



STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA COMMISSION ON  
HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS  
Mitchell E Daniels, Jr., Governor

*ICHLA*

---

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 28, 2010  
3:00pm – 4:30pm  
Conference Center Room A  
Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Commissioners Present:**

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon  
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Muenster  
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend  
Angel Rivera, Senate Lay member, Indianapolis (Vice Chair)  
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)  
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay member, Fort Wayne (Chair)  
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee  
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office  
Tina Little, Designee, Dept of Correction (Treasurer)  
Janie Duke, Designee, Dept of Education  
Michelle Stein-Ordóñez, Designee, Family and Social Services Administration  
Andrea Perez, Designee, Department of Health  
Josie Williams, Designee, Indiana Civil Rights Commission

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Rep. Rich McClain  
Senator Greg Walker  
Senator Frank Mrvan  
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis  
Teddy Flores, House Member, East Chicago  
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne

**Visitors:**

Lauren Harvey, Coordinator, IDOE  
Tonia Lopez, Reporter, Indianapolis Star  
Julia Kusiak  
Marc Lotter, Communications Director, DWD  
Kristin Garvey, Executive Director, ICW  
Jamal Smith, Advisor, Governor's Office  
Carol Thon

**Staff Present:**

A. Michelle Simmons

I. Call to Order

Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Quorum was made.

II. Reports

A. Chair's Report

1. Chair Hernandez summarized the December 2009 Retreat with Michael Russo. The retreat started with a discussion of the Commission and who controls the commission. They reviewed the Indiana code, the executive director's job description, and the by-laws that were accepted by the commissioners in 2004. The chair said that there is no one person who runs the commission, but it's the Governor's request, the state's legislation code, commissioner's by-laws and the executive director's job description. The minutes and the retreat of 2004 were very clear on whom gives the direction for the commission and it's the commissioners based on what the directive they get from the State legislators and the Governor.
2. Executive Director Vacancy  
The position of the executive director for the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is accountable and reports to the Department of Workforce Development. The decision to terminate Ms. Sanchez on Monday, January 4, 2010 was made by the Human Resource Department at Department of Workforce Development. The decision was not made by the Commission's chair or the executive officers. The Department of Workforce Development has referred the matter of the termination of Ms. Sanchez to the Office of the Inspector General and therefore cannot comment any further on this matter. Neither can the chair comment on this matter. The commission will continue to work on behalf of the Latino community in the state of Indiana. A new executive director will be hired and such announcement will be given at a later date.

Jamal Smith informed the commission that DWD will be handling the hiring of an executive director and they have already started the process. Smith thought that the posting of the position should occur in a matter of days.

B. Financial Report

The chair asked the commissioners to look at the year to date expense to see what was spent for each point. This will indicate what is left for each point for the remainder of the fiscal year. If there's a line item where there is no cash then they can't spend anymore for that line item. The chair will review the report with the financial department of DWD to confirm this. In order to move money from one line item to another it needs to be brought before the commission. There is approximately \$62,000 left for the remaining fiscal year. Despite having some questions about it the financial report can be presented for approval then come back to it to decide what to do for the remaining year.

1. December 17, 2009 Financial Report: Thon moved to accept the minutes, Rivera seconded. The financial report was accepted with a majority, Bueno voted against, there were no abstentions.
2. September 24, 2009 and October 29, 2009 Financial Report: Thon moved to accept the financial reports, Rivera seconded. The financial reports were accepted

unanimously with no abstentions.

### III. Commission Business

#### A. Approval of Minutes

Thon said that he read the minutes very closely of the meetings he missed due to health issues and was willing to vote on the acceptance of the minutes. Other commissioners who had missed meetings said they were willing to do the same.

1. September 24, 2009: Thon moved to accept the minutes, Rivera seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously with no abstentions.
2. October 29, 2009: Duke pointed out that Lauren Harvey's name was misspelled. With the exception of the misspelled name Thon moved to accept the minutes, Gallo seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously with no abstentions.
3. December 17, 2009: Thon requested that it is noted in the minutes of who was excused from the meeting and who wasn't. The chair saw no problem doing it for December and the rest of this year. If someone can't make a meeting due to illness, job conflict or traveling conflict and calls in then it shows the commissioner has taken the initiative to let the board know. The board agreed. Thon moved to accept the minutes, Bueno seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Election of Officers for 2010

Rivera moved to change the agenda and to open nomination for new officers to accommodate commissioners who needed to leave early, Gallo seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

Thon moved to nominate Hernandez for chair, Rivera seconded. There were no other nominations so Rivera moved to close the nomination for chair, Gallo seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

Thon moved to nominate Rivera for vice chair, Gonzalez seconded. There were no other nominations so Gallo moved to close the nomination for vice chair, Rivera seconded.

Thon moved to nominate Gallo for secretary, Bueno seconded. There were no other nominations so Gallo moved to close the nomination for secretary, Bueno seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

Thon moved to nominate Little for treasurer, Bueno seconded. Little respectfully declined. Little moved to nominate Thon for treasurer, Rivera seconded. There were no other nominations so Perez moved to close the nomination for treasurer, Bueno seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

Due to the fact that the officers were running unopposed Rivera moved to vote as one by acclamation, Perez seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

The officers are as follows: Chair – Herb Hernandez, Vice chair – Angel Rivera, Secretary – Christian Gallo, Treasurer – Federico Thon.

The chair explained that his responsibilities were to create the agenda with the assistance of all commissioners. He invited everyone to let him know if they want to add something to the agenda. Letting him know in advance is best, but at the meeting is also doable and you'll get three minutes. The second thing that the chair is responsible for is to make sure there are committees as well as who is going to be chairs of the committees and who will help with the committee. The third thing that the chair is responsible for is working with DWD and Jamal Smith from the Governor's office and other state departments. And finally, the chair is responsible for chairing the meeting.

The treasurer's responsibilities were to work with DWD if there are any questions. The vice chair's responsibility is to chair the meetings if the chair is unable to attend the meeting. The chair said he plans to allow the vice chair to do that.

#### V. Sub-Committee Reports

- A. Business: Rivera and Little are on the sub-committee. There were no charges for the sub-committee in 2009.
- B. Civil Rights: The chair is Gallo and included Kirkland. The only issue they had was BMV. The meetings were delayed in 2009 so there was nothing to report.
- C. Education: Bueno and Duke are on the sub-committee. The chair said there were some issues now with the federal government wanting to give certain school districts money which you have to have a complete change in your administration positions. If a school was at risk and wanted to get the federal money the school would have to move staff and only 50% of the staff could remain.

This year Education will be dealing with the Governor's agenda Social Promotion where students can't pass the third grade until they have the third grade reading skills.

- D. Health: Ordinez is working with the Education committee. Kindergarten kick-off occurs in May and September of each annual year. The idea is to educate families about vaccinations and see what funds can be used to provide access. Ordinez has set up quarterly meetings with the Health committee. There is an array of very good health experts in different areas of health. It was her understanding that the committee is to be advisors bringing issues before the table for evaluation and voting of the board. Public policies issues would be presented to the Governor's office. She has also been working on a banner page that could be put on the ICHLA's website in Spanish. It would supply information of the different divisions within the Family and Social Services Administration. It would give an overview of what each division does.
- E. Sponsorship: Bueno reported that those on the committee met and concluded that due to the financial situation to table the topic until more was learned about the funding. They also proposed that due to the retreat going well that a time, early on, is found to continue the topic of the retreat.

#### VI. Unfinished Business

- A. The chair reported that the commission can't give money to other organizations until the investigation by the Office of the Inspector General is done and the commission knows what the finances are. The chair briefly went over the Sponsorship Letter, Guidelines for Sponsorship, Sponsorship Selection Process, and Guides for Selection of Organizations to Fund. The committee will go over it fully at the next meeting.
  - B. Annual Report has been submitted.
- VII. Rep. Readon moved to adjourn the meeting, Rivera seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 4:37 p.m.