



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

**Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
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## MINUTES

**Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
**January 14, 2012**  
**9:30am – 3:30pm**  
**Centro Latino Americano**  
**944 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Eugene, OR 97402**

### ATTENDEES

**Chair:** Andrea Cano  
**Commissioners:** Gil Carrasco, Lupita Maurer, Marcela Mendoza, Judith Parker, Carlos Perez, Santiago Ventura  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer  
**Guests:** Alberto Moreno of Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Shonna S. Butler of Centro Latino Americano

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

Chair Cano called the meeting to order at 9:35am and called the roll. A quorum was established for the meeting. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

### **II. Adoption of Work Session Agenda**

Additions were made to the agenda:

Minutes review and adoption  
Fundraising for OCHA and concerns about fundraising supplanting (vs. supplementing) the General Fund budget for OCHA  
Issue of the State not providing resources so that OCHA can be a viable and valued partner

The agenda was approved by common consent.

### **III. Adoption of Minutes**

The Commission noted edits to be made to the 12/9/11 minutes:

Pg 4, paragraph 1, Utah driver's license, does not prove legal residence in the "United States" (not "the state")

Pg 8, Administrator's report – Change Ben Cannon from "former OCHA legislator" to "legislative liaison"

Additionally a point of clarification was raised regarding the Motion on page 4.

ACTION: Commissioner Carrasco will follow up with Vice Chair Haroldson as to whether the Vice Chair wanted his name removed from the OCHA letterhead or if wanted to abstain from signing the letter thanking the Governor for his stance on the death penalty.

**MOTION (Maurer/Perez): To accept the minutes as corrected. CARRIED.**

#### IV. Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Carrasco reported on the Driver's License Task Force. The next meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

**MOTION: Commissioner Carrasco will continue to represent OCHA on the Task Force, with the consideration that he will report to OCHA on its progress and provisionally approve with OCHA decisions of the Task Force. CARRIED, abstention: Carrasco.**

Commissioner Maurer reported success in working with a non-English-speaking immigrant family to settle a dispute with their landlord around a security deposit. It was suggested that rental applications, security deposit checklists and the application process be bilingual.

Commissioner Perez discussed the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)'s application to waive the No Child Left Behind Act. The OEIB is holding town hall meetings to hear from the community about this waiver. Commissioner Perez will attend the Portland town hall meeting.

Alberto Moreno, a guest, noted that in a recent meeting the Governor said there is a vacancy on the OEIB that will be filled by a Latina. The Commissioners expressed interest in learning who that is.

Commissioner Perez agreed to draft a letter from OCHA on the key issues for the town hall meetings. It was noted that often schools provide no effort to reach out to Spanish speaking parents. This is considered to be institutional racism.

Commissioner Parker reported that the Hispanic Bar has coordinated with other specialty bars to identify a qualified Latino candidate for the District bench in Eugene. Judge Angel Lopez is a solid choice. Organizations are encouraged to write letters of support for Judge Lopez.

**MOTION (Carrasco/Maurer): The OCHA endorses the candidacy of Judge Angel Lopez for the Bench and will send a letter of support. CARRIED.**

Commissioner Parker has also been working on the OCHA Annual Report.

#### V. OACO Staff Report

Budget: Administrator Lucy Baker proposed the Commission use a fund management model for their portion of the General Fund. Each Commission has \$4,165 of General Fund appropriated for its use, primarily in travel and stipends. Commissions can make other use of those funds for mission driven activities if they wish, depending on the interest of Commissioners in forgoing their stipends. The office will follow up with the Commissions via e-mail to gauge interest and poll Commissioners regarding their desire to receive stipends.

Other: Executive Assistant Nancy Kramer reported on the new website format, called Sharepoint. She also noted that she is available to help with requests for reimbursement and other areas. Nancy also asked if the Commission is interested in providing OCHA materials in Spanish and how best to do that.

## **VI. Working Lunch**

The Commission engaged in a working lunch.

## **VII. Discussion on OCHA Membership**

The Commission considered potential applicants to the OCHA.

### 1. Important qualities include:

- Self identified Latinos
- Variety of professional expertise
- Time and availability
- Broad coverage of age groups
- No conflict of interest
- A passion for service
- A long term advocate
- A range of first and second generation immigrants
- A collaborative/consultative approach
- Professional diversity: An educator, private business
- Demonstrated commitment to serving the Latino community
- A valued/respected member/leader of the community
- Sense of humor
- Ability to work through conflict and honor diversity in the community
- Ability to work in a team
- Accountability
- Culturally and linguistically competent/diverse
- Willingness to be frank regarding difference of opinion
- Ability to respect and hold diverging points of view

### 2. Sectors or skills that are not currently represented on the OCHA:

#### A. Geographic:

- The Coast
- Eastern Oregon (NYSSA?)
- Central OR
- Southern OR

- Columbia Gorge
- NE Oregon

B. Areas of Expertise:

- Educator
- Private sector (Intel provides lots of education and community outreach)
- Mental health
- Arts/culture
- Media/Communications
- Labor
- People who know labor rights
- Agribusiness
- Banking and Finance
- Environment
- Small business owner
- Sports

3. Potential names:

- Chris Kuka: Deschutes County, middle school teacher in Redmond
- Peruvian Drug and Alcohol counselor in Madras [name?]
- Freda Castillos: marketing dir for the Shakespeare Festival
- Diego Castellanos (NYSSA? network in Eastern Oregon)
- Delia Hernandez from Una Vision
- Juan Carlos Valle, Chair for Centro Latino
- Octaviano Merecias-Cuevas: poet, OSU
- Dr. Tina Castanares, Hood River
- Dr. Fabiana Wallis, mental health
- Lucrecia Suárez: Conexiones, Multnomah County
- Laura Isiordia: Farmworker Housing Development, Marion County
- Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Benton County: teaches public health
- George Puente: Don Pancho
- Professor Ross Dondero: Pacific University
- Rolando Cruz: Soccer/Boy Scouts
- Mario Magaña: 4 H, OSU extension
- Dr. Joseph Gallegos: University of Portland
- Anthony Veliz: Union, SEIU
- Carmen/Maria Rubio Lorenzo
- Lorenzo Rubio
- David Martinez: (former Sam Adams staffer?) Representative of the MECHA chapter
- Ozzie Gonzalez
- Sam Hernandez: recent graduate, law clerk, committed, attorney

**VIII. Legislative Session**

The Commissioners agreed to focus on different aspects of the Oregon 2012 Legislative Session:

Health: Alberto Moreno reported on proposed legislation on health for undocumented families and children, HB 2116. The focus is on preserving gains from the last session.

Driver's License: Commissioners Carrasco and Parker

Housing: Commissioner Maurer

Budget/Ways and Means: Chair Cano

Human Services: Commissioner Mendoza

Education/Reform: Commissioners Perez and Ventura

The Commissioners noted the time that they are available during legislative session.

OACO will support the Commission with LINUS tracking on their legislative priorities

## **IX. Planning Sessions**

Three topics were suggested and Commissioners broke into small work groups to brainstorm on the topics.

Program and Community Outreach Committee – Commissioners Perez and Ventura

There are 450,000 Latinos in Oregon. How to reach out to people throughout the state, agency heads/relationship building:

Community meetings, both providing information and hearing feedback

Meetings in the State Capitol and receive speakers

Work sessions

Types of communications:

- Create a Powerpoint about the OCHA for the Latino community that covers their mandate around policy. Include history, goals, and limits of what OCHA can and cannot do.
- Hold 4 OCHA forums around the state, or consider getting onto the agenda of existing organizations to request feedback.
- Develop an OCHA brochure.
- Booth at other Latino events.
- Develop a logo and motto for the OCHA
- Contact all groups and provide letters of introduction to them.
- Have personalized business cards.
- There would be costs for printing, design, refreshments at meetings and travel.
- Update the website with a way to e-mail or comment on the Commission.
- Post direct contact information for a Commissioner on the website.

Fund Management/Fundraising/Developing Resources – Commissioners Maurer and Mendoza

- A fund raising dinner is not recommended because it is a huge task.
- Consider being a sponsor of another Latino organization's doing a fundraising dinner or breakfast. This will get OCHA's logo out there.
- Send an end of the year fundraising letter, with handwritten letters and envelopes which can be done for approximately \$300 in paper and stamps. The letter would request a donation in low ranges between \$10 - \$100.
- Build a database: Commissioner Maurer would help with the database.
- Start collecting cards and enter them into the database.
- Any end-of-year solicitation letter needs to be out before Thanksgiving.
- Every Commissioner could come up with 10 names to start the Friends of OCHA.
- OCHA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, La Treinte, will be in 2013. Write a solicitation letter based on 30 years of OCHA: What they have done

Statewide Partners – Chair Cano and Commissioner Carrasco

- OCHA's true partners are the other advocacy commissions: OCAPIA, OCBA, OCFW.
- Designated partners for the Commissions is important.
- Say "other allies" or "other agencies", which is more liberating than "partners".
- What partnership means is currently undefined.
- The commission is more interested in Collaborators, because it is more freeing.
- OCHA provides joint advocacy, legislative updates with Collaborators providing tracking key words.
- Legislative tracking will be shared with Collaborators on request.
- It is important to consider that a partner might speak for OCHA. Instead say, "On this particular issue we agree with \_\_\_\_\_."

**X. Calendar**

February 4<sup>th</sup> OALA Conference at Marylhurst University.

February 20<sup>th</sup> OCHA meeting at the Capitol for an OCHA forum, 9 am to 2 pm, with the idea that it kicks off a Hispanic Legislative Week. Three areas of focus are Healthcare, State Budget and Education. Plan to set a meeting with the Speaker of the House.

**XI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by common consent at 3:45pm.