 3) Build a new high school diploma.

- 4) Help students understand what future opportunities are available to them.

VIII. Commissioner Brad Avakian – Bureau of Labor and Industries

The Civil Rights Division enforces laws granting individuals equal access to jobs, career schools, promotions, and a work environment free from discrimination and harassment. These laws ensure that workers' jobs are protected when they report worksite safety violations, use family leave or the worker's compensation system. Civil rights laws also provide protection for those seeking housing or using public facilities such as retail establishments, or transportation.

The Oregon Council on Civil Rights (OCCR) is a 25 member board established by BOLI to advise the Commissioner and the state on matters related to education and enforcement of civil rights in Oregon. One of the first orders of business for OCCR is to create an Action Plan for equal pay for equal work for women who make on average seventy cents to the dollar less than men.

Questions from the floor:

Q: How do you define the authority of the Attorney General and BOLI Civil Rights?

A: Legislature is very clear in defining authority of the Department of Justice (DOJ) versus BOLI. Legislators precluded the Attorney General (AG) from doing any employment, housing, and public accommodation cases. The AG has constitutional obligation to represent cases against the State. The DOJ attorneys can only do criminal law cases (hate crimes are included).

IX. **Commissioner Gil Carrasco, Willamette University** **OCHA's Legislative Agenda**

- 1) Alternative options for drivers license (Real ID)
 - a) Propose amendment to current statute which also outlines that this is a public safety issue more than undocumented residents' issue.
 - b) Opt-In Program
 - i. Go back to original law with option that those wanting a license/ID with more accessibility provide additional documentation to prove citizenship.
 - c) **ACTION:** Survey states that have alternative statutes and compare them to Oregon before presenting amendments to legislation.
 - d) **ACTION:** Create a coalition to identify potential partnerships (e.g., business communities, farmers/nurseries, insurance companies, hotels, etc.) and discuss ways to implement bill into legislation.
 - i. Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Carrasco, and a student intern at Willamette University will work to create the coalition.
- 2) Secure funding for OACO
- 3) Statuary provision – placement of teachers with at least five years of experience in schools
- 4) Health issues
- 5) Education
 - a) Students as residents in higher education so they don't have to prove legal status.

X. **Teleconference: María Durón, Hermiston School District, Board Member**

The Hermiston School District is the largest school district in Eastern Oregon with nearly 5,000 students, and continues to experience steady growth. It serves students grades kindergarten through 12 with a broad range of programs from basic skills to vocational opportunities to advanced placement classes. The school district includes a 9-12 senior high school, two 6-8 middle schools, and five K-5 elementary schools, all within the city limits.

Prevention Programs

- 1) The District has a good relationship with police. There is one school resource officer stationed at the high schools during the school year.
- 2) The Community Accountability Board (CAB) consists of school board members and police. Monthly case staffing are presented to them and CAB comes up with the sentence for the offender which varies according to the case. Youth can end up in jail if they are repeat offenders or a severe case.

Questions from the floor:

Q: How is the Hermiston School District doing?

A: The district is growing and putting an emphasis to make sure all students are learning. The No Child Left Behind Act has aided in this success. There are bilingual teachers in some schools and there are two Hispanic board members right now.

Q: How has the District been successful in getting parents involved?

Answers:

- 1) Have a greeter to welcome parents at functions/meetings.
- 2) Go on the radio to announce events and give recommendations to parents on what questions to ask teachers.
- 3) Survey the parents on what's the best way to communicate with them (e.g., email, phone, newspaper, etc.).
- 4) Offer publications in English and Spanish.
- 5) Offer cultural food at fairs/school functions.
- 6) Have meetings once a year that outlines the functions and staff of the school.

XI. Teleconference: Executive Director Uriel Iñiguez, Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

The last two years Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (WSCHA) has been targeting their efforts toward education and the achievement gap. In the last session they worked with legislators and received money to do a study on the achievement gap and form a statewide committee. They also published a book on the assessment of Washington on Latino Issues to help raise funds for the Commission.

Questions from the floor:

Q: Has WSCHA taken on any legislative initiatives?

A: WSCHA has not taken on any legislative priorities as a commission. They have partnered with agencies that already have priorities and support their initiatives. State issues have been the main focus. Some commissioners partner with outside organizations on national issues.

Q: Where does Washington stand on the driver license issue?

A: Washington received a lot of pressure to make similar changes that Oregon did. The Commission worked with the Governor and legislators to keep those changes from happening. Washington now has the Real ID option (enhanced drivers license).

XII. John P. Minahan, PhD, President, Western Oregon University

Handouts:

[Oregon University System Approaches to Closing Educational Attainment Gaps](#)

[Oregon University System High School Graduation Trends](#)

Founded in 1856, Western Oregon University (WOU) is the oldest public university in the state of Oregon, as well as in the west of Mississippi River. Western Oregon University offers more than 40 excellent [Undergraduate Programs](#) including several pre-professional programs, as well as 10 [Graduate Programs](#) to more than 5,300 students. Approximately 330 full-time degree program and the [Intensive English Program \(IEP\)](#) international students representing 19 different countries study on the WOU campus.

Questions from the floor:

Q: How is WOU's recruitment of Latino faculty?

A: They've just hired three Latino staff. There is 40 bilingual (English/Spanish) staff at WOU.

Q: How does WOU motivate students to finish high school?

A: They've created a program called "Making College Happen." Minority students come to the school and meet with faculty and students who encourage them to finish high school and go to college.

XIII. Awards and resolutions proposed

- 1) Resolution commending the City of Portland and community support groups on renaming 39th Avenue in Portland to Cesar Chavez.
 - a) **MOTION:** Vice Chair Caballero motioned, Commissioner Molina seconded, and passed unanimously.
 - b) **ACTION:** Vice Chair Caballero will draft resolution.

XIV. Adjournment at 4:34 p.m.