

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/ Latino Affairs
Meeting Minutes 12/16/04**

Present:

Rep. John Aguilera
Amy Mendoza
Sal Soto
Carmen Quintana
Mary Ilu Altman
Juana Watson
Lawrence McCormack
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes
Mara Candelaria Reardon
Ronnie Cantu
Gregorio Chavez, Jr.
Manuel Gonzalez
Pat Rios

Speakers:

Carolin Requiz, Health Care Translators & Interpreters Commission
Ernesto Herrera, Attorney General's Office
Nora Willman, Indiana Public Schools

Audience:

Dan Henkel, Communications Dept. BMV
Corey Bordenkecher, Farm Bureau Insurance
Anita Owen, Farm Bureau Insurance
Celina Arauz, Office of Senator Lugar
Geraldo Olivo, Baker & Daniels
Patti Yount, Dept. of Workforce Development
Juan Matus, Cousulate of Mexico
Margie Chavez, Governor-Elect Daniels' Office
Jose Arevalo, BMV/BSP, LLC.
Fastino Hernandez, El Puente, Logansport
Jose Lusende, Tastes of Congo

Quorum/Minutes

A quorum was established for the meeting. Chair Aguilera requested corrections/additions to the 10/28/04 and 11/12/04 Commission meeting minutes. Amy Mendoza made a correction to add Carmen Quintana on attendance list of the 11/12/04 meeting. Motion to accept 10/28/04 and 11/12/04 minutes with correction accepted and carried by all in attendance.

Commission on Health Care Interpreters & Translators Report

Chair Aguilera thanked the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators (CHCIT) for their attendance and hard work on the recent report that was released in October 2004. Chair Aguilera introduced Carolin Requiz, Vice Chair of the Health Care Interpreters and Translators Commission and Director of Division of Hispanic/Latino Health of the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC), and asked for the presentation of the report.

Carolin Requiz explained the structure and purpose of the Commission. She stated that the Health Care Translators & Interpreters Commission is voluntary. The purpose is to define the terms “health care interpreter” and “health care translator,” recommend standards for health care translators and interpreters to meet, including education and to review and determine the level of regulation or oversight that the state shall have over practicing health care interpreters and translators. The recently released report The Commission set qualifications for how interpreters and translators are to be paid and qualified the certification process. Civil rights violations and malpractice issues are issues of importance to the Commission. The Commission is also working with the National Council of Interpreting in Health Care and their “Bridging the Gap” training program.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that the percentage of Latino employees is growing. People do not have time to read the report. He posed the question, “How is the Commission informing the community of these new standards and procedures?”

Jose Lusende of the Health Care Interpreters and Translators agreed that the Commission needs to inform the Community of the information and asked the leaders present to help spread the word about the new standards and procedures.

Commissioner Mary Ilu Altman suggested that the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators put together a brochure, if funding is available.

Vice Chair Soto complimented the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators on how they are following the Code of Ethics. He also mentioned that IMHC has centers across the state and reinforced the idea of distributing a brochure once a budget is obtained.

Chair Aguilera asked if the Commission has had comments from the Department of Health for support and also who might be in opposition to recommendations that the Commission has made.

Carolin Requiz explained that the Department of Health and the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators are on the same track, since they provide staff for the Commission and are a member. Some hospitals and educators have expressed their opposition to the recommendations of the Commission. Connie Floerchinger of the Health Care Interpreters and Translators also mentioned that Medicaid funds exist for interpreters, and it may be something to advocate for.

Chair Aguilera thanked Carolin Requiz and the other representatives from the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators for their attendance and participation.

Hispanic Summit

Chair Aguilera explained that the Commission on Hispanic/ Latino Affairs has decided to pursue taking over the Hispanic Summit. A Hispanic Summit task force meeting will be held after the Commission meeting to further discuss at 1:00pm.

Drivers License

Chair Aguilera mentioned his attendance at the Fall Conference of the National Caucus of State Legislatures. He met with other legislators working on Drivers License bills. The 9/11 bill moved things off until next year. There will be federal changes to driver's licenses, making them more machine-readable and difficult to copy. Chair Aguilera explained he has received valuable information from the Conference and will have it passed on to the Drivers License/Immigration Sub Committee members. He also asked Commissioner Juana Watson, Chair of the Sub Committee to report.

Drivers License/Immigration Sub Committee

Commissioner Watson explained the structure of the Sub Committee, which is made of Commissioners, attorneys and community leaders. From this, the committee has formed a proposal-writing group that is currently working on a proposal to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor. Commissioner Pat Rios explained that the group examined 6 states (NM, UT, MI, NC, WI, IL) to see what was in their provisions that facilitate easier access to drivers licenses for immigrants. Some states do not require a legal presence requirement. What has made it successful is the substitution of the Social Security number for the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Chair Aguilera asked Commissioner Rios to define "legal presence." Commissioner Rios explained legal presence demonstrates that you are legally in the U.S. Dan Henkel earlier informed Commissioner Rios that the BMV Commissioner is authorized to determine which documents to accept, and the acceptance of the ITIN or an expanded list of CIS documents should be done only in consultation with the federal authorities responsible for those programs. The BMV is required to be in sync with the AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators), which fosters cooperation among licensing authorities in all US states. The BMV operates under a compact that calls for certain requirements. On January 10, 2005, there will be a new BMV Commissioner and there are no plans for changes to documentation requirements before that time.

Commissioner Rios also explained that John Broyles' (an immigration attorney of Broyles, Kight and Ricafort) work consists of those immigrants who are in the U.S. legally who are also affected.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that Congress has spent money researching this issue, and it has now funneled to immigration. The Commission should come up with a

clear statement. More often Hispanics and drivers licenses are becoming the issue, and we should stress to the community that this is not the issue.

Commissioner Rios suggested that we not surrender civil rights, what has happened is that a different class system has been created.

Chair Aguilera pointed out that there is a short-term fix and a long-term fix.

Commissioner Watson said that if we give people that need the license a choice, they will take anything.

Jose Arevalo of South Bend informed the Commission that he coordinated the 5 de Mayo Rally in South Bend and proposed an argument to identify those who are undocumented and give them a license.

Commissioner Rios reinforced that states that have taken the approach cannot have one without another.

Commissioner Watson mentioned that we are currently looking at it as a public safety issue and we should be prepared for a lot of questions from the community.

Chair Aguilera said that there are advocates for this and concerns about direction have been brought up.

Commissioner Watson mentioned an immigration update that absentee voting in Mexico has been approved for Mexicans who live abroad.

Budget Sub Committee

Chair Aguilera asked Commissioner Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes for a Budget Update. Commissioner Ontiveros-Fuentes reported no updates since the last Commission meeting. Currently there is \$70,000 from 2003 allocation and \$125,000 from 2004 allocation.

Executive Director Report

Amy Mendoza explained some commissioners have mentioned that they don't know which sub committees they participate in and that the structure needs to be revisited. Amy suggested doing this at the next commission meeting when officers will be elected on January 27, 2005. Commissioners agreed to revisit sub committee structure at 1/27/05 meeting.

Commissioner Soto suggested that a list be prepared before that so everyone has an idea of who is on what Sub Committee.

Amy explained the attached list of organizations that have asked for participation from ICHLA. Asked if Commissioners have any additions or any problems with organizations listed.

Commissioner Soto asked Amy to define Commission participation for clarification. Amy explained Commission participation as actually sitting on the listed boards and participating in activities, not merely observing. A suggestion was made to keep Commissioners aware of what state-wide boards ICHLA is participating in, so if there is an event in a Commissioner's area of the state, that commissioner may attend to represent the Commission.

Amy explained attached correspondence:

Proctor & Gamble has published their 8th edition of Avanzando con tu Familia (Getting Ahead with your Family) magazine. The magazine discusses health, education, tradition, etc. Amy passed around a copy of the magazine and informed Commissioners that additional copies can be obtained by calling the toll free number listed on the bottom of the letter.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLKJ) Celebration was brought up at last meeting. The Indiana Holiday Commission and the Civil Rights Commission has asked for ICHLA participation in the event by procuring photos and historical/biographical information of civil rights leaders of the Hispanic/Latino population. Commissioner Altman informed the Commission that she has attended this event previously and there has not been representation of Hispanic/Latino leaders. Amy informed the Commission that it will take place on Wednesday, January 5, 2005 at 11:00-2:00pm. A motion was made and seconded for the Commission to participate in the MLKJ program. Motion carried by all in attendance. Commissioner Watson mentioned that she would like to participate by displaying a video.

Latino Behavioral Health Summit The Northeastern Center, Inc. is holding the behavioral health summit titled "Building Sustainable Behavioral Health Initiatives in the Latino Community." The Summit will be held on November 2-3, 2005 at Pokagon State Park in Steuben County, Indiana. The center has invited the Commission to have a booth at the event. Amy presented the information to Commissioners and asked for Commission participation. A motion was made and seconded for the Commission to participate in the Latino Behavioral Health Summit on November 2-3, 2005. Motion carried by all in attendance. Commissioner Candelaria-Reardon suggested and made a motion for the Commission to purchase a banner for future events. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cantu and carried by all those in attendance.

Santa Comes to Town Amy mentioned that she was contacted late last week by Jenny Sosna, Executive Director of the Latino Indy Community Organization to participate in their event, Santa Comes to Town by having a booth. The event takes place today, December 16, 2004 at 3:00pm. Because of late notice, a booth was not possible. Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that he was going to attend the event.

Commissioner Altman suggested having letters of invitation from organizations that would like the Commission's participation in events, in an effort to make invitations more formal. Chair Aguilera suggested having a deadline of a week before Commission meetings for those who would like to speak at meetings.

Amy informed the Commission that Access Indiana is currently working on the Commission's webpage, and asked commissioners to send along biographical information and photos. She will send the model out for Commission's review after receiving the webpage model. Amy asked Commissioners when the Annual Report should be done. Commissioner Soto suggested that the report should be completed by the time of the Hispanic Summit. Chair Aguilera mentioned Pat Rios was previously assigned to work on the annual report, work with Sub Committee chairs and Executive Director.

Guest Presentations

Ernesto Herrera, Office of the Attorney General

Ernesto mentioned the issue of Access Indiana's translation tool. Access Indiana currently uses IBM WebSphere to instantly translate all state department and commission webpages. Mr. Herrera mentioned that any translator knows that the translation is not accurate and has many mistakes. These departments and commissions have translated webpages but no bilingual staff to back it up. Mr. Herrera suggested the possibility of a proposal and grant to have professional translators translate the state departments and commissions webpages and have bilingual staff. Chair Aguilera suggested Amy work with Mr. Herrera on his concern and keep this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Nora Willan, Indiana Public Schools

Mrs. Willan read an email to the Commission regarding the Governor's Commission on Efficiency suggesting to cut back funding on Adult Education. The "Report of the Subcommittee on K-12 Education, Volume 1- Recommendations submitted to the Indiana Government Efficiency Commission" was presented to the Indiana legislature on December 1, 2004. One of the recommendations in this report is to "Shift Adult Education (both mandate and budget) to services provided by sources such as the state's community college system or to other providers of remediation."

Mrs. Willan then explained that the IPS Adult Education Program provides an important service to adults who were unable to complete their education in K-12 programs or who want to learn English as a second language. Chair Aguilera thanked Mrs. Willan for her concern and suggested for the commission to monitor this issue. Commissioner Altman mentioned that various grassroots organizations offer these programs, like Ivy Tech, which offer ESL classes and GED program.

Public Question/Answer & Adjournment

Chair Aguilera opened the floor for comments and audience introductions. Members of the audience introduced themselves. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2005 at 10:30am in Conference Rms. 4 & 5. Meeting adjourned approximately at 12:30p.m.

Executive Subcommittee Meeting (before Commission meeting)

12/16/04

Attendance:

Rep. John Aguilera

Amy Mendoza

Carmen Quintana

Sal Soto

Mary Ilu Altman

Ronnie Cantu

The Sub Committee reviewed the points of the Executive Job Description with Amy Mendoza and asked if she had any questions. Members explained the importance of the ability to speak Spanish fluently. Commissioner Cantu mentioned that was a priority because at times people attend the meetings who do not speak English. Chair Aguilera suggested finding out who does the Executive Director's 90 day review. Discussion of the Hispanic Summit was reserved for the meeting following the Commission meeting.

Hispanic Summit Meeting (after Commission meeting)

12/16/04

Attendance:

Rep. John Aguilera

Sal Soto

Carmen Quintana

Amy Mendoza

Mary Ilu Altman

Mara Candelaria Reardon

The group discussed having a meeting with Christie Gillespie, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Community Economic Development and Carmen DeRusha of the Purdue Cooperative Extension before the next Commission meeting. Amy will schedule the meeting. After the initial meeting, the group will report back to the Commission and decide to take over the Summit either in 2005 or 2006.