



Latinx Advisory Group Monthly Meeting

March 17th, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
2:00 pm	Welcome	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:05 pm	Agenda Review	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:10 pm	Community Connections	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:25 pm	Opening of Public Meeting	
2:20 pm	Agenda Review	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:30 pm	<p>Latinx SSP Grantee Presentation: Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad</p> <p>Planning isn't done out of fear, it's a form of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad Resource page is full of very helpful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family preparedness packet is in both English as well as Spanish ○ There are a variety of video instructions in dual languages as well <p>Family Preparedness Packet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally created in 2016 and has been updated since, available in both English as well as Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 1: Complete the Delegation of Parental/Guardian Powers & the Relative Caregiver Affidavit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delegation of Parental/Guardian Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed by the legal caregiver & assignee who will receive powers of attorney to care for the child • Allows medical treatment decisions to be made by assignee if parent is unavailable • Valid for 6 from date of signature 	Tim Herrera & Brook Edwards, Project Specialists - Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad

- Valid for 12 months at schools when for educational decisions only
 - Relative Caregiver Affidavit
 - Sworn statement by family caregiver, not parents
- Step 2: Notarize Forms
 - It's not required, but highly recommended
 - Gives documents greater legal validity
- Step 3: Make Copies
 - Distribute to:
 - Caregiver
 - Child's school, doctor, other important organizations
- Step 4: Gather documents
 - Packet includes PDF of Checklist of Important Documents
- Step 5: Communicate your plan
 - With a trusted adult
 - Show them the documents
 - Explain the entire emergency plan
 - Ensure understanding
 - Practice emergency scenarios with children
- Step 6: Keep your information current
 - Every 6-12 months
 - Review all the forms
 - Update contact information
 - Check everything is correct
 - Renew if necessary
- Step 7: If you change your mind
 - You can cancel at any time
 - Complete the Parental Authority Revocation Form
 - Cancellation is immediate
- Videos are available on Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad YouTube channel explaining the process in detail

What rights do I have?

- Whether you are a citizen of the United States or not, or a minor or an adult, you have the same constitutional rights when you are in the USA.
- If English isn't your first language, you have the right to an interpreter when interacting with the police and in court.
 - There are over 15 indigenous languages from Mexico and Guatemala alone
- The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution gives every person the right to refuse to answer questions made by a police officer or a government agent.
- You have the right to speak with a lawyer.

If you have questions or inquiries regarding immigration legal assistance in Oregon, reach out to Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad for more information regarding available resources.

Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad has put several of their staff through the notary process, so that service is now available for free within their offices.

- They are actively working to send those individuals out to in-person events as well.

All these documents and tools are available on their website

- Public outreach has been minimal, predominantly word of mouth and community outreach via in-person events
- Family Literacy program within the program was promoting these resources, and they received important feedback:
 - Individuals want to learn more regarding how to function in this environment
 - Theme this year is 'Family Resilience'
 - A rapid response group will be hosting a session at their annual event this year
 - Goal is to expand beyond the documents and toolkit

Group discussion and feedback:

- Members expressed gratitude for this work as this is a hard topic
 - Noted that in most school districts (Tigard-Tualatin for example) the head secretary is a notary as well, can be helpful for families

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An app called 'Ready Now' that acts in conjunction to this toolkit, creates a panic button on their phone that creates an emergency alert to all their contacts that are a part of their family preparedness plan, encrypted so it is then deleted once sent out ● Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad is based out of Eugene and working closely with school districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Important to create office readiness response plan as well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noting how that functions when in office as well as in schools ▪ Schools typically have their own plan, but working together is important <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you're at the school after hours communicate clearly to create a blended strategic plan 	
3:05 pm	Pausa de cinco (5) minutos	
3:10 pm	<p>Vice-Chair: Candidates introductions/questions/election</p> <p>Member Nunez Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ran because this advocacy group has been the highlight of their week. ● Sharing lived experiences and uplifting community voices is highly important. ● Want to show the support that everyone has offered them in this space ● Advocacy work is very important, both parents immigrated during the Civil Rights movement, seeing their lived experiences is important. Hold their history and continue to uplift spaces like this to advocate and represent the community. <p>Member Bazen-Espain Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grateful for the ability to run, feel it's a testament to their character and the work they put in ● Always looking for a leadership position in every club and organization ● Helped to form coalitions for a standalone Latin cultural center at U of O 	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator / Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built relationships with Oregon politicians to get their support for these initiatives ● Lobbying for bills that build in protections for the community <p>Members have no questions currently</p> <p>Members voted for vice-chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group reached unanimous decision ● New vice-chair is Member Bazen-Espain 	
3:25 pm	<p>Reviewing Latinx Student Enrollment Data: Selection for first round of Reuniones</p> <p>Based on the Latinx student population and geographic representation, what regions should we hold the first round of Latinx SSP Reuniones/Town Halls?</p> <p>Thinking about our Latinx students and geographic representation, is there a particular school district/location in each region that may be best to hold the Latinx SSP Reuniones/Town Halls?</p> <p>View map of Oregon showing where 2024-2028 Latinx SSP Grantees and Latinx student population by region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A member voiced priority for rural communities who are already lacking resources, even though they may not have the largest population of plan students. <p>Individual members reviewed the given information thinking about what counties the Reuniones should be held in.</p> <p>Group discussion and feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy for the rural areas in Oregon, there are three schools in rural Oregon with over 60% Latinx student population. Even though they may not have the largest overall population of plan students, by population percentage there are substantial numbers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hermiston/Umatilla is very central, suggesting using that as one location ● Clackamas ESD is still near Portland as well as the rural areas. 	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combine suburban, rural and urban areas to find areas of intersection outside of Multnomah County. ● Partner with ESDs, HDESD is also a centralized location for Southern and Central students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural ESDs have experience doing a lot with less, great opportunity to learn and partner ● Lincoln City would also be a great option for along the coast, as well as an area near Medford where families were recently displaced due to the recent fires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ontario is also good for reaching Eastern Oregon students ● Marion county has been highly impacted by immigration enforcement, suggest Woodburn as a great option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Polk county was also advocated for as well <p>Based on the group discussion, the group's suggested list for site visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hermiston ● Clackamas ESD ● High Desert ESD ● Tillamook ● Lincoln ● Medford ● Ontario ● Woodburn ● Hillsboro ● Salem-Keizer 	
3:59 pm	<p>Updates</p> <p>Chair applications opening up next month</p>	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
4:00 pm	<p>Closing</p>	Chair / Vice-Chair
4:00 pm	<p>Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting April 21, 2026 2:00-4:00pm</p>	
<p>Members Present: Member Amaral Delgado, Member Arce, Member Baldisseri, Member Bazen-Espain, Member Galvan-Rodriguez, Member Guzmán Ortiz, Member Juarez, Member Magana, Member Nava-Costales, Member Nunez, Member Ortiz-Chavolla, Member Tovar</p>		

Members Absent: Member Avila, Member Balladares, Member Boman-Mejia, Member Chavez Romero, Member Cruz Ochoa, Member Espinoza, Member Monroy-Mota, Member Quinn, Member Ramirez Gonzalez, Member Ramos, Member Rivera, Member Rivera-Lindstrom, Member Smith

ODE Staff Present: Susy Mekarski, Jenni Amado