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Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
August 11, 2014
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Benton County Board of Commissioners' Conference Room
205 NW 5th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Alberto Moreno
Vice Chair: John Haroldson
Commissioners: Andrea Cano, Gil Carrasco (phone), Cynthia Gomez (phone), Judy Parker, Representative Vega Pederson
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Amanda Hess from Senator Shields office; Mayor Julie Manning of Corvallis; Rocio Muñoz, Benton Health; Erious Johnson, Director, DOJ Civil Rights Unit; Ron Mize, Loren Chavarria-Bechtel, World Languages and Cultures Unit, CL@SE, Oregon State University (OSU); Tammy Skubinna, Linn-Benton County Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC); Dr. Erin Prince Superintendent, Corvallis School District; Maria Delapoer, Superintendent, Albany School District; James I. Manning Jr, Chair, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs; Anselmo Villanueva, Workforce Diversity Coordinator, DHS; Marco Benavidas, DHS District Manager; Rebecca Arce, Oregon Department of Aging and Disabilities, DHS.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call; Welcome of Guests & Public

The meeting was called to order at 1:07pm.

Chair Moreno welcomed the attendees, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Corvallis Mayor Julie Manning welcomed the Commission and guests to Corvallis and shared some diversity initiatives that Corvallis is championing. Civic Engagement is one of 6 goals for Corvallis City Council. Mayor Manning shared some other grant-funded work the Council has been doing on equity and inclusion.

Nancy Kramer called the roll and a quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by common consent.

III. Approval of OCHA Meeting Minutes from June 2014

MOTION (Parker/Cano): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

IV. Trends and Needs in the Latino Community

A. Health & Jobs/Economy:

Ron Mize and Loren Chavarria-Bechtel, Center for Latino/a Studies and Engagement (CL@SE), OSU

Ron and Loren presented a PowerPoint developed by Daniel Cevallos that focuses on four programs CLO@SE supports: Youth & Community Empowerment; Socio-Economic Well Being, Health and Wellness; and Cultural and Historical Awareness.

The Center listens to needs of the Latino community, with the goal of creating tools and solutions that will help everyone, ideally eventually becoming public policy. Ron and Loren outlined the different programs and projects, such as the Juntos Program, created and implemented in partnership with other organizations such as CentroLatino Americano and PCUN.

An area of concern is the Latino community's perceived discrimination and mistrust of medical providers and health care. Healthcare reform offers an opportunity to break these barriers down, as well as inform the public that undocumented immigrants account for 4% of the population yet represent only 11% of emergency care cases. The notion of the undocumented population being a burden on the medical system is unfounded.

Mr. Mize presented the work he is leading to create a State of Latin@ Oregon Report. It is a new project, focusing on families, and will be available soon. The findings will be shared with the OCHA.

There was discussion about the Oregon Bilingual Seal, which certifies high school students who have passed a test of proficiency in Spanish. Commissioner Parker offered to draft a letter of support, on behalf of the OCHA, for all state universities to give college credits to students who receive the seal.

B. Stable Families and Resources

Tammy Skubinna, Co-Chair, Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Tammy spoke about the history and achievements of the Hispanic Advisory Council. Her handout is appended to these minutes as part of the proceedings.

Rebecca Arce, Oregon Department of Aging and Disabilities, DHS

Rebecca discussed Senate Bill 21, which passed in the 2013 session and requires DHS to develop a plan to improve and strengthen Oregon's public long-term services and supports system. It is documented that communities of color underuse DHS' services. She is seeking feedback from these communities to help DHS can improve its services. There will be 16 community forums statewide in the next few months.

C. Health care:

Rocio Muñoz, Public Healthworker, Creciendo en Salud: Healthy Kids, Healthy Families
Rocio is employed by the Benton County Health Department. She leads the work of the Department to increase awareness in the community about health workers and the services they provide. The Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program focuses on prevention,

and overcoming health inequities, in part by teaching the whole community about healthy eating. Of those facing food insecurity in Oregon, 25% are Latinos in Benton County.

She described conducting a farmers' market tour for those who were not familiar with how they work. Then a group of women were trained to lead the tours themselves, and empowered to teach their community about the fresh, local foods available at the market.

In addition to working with the community, she has begun to work with school districts as well as building new relationships with local agencies, to reassess and reconsider existing relationships and how to best leverage existing resources.

It is clear that not only do Latinos need to be involved in decision making, they need to be well-represented by policy makers.

D. Education:

Vice Chair Haroldson introduced the superintendents of Corvallis and Albany School Districts and noted that their work and that of David Bautista at ODE is crucial to the success of Latino students. He also noted that the dropout rate of Latino students is astronomical and the primary challenge to educators.

Dr. Erin Prince, Superintendent, Corvallis School District

Dr. Prince is working to level the playing field for all students. In the Corvallis School District, 6,500 students (15%) are Hispanic, with a graduation rate that is lower by 10 - 20%. The achievement gap is huge and they changing the way business is conducted in the district by engaging the community. Unintended barriers exist and these need to be identified and dismantled. All students are showing growth in math and reading, but the gap is still there.

They are contracting with Pacific Education, Inc. to host a series of community forums and have courageous conversations. The School District is using AVID – a national program - starting in 9th grade, that has shown success with English Language Learners. Among the approaches they are initiating are Health navigators, a welcome center for new families, providing technology that is available to take home, and strengthening wifi connections throughout the schools. They have also instituted educational assistants who are bilingual, partnering with Western University to become teachers while they are working.

Maria Delapoer, Superintendent, Albany School District

Ms. Delapoer reported that 19% of their student body are Latino students in Albany. Statistically, economically disadvantaged students have the highest discipline rates, and she has asked the school principals to focus on reducing this. The district has had a Welcome Center for 10 years now, in conjunction with Families and Communities Together (FaCT) – its services include translation, navigating paperwork, connecting families and students with resources, and intro to colleges (college night).

The Superintendents noted that there is dual immersion in both school districts. They also use weighted budgeting for ELL and poverty.

Discussion followed. Chair Moreno thanked the Superintendents for their presentations.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Erious Johnson, Director of Civil Rights Unit, Oregon Department of Justice
Erious introduced himself. His focus is litigation, concerning issues such as fraud (working with the Department of Consumer and Business Services), Oregon Employment Department regarding wage issues and migrant affairs, and check cashing places that prey upon the immigrant population. Access to services is part of providing equity to the population. For him, part of civil rights is that his dollar is equal to anybody else's, and vice versa. He has great respect for the immigrant population which moves here and builds something out of nothing.

Erious is working with Attorney General Rosenblum on community outreach through Town Halls. This is a new project, and the pilot Town Hall will be in Hillsboro, September 30th, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, with the goal of replicating the event in other areas. A particular issue to be discussed at the Town Hall is scams that frequently occur in the Hispanic community. He is also exploring partnering with the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce regarding educating the community about this issue.

He added that his one-man shop now has a part-time law clerk.

B. Subcommittee reports

OCHA Health Committee: Commissioner Gomez chaired. The notes are appended to these minutes as part of the proceedings. The committee met on 7/24 with Chair Moreno, Consuelo Saragoza, Senior Advisor for Public Health in Multnomah County, Cynthia Gomez, and Lucy Baker attending. Ms. Saragoza addressed the committee on the health needs of the young people being sent to Oregon who have recently crossed into the US, from Mexico and other nations, as unaccompanied children.

Chair Moreno addressed the committee regarding the initiative of the Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC for healthcare access for all). In 2013, legislation passed in Oregon that provides for pre-natal care for all in Oregon (status is irrelevant). This is now a basic human right in Oregon. But 20,000 Latino children in Oregon still do not have healthcare. OLHC is working for this to become law.

C. Education update: The education committee has not met.

D. Issue updates: Unaccompanied minors. The report of Consuelo Saragoza regarding unaccompanied minors in Oregon is included in the appended Health Committee notes.

E. Policy discussion on emerging or continuing issues. There was no further discussion.

VII. Administrator's Report

- A. Financial Report. Lucy summarized the state of the OACO's budget/financial standing half-way through the current biennium. She currently anticipates \$15,000 – \$20,000 of unexpended General Fund by end of the 2013 – 2015 biennium. She noted that by the end of the biennium, and probably sooner, the budget lines for in-state and out-of-state travel will be over expended, with the permission of the joint Chairs. Several Commissioners are coming in person to attend the upcoming statutorily required annual joint meeting of the OAC's, and the travel reimbursements will draw down those line items. Lucy will continue to provide a financial report at each of the remaining

Advocacy Commissions' meetings through the end of the biennium (last day is June 30th, 2015).

B. Approval of the 2015-17 OACO budget

Lucy reviewed the elements of the 2015-17 OACO proposed budget. It includes 3 new staff positions in the areas of policy, office support and community affairs as well as a position upgrade for Nancy Kramer in her current position as Executive Assistant.

MOTION (Haroldson/Parker): To adopt proposed budget the 2015-17 OACO Budget as presented. CARRIED.

Vice Chair Haroldson noted these documents were provided in advance. The robust funding the Advocacy Commissions once had was reduced during tough economic times and is now being restored. Chair and Vice Chair and Commissioner commended the quality of work of the staff.

C. Key Performance Measures: Due to time constraints KPM's were not discussed.

VIII. Public Comment

Anselmo Villanueva introduced himself as the Workforce Diversity Coordinator, at DHS. This is a new position at DHS, created because it recognized the importance of hiring people who represent the clients they serve in terms of languages and culture. They are looking to hire 9,000 employees. Anselmo cannot find applicants to fill bilingual management positions in John Day and Florence and he hopes DHS can form a partnership with OCHA to disseminate future DHS job opportunities statewide to the Hispanic community in Oregon.

Marco Benavidas is a DHS District Manager. He explained that DHS has 16 districts and his district has seven offices. These offices provide direct services and also contract out to other agencies. Is assessing its outreach everywhere in the state as per a mandate by DHS Director Erinn Kelley-Siel.

Chair Moreno offered OCHA's support through its staff to Anselmo and Marco, regarding disseminating job postings through OCHA's networks.

The OAC's first statutory joint meeting will be August 19th, in Salem.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.

**Oregon Commission for Hispanic Affairs
Health Committee Meeting**

Thursday, July 24, 2014
9:30 to 11:00 am

Portland State University: Urban Center 410 (506 SW Mill St, Portland, OR 97201)

Attending:

Commissioner Alberto Moreno, Commissioner Cynthia Gómez,

Staff: Lucy Baker (OCHA Staff),

Guests: Consuelo Saragoza (MCHD), Mayra Gomez-Lopez (Student/Community Volunteer)

Goal: Conduct an environmental scan around issue area, identify policy priorities, and develop action items.

Agenda:

1. Welcome to members and invited guests
2. Approval of the agenda by consensus
3. Update on advocacy around health insurance access: Alberto Moreno
4. Update on Unaccompanied Minors in Portland and national dialogue: Consuelo Saragoza
5. Other updates

Notes:

Commissioner Gomez convened the meeting at 9:30.

Commissioner Moreno Briefing on Health care Access:

Alberto reported that the Oregon Latino Health Commission is launching their Health Care for All campaign for unaccompanied minors, categorically ineligible children, and/or all children in Oregon.

There are approx. 20 thousand Undocumented children in Oregon that are left out of the state program with no access to Medicaid.

The cost estimate for a Medicaid-like program is about \$60 million per biennium. The Coalition is looking at other, more incremental options for providing a modest budget for coverage, setting aside state funding in the amount of \$20 million. Counties providing the care would bill to this account.

Consuelo Saragoza- Mult. Co. Health Dept. Briefing on Unaccompanied Minors:

Consuelo discussed the recent conference she has attended that included the Federal level work regarding the influx of unaccompanied minors as well as the local effects as Multnomah County receives groups of minors from the federal effort.

She noted that children have been arriving for over a year and numbers are steadily increasing. Multnomah County is working with the Morrison Center to care for children in their school-based health centers to provide health checks within approx. 48 hours. They are seeing children as young as 5 – 17 years old. At the intake meeting with an unaccompanied child, they assess whether they have any relatives in the area with whom they could stay, and some as appropriate are placed into foster care. Some of the children are considered to be at a high risk fleeing and are provided more secure living arrangements through the Morrison Center.

For children under age 5 who cannot go to a school-based clinic for their health check, they are being seen at la clinica. All the arriving children are being provided care until they leave the area. They are transitioning through Oregon to more permanent arrangements or to be returned to their home countries.

Within the first 48 hours of the children arriving they need to get screened and checked for health issues which is billed through the county. This includes

- Immunizations
- Physicals
- Other identified Issues

These kids are under the state's care until they leave the state or are moved.

In Oregon, the statewide effort to provide intake and serve these children is being coordinated by the emergency preparedness system. Historically, they also helped with bringing individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina to Oregon.

Commissioner Gomez asked Ms. Saragoza how OCHA may be supportive to the county in its work?

She also asked if there is a national dialogue on this issue? After some discussion, the Health Committee would also like to ask Carmen Rubio from Latino Network to update us on the NCLR discussion.

The Committee considered how it could be helpful or better informed on Oregon's role in the larger national picture. Commissioner Gomez will ask OCHA if they wish to connect with Oregon's congressional delegation in a letter to ask the Oregon delegation what the state is doing and how OCHA may be of assistance. Cynthia will include this in her committee report to the OCHA in August.

Cynthia Gómez LEP Guidelines Briefing:

Commissioner Gómez, as part of her work as an OCHA Member Rep on the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force has been working with Julie Samples from the Oregon Law Center to draft a letter to encourage the State of OR to develop Guidelines for all Agencies around Limited English Proficiency.

She attached the letter as part of these Committee notes:

Letter DRAFT:

To [?]

Pursuant to ORS 182.538, the Environmental Justice Task Force ("Task Force") is charged with the responsibility of advising the Governor on environmental justice related matters occurring throughout the State. This letter is to inform you of concerns over specific translation discrepancies brought to the Task Force by an agency representative and to ask that you follow-up on these concerns with the Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") and report back to the Task Force so it may determine whether this presents an environmental justice issue.

During our September 2013 Environmental Justice Task Force meeting, an agency representative noted that there were significant differences between the English and Spanish exams for pesticide applicators. These differences included: 1) the type size was smaller in the Spanish test; and 2) the Spanish exam was written at a higher grade level than the English exam. The agency will contract with a "culturally competent translator" in order to revise the examinations but the agency must use a DAS-approved translator. The agency representative was unclear how DAS assesses cultural competency.

We ask that you consider looking into this issue by 1) asking DAS about their current rules regarding translation (if any) and how those rules are applied across state agencies; 2) if such rules exist, do they cover the kinds of discrepancies listed above; 3) if rules do exist, what safeguards are established to protect against the kinds of discrepancies listed above; 4) how DAS currently assesses cultural competency, and 5) if a representative from DAS would be willing to speak with the Task Force about the above issues, and the larger issue of services to non-English or limited English speakers across state agencies, including how agencies establish policies related to services to limited English speakers and whether there are established, state-wide minimum requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please advise us if you require further information.

Policy advocacy: If OCHA would wish to support this work, Chair Moreno might ask the other Advocacy Commissions (OCBA, OCAPIA, and OCFW) to also write a supportive letter. Also, there's a policy advisor for public safety and another for health within the governor's office. If OCHA connected with them on this issue, it could fall within their work and serve to elevate this work to a policy effort, perhaps a legislative concept to require state agencies to provide the information in multiple languages and designate a way of monitoring and posting their translated information at websites and in print.

Cynthia will offer this information during her committee report at OCHA to check for interest in working with the Governor's Office or one of the interested OCHA legislators or others to draft legislative for LEP Guidelines. If the Commission pursued this, it would need to pull in the right community partners and reach out to the other OAC's to explore their support as well.

Next Steps

Next OCHA meeting will be on August 11, 2014.

Final three policy items are:

- Health Insurance access to all children
- Statewide LEP Guidelines
- Unaccompanied Minors

Consuelo will be invited to attend OCHA meetings to brief the group regularly on the unaccompanied minors situation. The Committee could also consider inviting Ms. Saragoza to become an ad hoc member of the OCHA Health Committee. Consuelo said she would consider such an invitation, and thanked the OCHA Health Committee for a very interesting meeting. The meeting adjourned by common consent at 11 am.