

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES
Commission on Hispanic Affairs
December 21, 2015, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Lincoln Building
Suite 770 Conference Room
421 SW Oak St., Portland, OR 97204

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Alberto Moreno (phone)
Vice Chair: John Haroldson (phone)
Commissioners: Andrea Cano, Cynthia Gomez, Diego Hernandez, Judith Parker (all by phone)
Absent: Marisa Salinas, Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Sen. Chip Shields
Guests: Fernando Gutierrez, Oregon Employment Department; Rebecca Arce, DHS;
Samantha Gladu, Senator Shields' Office (phone)
Staff: Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann, Lucy Baker

I. Call meeting to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and Nancy Kramer called the roll. A quorum was established. Chair Moreno announced that new Commissioner Marisa Salinas was unable to join the meeting today but is looking forward to the February OCHA meeting.

Guests introduced themselves:

Fernando Gutierrez is the State Monitor Advocate for the Employment Department.
Rebecca Arce is part of DHS' advocacy and development team and a member of Hispanic network committee.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

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

III. Approval of OCHA meeting Minutes from August and October

MOTION: (Parker/ Cano): To adopt the minutes of August 31 as written. CARRIED.

MOTION (Gomez/Cano): To adopt the minutes of October 22 as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

V. Old Business

A. Recruiting for open and expired OCHA positions

Nancy reported that OCHA currently has 2 open positions, and that number will grow to 5 by June of 2016 when Commissioners Cano, Haroldson and Parker complete their 2nd terms of service on the Commission.

Chair Moreno noted that Rep. Vega Pederson, who has served with distinction on OCHA for 2 years, is leaving the legislature to run for Multnomah County Board. Rep. Gallegos has indicated an interest in requesting to be appointed to OCHA by the Speaker of the House.

Dr. Daniel Lopez-Cevallos from OSU applied to serve on OCHA. Chair Moreno expects that he will be considered in the February 2016 round of hearings.

The Commissioners discussed ways to develop a clear process for recruitment of Commissioners for OCHA. Ideas included:

- Inviting Mary Moller, Director of Executive Appointments, to OCHA to discuss processes or tools used by other Commissions and Boards for recruitment;
- Developing a matrix addressing skills, gender balance, and geographic diversity;
- Assuring that the skills sought include having one or more attorneys on the OCHA;
- Requiring that individuals interested in serving as Commissioners demonstrate a history of serving community interests;
- Hosting OCHA meetings in towns that should have representation on OCHA including Baker City, as a good way to build relationships and spark interest in serving on the Commission.

Everyone was agreed that a more intentional recruitment process will be helpful and committed to working with the Chair to develop it.

Nancy will extend an invitation to Ms. Moller for the February OCHA meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Legislative overview and OCHA priorities for the 2016 legislative session

Chair Moreno introduced Ty Schwoeffermann, the OAC's new Policy Analyst, and invited him to share a presentation on the 2016 session which he originally prepared for the OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs and provide an overview of legislation being discussed for the 2016 session.

Ty and Commissioners discussed a number of emerging issues of potential interest to OCHA. Ty will keep the Commission abreast of these and other bills of interest during session.

1. Immigration Consultant Fraud proposed legislation by Rep Vega Pederson, co-sponsored by Sen. Sara Gelser. This will be OCHA's #1 priority led by Commissioner Parker.
2. COFA (Compact of Free Association) benefits
3. Mend the Gap campaign
4. Basic Health Plan
5. Affordable housing – homelessness is increasing as rental properties become unaffordable. How can the state fund affordable housing? Inclusionary zoning as a policy option for a long-term remedy. This issue may come up.
6. Minimum wage - hot issue locally and nationally. In Oregon there are two proposals: "Fight for 15" and "Raise the Wage" (Fair Shot Coalition). The first hearing is January 14th, at 4pm, during Legislative days. Testimony will be accepted from all sides. Ty will continue tracking this. If a bill on minimum wage is not successful this session, it will go to a ballot measure.

7. Healthy climate/Cap and Trade: This is being discussed in the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) and also by OCBA, led by Commissioner Robin Morris Collin who is on the EJTF.
8. Corporate tax code reform, which will most likely become a ballot measure.
9. Political climate around Syrian refugees - Oregon typically ranks high in welcoming refugees. Governor Brown wants to keep an open door for Syrian refugees. Congressional delegates Schrader and Walden are supportive on immigration federally. Chair Moreno noted that there are a number of anti-immigration ballot measures being considered in Oregon.
10. Samantha Gladu reported for Sen. Shields that he is working on tightening wording that exempts insurance companies from current anti-fraud statutes. He is participating on a work group on the issue with federal senators. Sen. Shields expects to add a number of loophole fixes for anti-fraud issues this session.

Discussion followed. Ty will send information on when the Motor Voter bill goes into effect, in response to Commissioners' questions. He also noted that the Majority and Minority leaders set caucus agendas. There is an opportunity to suggest agenda items for discussion in caucus session for both parties in the Senate and the House. He will explore this on behalf of the OAC Chairs for long session in 2017. He is pursuing an opportunity for the Chairs/Vice Chairs to meet with the House and Senate leadership in early 2016.

2016 Legislative session calendar –

- Jan 11 - Feb: 1 for Legislative Counsel to return bill language.
- Jan 19 - all bills assigned to a Committee
- Feb 1- first day of session
- Feb 5 - schedule posted
- Feb 11 - 1st work session
- Feb 15 - vote by first chamber
- Feb 23 – last date for bills to hold first work session in other chamber

Legislative Day committee hearings are important to track to keep abreast of subject matter. Each legislative committee can submit 3 bills. Raise the wage will be one. Jan 13 - 15 are committee days in the legislature and Ty will be there at least two of those days. He invited all interested Commissioners to attend with him.

Ty will arrange appointments with legislative staff for OCHA Commissioners coming to the capitol for committee days or during session. Just let him know when you may be attending.

VII. Administrator's Report: Lucy Baker

A. Lucy reported on the progress of the DAS Manager Class and Compensation Study. The OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs have reviewed the new classification for the OACO Administrator. OACO will be part of a new classification focused on equity issues within state government and the Chairs are pleased about this new classification. However, they are concerned that the OACO Administrator position within the classification is considered to be the lowest level of the managers for this classification. That level manager position does not work with policy or on legislation and is considered to supervise "paraprofessionals." The OAC leaders are concerned that this is not the right level of expertise for the OACO Administrator who works at high levels on policy with the Governor's office and legislators.

They have written to Mark Rasmussen in DAS Human Resources to request to meet and review this level of OACO manager. Serena Stoudamire Wesley, OACO's Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor's office, is also supportive of this and has scheduled a meeting with DAS leadership to discuss the need for a higher level manager level for the OACO.

- B. Commission review of OACO staffing plan - Lucy is building the 2017-19 budget. , She is requesting each of the OAC's to review the current staffing plan developed for the 2013 – 15 biennium which led to the legislature investing increased budgeting for OACO to add a .5 FTE Policy Analyst for the Advocacy Commissions and discuss priorities for staffing in the 2017-19 biennium. She will send the draft staffing plan after the holidays and will have a discussion with OCHA about staffing for the next biennium at its regular February meeting.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

- Vice Chair Haroldson reported that he is organizing an Oregon delegation for USHLI (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute) in February 18 - 21 in Chicago at the Sheraton.
- Commissioner Cano reminded the Commission that she is ending her 2 terms on OCHA at the end of February. The next regular meeting will be her last and it has been an honor to serve.
- Next OCHA meeting is Friday, February 26th, 2pm – 4pm in Portland

IX. Adjourn - the meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm by common consent.