



Latinx Advisory Group Monthly Meeting

April 21st, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
2:00 pm	Welcome	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator / Chair
2:05 pm	Agenda Review	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:05 pm	Community Connections	Chair / Vice-Chair
2:40 pm	Update: Advisory Members Term/Cycle Dates	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:50 pm	Opening of Public Meeting	
2:35 pm	Agenda Review	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator
2:45 pm	Pausa de cinco (5) minutos	
2:50 pm	Chair Updates The Latinx Advisory Chair Application/Nomination form is open until May 15 th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are nominating someone, please do so by May 12th • Chair Role and Associated Duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate with the Office of EDI to prepare for and facilitate proceedings of Latinx Advisory Group meetings ○ Coordinate and collaborate with Latinx Advisory Group and associated workgroup members ○ Facilitate recommendations provided by the Latinx Advisory Group • Encourage applications 	Susy Mekarski, Program Coordinator / Chair
3:05 pm	Review and Feedback for the 2026 Latinx Advisory Application	Susy Mekarski, Program

	<p>Latinx Advisory Recruitment Application review in three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • How do you Identify? (Demographics) • Application Questions (4 Essay questions) <p>Group Discussion & Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for the group to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a way to make the language more concise? More accessible? ○ Regarding the essays, is there a question you would add/edit? • Members appreciate that the application itself is not complex or complicated. Removing those additional barriers to applicants is important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It notates 1-2 paragraphs for the essay answers, is that too much or not enough? Pulling away from the overthinking aspect, is placing barriers or burden on applicants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It can be very difficult to glean the necessary amount of information from an applicant in a smaller text field. This allows applicants to fully explain what they need to portray is essential to accurately appoint individuals. ▪ Suggest incorporating the “How to Apply” instructions that offer to apply via phone call verbiage ahead of the essay questions so that it’s reiterated and individuals are not dissuaded from applying. ▪ Members voiced appreciation to humanizing the process. We live in an age of AI and it’s important to recognize we’re talking to a genuine person. • In the essay questions it references ‘community’, but isn’t specific if that refers to local community, the overall statewide community, it should be more explicit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggested using county/region or something more specific ○ School, sector, area of focus ○ Proposed verbiage: “Students and families in your area of focus and/or community” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members agreed with the updated verbiage ○ Members voiced that the introduction could be shorter ○ Make the link to the Spanish version accessible at the very beginning 	<p>Coordinator</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce the text and replace with links to the resources so that it's not quite so intimidating ○ The member responsibilities seem like there are a lot of obligations, however they are all contained during monthly meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggestion to indicate these are all contained within the monthly 2-hour meeting ○ Also suggested removing the portion pertaining to members with additional roles and responsibilities as those are relevant to existing members, new members may not need that information upfront ○ One sentence referring to ORS list of members consisting of various communities and backgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some portions are required but will explore options ○ From the "How to Apply: section that will be moved to the top, only move the first two paragraphs and leave the third where it is ● For the essay section, question 1 feels like the core of the question is to describe identities as it relates to serving students; the first part of that question feels like it may not be necessary. 	
4:00 pm	Closing	Chair / Vice-Chair
4:00 pm	Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting May 19, 2026	
<p>Members Present: Member Arce, Member Boman-Mejia, Member Calderon, Member Garcia-Contreras, Member Guzmán Ortiz, Member Juarez, Member Magana, Nunez, Member Ortiz-Chavolla, Member Quinn</p> <p>Members Absent: Member Alejandrez, Member Amaral Delgado, Member Avila, Baldisseri, Member Bazen-Espain, Member Chavez Romero, Member Cruz Ochoa, Member Espinoza, Member Galvan-Rodriguez, Monroy-Mota, Member Nava-Costales, Ramirez Gonzalez, Member Ramos, Member Rivera, Member Rivera-Lindstrom, Member Smith, Member Tovar</p> <p>ODE Staff Present: Susy Mekarski, Jenni Amado</p>		