



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

MEETING Minutes
IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS MEETING
Thursday, November 14, 2013
Lucas State Office Building, 4th Floor – Room 418
321 E. 12th, Des Moines Iowa
2:30-4:30 p.m.

- I 2:30 PM** Call to Order and Introductions. **Sal Alaniz**
Meeting called to order at 2:38PM
Commissioners present:
Sal Alaniz
Rebecca Jackson
Joan Jaimes
María Lara
Juan Rodríguez (1:55PM)
Staff Present: Alba Perez & San Wong
Public present: None
- I 1:40 PM** Call to Order and Introductions. **Sal Alaniz**
- II 1:35 PM** Approval of minutes for September 12, 2013. **Sal Alaniz**
Motion to approve September minutes by Commissioner Lara,
second by Jaimes.
- III 1:40 PM** DHR Director's Report **San Wong**
Director Wong – IYC (Iowa Youth Congress) just concluded. IYC and SIYAC
State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, were present at the Governor's Bulling Conference.
We would like to see higher presence of students there. DHR can reimburse mileage.
DHR's budget has been approved for two years (2014-2015). DHR has to absorb salary
increases. We had some vacancies before which help those increases in the previous year but
we will have full staff this year. Layoffs are possible if we don't get more resources. Director
Wong will make an appeal to the Governor. We need to look at services to reduce if we have
layoffs. We continue to collaborate with other agencies and non profits, etc. More organization
and agencies are recognizing our office and will therefore recognize commissioners. Chair
Alaniz asked if IYC will continue under DHR. Director **Wong** stated all department programs are
sponsored and we contribute staff time. Commissioner **Jaimes** wondered if we can look for
other volunteers in their communities for IYC. She suggested having a constant reminder send
by Nicole Lewis for every class would be helpful.
Chair **Alaniz** asked, if IYC can be announced via government classes in the schools,
superintendent's newsletters? Please share any promotion ideas with Ms. Lewis.



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Commissioner **Jaimes** asked if we can include LA website in next year's budget. Director **Wong** stated that the State has a new CIO and the Governor's office is aware of this needs. EO **Perez** asked if EO can use Word Press paid by donations fund to work on the LA website. Cost is approximately \$200 for one year. Director **Wong** stated she would find out the rules and in a meeting with the CIO. Commissioner **J. Rodriguez** wanted the commission to think of a name for "Friends of Latino Affairs" so Perez can build a site for future group. Director **Wong** stated that she would check on applications. LA can look to have a "Friends 501-C3" and can check with Attorney's General Office. Commissioner **Jackson** stated she supports the idea. Director **Wong** stated that she attended the Governors Conference on bullying there is a bullying flash drive that is bilingual and she will check with Attorney General's office to see if we are able to use that since it is bilingual Director **Wong** also mentioned the department's partnership with Iowa Economic Development Authority's Peggy Kerr. EO Perez indicated she had already connected to Ms. Kerr in reference to the consulate event.

IV 1:50 PM DHR Deputy Director's Report, including financials.
EO Perez provided financial report document.

Heidi Smith

V 2:00 PM Executive Officer's Report.

Alba Perez

EO **Perez** provided overview of her involvement with the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines and its most recent progress. Graduation in May, date to be determined. All commissioners are invited. The First Consular meeting yielded a trade event hosted by the regional chamber of commerce, the Greater Des Moines Partnership. She reported on service calls and the nature of the calls which in its majority continue to be related to discrimination in the workplace. Perez also reported that travel was authorized to visit the highest Latino populated communities in the State during the spring of 2014. No solid logistical plans yet but will plan soon. As EO of Status of African Americans Perez participated in several committees and attended the History Maker's event in Cedar Rapids during the fall of 2013 and is currently a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration's planning committee for 2014.

VI 2:10 PM Discussion in reference to the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Priorities for 2013-2014, drafted by Joan Jaimes. Vote may be requested on aid draft or the re convenes to refine priorities and vote on completed document prior to Feb. 6, 2014.

Joan Jaimes

Discussion Recommendations and Feedback

1-Civic Engagement Education – Iowa Secretary of State. Chair **Alaniz** stated this is why we exist (in reference to legislative recommendations). As far as the recommendation about the Secretary of State should we ask the SOS if they have programs we can help with.

Commissioner **Jaimes** stated that USHLI does the same type of advocacy. Chair **Alaniz** stated in the case of the SOS can we help them spread the word on education to voters. Director **Wong** suggested reorganizing the document by listing the recommendations separately (Legislative Recommendations and Agency Recommendations). In the case of the SOS is different, this is an elected office and the Secretary of State answers to voters so you have to treat the SOS as you



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would a legislator. **Chair Alaniz** asked about whom to contact regarding this. Director Wong suggested that the commission find out what is being done as far as education before the letter is drafted. **Chair Alaniz** said that the commission can do their work with the SOS and put that letter together.

2- Discrimination – Iowa Civil Rights commission (ICCR).

Commissioner **Jaimes** suggest asking EEOC, as they may have the claims information/data by protected class. Director **Wong** stated that ICCR is heavily funded by the federal government and would have that information. Commissioner **Jaimes** asked if the commission can partner with LULAC. Director **Wong** stated that the commission has a unique task/charge and that it is appropriate for the commission to collaborate with others. **Chair Alaniz** mentioned ICCR can look at data and he is willing to help. He also asked several questions about this including: How can we move from the letter to legislation? Then we sit with LULAC. What are the necessary tools? The document for the February 6th legislative social is a statement of cause and to present our needs, who we are and why we are purposeful.

Director **Wong** stated that CJJP will send Kukur's document and to invite the director to speak to the commission for our next meeting.

4- Education. Commission **Jaimes** said in relation to education and financial aid, Texas has done it legislatively.

Chair Alaniz ask if this issue is legislative. Commissioner **Jaimes** stated the law states that if a student qualifies for DACA they should be able to apply for financial aid/state aid. **Chair Alaniz** suggested that there are two approaches to this issue.

Director **Wong** stated that bills are sponsored by legislators; you want to state your position. Stating DACA beneficiaries should have the same benefits as anyone else, will be easier. Same opportunities, more broadly.

5- Immigration. Commissioner **Jaimes** asked: Can we have talking points or a statement? We already have a statement on record said EO **Perez**.

6-Latino Children and Youth. EO **Perez** stated that the commission supports the legislative priorities of Every Child Counts. Director **Wong** gave some background information. This can be both, legislative and agency recommendation to make code changes. Can you connect consulates to DHS now? Just make the connection and the commission can serve as facilitators. **Chair Alaniz** referred to family reunification, helping DHS.

Director **Wong** stated on this last item the commission needs more concrete definition on the improvement of data collection. How Latinos are doing in different facets of life in relation to others? We can't tell.

After discussing all the items in the document **Chair Alaniz** called for a vote in support of the items. The commission voted to approve the document presented by commissioner **Jaimes** named 2013-2014 Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Legislative Priorities and State Agency Recommendations. The commission also agreed that commissioner **Jaimes** could precede with additional research, wordsmith and editing of the document. EO **Perez** will send the document a day prior the commissions meeting tentatively scheduled for February 6th 2014, the same day as the Legislative Social.



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- VII 2:40PM** Commissioners Reports based on template proposed by Sal Alaniz
Sal Alaniz
- Opportunities for & Changing Needs of Iowa Latino Population
 - Liaison & Partnership
 - DHR Board – Recommendations, Studies & Action
 - Legislative & Executive
 - Advisory Committees, Work Groups & Partnerships
- VIII 2:50 PM** Department of Human Rights Board representative report.
Joan Jaimes
- IX 3:10-3:25 PM** Public comment. **Public** (Signup sheet available).
- X** Adjourned at 3:40PM. It is the privilege of the chair to adjourn at this time.