

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 30, 2008
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room 32
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Alfonso Vidal (Chair)
Pat Rios, House Lay member (Treasurer)
Guadalupe Hernandez, Senate Lay member (Secretary)
Tina Little, Proxy for Angel Velez, Designee, Dept. of Correction
Lauren Harvey, Designee, Dept. of Education
Andrea Perez, Designee, Dept. of Health
Gwendolyn Winderlich, Proxy, Dept. of Workforce Development
Rep. Mara Candelaria-Reardon, House Democrat
Bridget Ceros, Proxy for Sen. Vi Simpson, Senate Democrat
Federico Thon, House Lay member
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay member (Vice Chair)
Dr. John Nieto-Phillips, Senate Lay member
Andrea Bueno, Proxy, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay member

Commissioners Not Present:

Tony Kirkland, Civil Rights Commission
Rep. Richard McClain, House Republican
Ivan Hernandez, Senate Lay member
Mitch Roob, Family & Social Services Agency

Staff Present:

Patricia Sanchez, Executive Director

Audience Present:

Jamal Smith
Michelle Stein-Ordonez
Rosa

I. Call to Order

Chair Alfonso Vidal called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. A quorum was not established at the beginning however, quorum was established at 3:19 pm.

A. Approval of Minutes July 2008 and August 2008

Some corrections were mentioned and noted.

Vidal moves to approve the minutes. Thon moves to approve both July and August minutes. The second motion was moved approved.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

Sanchez starts a conversation about the retreat. She asks everyone to look at what the commission has done over the past two years and decide on the topic for the retreat and the mission statement for the commission. She wants everyone to look at how to focus the energy at the retreat.

Sanchez mentions that the health and education subcommittees are working very hard on the 2008 report and she hopes for a completion in the next month.

Sanchez mentions the immigration trials and that she saw all the study sessions. She also mentions that as a commission ICHLA is a state agency and they cannot make a stance on the immigration. She mentions that Hernandez, Sanchez, an intern, and Ferguson have been doing a lot of work to get information out. It is mentioned that they are providing information.

Sanchez talks about her meetings with senators and how they just want facts on immigration. They don't want pages and pages of information, they want a cheat sheet so when they are charged with voting, they will know the information that they are looking at. She knows in the past the commission has made stances, but they just need to state the facts, not state opinions.

A discussion on ICHLA's conference in October of 2007, the bill from that conference, and the relationship with the Sheraton. There is a request for a clarification on the executive director's report.

The Chair made a request for details on the Sheraton bill from the October 2007 conference in chronological order to see how many times a bill was submitted.

B. Chair's Report

Vidal mentions a meeting that he had with the governor's office about the chain of command where the commission is concerned. He states that the commission is under supervision of the chair and the governor's office. He states that the chair guides the commission through voting and enacting anything that legislatures, the governor, and the chair would like to study. He adds that there is a staff person that reports to DWD and that person is here to assist the commission in any way that they need. The floor is opened for questions.

There is a discussion on the chain of command and how the commission was set up to work.

There is a discussion on Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Ceremony 2008, the award winner, and some confusion on the event planning.

The discussion on clarification continues with what they need to be doing, structure of the commission and subcommittees, on how they can help each other, and on communication.

There is a discussion on the report and the need to get it done quickly and efficiently. It was also discussed how the last report was late and how the report is the most important thing for the commission to accomplish. The discussion concludes with a small discussion on communication and that everyone will attempt to respond to communications.

Sanchez states that the report that was due in December was submitted to the governor's office.

Vidal motions that they need to elect a vice-chair. There is a point of order – It's now November, the order is that the secretary steps into the vice-chair position and finishes the year because in January they will elect new officers. Hernandez states that the vice chair could fill the position with the vote of the board. Nominations were made.

The nominations were for Candelaria-Reardon and Espinosa. Candelaria-Reardon declined her nomination. There was a move to accept Espinosa as vice-chair, it was unanimous. Espinosa is the new vice-chair of the commission.

There is a comment about the retreat in December and how the commission needs to talk about it. Vidal mentions that they will talk about it later in the meeting.

C. Budget Report

The Finance Report was passed out and the commission is on target for the use of approved budget expenses. It is mentioned that there were a few instances that there were overages: rental, management, etc. There have been meetings between Sanchez and Rios with the finance people. If there are any questions the commission can direct them to the finance people. The finance people will make the commission follow their prescribed categories and they didn't have a lot of suggestions for the commission.

Thon mentions that there are line items and that the commission has not been very proactive with pursuit. He is unsure if the commission has the discretion to change the actual allocations. He mentioned that the commission approved the education conference and the community events were supported because of the rollover.

It is mentioned that the executive committee looked at the budget and it is up to the treasurer to examine the year to date. It is mentioned that they need to take some time to look at the budget at the retreat.

D. Committee Reports

All committee reports were tabled until the next meeting.

III. Old Business

Retreat

There is a request for people who would like to work on the retreat. Candelaria-Reardon, Kusiak, Harvey, Hernandez, and Rios as the Chair will be the committee

for the retreat. The chair requested that the committee meet with the executive director to plan the retreat, including the date and all other details.

November Meeting

It is mentioned that the November meeting falls on Thanksgiving. The chair suggested to move the meeting a week earlier. The chair asked for a show of hands for moving the meeting the week before the schedule date of November 27th. Seven people voted for the meeting date to be changed to November 20th at 3 pm.

IV. New Business

Rosa, from the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, invited the commission to participate in an event on November 13. She offered a special rate of \$50 per person or \$750 per table (a table consists of 10 people). She asked if ICHLA would like to sponsor a table.

Discussion was held on the support of the event with the purchase of a table.

Hernandez mentions that at the retreat the commission needs to set a policy on how to choose.

Thon made a motion for the commission to sponsor the event by buying a table. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, Las Vegas:

Candelaria-Reardon mentions the NCSL conference and that there are two commissioners that have asked to attend. There needs to be a vote on if the two commissioners can go. The commission needs to decide because it is within the 30-day window. Prices would include \$225/night for 3 nights; \$275/registration; \$485/airfare; which equals \$1400 for expenses.

Candelaria-Reardon mentioned that there is also a reimbursement process. Sanchez mentions that it has to be approved; once it is approved people can go. However, it is very difficult to get approval.

Candelaria-Reardon asks what the procedure is for approval. Sanchez states that the approval has to go to DWD. DWD has to contact the vendor and contact IDOA, and then they have to be willing to accept a direct deposit. If they are not put into the system, they have to be added to the system. All travel has to be submitted prior to travel to DWD and DWD has to send it over to IDOA for approval. They have to see if they have the funds.

Vidal mentions that the travel needs to be addressed at the retreat.

Candelaria-Reardon moves to approve the expenditures to travel to the conference pending DWD approval. The motion did not carry, no quorum was lost mid meeting.

The meeting is adjourned at 4:55pm.