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Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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Minutes
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
June 19, 2014, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Lincoln Building, Oak Room (1st floor)
421 SW Oak Street, Portland OR 97204

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Alberto Moreno
Vice Chair: John Haroldson
Commissioners: Andrea Cano, Gil Carrasco, Cynthia Gomez, Judy Parker
Guests: Amanda Hess, Legislative Aide for Senator Shields' office; Erious Johnson, Director of the Civil Rights Unit, Oregon Department of Justice; Erica DeJong, Office of Equity & Inclusion; Toni Kelich, Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Oregon State Bar; Warren Binford, Associate Professor, Willamette University College of Law

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:09pm. A quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

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

III. Approval of OCHA Meeting Minutes from April 2014

MOTION (Parker/Haroldson): To approve the Minutes as written. CARRIED. Commissioner Cano abstains.

IV. Officer Elections

Chair Moreno opened the elections of those nominated at the April meeting. Nancy conducted a roll call vote for Alberto Moreno as Chair. Carried unanimously. Chair Moreno thanked the Commission for their continued vote of confidence in him.

Nancy conducted a roll call vote for John Haroldson as Vice Chair. Carried unanimously. Vice Chair Haroldson thanked the Commission for their support.

The officers took on their duties immediately.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Erious Johnson, JD, Director of Civil Rights Unit for the Department of Justice and Assistant Attorney General, speaking about the Department of Justice and Office of Civil Rights.

Erious introduced himself to the Commissioners. His approach as Director of the DOJ Civil Rights Unit is 3-pronged: Outreach, education and litigation. He is reaching out to underrepresented communities, outside of the I-5 corridor, such as migrant farmworkers and day laborers. He encouraged Commissioners to send him any complaints they receive from the Hispanic community. Other leaders in the community have referred complaints to him already, regarding wage theft. He is aware that the issues seem to stay within the community, and encouraged commissioners to view him as a public service entity, and share this view with the community. He said that in cases such as wage theft, the victim can report a license plate number of employer to Erious for him to discover the identity of the employer being complained about. The complainant can remain anonymous through most of the litigation process.

Vice Chair Haroldson invited him to Corvallis, noting that 60% of incarcerated youth in the area are of color, mainly Latino. The Vice Chair also noted that the school dropout rate of Latinos is alarming, and would be declared a state of emergency if these same rates were in the dominant culture.

Erious is the only staff person in the DOJ Civil Rights unit. Vice Chair Haroldson would like to see a larger team of people dedicated to civil rights cases.

The Commission thanked Erious Johnson for his presentation.

B. Committee Work - from Strategic Plan

The OCHA Strategic Plan will be re-sent to Commissioners after the meeting.

Chair Moreno asked each committee to conduct an environmental scan on their topic, develop policy platforms and create three actionable strategies to achieve policy reform. Each committee will report back to the full commission with the 3 priority areas they will be tracking and pursuing to increase equity. Chair Moreno encouraged commissioners to invite the Governor's senior policy advisors in specific issue areas to meet with them at their committee meetings as appropriate.

The Health Committee members are: Chair Moreno, and Commissioners Cano and Gomez. Chair Moreno is the lead. The Health Committee will meet on Thursday, July 24th, 8:00am - 9:30am by conference call, to provide an overview of health challenges and disparities and consider policy. Chair Moreno will prepare materials for the meeting and Lucy will assist with logistics and other resources.

The Education Committee members are Commissioner Perez, Vice Chair Haroldson and Commissioner Gomez. Commissioner Perez is the lead. The Education Committee will meet on Monday, July 14th, 7:30am – 9:00am by conference call. Lucy will attend this meeting and assist with note taking. This Committee plans to speak with one or two of the Governor's Senior Policy Advisors on Education to learn their specific priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

The Immigration Committee members are Vice Chair Haroldson, and Commissioners Carrasco and Parker. Commissioner Carrasco is the lead. The Immigration Committee will meet on Thursday, June 26th, from 7:00am – 8:00am.

C. Warren Binford, Associate Professor of Law at Willamette University, speaking about Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Professor Binford introduced herself and thanked the OCHA for inviting her to present her Powerpoint, "[Unaccompanied Children: What Oregon Can Do](#)". She shared her presentation, which generated a lot of discussion for the Commissioners, including topics such as: the number of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for unaccompanied children in Oregon; DHS' efforts to improve reunification efforts for children and their families; the availability of new AmeriCorps grants to fund an additional 100 attorneys and paralegals for unaccompanied children and which organizations are eligible; members of OCHA meeting with the Office of Refugee Resettlement; and the possible role of public policy research externs in generating more data in the subject of unaccompanied children.

Chair Moreno noted that in July he is scheduled to meet with DHS's Deputy Director and he will bring statistics regarding reunification of children and their families from that meeting to OCHA.

Professor Binford also spoke highly of a book by Jacqueline Bhabha, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, [Child Migration & Human Rights in a Global Age](#) by Princeton University Press.

Oregon is a key state in immigration due in large part to the I-5 corridor providing easy access to all of Oregon's economic centers, Oregon's reliance on migrant labor for agriculture, and a large trade in sex trafficking as well. Hispanic, Black and Asian children and adults are all impacted.

The Commission thanked Warren Binford, JD, for her presentation and discussion.

D. Education Update

Lucy will be linking the Chairs and Vice Chairs with Dr. Nancy Golden, Director of the OEIB, at some point this summer, to discuss their concerns on education for their communities and consider topics for joint Public Policy advocacy and research. .

E. Other Business - there was no other business.

VI. Administrator's Report

A. Periodic Training for Commissioners:

Lucy reviewed the types of training the OACO is offering this summer and fall in support of several Key Performance Measures, including budgeting and financial reporting, and the statutory work of the Commissions in advocacy, and links with the Governor's Office.

In July, Travis Miller who is the OACO's financial analyst in the CFO's Office and Lucy will present a training on the state budgeting process, and how the OACs fit into this process.

In August, Katy Moreland, who is the OACO's accountant and Lucy will offer a training on financial reports. The current fiscal biennium is at the halfway point, and from this point forward Lucy provides monthly financial reports on the OACO budget projections for the remainder of the biennium, which ends June 30th, 2015. This training will help interested Commissioners understand how to read the format of the monthly financial reports and

consider ways to expend unspent General Fund at the end of the biennium in support of the OAC's missions and statutory work.

The conversation segued to Commissioners' discussion on the importance of the OCHA having a voice at the national level, and being able to have representation at national or regional gatherings of their peers on Commissions/Boards of Hispanic/Latino Affairs from other states. They specifically noted attending the annual United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) meeting. The 2014 annual USHLI dinner is in Chicago, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Thursday, August 14th. Vice Chair Haroldson regularly attends the annual USHLI meetings and finds them valuable.

B. Financial Report - Lucy highlighted certain line items and answered Commissioners' questions:

Line item 3270/Flexible Benefits - one OACO staff member does not take medical benefits. There may be 12,000 General Fund (GF) unspent in this line item at the end of the biennium due to this circumstance.

Line item 4100/Instate travel – the Joint meeting of the full commissions is August 19th. All commissioners are invited to attend in person, which will significantly reduce these funds.

Line Item 4325/Attorney General fees - review of a contract for e-commerce, and defense against legal challenge against the OAC's

Line Item 4425/Facility rent and taxes – due to a special arrangement with DAS the OACO does not currently pay rent for its office space; however, it expects to do so in the near future.

Commissioner Gomez thanked Lucy for her level of detail in explaining the budget.

C. Update on the 2015-17 Budget

Great progress was made for requesting additional staffing for the OACO. With support from the Governor's Office, led by Frank Garcia, the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) Office was amenable to OACO preparing Policy Option Packages (POPs) on behalf of the OAC's that request 3 additional staff and more than doubles the budget. The Governor's Office is supportive of exploring this option. The draft will be submitted to the CFO's office and the Commissions, and will remain in draft form while the CFO reviews it.

Chair Moreno offered his support and the Commission's support of these endeavors.

D. Setting locations for next OCHA meetings, August 11th and October 9th

The Commissioners discussed holding the August meeting in a new location. Woodburn, Hood River, Bend and Corvallis were proposed and Corvallis was chosen for the August 11th meeting. Vice Chair Haroldson would like a healthy turnout of the community at the meetings that take place outside of Portland and Salem. Commissioners would like to have subject matter experts from the area attend as well.

VII. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

VIII. For the Good of the Order - The next OCHA meeting is Monday, August 11th from 1pm – 3pm in Corvallis, exact location to be determined.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.