

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission



OLAnet



photos credit: Juan Miranda,

Ohio

**Latino Affairs
Commission**

**Ted Strickland, Governor
Ezra C. Escudero, Director**



Commissioners ~ 2007/08

Richard Romero - Lorain
Chair

Mary Santiago - Lorain
Vice Chair

Michael Florez - Cincinnati
Secretary

Blanche Aviles Casey - Beavercreek

Phillip Barbosa - Toledo

Humberto Gonzalez - Columbus

Chris Rodriguez - Columbus

Simon Rodriguez - Wood County

V. Anthony Simms-Howell - Cincinnati

Baldemar Velasquez - Toledo

Lupe Williams - Wooster

Staff ~ 2008

Ezra C. Escudero
Director

Florentina Staigers, Esq.
Policy Liaison

Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA
Community Liaison

Rosario Martinez
Office Secretary

Advise. Connect. Build.

The purpose of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing Latino population of Ohio.

The Commission serves as a liaison between government and the Hispanic/Latino community in Ohio and advocates the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the Hispanic/Latino Ohioans, especially but not limited to education, employment, economic development, health and housing.

History

The Commission was created by Legislative Act and signed into Law by Governor James Rhodes on July 8, 1977. The Statute provided for eleven members on the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Statute requires that all Board members shall speak Spanish, shall be of Hispanic/Latino origin, and shall be American citizens or lawful, permanent resident aliens. The membership shall be representative of the geographical and numerical distribution of Ohio's Hispanic/Latino population. The Commission shall meet not less than six times per calendar year, and six members shall constitute a quorum.

Office & Interagency Council

The Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs and the Ohio Interagency Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs are two state agencies within the purview of the Commission. Ezra C. Escudero, who leads both as Director of the Office and Chairman of the Council, has served at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners since October 2003. The Office has three program offices, the Public Policy Center operated by Florentina Staigers, Esq. since May 2008, the Latino Community Network directed by Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA since August 2007,

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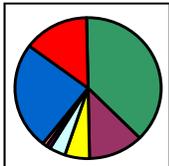
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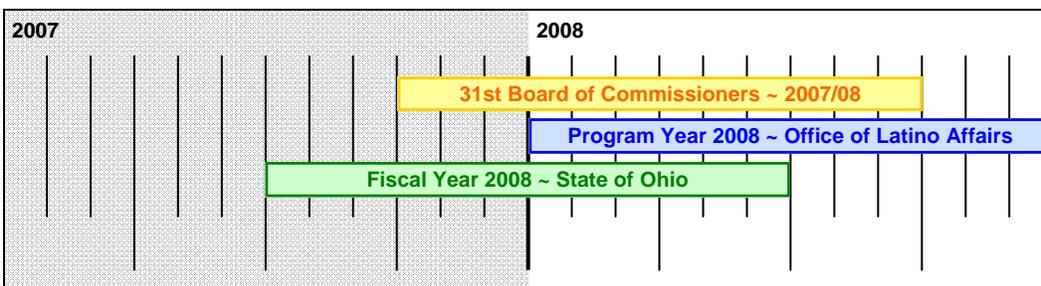


About The Artist ~ back cover
Juan Miranda, Community leader and photographer has captured the lives and experiences of Latinos in Central Ohio. His work is featured on the front and back covers of this report.



Timeframes for the 2008 Annual Report

Note: This report covers the actions of the 31st Board of Commissioners from October 2007 through September 2008, the finances of the agency during Fiscal Year 2008 of the State of Ohio (July 2007 through June 2008), and Program Year 2008 of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs from January through





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ezra C. Escudero
Director of Latino Affairs
State of Ohio

Dynamic improvisation

If nothing, 2008 has been a year for dynamic improvisation.

Our agency, board, and office are grounded in our statutory mandates to advise, connect, and build. Our strategic initiatives are firmly directed in the areas of education, development and diversity. Each of these is fully fleshed out, and all of our team members understand the spirit behind these mandates and initiatives.

Beyond that, 2008 has been a year of uncertainty, hence requiring an ability on our behalf for dynamic improvisation.

Translating vision into reality

The beginning set of improvisational challenges began with the implementation of our new strategic initiatives. Our first reality-check was one of resources - human resources. We had a robust plan ready for launch on July 1st 2007, and we had failed to take into account that although we had the financial resources to start off with 4 full-time employees (instead of just two), we still had to find the two new staff members, and that would take time.

As a consequence, we needed to stagger the implementation of initiatives - both strategic and tactical - to ensure each step was built solidly, and each project was done well.

We also quickly (thankfully) realized that academically-rigorous research is not a core competency of the Commission. This dramatically re-oriented our Workforce & Economic Development strategies into what eventually became Project OPEN. Again, thankfully, our team does possess a strong core-competency of self-assessment: that ability to fairly and accurately size-up our internal strengths and weaknesses so that we focus on the strengths and identify partners for shoring up the weak areas.

Economic realities change everything

The next big challenge we faced was a rude awakening in February 2008. We were hit with a 15% budget cut - as were almost all state agencies. Although it turned out to be a blessing in disguise, the Commission was also hit with a hiring freeze, which delayed the launch of the Public Policy Center Program by three additional months.

Although our hands were plenty full nurturing OLANet, scoping-out Project OPEN, learning about grants evaluations and distributions for our Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative, and overcoming hurdles that stood in the way of our efforts, all of this work was successfully accomplished.

Regardless, as you will read in this report, 2008 was full of exciting new programs and developments. At a fundamental level, our Program Offices for Latino Community Networks and Public Policy Center were fully launched. Our community information management system called "OLANet" was a great success, and our strategic initiatives got off the ground with much acclaim and support.

In service to Ohio

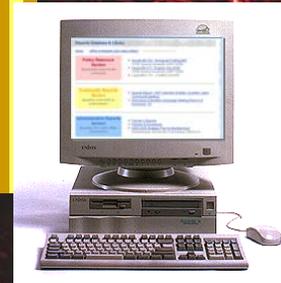


Ezra C. Esetudero
Director





OLAnet



Weaving a Community Fabric with a Statewide Web

TODAY,

the Commission enjoys the services offered by an automated community information management system that does the work of five people for an annual maintenance cost less than \$5,000.

It is a webmaster that can program HTML pages instantly for an entire state agency with no full-time internet programmers.

It is a scheduling assistant that coordinates event calendars for over 200 organizations statewide.

It is a telephone switchboard operator that keeps up-to-date records of those same 200 organizations.

It is a community organizer that sends thousands of e-mails (spam-free!) to key community leaders every week and month.

It is an archivist that maintains public access to hundreds of reports on a myriad of public policy issues and operations of a state agency.

IT IS THE OHIO LATINO AFFAIRS NETWORK ~ OR OLANET FOR SHORT.



Just Over Three Years Ago

In 2005, the Office of Latino Affairs began the process of conceptualizing the OLANet system which is now the envy of other Latino Affairs programs and comparable agencies across the country. But before beginning a discussion of why it was built and how it works, it will be helpful to go back and trace the path of OLANet's many different roots and how they come together to integrate disparate parts of the

Commission's operations in a way that improves service delivery to community leaders and elected officials, increases transparency for citizens and watchdogs, and saves money for taxpayers.

Disconnected Challenges

2004 was a very trying year for the Commission and Office of Latino Affairs. The agency was suffering with funding levels at about 1/3 today's funding and staffing levels less than 1/2 of current staffing. Yet some of the greatest

challenges ever presented to the Commission all came together in 2004.

Unable to Communicate

The unexpected crash of a single computer - a common occurrence in offices across the country - literally brought the operations of a state agency to an abrupt halt. Rigorous data backup practices thankfully reduced downtime to one business day. However, an internal technology and business process audit after the outage formally documented the critical flaws.

The Commission's community organization database was regularly copied to backup disks, but depended upon an outdated software tool resident on a single PC in the Office.

This means that if the crash had been catastrophic, it would have taken additional days for the Office to procure the necessary software - with no guarantee that the available software would be fully compatible with the backed-up database. The audit further identified another flaw. The community organization database was terribly outdated in terms of quality. Dozens of organizations listed had newer officers and contact members than were in the database. In some unfortunate cases, recently deceased members were still listed as current officers.

With only two full-time overworked employees, the prospect of updating hundreds of records posed a daunting task for the Office of Latino Affairs. Without the ability to augment staffing levels, it would be critical to develop another way for the Commission to update database records. Developing a way for organizations to update their own records would be even more effective, if not more difficult.

Discontinuity of Operations

That same year, the Taft administration required all state agencies to update Continuity Of Operations Plans (COOPs)

in anticipation of a potential pandemic emergency that required agency offices to shutdown. Planning by Office staff members quickly identified the most critical function for the Commission to perform in an emergency situation:

“Rapid translation and dissemination of official emergency information from bona fide official sources to Spanish-language media outlets and Latino community organizations across Ohio for access by Ohioans whose preferred or only language option is Spanish.

It did not take long to realize this function could not be performed. First of all, the database contained outdated contact information. Second, it was only accessible in one office at the Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The Riffe Center would be inaccessible in the event of a quarantine, and basic COOP rules call for redundant and multiple sites for the continuity of basic functions.

Inaccessible In the Event of Emergency

In September 2004, a terrible arson committed in Franklin County took the lives of Mexican immigrants and American citizens of Mexican heritage. Community response efforts were haphazard and further complicated because federal and state agencies took nearly three days to find contact information. They had no access to Latino community organizations with whom to forge relationships and coordinate response efforts. It even took as long for government agencies to reach the Commission.

With little imagination necessary, it is evident that a resource gap existed. There was no readily-accessible directory of Latino community organizations. Because of this, arson victims experienced additional and unnecessary suffering. Response agencies clashed with each other, leaving wounds which are just now healing. Distribution of aid was slowed down and key messages were lost in the



confusion.

No Idea for Hispanic Heritage Month

Later that month, the Office of Latino Affairs struggled to keep up with constituent requests for information regarding Hispanic Heritage Month activities across Ohio. The Office gathered event lists from multiple sources from various organizations. However, the Commission did not maintain its own calendar, and was dependent on numerous other organizations and agencies with inconsistent funding levels and outreach efforts. Sometimes, even local rivalries between organizations meant that securing one local Hispanic Heritage Month calendar was inadequate.

Improving Constituent Services

The Office had networked computers, but no file server for ensuring regular and consistent access to shared information. Tracking common records such as meeting calendars, minutes, policy reports, and other key documents meant frequent e-mails, comparing and double-checking versions for latest revisions, and inconsistencies costing precious time and reducing efficiencies.

This was all the more frustrating because the Commission lacked even the most basic of websites. The budget limitations made it impossible to hire web masters and programmers to facilitate website development and maintenance, and the state office of information technology offered only basic hardware support - in other words, no support of software, databases, or applications.

Establishing Parameters

The Director of Latino Affairs, previous experience in the information technology industry, saw an opportunity to tie these disconnected challenges together by developing a system that would enhance communication abilities, address continuity of operations gaps, address

emergency response needs, manage statewide community event information, and improve constituent services using industry-standard web technologies.

But it is always perilous to launch into a technology initiative without careful and deliberate planning. Establishing key parameters and requirements is not a guarantee for success, but it is a prerequisite.

Accessible to the Public

Initially codenamed MC-OSAP (for Mission Critical and Office Systems Automation Project), the Director determined that any systems developed for the Commission must be fully accessible to the public.

Simply opening up these systems and databases to the public would resolve many of the challenges listed above, including:

- Enabling continuity of operations
- Accessibility in emergency situations
- Improving constituent services

Self-Sufficiency

Understanding that the Commission's staffing-level dilemma is likely an existential one that will transcend budget cycles and administrations, the Director decreed in the MC-OSAP guidelines that any web-based system must be advanced enough to administer itself with minimal human intervention.

For even if the Commission had enough resources to hire a full-time webmaster, such use of money on a tactical personnel position would be an inadequate utilization of resources. The Commission advises, connects, and builds community issues and relationships, not websites.

Thankfully, a new generation of technology, called Web Content Management Software (CMS) emerged just in time to solve this problem.



The Community Framework

How does the OLANet system connect information about geography and purpose of events and organizations in a way that facilitates community information management?

You take this...



mesh it with this...

1. *Education, Mentoring & Youth*
2. *Faith Communities*
3. *Justice & Civil Rights*
4. *Business & Commerce*
5. *Culture & The Arts*
6. *Health & Safety*
7. *Labor & Workforce Development*
8. *Policy & Leadership*
9. *Media & Communications*



...and you get this!

OLAnet <small>Ohio Latino Affairs Network</small>	1 <i>EMY</i>	2 <i>FBC</i>	3 <i>JCR</i>	4 <i>B&C</i>	5 <i>C&A</i>	6 <i>H&S</i>	7 <i>L&D</i>	8 <i>P&L</i>	9 <i>M&C</i>
 <i>Northeast</i>									
 <i>Northcentral</i>									
 <i>Northwest</i>									
 <i>Southwest</i>									
 <i>Central</i>									

Organizations, events, and other bits of information in the database fit in this matrix, so that you know what kind of topical

The Director established the following threshold: “Any website and database system established by the Commission must be as easy-to-administer and use on a daily basis as is basic office software tools like Microsoft Word®, PowerPoint®, or Excel®, or websites like Expedia® or Amazon.com®.”

CMS was just the enabling technology required by the MC-OSAP mandate. It presents website administrators with an easy-to-access graphical user interface, not too different from the software tools mentioned above. CMS then takes the administrator’s inputs and translates it into Hyper Text Markup Language.

In other words, CMS takes the picture of the website designed by an administrator and writes the programming to build the website by itself.

That way, the administrator just has to know how to build the picture, not write programming code.

Support Mandates & Strategies

Finally, the ultimate parameter established required any system to clearly support the Commission’s tripartite mandate to “advise, connect, and build” while being flexible enough to also support changing strategic initiatives as determined by the Board.

Earlier principles established by the Commission’s “Community Framework” model came to life within OLANet’s design. Its internal databases would be structured with a matrix format that identifies and connects both field of service with geography of service.

Building A Dream

Throughout 2006, prototypes of OLANet were developed by local consulting firms. In 2007, the beta-version of OLANet was launched with great success, just in time to

support the Commission’s advocacy of the Global-Ready Ohio for the 21st Century (GROh-21) strategic plan.

When the Commission’s funding was tripled beginning in this fiscal year (July 2007 through June 2008), taking the beta-version of OLANet to deployment stage and launch finally was realized.

Community Training

Office staff, including the newly hired Program Director of the Latino Community Network, jumped into an eight-city, two-month set of community training sessions to build the OLANet database of community organizations.

Because of the incredible success of outreach efforts, initial goals for enrollment were exceeded weeks ahead of schedule, and the original threshold of 100 organizations had to be increased by 50%.

Training took place in Toledo, Bowling Green, Lorain, Cleveland, Youngstown, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati during November and December of 2007.

The Magic of OLANet

OLANet has five basic parts. The first is an interactive, self-managing **website** for the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. CMS technology enables Office staff to update web pages dynamically without the need of writing a single line of HTML code.

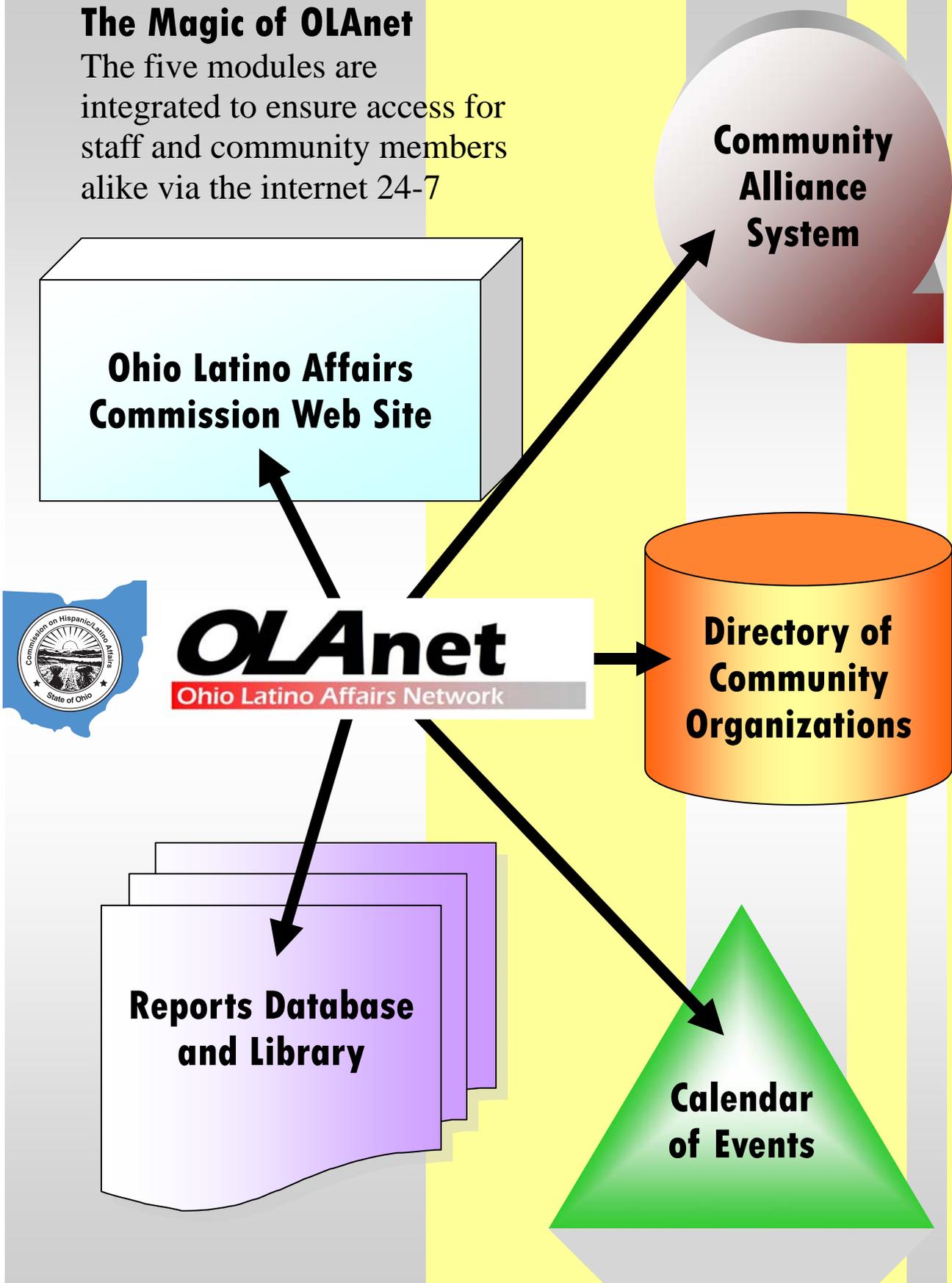
The second component is a statewide Directory of Community Organizations. One of the unique features of the directory is the ability for community organization leaders to log-in to OLANet and maintain their own information so that it has the greatest validity and currency.

This is accomplished by giving registered organizations an opportunity to promote their events and announcements via the OLANet website. This creative and compelling way to offer a valuable service to community organizations was dreamed



The Magic of OLANet

The five modules are integrated to ensure access for staff and community members alike via the internet 24-7



up by the Director and MC-OSAP development team. This symbiotic relationship gives benefits to community organizations and to the Commission as well, through an easy-to-use system.

Event information and news postings are organized through the OLANet Calendar of Events module. This system organizes all the entries from registered organizations, publishes weekly updates on the website home page, and e-mails updates to community leaders who have specifically requested information in any or all of the nine Community Framework issue categories and five geographical regions.

The fourth module is the Community Alliance System. Via the CMS tool, the Commission can use e-mail marketing campaign technology to disseminate information to key leaders, constituencies, and organizations.

Finally, the fifth module is the Reports Database and Library. This component serves as a repository of information for policymakers, community leaders, and for citizens and taxpayers alike.

Phase one of the Database & Library will be publishing basic Commission reports and information. This will enhance the transparency of agency operations.

Phase two will expand the D&L module to include policy briefs, whitepapers, and testimony on bills monitored by the Public Policy Center program of the Office.

Phase three will ultimately open-up the Library to community organizations, just like the Directory and Calendar. Then will OLANet become a repository - not only of an agency or of policy - but of Latino community life across Ohio.

The future of OLANet

In its first full year of operation, OLANet

has exceeded expectations beyond any conceptualized by the Commission and Office staff three years ago. Requests for information are measured in thousands per month, including requests from both Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns in 2008.

For the future, visions of OLANet may bring enhanced connectivity to Latino media outlets around the state for information-sharing purposes and real-time updates of news and updates on issues and emergency information.

Discussions are even underway to transfer caretaking and administrative ownership of OLANet with different libraries and foundations, so as to ensure the continuity of OLANet regardless of the fate of the Commission.

The beautiful thing is that in a very short amount of time, OLANet has established itself as one of the most tangible, beneficial, and cost-effective initiatives of the Commission.

Along the way, the Commission has also finally established itself as one of the most critical, vital, and fundamental building blocks of Latino community life in Ohio because of successes like OLANet.



Ohio



DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Program Year 2008 of the Office of Latino Affairs ♦ January ~ De-

January 2008

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Project OPEN - WED: With guidance from the Board and approval from the Workforce & Economic Development Committee, the Director has prepared a comprehensive proposal for the Commission's economic development initiative, tentatively called "Project OPEN." The project is to be a multi-year, multi-component initiative focusing on

three areas of economic development: business start-ups & job creation, business growth, and research. During the current biennium, Project OPEN is designed to be a central Ohio pilot, with a broader state-wide roll out in the next biennium (2010-2011).

The first component, Project OPEN for Business is a partnership between the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission and the Ohio Department of Development to

establish four Latino Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) with bilingual staff and culturally-competent resources to help entrepreneurs start-up their businesses in accordance with US business practices, regulations, and customs, as well as identifying opportunities for start-up capital and growth. During the pilot phase (2008 & 2009) Ohio Latino Affairs is investing resources into the first Latino SBDC, which is operating in Central Ohio.

The second component, Project OPEN for Opportunities is a capacity-building project between Ohio Latino Affairs and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus. The goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Chamber to better serve the needs of Latino owned and operated businesses, as well as those Ohio businesses that seek to do business in the Latino and Latin American marketplace.

Project OPEN for Information is a further partnership between Ohio Latino Affairs and the Department of Development to conduct an economic impact study to determine the contributions of Latinos to the Central Ohio economy.

In future years, the goal of Ohio Latino Affairs is to increase all three Project OPEN components and roll them out statewide, beginning with three new investment sites in 2010 and beyond. This growth is predicated upon the success of the Project OPEN pilot in Central Ohio during 2008 and 2009.

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative - OED: The headlines feature news about some of the challenges faced in both Ohio and across the United States regarding the integration of New American communities, especially Latinos. Although the typical approach is to blame Latinos for some of the challenges in learning English and acculturation, the objective for the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is to find a way to increase the capacity of

Latino-community serving organizations to better address these challenges.

Final steps in designing the project formerly listed in GROh-21 as the "Grassroots Chamber of Service" have taken place. The project, now known as the Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative, is a three step way program to accomplish the goals listed above (echoed in GROh-21) and to take a proactive approach to turn our emerging diversity into an asset instead of the prevailing attitude that diversity is a liability.

The first step of the Grassroots Initiative is an intensive training program to improve organization's skills in the areas of grant writing and legislative advocacy. Ohio Latino Affairs staff will travel across Ohio during March and April to eight different cities – including Lorain, Cleveland, Youngstown, Toledo, Fremont, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton – to offer the half-day training session to over 100 organizations.

The second step gives participating organizations an opportunity to apply the lessons learned in the training. Ohio Latino Affairs plans to offer over \$100,000 worth of grants across the state in a mini-grant opportunity, with maximum grant sizes of \$10,000 across the eight communities. This will be followed up with a legislative visit day on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

Finally, in 2009, the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is working to foster relationships with eight local community foundations to create a challenge grant opportunity that will expand the work begun through the Grassroots Initiative in 2008.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Infrastructure - OLANet: The Director and the LCN Program Director have developed a set of updates for OLANet that will be completed by the end of March.



This update, known as OLANet version 1.01, includes features such as an easier to use News/Events page, easier tools for OLANet organizations who use the system via the “Admin” pages, additional management resources for Office staff, additional privacy tools for OLANet org users, and rich-text fields for news and events.

Most importantly, OLANet 1.01 will also activate the Alliance Group auto-notification features, and establish an OLANet org user list-serv and e-marketing resources. These tools are critical to enhance the communications abilities of the Commission, especially as issues move more quickly and expectations of improved responsiveness increase.

DIRECTOR’S CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Karen Shauri, Ohio Department of Development (3 January)
- Meet with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (16 January – Cincinnati)
- Meet with Phil Saken, House Democratic Caucus (17 January)
- Meet with Mark Barbash, Ohio Department of Development (17 January)
- Meet with Karen Shauri, Ohio Department of Development (28 January)
- Meet with Matt Colopy, Office of the Governor (30 January)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (9 January)
- Host event with Columbus World Affairs Council for the United States Ambassador to Honduras (11 January)

February 2008

EMERGENCY: BUDGET CRISIS

Budget Cuts & Hiring Freeze: The Office of the Governor and the Office of Budget & Management have announced various fiscal measures across all state agencies, including budget cuts and hiring freezes across the board. Although the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission was able to anticipate the budget cuts, and prepare contingency plans that allowed for the hiring of a full-time Policy Liaison in February and the execution of all Strategic Initiatives with a minimal level of disruption, these blanket actions have been applied to our agency as well.

The consequences of these actions will adversely affect the agency’s ability to deal with public policy priorities such as the slate of anti-immigrant measures proposed in the General Assembly this year (SB 260, SCR 16, HB 308, HB 409, and HB 477).

Furthermore, because of the interconnected nature of the budget cuts and the hiring freeze, the agency cannot pin down the final dollar amount for the Grassroots Mini-grant and Project OPEN. In other words, should the agency be unsuccessful in securing an exemption to the hiring freeze, the bulk of the budget cut will come from the Policy Liaison position, and leave the agency with a surplus of financial resources for the programs, but a deficit of human resources to implement them.

The Director will continue to apprise the Chair and the Finance Chair as developments progress and as appeals are filed with both the Office of the Governor and the Office of Budget & Management.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Project OPEN - WED: Due to the uncertainties of the state budget crisis, Project OPEN is on hold, and there is nothing to report at this time.



Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative - OED: Thankfully, the Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative is unaffected by the state budget crisis. The final training calendar has been set:

March 13 - Dayton
University of Dayton - Office of Latin American Student Services

March 14 - Cincinnati
Cincinnati-Hamilton Community Action Agency

March 20 - Columbus
Ohio Dept. of Jobs & Family Services

March 27 - Toledo
McMaster Center - Main Library

March 28 - Fremont
Terra Community College

April 4 - Cleveland
Hispanic Business Association

April 5 - Youngstown
Eastgate Regional Council

April 25 - Lorain
LCCC Learning Center at St. Joseph Community Center

In addition, the final training agenda has also been established. All training sessions will begin at 8:30 SHARP and follow the NEW agenda listed here:

8:30 - Registration & Welcome
9:00 - Grant Writing Training
10:00 - Legislative Advocacy Training
11:30 - Mini Grant Opportunity Briefing & Wrap Up
12 Noon - Conclusion

At the conclusion of each training session, a detailed presentation about the GCBI Mini Grant Opportunity will be given. Only those participating organizations in attendance for the full training session will be eligible for applying for the mini-grant.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Infrastructure - OLANet: There is nothing to report at this time.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Presentation to Ohio Investigators (8 February)
- Meet with Gary Taylor, Office of the Attorney General (27 February)
- Meeting with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (28 February – Cincinnati)
- Meet with Henry Guzman, Director of Public Safety (29 February)
- Meetings with the Office of Budget & Management (throughout the month of February)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Participation at the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute with sister Latino Affairs commissions (13-16 February – Chicago)
- Participation in the International Awards Ceremony for the World Affairs Council of Columbus (19 February)
- Presentation to Robert Torres (20 February – Toledo)
- Meetings with the Department of Development, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (throughout the month of February)



March 2008

EMERGENCY: BUDGET CRISIS

Budget Cuts & Hiring Freeze: The Office of the Governor and the Office of Budget & Management announced various fiscal measures across all state agencies,

including budget cuts and hiring freezes across the board at the end of January and the beginning of February.

Although the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission was able to anticipate the budget cuts, and prepare contingency plans that allowed for the hiring of a full-time Policy Liaison in February and the execution of all Strategic Initiatives with a minimal level of disruption, these blanket actions have been applied to our agency as well.

After numerous requests for meetings, and a solid set of business justifications, the agency finally received an exemption to proceed with hiring the Policy Liaison. Approval was given to proceed effective 31 March 2008.

The Office and the Director are prepared with final budget cut plans, as well as a plan for swiftly executing and completing the candidate search for the Policy Liaison during the month of April. The approval also enables the Director to finalize negotiations with the Department of Development for Project Open.

Modified timeframes and budget plans will follow accordingly. Please contact the Director at any time for additional information and updates.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative - OED: During the month of March, the Community Liaison successfully executed five of the eight GCBI Workshops in cities including Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Toledo, and Fremont. Nearly seventy (70) participants representing numerous community organizations have participated thus far.

The Workshops' evaluation feedback was excellent. Approximately 95% of those attending completed an evaluation form. The Grassroots and Legislative Advocacy

Workshops received the following rating:

Workshop Content Rating: Adequate to Excellent

1. Information received about the objectives of this workshop
2. Advance communication about workshop was appropriate
3. The workshop lived up to participant's expectations
4. Information found to be useful, relevant, practical for their organization

Workshop Design Rating: Adequate to Excellent

1. The Hands-On opportunity stimulated learning
2. The difficulty level of this workshop was appropriate
3. The organization and pace of this workshop was appropriate
4. Workshop materials were well designed, clear, easy to follow
5. There were enough opportunities for questions/answers
6. The program content matched the written description of workshop

Facilitators Rating: Excellent

1. Facilitators showed enthusiasm for subject matter
2. Speakers delivered an effective and well organized presentation
3. Facilitators answered my questions clearly and completely
4. The facility/atmosphere was appropriate for the training

FEEDBACK ON THE OLANET WEBSITE & SYSTEM

As part of the evaluation process, participants were asked if they have visited the Ohio Latino Affairs website, and if they have made use of OLANet.

Feedback was also requested regarding opinions for improvement to the website and OLANet. The purpose of this section of the evaluation is to obtain a baseline to



assess usage, quality of service, and improvement for future investment and work on the Website and its features.

How will OLANet benefit your organization in the future?

- As a non-Latino organization, OLANet allows our agency to refer our clients to those who can and will serve them.
- Great for collaborative opportunities.
- By allowing partnership efforts which will help us to be more effective; OLANet will provide me with a broader view of Latino issues and accomplishments in the state of Ohio.
- Networking, referrals. OLANet is a great tool for community organizations.
- Use it to better educate us in addressing major issues affecting the Latino community, such as education, immigration.
- Use OLANet as a vehicle to promote Latino businesses
- Work in the community. For me having the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is like having a big brother for support.
- Tool for advertising information and events.
- Improved networking and collaboration. Better knowledge of statewide events.
- Guidance and direction regarding major projects, position on issues of interest to all.
- Saves time and money. Very accessible way to communicate with all.

What is the most valuable tool/information OLANet offers you?

- The database/contact info of other agencies.
- It allows us to communicate with outside groups & agencies throughout Ohio.
- Help organizations to learn about grants that are available. Interest everyone on issues affecting community.
- Great for collaborative opportunities
- The database is a very useful baseline.
- It's a good resource of communications, information & connections to other organizations.
- Helps Latino leaders stay connected.

- Contacts/ training opportunities.
- Empowers us, gives us the tools we need to do a better job.
- Keep us informed about legislative issues.
- Easy access to other organizations websites and information
- Helps make Latino organizations visible to agencies, state government and overall community.
- Access to key; contact people.
- Easy to navigate database.
- Good information on programs and opportunities.
- Collaboration, accessible. Allows us to pass the word in very effective ways.
- Excellent as planning tool. Helps coordinate efforts so we avoid duplication or scheduling conflicts for events.

What improvements would you recommend to the OLANet Database?

- Add info on grants available, scholarships for Latinos, local public schools/universities that assist or offer programs for Hispanic students.
- Create a section for Latino leaders bios. Useful for those seeking Latinos to include in their boards, advisory groups.
- Create a Speakers Bank.
- Post Success Stories and Profiles of our leaders to inspire and motivate the Latino community.
- Detail more information about who works in each Latino organization, put their story behind the organization.
- It's very user friendly.
- Enable collaboration via internet (conference meetings, sharing of documents, etc.)
- Create a database of key documents that can be downloaded by organizations for sharing and training.
- Add template forms for things such letters that can help the community interact with legislators. Also, help on how to write communications, press releases, would be helpful.
- Add a Professional Job Posting Section and a Latino Job Recruitment Section.



Additional Comments from Participants

- Feed your OLANet news and events items to the Radio Stations; many adult Latinos don't use computers.
- Can OCHLA create a Latino Youth Leadership Initiative? We need to prepare the leaders of tomorrow.
- We need to form a Coalition that brings together Latino leaders from across Ohio for lobbying/advocacy at state level. Together and well organized, we can be a stronger force. Maybe SGI can help us get this organized.
- Please upload on website some samples of well-written grant proposals. Include these in next workshop packages.
- Please continue to bring workshops to the communities. This is very helpful.
- Need help in finding resources for audit info for grassroots Latino organizations.
- Great session. Wish it was longer. Please post on OLANet detailed information regarding bills being considered by Legislation.
- Please provide us more feedback regarding how to get a "fiscal agent", we are not a 501(c)(3) yet.
- Please provide alternatives and feedback on 990 audit processes and requirements. Place this information on OCHLA'S website for everyone to see.
- This was great workshop for first time grant writers.
- Lilly regular visits to groups throughout the state are very useful. OCHLA is now accessible.
- Suggest have Legislative Visit day organized by Regions to meet with our specific representatives.
- Please provide us templates related to grant writing, contacting legislators and govt. officials.
- Great information. Very helpful in moving forward. Interactive. I liked workshop allowed us to interact.
- Listening to other people's questions and respective answers are great learning tool.
- I propose the New Americans Initiative work together with OCHLA to create a capacity building initiative for local non-profits. To date, only one organization has received training from United Way. This is very needed. Definitely need more workshops re: Govt. Exceptional job by Janet.
- Continue with this type of workshops and others workshops related to community service.
- Great training. Keep it coming!
- Target not only education, but specifically, the information technology development of the state workforce.
- Establish partnerships with universities, colleges, high schools, to build bridges that can increase the number of educated successful Hispanics.
- In the future, please set up a program that helps Latino small businesses.
- I would like to see a "How to Booklet" of the Hispanic Community to do advocacy work and deal with legislative issues.
- Can you please provide training to teach Hispanics how to start their own business?
- Need information and resources about funding for small Hispanic businesses. High needs in equipment capital investments. Please provide information.
- Please begin a statewide calendar for local, state and national advocacy, mobilize communities and let our voices be heard.
- Workshop information was good. Needed more in depth. Do workshops with different levels of complexity for new and experienced community workers.
- Meeting was resourceful.
- Great job! About time the State leave a footprint in the rural community. We appreciate you bringing the training to us.
- Helpful and necessary workshops.
- We need to create a Latino Advocacy Group for all of Ohio.
- Continue training leaders on other subjects, ie. Business law, tax info, etc.
- Well done! Very proud in how OCHLA is finally reaching out to educate and create awareness to Hispanic Latino issues/people/



- and communities.
- *Very professional presenters. Please offer a follow up workshop. Part 2 & 3 - more advanced.*
 - *There should be a commitment from existing agencies in Cleveland that would support and participate on every event that OCHLA IS PART OF.*
 - *Grassroots involvement - develop a strategy to get the Hispanic community to participate in community events and show numbers.*
 - *We have to get the people with understanding of community work towards bringing the grassroots to the table.*
 - *This training gives the opportunity for us to get more involved.*
 - *Most of the Hispanic community business owners and agencies are not aware of the various grants, resources and support groups available to help maintain, improve, or add growth to their businesses or agencies.*
 - *Workshop well organized. Can you allow access to fee based grant searches systems within OLANet?*
- (10 March)
 - Participation in the OSU International Studies Luncheon (26 March)
 - Conduct GCBI Training Program (27 March - Toledo)
 - Participate in Adelante Annual Cesar Chavez Awards Dinner (27 March - Toledo)
 - Conduct GCBI Training Program (28 March - Fremont)

April 2008

Special Issue: Policy Liaison

After securing appropriate permissions from the Office of the Governor, Office of Budget & Management, Department of Administrative Services, and the Central Services Agency, the Office proceeded with all possible alacrity to execute the pre-established hiring plan to announce the position of Policy Liaison and to identify the best possible candidate for the job.

From the first step, the Office of the Governor was consulted throughout, culminating in the participation of Jose Torres from the Governor's Office in the final interview. A couple dozen potential applicants were notified that the Office had successfully secured an exemption to the hiring freeze, and were invited to move forward with applying.

Mirroring best-practices from Human Resources consultants employed during the hiring process of the Community Liaison last fall, the Office developed a Work Sample Assignment for the prospective candidates to complete within a pre-determined and pre-announced timeframe. The timeframes for the plan included April 7th for posting the Work Sample Assignment (WSA), April 10th for the candidates WSA deadline, April 11th for inviting candidates for Final Formal Interviews, April 15th for Final Interviews, and April 17th for the formal Job Offer.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with the Office of State Representative William Batchelder (R) District 69 (6 March)
- Meet with Louis Capobianco, Office of Budget & Management (7 March)
- Meet with Rich Bartolomei, Office of the Governor (11 March)
- Meet with Karen Shauri, OH Department of Development (11 March)
- Meet with Andrew Fries & Malik Hubbard, Office of the Governor (20 March)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with Mike Robinson, La Verdad



After a successful process, the Director extended a job offer to Ms. Florentina Staigers, which was promptly accepted on 18 April 2008.

Special Issue: Senate Bill 260

This month, Senate Bill 260 received an unexpected unanimous vote on the floor of the Senate, after hearings which took place without any witnesses testifying against it. As such, at the April meeting of the Board, the Office has been put on high alert to prepare action in response to this legislation of concern. On Tuesday, April 29th, the Office hosted a community forum for organization leaders to ask questions about the legislation at hand, House Bill 477 (English-only for 2008), the steps required for testifying and engaging in the public policy process.

With less than one week's notice, over 30 participants attended the "town hall meeting", which was facilitated with the assistance of Mr. Tom Lianez of Zanesville.

The Office has received numerous calls – some are pro SB 260, most are anti SB 260 – and in response to those constituent requests, the Office has offered copies of its Special Policy Brief of December 2007 on SB 260, lists of House State Government & Elections committee members, and other informative resources.

All sources of legislative information are being monitored closely, with notice to go out immediately should any of the following bills receive a hearing between now and summer break:

- HB 308
- HB 477
- SCR 16
- SB 260

Other bills are also being monitored, but do not rise to this alert status.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative -

OED: Phase II of the GCBI is now nearly complete. Across all eight cities, a total of over 100 participants have received formal training in the areas of grant writing and legislative advocacy. Please refer to the Director's Report of March 2008 for full documentation of feedback from the statewide tour.

We thank our location partners, including the University of Dayton, the Community Action Agency of Cincinnati, the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services in Columbus, the Toledo/Lucas County Public Library, Terra Community College in Fremont, the Hispanic Business Association in Cleveland, the Eastgate Regional Council in Youngstown, and the Lorain County Community College Learning Center at the St. Joseph Community Center.

At this time, the Office, especially the Community Liaison, is ramping up all our efforts to prepare for the Legislative Visit Day of 6 May 2008. The visit day will conclude Phase II. The Office anticipates approximately 50 total participants from all across Ohio.

Members of the General Assembly have been invited to welcome the visit day participants, including: Senator John Carey - R, Senator Teresa Fedor - D, Rep. Kevin DeWine - R, and Rep. Mike Skindell - D, to name a few. They have been invited to visit the morning session of the visit day and to address participants.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Gala - OED: On 18 April 2008, the OED Board Committee and the Latino Community Network Program of the Office successfully executed the 2008 DHO Awards Gala. Over 200 registered participants attended the gala, and Governor Ted Strickland participated for the second year in a row as our guest speaker. Additional information on the gala will be delivered by the OED committee in its report at the May meeting



of the Board.

D (30 April)

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet: As of 30 April 2008, there are a total of 150 community organizations registered on the public side of the OLAnet database system. There are an additional 57 organizations pending updates and internal approvals before publishing to the public side.

Our consulting team at Northlich has begun OLAnet Update v.1.1, which includes an updating of the News & Events section with a new look and feel, as well as streamlining the administrative side of the OLAnet management tools. Upcoming updates include the activation of the long-awaited subscriber function, among other upgrades.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Participation in a Public Safety Panel, hosted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety (1 April)
- Meet with Ed Waters, Office of the Inspector General (1 April)
- Meet with Jose Torres, Office of the Governor (1 April)
- Meet with Leonard Hubert, OH Civil Rights Commission (2 April)
- Meet with Melissa Cardenas, Board of Regents (3 April)
- Meet with Karen Shauri, Michele Abraham, and James Ackley of the OH Department of Development (7 April)
- Meet with Representative Kevin DeWine - R, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Ohio House of Representatives (17 April)
- Meet with State Rep. Jon Peterson - R (28 April - Delaware County)
- Meet with Emerald Hernandez & Jose Torres, Office of the Governor (29 April)
- Meet with State Rep. Mike Skindell -

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Conduct GCBI Cleveland (4 April - Cleveland)
- Conduct GCBI Youngstown (5 April - Youngstown)
- Meet with Guadalupe Velasquez, City of Columbus New Americans Office (11 April)
- Assist with Scholarship Interviews for Damas Latinas Organization (12 April)
- Address the Greater Cincinnati Latino Coalition Meeting (15 April - Cincinnati)
- Presentation about Hispanic Ohioans to the Columbus Academy (16 April)
- Meet with John McConaughy (21 April)
- Meet with Stephanie Czekalinski of the Columbus Dispatch (23 April)
- Meet with Joseph Calmer of ProMusica (23 April)
- Meet with David Robinson - D, candidate for US Congress (24 April)
- Conduct GCBI Lorain (25 April - Lorain)
- Meet with Jason Dominguez, Office of Congressman Pat Tiberi - R (28 April)
- Participate in Delaware County Education Meeting (28 April)



May 2008

SPECIAL ISSUE: LEGISLATION

During the month of May, House Bill 477, also known as English-Only 2008, reached the furthest stages of advancement by any *English Only* proposal in the state of Ohio since the 1990's. After many hearings in the House State Government & Elections Committee, the proposal was referred to the floor of the House, where it was voted out by a narrow 52-46 vote. Although the vote in favor largely followed party lines, a small but meaningful number of Democrats ultimately voted for the bill,

and an equally significant number of Republicans did not vote for the shortsighted measure.

Opponent witnesses far outnumbered proponent witnesses. With few exceptions, those in favor of English Only were represented by national special interest groups and DC-based lobbyists with no interest or connection with community life in Ohio.

In contrast, the overwhelming number of opponents came from across the Buckeye state, representing community groups, faith-based organizations, business and labor interests. The Director of Ohio Latino Affairs offered testimony against the bill, and a written copy of said testimony is attached to this report.

A strong outpouring of community support bolstered with factual information and research by the Office of Latino Affairs played a critical role in a broad, statewide coalition of organizations and community leaders to work against the largely symbolic legislation. This support, the coalition, and a number of additional political factors led to the bill being stalled in the Senate State & Local Government and Veterans Affairs committee.

As a footnote on House Bill 477, the Governor ultimately took a strong stand against the measure – which sends a hostile message to new jobs and foreign investment in Ohio – and advised the General Assembly that he was ready to veto the bill.

On a parallel course, Senate Bill 260, also known as the Immigrant Profiling bill, had already been voted out of the Senate in April and spent all of the month of May in the House State Government & Elections Committee. The Chairman of the Committee did not begin with hearings on the Immigrant Profiling bill until the very end of the month. A total of three hearings – sponsor, proponent, and opponent –

took place with no committee action on the bill.

As with the English Only bill, the Immigrant Profiling bill was met with even stronger and more resolute opposition. During opponent testimony on 22 May 2008, nearly 50 community members filled the hearing room to offer witness on the failings and dangers of SB 260, with 14 witnesses registered to testify against the bill. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, only five witnesses were able to testify. However, the Chairman of the House State Government Committee did make a commitment to hear additional testimony from opponents before a the measure is sent for a floor vote of the entire House.

A copy of the testimony offered by the Policy Liaison of Ohio Latino Affairs is also attached to this report.

Overall, well over a dozen meetings took place between Office staff and legislators in both the House & Senate. Research and reports – both pro and con – were offered upon constituent request, and regular updates were channeled via e-mail and the Ohio Latino Affairs website.

The Office of the Governor did suggest that both the Immigrant Profiling, and the English Only bills would likely face the veto pen. However, given the unpredictable political climate of a presidential election year, and close races which may determine the future of the Ohio House, and the Ohio Attorney General's race, in addition to national races, mean that either or both bills may move swiftly to the Governor's desk with little or no notice.

During the summer, the Office will work on enhancing and improving communication strategies, analytical reports, and informative briefs to legislators. However, it ultimately falls upon the shoulders of local community



leaders and organizations to determine what course of action to take, whether or not to support or oppose individual bills, and to request research and information from the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative -

OED: The Latino Legislative Visit Day of 6 May 2008 took place as an unqualified success. The visit day, which concluded Phase II of the GCBI, included over 40 total participants from all across Ohio. Speakers at the event included Senator John Carey - R, Senator Teresa Fedor - D, and Rep. Mike Skindell - D. At least a dozen meetings with various additional legislators took place, offering community leaders and participants an opportunity to voice their concerns directly with policy makers and elected officials. Mary Santiago and Phil Barbosa were active participants in the event.

The evaluation revealed that participants rated the event as "Excellent". Community feedback indicated a desire for greater advance knowledge of the event so that it can become a regular part of their planning schedule. Such advance planning will help in organizing more participants for the event, in particular those coming from distant regions. As a consequence, the Office of Latino Affairs has announced a tentative date of 19 May 2009 for the next Latino Legislative Visit Day.

The materials offered to participants were well received and found to be very useful. In particular, attendees appreciated the directory of state elected officials and other informational materials, synopses, and talking points. Additional comments regarding the sessions indicate the community would like to have different level sessions: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. This would help advocates from the community to learn more effectively during the time we have together.

General Comments:

- Bringing the State Representatives was a great idea. It is good for community leaders to have one to one opportunities with them as a group.
- The session on how to communicate with legislators was informative and useful.
- The facilitators were very professional. Participants were able to ask questions and receive clear answers.
- I really appreciated having OCHLA arrange for us to meet with legislators. This was a great turnout, and it has a positive effect on the community.
- A hand to OCHLA for letting community leaders know we are all responsible for staying up to date on legislation.
- Please provide us more events like this. In particular, help is needed to learn what a 501 (c) 3 can do related to lobbying efforts.
- After going to the program, I realized how little I knew about legislators. I am glad you shared this knowledge with us.
- In the short time we had, I had the opportunity to meet other Latino Leaders from different areas. This is very positive.
- The event was very well organized. Logistics were excellent. Good job!
- We should program a conference around the Legislative Visit Day. A day prior to the day, should be spent in workshops and meetings.
- The event was great. The energy of the group was strong and people wanted to take action after the event. I think allowing time for possible planning of action, and collaboration will help.
- This is a great event that can lead to the community becoming better organized. We can create a network for legislative issues so our efforts become better organized.
- Please share with us information on how to write letters, how to address legislators, provide samples of good letters.



- Please post updates and information on the website in a regular basis. Provide us with sample documents we can use; talking points.

DIRECTORS' CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director and/or the Policy Liaison (Program Director of the Public Policy Center) participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Testimony on HB 477 (English Only) in the House State Government & Elections Committee (1 May)
- Meet with Representative Strahorn (1 May)
- Meet with the Office of Senator Ray Miller - D (2 May)
- Meet with Legislative Liaison Emerald Hernandez of the Office of the Governor (5 May)
- Meet with Representative Mecklenborg - R (6 May)
- Meet with Representative Flowers - R (6 May)
- Meet with Representative Daniels - R (7 May)
- Meet with Representative Hite - R (7 May)
- Meet with Representative Lundy - D (7 May)
- Attended hearing on HB 477 (English Only) in the House State Government & Elections Committee (8 May)
- Meet with Dan Ramos of the House Minority Caucus (9 May)
- Meet with the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (12 May - Indianapolis)
- Meet with the Consul of Mexico in Indianapolis (12 May)
- Meet with Representative Mecklenborg - R (12 May)
- Meet with Representative Jon Peterson - R (13 May)
- Meet with Representative Carmichael - R (13 May)
- Meet with Representative DeWine - R (13 May)

- Meet with Representative Collier - R (13 May)
- Meet with Representative Stewart - D (13 May)
- Participated in community-organized meeting on HB 477 and SB 260 (13 May)
- Attended hearings on HB 477 (English Only) and SB 260 (Immigrant Profiling) in the House State Government & Elections Committee (15 May)
- Meet with Representative Mecklenborg - R (15 May)
- Meet with Commander Jeffrey Blackwell and Legislative Liaison Michael Weisman of the Columbus Police Department (15 May)
- Meet with Heather Mann of the Office of the Speaker of the House (19 May)
- Attended hearing on HB 477 (English Only) in the House State Government & Elections Committee (20 May)
- Meet with Senator Steve Stivers - R (20 May)
- Meet with Representative Hite - R (20 May)
- Meet with Representative Book - D (20 May)
- Meet with Representative Domenick - D (21 May)
- Testimony on SB 260 (Immigrant Profiling) in the House State Government & Elections Committee (22 May)
- Attended Hearing on HB 477 (English Only) in the Senate State and Local Government & Veterans Affairs Committee (27 May)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director and/or Community Liaison (Program Director of the Latino Community Network) attended the following community oriented meetings and events:

- Meet with Girls for Government Workshop of the Girl Scouts (3 May)
- Meet with Dave Parks of the Dayton Foundation (7 May - Dayton)



- Meet with the Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (7 May - Dayton)
- Presentation to the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (8 May)
- Lecture given to Social Work class at The Ohio State University (8 May)
- Participated in the Santa Maria Community Organization Event (9 May - Cincinnati)
- Meet with Alfonso Cornejo, President of the Greater Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (9 May - Cincinnati)
- Meet with the Sagamore Institute (12 May - Indianapolis)
- Served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the 15th Annual Women's Health Conference (15 May)
- Meet with Dr. Steve Johnson, President of Sinclair Community College (16 May)
- Presented proclamation from Office of the Governor at the 7th Annual Damas Latinas Scholarship Award Gala (17 May)
- Participated in OSU Multicultural Awards (19 May)
- Meet with Director Mughan of the Department of International Studies of The Ohio State University (20 May)
- Meet with Gerardo Colon of the Census Bureau, Cleveland Office (23 May)
- Facilitator for discussion on Latin America, hosted by the Columbus Council on World Affairs (28 May - Granville)

Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, was able to finalize the necessary framework documents for Project OPEN to begin. Said iterations also included proper review and approval by the Office of the Attorney General.

The preconditions for launch having been satisfied, the initial meeting of the Director's Advisory Committee on Economic Development took place on 12 August 2008, with Jim Ackley & Kim Kollig from the OBC, Mercedes Sanchez of the CEL, Mariangee Merino & Ramona Reyes of the HCC, and the Director of the Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to begin establishing some preliminary rules of engagement between the HCC and the CEL vis-à-vis sponsorship and programming opportunities. The rules of engagement were established early-on as a requirement for a successful Project OPEN – as early as February 2008.

In parallel with the Project OPEN pre-launch steps, the HCC concluded its search process for its first full-time Executive Director. The first round yielded approximately half-a-dozen candidates. The Director of Latino Affairs was kept apprised of all steps, and had privy to the search criteria, job description, and other search steps along the way. In addition, the Director was invited to participate as an interviewer during the second round, which included in-person interviews.

Having selected two final candidates for Executive Director of the HCC, a final round was conducted by the HCC Board of Directors. Members of the OBC and the Director of Latino Affairs were invited to participate in the final round, however, both parties willingly yielded to the HCC Board.

At a mixer on Thursday, 21 August 2008, the HCC announced its selection of Tom Lianez as HCC Executive Director.

August 2008

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Project OPEN Launch & HCC Executive Director Selection

After many iterations and meetings, the working team comprised of staff from the Ohio Business Connection (OBC), the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (HCC), the Centro Empresarial Latino (CEL), the



Grassroots Initiative Mini-Grant Presentations

During the first two weeks of August, staff from the Office of Latino Affairs made presentations in Youngstown, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Cleveland for the ceremonial mini grant awards of the Grassroots Initiative. State and local elected officials participated in the ceremonies in Youngstown, Cincinnati and Dayton. Members of the Commission participated in Cincinnati and Dayton.

In addition, meetings with keystone organizations in Lorain and Youngstown were conducted to discuss the Grassroots Mini-Match proposal during the same timeframes. Overall, the presentations were very well received, well attended, and varying degrees of media coverage was enjoyed.

A critical challenge remains in the actual awarding of the mini grants. Conversations are still underway between the Office of Latino Affairs and the Dayton Foundation. The initial proposed instrument – a “Charitable Checking Account” – was deemed to be an inappropriate vehicle for grant distribution purposes by the Office of the Attorney General. Therefore, a separate contract must be negotiated. This matter has the full attention of the Office of Latino Affairs so as to avoid any unnecessary delays in the mini grant awards.

DIRECTORS’ CALENDAR

Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director and/or the Policy Liaison (Program Director of the Public Policy Center) participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Representative Strahorn (4 August)
- Meet with Representative Wagner (5 August)

- Meet with Senator Roberts (6 August)
- Meet with Noah Browning of OBM (6 August)
- Meet with Michele Abraham of Development (6 August)
- Meet with Benito Lucio of Jobs & Family Services (6 August)
- Meet with Heather Mann of the Office of the Speaker (11 August)
- Initial meeting of the Director’s Advisory Committee on Economic Development (12 August)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director and/or Community Liaison (Program Director of the Latino Community Network) attended the following community oriented meetings and events:

- Meet with Mercedes Sanchez of the Centro Empresarial Latino (1 August)
- HCC Executive Director Interviews (1 August)
- ROI Farmworkers’ Appreciation Day Event (Fremont - 2 August)
- Meet with Victor Leandry of El Centro (Lorain - 7 August)
- Presentation of Grassroots Mini Grant to Youngstown State University (Youngstown - 8 August)
- Meet with Mary Isa Garayua of OCCHA (Youngstown - 8 August)
- Presentation of Grassroots Mini Grant to Terra State Community College (Fremont - 11 August)
- Presentation of Grassroots Mini Grants (Cincinnati & Dayton - 13 August)
- Chair meeting of the United States Council on Latino Affairs, hosted by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (Chicago, IL - 14 August)
- Presentation of Grassroots Mini Grant to the Hispanic Business Association (Cleveland - 15 August)
- Meet with Ruben Herrera (19 August)
- Meet with Bob Doyle & Rich Bitonte of Strategic Government Initiatives (19 August)
- Meet with Marco Satala (19 August)



- Hispanic Chamber of Columbus Mixer Event (21 August)
- Meet with Victor Mora of The Ohio State University (22 August)

September 2008

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

Having completed final presentations of the Grassroots Mini Grants, and finalized paperwork with the Dayton Foundation, final funding from the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission to the eight Mini Grant awardees has begun to flow through the Dayton Foundation this month.

Project OPEN

During the month of September, the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus and the Ohio Business Connection began work-in-earnest for Project OPEN for Opportunity. The HCC Board selected Tom Lianez as Executive Director for the organization and is now working diligently towards identifying consolidated office space for both the HCC and the Latino Small Business Development Center.

Soluciones Education Campaign/Agenda Latina Community Meetings

After an Office Team Meeting on Friday, 5 September 2008, the final schedule was set for the Autumn 2008 Agenda Latina Meetings—Education Mini Conferences. Set to run throughout the month of October, the mini-conferences will take the Office of Latino Affairs to Columbus, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lorain, Fremont, Toledo, Cincinnati and Dayton. The meeting format has been split into three parts. The first part is a general overview of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, and a big-picture perspective on the agency's strategic initiatives (OED, DEV, EDU) for the 2008-09 biennium, and the 2009-10 biennium. The second part of the agenda is a specific drill-down into the history of the commission's eight-year

track record working on education issues in the Latino community, including pros, cons, successes and challenges. The third part of the agenda is an OLA-moderated discussion which gives community members an opportunity to discuss their priorities, concerns, success stories, and challenges.

A copy of the overview presentation is included with this report.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Hispanic Impact

Marco Satala, an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University, began working at the Office of Ohio Latino Affairs as an intern working on the Hispanic Impact campaign. His primary assignment is to research information regarding the positive contributions of Latinos to life in the state of Ohio. During the month of September, the Director is working on a research framework to guide Mr. Satala's work. Additionally, the Office has engaged in direct outreach with the OSU Office of Minority Affairs through Dr. Jose Villa, and through Larry Williamson, Director of the Hale Black Cultural Center. The Hale Center will serve as an on-campus resource for Mr. Satala's work, to facilitate his research without the need to travel to the Office of Ohio Latino Affairs in downtown Columbus every single day. Proper arrangements are being negotiated to ensure that Mr. Satala is supervised while working at the Hale Center.

Director Williamson has also begun the process of setting up dialogue between Director Escudero & Dr. Villa. Additional meetings are planned to ensure that the Office of Ohio Latino Affairs can leverage resources within the OSU Latino community to advance the research for the Hispanic Impact campaign.

OLAnet

Due to technology firm buyouts and changes with our two key service



providers, Interactive Ink and Base10, the Office of Ohio Latino Affairs is facing the possibility of the need for major platform changes for the OLANet system - which includes the ochla.ohio.gov website, web content management tools, hosting of the website, and OLANet database technologies (directory, calendar, news service, reports library, etc.)

Interactive Ink, a Columbus-based firm that originally worked with the Director to develop the concept of OLANet, and was contracted to perform the technical work of building our website and OLANet systems, was bought out about a year ago by Northlich, a Cincinnati-based firm. From the very beginning, Interactive Ink had recommended the use of Base10 software, developed by a Cleveland-based company of the same name. Base10 has since been bought out by Bridgeline Software, a Boston software firm.

Initially, these changes not only presented little disruption in the development and launch of OLANet and the website, they initially offered high expectations in the form of hopes of working with companies with far more resources and technology than the original business entities.

However, since summer 2008, both firms announced major changes to their respective client-bases. Northlich planned to take dozens of Interactive Ink clients and turn them over to Bridgeline for ongoing support, service, and business relationships. In the same timeframe, Bridgeline announced plans to terminate support for the Base10 Web Content Management software tools - the very tools that are now mission-critical to the Ohio Latino Affairs website and OLANet systems. The implications for the commission are doubly-troubling. First, the prospect of losing Northlich as a service provider means that the OLANet systems would now depend upon a firm for technical support with no experience in the original development of said

systems. Secondly, the prospect of losing support for the Base10 software suite carries with it a reality of an expensive re-development of the website - and potentially re-engineering of the OLANet systems. While this cost will likely be less than the original development costs of both site and systems, the expense is incurred in that the necessary investment will - without proper leadership and planning - bring no new value to the business operations of the commission.

These kinds of changes - however unpleasant and disruptive - are par for the course when it comes to dealing with technology. The most aggravating complication is a real loss in quality service delivery from both Northlich and Bridgeline due to terrible (if not non-existent) transition planning, and even worse execution of said client-service transition. The short-term implications are delays in fulfilling maintenance requests, poor load times for website users, and an emerging culture of point-and-blame. This is to be contrasted with a desired scenario including a thoughtful pursuit of understanding the commission's real business needs, and prompt execution on addressing these needs.

In response, the Director will be working with both firms to develop a viable course of action that ensures eliminating end-user disruptions for the website and OLANet systems, addresses platform issues in such a way that maximizes value opportunities to the commission, minimizes cost, and addresses desired updates and next-steps for both systems while also maximizing stability and support with a firm who will offer a stronger commitment to an ongoing business relationship better than the commitment offered by either Northlich or Bridgeline at this time.

The stakes of proper execution should be clear to the members and staff of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. In less than six months from launch in November 2007,



the website and OLANet systems have become mission-critical systems. In other words, without these enabling technologies, the commission cannot sustain current levels of high quality constituent service to policymakers, community leaders, and organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Fiscal

In consultation with the Chair of the Board, the Finance Chair, and affected committee chairs, the Director has implemented the mandated round of 4.75% budget cuts from the Office of the Governor and the Office of Budget & Management. In short, the following steps are being taken which will help the commission deal with the cuts without eliminating active programs or services:

- Integrate Soluciones Conference with Agenda Latina Autumn Roadshow (one event instead of two) Re-schedule 2009 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala from April to September
- Re-evaluate engagement with partners on key projects (Grassroots, Soluciones, etc.)
- Postpone the Soluciones Education Pilot
- Delay further hiring and personal services contracts as much as is possible

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

- 2 September - John Stanford, Education Policy Executive Assistant to the Governor
- 4 September - Strategic Government Initiatives
- 4 September - Dr. Bharat Nauriwal of the Columbus Council on World Affairs
- 5 September - Marco Satala, undergraduate student, Ohio State
- 5 September - Ruben Herrera
- 10 September - Tom Lianez, Executive Director, Hispanic Chamber of Columbus

- 12 September - Noah Browning, Fiscal Analyst, Office of Budget & Management
- 12 September - Melissa Cardenas, Ohio Board of Regents
- 12 September - Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Awards Gala
- 17 September (Cleveland) - Presentation at the Wolstein Center, Cleveland State
- 17 September (Cleveland) - Scott Moss, Account Manager, Bridgeline
- 19 September - Chris Brandon, Battelle
- 22 September - Senator John Carey
- 23 September (Cleveland) - Hispanic Roundtable Community Forum
- 24 September - Melissa Cardenas, Ohio Board of Regents
- 25 September - Ed Robert, Office of United States Senator Sherrod Brown
- 26 September - LEON Annual Dinner Gala
- 29 September - Tom Lianez, Executive Director, Hispanic Chamber of Columbus
- 29 September - Strategic Government Initiatives
- 30 September - Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Nationwide Insurance



October 2008

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

Phase III of the original Grassroots Initiative is well underway, as is the new Grassroots Keystone project, which will hopefully lead to the creation of the Grassroots Latino Leadership Council in late spring 2009. A brief summary of each component follows:

1. Phase III of the Grassroots Initiative is a long-term, multi-year initiative to strengthen the relationships between Ohio's Latino not-for-profit agencies and Ohio's grant making institutions. The first major component of Phase III

will be the first Summit Meeting of the Grassroots Latino Leadership Council in May 2009. At that meeting, an intensive workshop between grant makers and 20-to-30 Latino community organizations will bring these groups together to start a formal, common-agenda setting process.

2. The Grassroots Keystone Project (Keystone) is a way to enhance the impact of the mini-grants made during Phase II of the Grassroots Initiative. Four “keystone” organizations have been identified and approached for participation in Keystone. These organizations also participated in the first two phases of the Grassroots Initiative.
3. The Ohio Grassroots Latino Leadership Council (OGLLC) will be a statewide council of Latino not-for-profit social services agencies. Executive Directors from as many as 20 to 30 such agencies will be invited to join the council. The purpose of the council will be to assist in a very direct way the capacity-building and strategic planning of member agencies.



Working with our partner, Strategic Government Initiatives, we will make the summit meeting link with the legislative visit day in May 2009. Participating agencies will also be invited to set up informational booths at the Statehouse during the visit for a nominal fee (\$25-40).

Each component is being worked on in parallel with all three program offices (Public Policy Center, Latino Community Network, Organizations Development Center) and all three Directors (Executive, PPC Program, LCN Program). A brief status report follows:

1. Phase III - An invitation packet to participate in the OGLLC is being prepared for the big eight community foundations and other grantmakers in the state of Ohio.
2. Keystone - The Office will finish

preparing the Keystone Minimatch application by the end of the calendar year. Legal review steps and fiscal challenges have created some unanticipated delays, however applications should be ready for January 2009. Additionally, organization profiles are being written by our Project Manager for the Hispanic Impact campaign by the Keystone organizations.

3. OGLLC - A full agenda and meeting proposal packet for the OGLLC Summit (May 2009) will be presented to the Board at the January meeting in 2009. The team from Strategic Government Initiatives have been contracted to help with Project Management and to augment fundraising efforts for the summit, legislative visit day, and the 2009 DHO.

Project OPEN

The first Advisory Council meeting for Project OPEN took place on 23 October 2008, at the headquarters of Nationwide Insurance. Representatives from the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Business Connection, the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus were in attendance, with Director Escudero serving as meeting chair. Meeting notes from the meeting are attached to this report.

In order to help facilitate the work of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission in terms of the next-step goals to make Project OPEN a truly statewide initiative, the Workforce & Economic Development (WED) committee (Barbosa, Chair), and the Director have begun work on creating an “Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations” and hosting a statewide summit in December 2008. Gus Hoyas, Chairman of the Hispanic Business Association in Cleveland, and a member of the Hispanic Roundtable, also in Cleveland, has been an instrumental partner in the vision, funding, and execution of this new Project OPEN

component.

The summit will be co-hosted between Ohio Latino Affairs and the Ohio Business Connection, our fiscal agent for Project OPEN. Sponsorships from the Key Bank Foundation, State Farm Insurance, and the Hispanic Roundtable will cover a majority of the expenses of the event, especially those expenses (such as food for participants) that cannot be covered with commission funds. Not counting in-kind work, the commission will likely incur expenses of about \$2,000 for printing, materials, and etceteras. Each of the targeted chambers and business associations will be invited to send three named participants to the summit. The invited organizations are:

1. Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Toledo)
2. Lorain Business Center
3. Hispanic Business Association/
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio (Cleveland)
4. Canton Latino business community
5. Hispanic Chamber of Columbus
6. Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
7. Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

In addition, the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce will be invited to send one participant. As the OHCC is an umbrella group for four out of the above seven organizations, one OHCC participant should be more than adequate for coverage.

Two participants will be invited from each of the corporate sponsors, the Ohio Business Connection, and the Ohio Department of Development.

The summit is planned for Thursday evening, December 4th, and for all-day Friday, December 5th, in Columbus. A more detailed budget and program agenda are available for review as they become available.

Soluciones Education Campaign/Agenda Latina Community Meetings

Through the end of October, six out of the eight Agenda Latina Community Meetings on Education were completed. The sessions in Fremont and Toledo were rescheduled to November due to a lack of interest and confirmations of attendance. After all the meetings, the Office will consolidate reports from all eight meetings. The comprehensive report of recommendations to the Board will be prepared by the Office and presented to the Board by March 2009, if not sooner. Initial drafts will be made available as soon as they are ready. Additionally, drafts are available for review and comment to all meeting participants.

Working drafts of local meeting notes are available at the following website: http://ochla.ohio.gov/campaigns_initiatives/solucionesworkpage.aspx

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Agenda Latina Community Meetings - Spring 2009

The Office is working on an initial proposal for the Agenda Latina Community Meetings in Spring 2009. Based upon conversations with officers of the state chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), there is interest in a potential partnership for a series of youth leadership workshops. These can be incorporated to the spring "roadshow" to help promote the Grassroots Initiative, strengthen the commission's ties with LULAC, and address a growing concern about the level of preparation of up-and-coming community leaders. In addition, such a partnership would be a good proving ground for the possibility of designating LULAC chapters as formal advisory committees of the Office's Policy Action Network - thereby improving community engagement in the public policy process with an organized, formally-chartered



network of community groups.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Fiscal

The Office of Latino Affairs is now faced with some unanticipated costs in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. These costs, totaling approximately \$3,000 include:

1. Penalties for non-filers
2. Unpaid retirement benefits
3. Unemployment filing

Although these costs are meaningful and not insubstantial, the Director will make appropriate adjustments in day-to-day expenses to make up for these items.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

- 1 October (Canton) - Latino business community
- 2 October (Cleveland) - Latino awards luncheon at Cleveland State
- 3 October - Ethics Training
- 6 October - Senator John Carey
- 8 October - Ruben Herrera
- 8 October - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 9 October - Radio interview with National Public Radio
- 13 October - Larry Williamson, Director, Hale Black Cultural Center at Ohio State
- 13 October - Latino Association of Ohio
- 14 October - Victoria Nunes of the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus & LULAC Ohio
- 15 October (Youngstown) - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 16 October (Cleveland) - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 17 October (Lorain) - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 20 October - Jennifer Caceres of Alpha Psi Lambda at Ohio State



- 21 October (Cincinnati) - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 22 October (Dayton) - Soluciones Mini Conference/Agenda Latina Community Meeting
- 25 October (Cleveland) - Hispanic Business Association Awards Gala
- 27 October - Jason Riveiro, State Director of Ohio, LULAC
- 27 October - Representative Larry Flowers
- 28 October - Event with Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico
- 28 October - Leonard Hubert
- 29 October - Voting Machine Judge Training for Franklin County
- 29 October - Presentation at Ohio State on Latinos & Public Policy
- 29 October - Meeting for the Hispanic Advisory Council of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio
- 30 October - Dr. Jose Villa, Assistant Vice Provost, Ohio State
- 30 October - Candidates Night for LULAC

November 2008

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Research and Information - General Assembly

On a daily basis the Public Policy Center (PPC) has been closely tracking the General Assembly activities and legislative calendar. On November 7th the Senate President Bill Harris announced the priority Senate bills that he would like to see move forward in the House. Among the list of bills was Senate Bill 260. Fortunately however the bill was not scheduled for a hearing at all in November, while most bills on the list were — which indicates it was not a priority for the House.

Research and Information - Post-Election Review

After returning from a week-long vacation

the first week of November, the PPC Program Director, Florentina Staigers, reviewed Ohio election results to be able to inform the public about key changes. The most important change that occurred was that the Democrats will now have a majority in the house, following a gain of seven seats. Democrat Armond Budish (D-Beachwood), will be the next House Speaker. Representative William Batchelder will be the new House Minority Leader.

Senate Bill 205

Due to committee hearings scheduled on Senate Bill 205, which would strengthen Ohio's human trafficking bills, the PPC began to research and analyze the bill. Additionally, a Policy Action Network (PAN) alert was sent out, asking for feedback on the legislation. The PAN proved to be effective, generating additional research into the bill regarding possible concerns with some specific language.

Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC submitted the October Monthly Policy Brief, which includes summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. The monthly policy briefs for August and September are now on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2008.aspx>

English Only Issue Policy Brief

The English Only Policy Brief was modified to include links to proponent and opponent websites and past bills were uploaded. See <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ipb-english0801.aspx>

Tactical Policy Brief - Legislation 101

The PPC modified the Legislation 101 page to include information regarding the "what, who and when" of the Ohio legislature. Also added were external links and a "Guide to Giving Testimony." See <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/tpb-legis101.aspx>

Advise - Senate Bill 205

In response to feedback from the community, Program Director Staigers discussed the bill (and its companion legislation, HB 15) briefly with Representative Kathleen Chandler, who attended the OCHLA Board meeting on November 18th. Program Director Staigers, along with Velasquez also met with Senator Teresa Fedor. Program Director Staigers attended the committee hearing on Senate Bill 205 on November 19, 2008, where many members of Trafficking-related organizations testified in support of the bill.

Increase Channels of Communication - Seminar Regarding Lobbying by Non-profits

The PPC Program Director attended a seminar which focused on lobbying by non-profits, including the extent to which a 501(c)(3) can lobby, and a 501(h) option. The seminar provided important background information for a pending policy brief that will be completed by mid-January.

Enhance Government Effectiveness - Correspondence with Bruno Romero, Ohio Supreme Court

Program Director Staigers has been in correspondence from Bruno Romero regarding Interpreter/Translator Certification. The PPC is currently reviewing information sent by Bruno in order to assess opportunities.

Enhance Government Effectiveness - Meeting on the Recruitment of State Workers

The PPC Program Director attended a meeting at the request of Lauren Goode, Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Fisher to discuss how State government can be more effective in recruiting employees of color. A diverse group of state employees representing several different agencies attended. Follow up meetings are forthcoming.



LATINO COMMUNITY NETWORK

OLAnet Systems Administration

Ongoing discussions continue with Northlich and Bridgeline regarding support services for OLAnet. Although this is a serious situation, Executive Director Ezra C. Escudero is optimistic that the Office will have a brief update at the December meeting of the Board of s. At this time, both vendors have expressed an interest in continuing a business relationship with the Commission and in support of the OLAnet system.

Website status: upload times have improved slightly. John Iannicello from Northlich has been working with community liaison to deal with error messages, correct issues with pages and information display, and correcting other issues reported by users.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards (DHO) and Legislative Visit Day (LVD)

OED Committee - Mary Santiago, Chair Meetings were held with SGI to discuss the service offer. A draft contract was discussed for SGI to provide support for the DHO and LVD planning, fundraising campaign and logistics support. Latino Community Network Program Director Cavanaugh provided additional information and historical data to SGI on past DHO and Legislative Visit Day events.

Director Escudero will be receiving/reviewing/approving the contract(s) for these projects in early December.

Program Director Cavanaugh surveyed and prepared a report for Santiago on potential locations for the DHO event. Visits were made to these locations and a comparative report for each facility was prepared for Santiago. This report will be shared with the DHO Committee during the next Board Meeting day.

National Preparedness Month (Ohio's

Emerging Diversity Initiative)

The distribution of the DVD "Protect Your Family—Proteja a su Familia" is complete. A version of the DVD has been transferred to an MPEG format, and has been secured to enable to upload the Video online. Ohio State campus magazine ¿Que Pasa, OSU? has uploaded the video in their website. Multimedia web journal Escape Latino will also be posting the video in their website. Columbus Public Schools and Nationwide Children Hospitals contacted us with very positive feedback about the video, and how it is being used to educate the Latino community.

Networking/Media/Public Relations

Program Director Cavanaugh participated in the Toledo Conexión Latina meeting. This was a great opportunity to meet many of the leaders in the Toledo area. Additionally, she has been invited to participate in the Norwalk Hispanic Taskforce meeting on December 12th (Huron County). This will provide a good opportunity to expand our network in Northern Ohio.

Finally, the LCN provided OLAnet overview and Latino organizations' contacts to Jessica Reed, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This is an agency part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They found information about the Commission through our website and were very impressed by the OLAnet database. The AHRQ department will be using the database to distribute information and Spanish brochures on health services for women over 50 in Ohio.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Soluciones Campaign (EDU Committee - Humberto Gonzalez, Chair)

The Fremont Education Mini Conference was successfully completed on November 21. We are in conversations with Toledo Conexión Latina to schedule a date in early 2009 for the Toledo Mini-Conference.



Program Director Cavanaugh participated in the Conexión Latina Retreat on Nov. 15th. Education was one of the topics discussed during the retreat. Notes from the education group discussions were emailed to Director Escudero on November 17, 2008.

Feedback from participants to Mini Education Conferences continues to be received. The online "Education Work Page" will remain active until January 16, 2009, to allow for more feedback from community members.

Project OPEN

DEV Committee - Phil Barbosa, Chair

There is nothing new to report this month.

Grassroots Initiative

OED Committee - Mary Santiago, Chair

There is nothing new to report this month.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Agenda Latina Community Meetings - Spring 2009

There is nothing new to report this month.

Hispanic Impact (Ohio's Emerging Diversity Initiative)

There is nothing to report this month.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Fiscal

A new round of budget cuts - in the range of 10 to 20% - is coming to all state agencies. Director Escudero will work with the Executive Committee to pin down specific areas for the cut, and respond accordingly to all guidance and directives from the Office of Budget & Management. Even cuts in this range should not disrupt core agency operations nor eliminate strategic initiatives. However, the Organizations Development Officer and the Organizations Development Center Program launch in January is in clear jeopardy with even a single-digit percentage cut.

DIRECTORS' CALENDAR

- 3 November - Melissa Cardenas, Board of Regents (Exec)
- 6 November - Jose Zacatelco, Fronteras newspaper (Exec)
- 10 November - Tom Lianez, Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (Exec)
- 11 November - OLANet Web Consultants at Northlich (Exec)
- 13 November - Hispanic Chamber of Columbus Board of Directors (Exec)
- 14 November - International Education Summit (LCN)
- 14 November - Tamara Gonzalez, Online Computer Library Center (Exec)
- 15 November - Toledo La Conexion Meeting (All hands)
- 17 November - Big Brothers Big Sisters Hispanic Advisory Committee (Exec)
- 18 November - Cincinnati Immigrant Advocacy Movement Meeting (PPC)
- 21 November - Fremont Education Mini-conference (All hands)

December 2008

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Research and Information - General

Assembly

The 127th General Assembly (GA) concluded on December 18th. The following is an overview of legislation introduced in the past GA affecting Latinos:

1. Senate Bill 260, sponsored by Sen. Gary Cates (R-West Chester), would have authorized a board of county commissioners to direct a county sheriff to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce civil violations of immigration law. The Board passed a resolution opposing the bill citing insufficient funds, the destruction of community policing relationships, and misdirected intentions.
2. House Bill 477, sponsored by Rep.



Robert Mecklenborg (R-Green Township) would have required all state and local government agencies to conduct official business in English. The Board passed a resolution opposing the legislation on the grounds that it did nothing to change the status quo, could exacerbate Ohio's language deficiencies in a global marketplace, send the wrong message to businesses, foreign investment, and those learning a foreign language, and cause civil rights violations by those who misinterpreted its purpose.

Both bills passed in their originating chambers earlier in the year. Fortunately however, when the legislature returned in November, the bills were unable to compete with higher priorities during the limited time frame for lame duck, and they died in committee when the legislature concluded in December.

Additionally, House Bill 308, sponsored by Rep. John Domenick (D-Smithfield) and Rep. Courtney Eric Combs (R-Hamilton), died without ever receiving a hearing. The bill was an immigration omnibus bill that would have done the following: prohibited the transportation or concealing of an undocumented immigrant; given law enforcement officers the authority to enforce civil immigration violations; prohibited colleges and universities from providing undocumented immigrants any post-secondary benefits; required public employers to use an employment authorization verification system; and directed that an undocumented immigrant will be presumed to be a flight risk in the determination of bond.

Only one immigrant-related measure passed before the conclusion of the 127th General Assembly, and that was a domestic violence/abortion bill that included language related to human-trafficking. House Bill 280, sponsored by Rep. Michelle Schneider (R-Madeira), created a specification (with mandatory

restitution and jail time) that is applicable when a crime is committed in furtherance of human trafficking. The bill also "strongly encouraged" the Attorney General's office to establish a Trafficking in Persons Study Commission.

House Bill 432, African Immigrants Commission

The Public Policy Center (PPC) monitored HB 432, which would establish a New African Immigrants Commission to advocate for the sub-Saharan African population. The African Commission would be modeled after our Commission. The PPC Program Director, Florentina Staigers, attended a December 4th House committee hearing on the bill. The bill, however, died in committee at the conclusion of the legislature.

Monthly Policy Briefs

Program Director Staigers submitted the November Monthly Policy Brief on December 1st, which includes summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. The monthly policy briefs for are on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2008.aspx>

Issue Policy Brief on Local Initiatives

The PPC created a special policy brief on whether the Commission could become involved in the support or opposition of local government actions.

The brief focused on local government resolutions affecting law enforcement involvement in immigration matters. It also included an overview of all local law enforcement initiatives of the Latino community which Program Director Staigers researched and assessed. Such a brief was needed as a result of increasing involvement with a resolution pending before the Oberlin City Council. (see below)

City of Oberlin Resolution Regarding Immigration

The PPC center became involved with a



local resolution initiative after several community leaders throughout Ohio inquired about a news article that had been published regarding Oberlin's efforts to pass a measure prohibited law enforcement involvement in immigration matters. The PPC Director contacted Mark Fahringer, of the Lorain Catholic Action Committee, who was helping to push the initiative.

On December 15, Program Director Staigers attended the Oberlin City Council meeting, which resulted in a vote of 6-1 to pass the resolution. Amendments are expected during an upcoming hearing on January 5th. The PPC Director gave testimony regarding the possible benefits of such a resolution.

During the time before the meeting, the PPC had worked to engage several Latino community advocates to attend. Individuals came from Cleveland, Lorain and the Akron area.

City of Columbus, Resolution Regarding Immigration

The PPC Director corresponded with the Columbus City Council administrative staff regarding some questions the council had about resolution language that was submitted to them over the past summer. The PPC Director researched and answered all questions. The council will apprise the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission of any possible hearings in the future.

Advise

Legislator Orientation and LCRs
The PPC will be compiling information to present to legislators in an orientation packet consisting of Information on who we are and what we do, Latino Community Reports (LCRs), articles from the Ohio Hispanic Impact project, and sample policy briefs. The same information will be used in a similar packet for returning legislators. The PPC Director has begun constructing lists of the new

legislators as well as information on views expressed on Latino-relevant issues while campaigning. The PPC now has a contact list for the 128th General Assembly.

Additionally, Program Director Staigers has developed an assessment of open seats in committees that are important to the PPC's legislative goals for 2009. A further assessment will be conducted when the legislature assigns new legislators to seats.

Increase Channels of Communication - Seminar Regarding Domestic Violence in the Immigrant Community

The PPC director attended a seminar which focused on the following subjects: an overview of Latino immigrants in the Southwest Ohio community, Immigration Law 101, Family Law affecting Immigrants, a discussion on Reframing the Immigration Debate for Future Comprehensive Reform, Immigrants and Public Benefits, and Interpreters in the Courts. This will help the PPC director to answer general questions on these matters, and the seminar also helped the PPC director to make important contacts for referrals and for the Policy Action Network (PAN).

Increase Channels of Communication - Policy Action Network Correspondence

The following policy alerts were sent out in the month of December to PAN members.

1. December 1 - Announcement of Oberlin Resolution and Oberlin City Council Meeting
2. December 16 - Legislative Alert regarding passage of Oberlin Resolution
3. December 18 - Legislative Alert regarding passage of HB 280 regarding Human Trafficking

Furthermore, the PPC has been working with the LCN director to better utilize the e-campaign feature of the OLAnet content management software tools so that the messages reach a wider audience when it is deemed necessary.



Increase Channels of Communication - Latino Media Policy Update

The PPC, in an effort to better communicate with the Latino community on what is happening at the state legislature, wrote an article to be distributed to Latino Media and via the e-campaign feature of OLANet. The article gives an overview of legislation introduced in the 127th General Assembly as well as key changes in the 128th General Assembly.

Increase Channels of Communication - Other Policy Updates

The PPC director also created individualized policy updates for the LCN director to take to a Latino Empowerment Outreach Network meeting, and for the Southwest Immigrant Advocacy Movement, which the PPC director was unable to attend because of the Oberlin meeting.

Increase Channels of Communication - Latino Association of Ohio

The PPC attended the LAO of Ohio meeting in Cincinnati on December 6th. The meeting focused on the by-laws as well as a process and timeline for turning over the LAO to a new board. There are no future meetings scheduled for the present board because the new board is expected to be in place by the first quarter of 2009.

Increase Channels of Communication - Legislative Visit Day

The PPC director researched and contacted the National Council of La Raza, LULAC and Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute regarding some of their past legislative advocacy days. The NCLR was the only organization to respond, sending detailed information about their past agenda.

Enhance Government Effectiveness - Workforce Development Project

The PPC director has created a Workforce

Development Project Plan. The first component of the plan, regarding research and overview of the structure of the WIA in general and in Ohio was completed in December. An initial assessment of which WIA areas the Commission will focus has also been completed.

Enhance Government Effectiveness - Ohio Commission on Civil Rights, Newsletter

The PPC director at the request of the OCRC, composed an article for their newsletter, which is distributed to a readership of more than 2000 contacts, including core constituents, the general public as well as state officials and lawmakers. The OCRC requested that the article be an update on the 127th General Assembly legislation that was particularly pertinent to Latinos. The article will be included in the January 2009 newsletter.

LATINO COMMUNITY NETWORK

OLANet Systems Administration

Maintenance continued to be performed on the website during December. Error messages and other user issues were discussed and resolved with the help of technical support at Northlich. Will Burrus has informed that Northlich will discontinue technical support for OLANET. Director Escudero will research possible alternatives for the future of the OLANET technical support and web hosting.

Updating of Organizational Profiles: Users have been informed that OLANET profiles will need to be updated by January 2009. Work has been started to clean the database of organizations that may have been assigned username/passwords, but never registered a full profile.

There are presently 219 organizations registered in the system.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards



(DHO) and Legislative Visit Day (LVD) OED Committee - Mary Santiago, Chair
SGI Support for Fundraising Campaign and Logistical Support. Two contracts are pending signature to secure the services of SGI for the Fundraising Campaign and logistical support for DHO and Legislative Visit Day. Preliminary meetings have been held with SGI to review the scope of the project and provide historical information.

DHO Event Location - September 18, 2009
A comparative report was prepared and presented to Santiago regarding possible DHO locations for 2009. A decision was reached to contract the event with the University Plaza Hotel. A contract will be signed and processed during January 2009.

Legislative Visit Day - May 19, 2009
Community Liaison and Policy Liaison have been working on preparing an outline for the Legislative Visit Day purpose of event, educational tracks, legislative meetings and logistics. As soon as the SGI contract is signed, a meeting will be held to begin coordination for the event.

Networking/Media/Public Relations
Ohio Latino Affairs Commission News Articles - The Spanish Journal and the Civil Rights Commission contacted community liaison to request articles regarding policy issues affecting the Latino community. The requests were forwarded to Policy Liaison who prepared these articles. Our plan is to send the policy articles on a regular basis to the Latino media as a means to keep the community informed.

Columbus Fire

On December 6, 2008, a Latino family in Columbus perished in an apartment fire. The blaze killed five people, including four children. A community taskforce met on December 7th at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition to discuss immediate and intermediate needs for the family.

Community liaison participated in

communications and facilitated information as needed. Additionally, OLA made the DVD "Proteja a su Familia contra Incendios" available to the committee and community leaders. The DVD continues to be duplicated and distributed among churches, stores and community organizations. The video was also facilitated and uploaded on the websites of Fronteras de La Noticia, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and OSU,- Que Pasa?

Ongoing Support the Governor's Initiative "Conversations on Education"

Community Liaison promoted and encouraged the participation of the Latino community in the next series of conversations focused on Funding the Education System. The six city tour included 13 Latino representatives who participated in the forums.

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission featured at L.E.O.N. Networking Meeting - Community Liaison made a presentation about OLANet, key initiatives and programs conducted by Ohio Latino Affairs Commission in 2008. An update prepared by the Policy Liaison on the status of legislation was also presented at the meeting.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Soluciones Education Campaign (EDU Committee - Humberto Gonzalez, Chair)

The Toledo meeting will be held on January 31, 2009. The initial draft report summarizing comments from seven regional conferences has been compiled and submitted to the Director. Feedback from participants to Mini Education Conferences continue to be received. The online "Education Work Page" will remain available throughout that timeframe.

Project OPEN

DEV Committee - Phil Barbosa, Chair
As a potential first step for the future statewide rollout of Project OPEN, the



Ohio Latino Affairs Commission hosted the first ever meeting of the Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations (OCHCBA) in Columbus on 5 December 2008.

The event was made possible through financial contributions from State Farm Insurance, Key Bank, the Hispanic Roundtable of Cleveland, and through logistical support and fiscal agent services from the Ohio Business Connection.

In attendance were the Hispanic Chambers from Northwest Ohio, Cincinnati, Greater Dayton, and Columbus. Additionally, the participation of the Hispanic Business Association of Cleveland, the Lorain Multicultural Business Center, and an unorganized group of Canton-area Latino business leaders made for a well-rounded meeting with statewide participation.

The Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (OHCC), an umbrella organization best known for the annual Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Awards Gala, was in attendance. By acclamation of the Council, the Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations agreed to rally together with and through the OHCC for the purpose of developing future agendas and fostering greater collaboration among the chambers. A growing web resource with contributions from members of the OCHCBA can be found on the Commission website at: http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns_Initiatives/ochcbaworkpage.aspx

Grassroots Initiative

OED Committee - Mary Santiago, Chair
A follow up message was sent to all grant recipients requesting a draft report on the progress of their initiatives by the first week of February.

Information from these draft reports will be used by policy liaison on the assessment of potential visits by legislators to

communities to observe impact of the grant. Due to further budget constraints, there will not be mini matches offered to Keystone organizations and meetings will not take place. Director will handle directly communications with each organization.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Agenda Latina Community Meetings - Spring 2009

Preliminary planning meeting was held with Director Escudero and Policy Liaison regarding the Spring Road Show. Dates and potential partners for the event have been selected. See attachment for details on event objectives and program outline.

Hispanic Impact (Ohio's Emerging Diversity Initiative)

There is nothing to report this month.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Fiscal

The Office received official word from OBM as to the extent of the latest round of budget cuts. The Commission is to cut approximately \$35,000 from the current FY2009 budget. This is going to be a severely painful cut for our agency, including the elimination of the planned Organizations Development Center Program Director in FY2009, and cutbacks in a number of programs the upcoming six months. As a small agency, budget cuts always affect the Commission most disproportionately, especially in personnel. Contingency plans, community impact statements, and strategies will be developed by the Office and the Executive Committee to strive avoid any further cuts this fiscal year.

DIRECTORS' CALENDAR

- 2 December - Informational TV Interview with Ohio Hispanic Coalition (Exec)
- 3 December - Representative Jim McGregor (PPC)



- 4 December - House State Government and Elections Committee (PPC)
- 5 December - Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations (All hands)
- 6 December - LEON Networking Meeting (LCN)
- 6 December (Springfield) - Latino Migrant Coalition Meeting (LCN)
- 7 December (Cincinnati) - Santa Maria Community Services Anniversary Celebration (LCN)
- 10 December - Columbus Council on World Affairs (LCN)
- 10 December - Senate Judiciary & Criminal Justice Committee (PPC)
- 15 December - Oberlin City Council Meeting (PPC)
- 30 December (Cincinnati) - John McConnaughey, FBI Multicultural Advisory Council (Exec)
- 30 December (Cincinnati) - Michael Beck, Midwest Latino On-line Journal (Exec)

**Ohio**



MINUTES OF THE BOARD

of the 31st Board of Commissioners ♦ October 2007 ~ September

December 2007

Minutes of the December 7, 2007 meeting
at Room 1932, 19th. Floor, Riffe Building,
77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Ramona Reyes
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Richard Romero

Phillip R. Barbosa
Daniel Porras
Michael G. Florez

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Susan De Luca

Absent

Chris Rodriguez- Excused
Mary Santiago- Excused

Simon Rodriguez- Excused
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused

Howell. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Communications Committee

Reyes informed that she is working with the Director to get talking points in case the current commissioners are asked to represent the Commission on OLANet. Their representation will give more publicity to OLANet in their respective areas. She also informed that the committee is working with the Chair in relation to purchase ads to promote OLANet and send press releases and media advisories.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 12-2007

To approve the November 13 meeting minutes. Presented by Aviles Casey. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Romero informed that the committee and the consultant met and discussed plans to meet with various non-profit organizations to let them know about the grant opportunities. They also discussed doing several training programs about how to fill out grant proposals, give all the necessary details they need in order to receive a grant. The discussed also a possible Legislative Day in May.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero wished Happy Holidays to everybody. He expressed that this past year the commission has moved on with the increase in funding, the OLANet initiative and the work of the different committees and feels excitement about the future in the New Year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for November.

Director Escudero informed that this is a three piece program: first: in March and April is the grant writing and legislative advocacy training; second: Host a legislative visit day; third, in late 2008 and early 2009 a community challenge with eight communities foundations around the state.

MOTION #2 - 12-2007 - To approve the Director's Report. Presented by Reyes. Seconded by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive and Finance

Romero informed that the committee met today and discussed their work during this year and make plans for next year. He also informed that the committed decided to have a Board meeting on January 18 and the Retreat in February 8 and 9. He expressed that they will address the issue concerning SGImages at the January 18 meeting.

Education Committee

Aviles Casey informed that the committee met with Ruben Herrera and Guadalupe Velasquez and they came to the conclusion that they will be no next step for Soluciones before having a road map to follow for this program. All information must be gathered and a Strategic Plan must be implemented. The suggestion to implement a third grade tutoring program was also discussed.

Finance Committee

Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report. Copy is attached as Exhibit C.

MOTION #3 - 12-2007 - To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Simms-

Director Escudero informed that three years ago the Commission created a



Community Advisory Council to help form and implement the education campaign, and put together the statewide roundtable conference two years ago on January 2006. He also informed that the group met last Saturday to begin the initial conversation, talking about what are some of the different issues, and what are the concerns.

The first piece of the plan for next year is: Action - Looking at the possibility of conducting a statewide education conference in early June.

Second: Network – Who are our friends in State government? Who are the key agencies, who are the key offices within the Department of Education and the Board of Regents that we have to be communicating with, sharing information in order that in 2009 our agency has our education initiatives align with theirs.

Third: Grow the Advisory Committee – Make this committee a statewide advisory committee on education issues and coordinate at least a quarterly meeting with them.

Director Escudero informed that if anyone is interested in getting more information on Soluciones 2006, could search for <http://www.osu.edu/soluciones>.

Director Escudero informed that the results of the conference was a formation of an initial set of local community roundtable groups, to focus in building coalitions with policy makers, educators, administrators, parents and community leaders. A support plan was developed, but due to the lack of funding at the time, the Commission was not able to continue.

Workforce & Economic Development

Director Escudero reported on the progress of the conversations with the Department of Development on a memorandum of understanding. They are working on a comprehensive proposal to create a Latino small business

development pilot, looking at what the local Hispanic Chamber and Greater Chamber are doing.

OLD BUSINESS

Romero informed that he received an email from Simon Rodriguez with the idea that commissioners give certificates of appreciation to Hispanics in their community that are doing outstanding work on behalf of the Hispanic Community.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Memorandum of Collaboration

Porras expressed concern and asked two questions regarding this memorandum. (1) the cost and in what item of the budget this cost is going to be allocated (2) will the Commission will be able to continue its work after being in this leadership.

Director Escudero answered Porras questions. He expressed that the Commission has to be sure that Ohio is the first priority. This is a networking opportunity.

The Commission has 12 months, before the next budget, top dos its work and be prepare to report its progress to the Governor and the Legislature. That in the past the cost of attending out of the State conferences or meetings has been between \$3,000 and \$4,000. He expressed also that he will not jeopardize the work the Commission is doing in Ohio.

Romero expressed for the records that he will abstain from voting on this issue because he is working with Dr. Andrade in other issues not related to the Commission and of his relationship with the Hispanic Leadership Institute.

A vote on this issue was postponed for the January 18, 2008 meeting.

Discussion on Senate Bill 260



Director Escudero informed that the Commission through Susan De Luca made an analysis of the legislation and made recommendations to the Commission. Director Escudero read Senate Bill 260. The analysis of the bill found three critical areas of concern: (1) The bill threatens community policing efforts that may damage relationships with local law enforcement and the communities they protect

(2) The bill is an unfunded mandate that put some requirements on law enforcement without additional resources and sets as penalties for not compliance by state and local agencies the denial of homeland security dollars for those who do not participate with SB260 mandates.

(3) There is no support on the national level by law enforcement, sheriffs, across the country for proposals like this.

The Director expressed that this proposal is not moving forward at this time and the recommendation to the commissioners is that the Commission does not take any formal action or resolution at this time and continue to monitor progress, especially after the Holidays and the next calendar year.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #4 - 12-2007
To accept public commentary. Presented by Florez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

Romero wished everybody Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Romero announced that the next Board meeting is on January 18 and the Retreat on February 8-9.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5 - 12-2007 – To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

January 2008

Minutes of the January 18, 2008 meeting at Room South A, 31st. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Ramona Reyes
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Richard Romero
Phillip R. Barbosa
Daniel Porras
Michael G. Florez
Chris Rodriguez
Mary Santiago
Humberto Gonzalez

ABSENT

Simon Rodriguez– Excused

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Susan De Luca
Dalinah Algarin-Cora

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten Commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 – 01-2008

To approve the December 2007 meeting minutes. Presented by Aviles Casey. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero congratulate Director Escudero



and Community Liaison Cavanaugh for the OLANet project. He informed that the retreat will be on March 8 and the board meeting on March 7.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for December. In addition, copy of House bill 409 is available.

MOTION #2 - 01-2008

To approve the Director's Report. Presented by Santiago. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Romero informed that the Executive Committee did not meet but will schedule a meeting for February.

Finance

Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report.

MOTION #3 - 01-2008

To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Communications

Reyes informed that she met with Director Escudero and with Mrs. Cavanaugh to create a communications plan. A draft will be sent via email to the board. She also informed that they created a press release for the DHO, which was sent to the local media.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Santiago informed that the committee did not meet today, but that they have an informal meeting with the Director.

Director Escudero informed that the committee is working on one of the most important initiatives for this calendar year, called the grassroots capacity building initiative. The initiative has three primary components.

The first will take place in March and April this year. They will travel around the state and visit eight communities offering training on grant writing, legislative advocacy and issues specific training, inviting a panel of experts on each specific area.

In May they will invite the community organizations that participated in that training to attend the Legislative visit day on May 6, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they learned during the program.

In June the commission will award mini grants to the participants in the training program. The amount of \$80,000.00 has been budgeted for this purpose.

The final component is a statewide challenge grant opportunity for the next fiscal year with the same team of consultants that the commission is working with.

Education

Romero informed that he has accepted a new position with the Mayor of Lorain.

Romero informed that a group of twenty-one mayors met with the Governor on Wednesday to talk about issues on education and Columbus was represented by Gonzalez.

Workforce & Economic Development

Director Escudero presented to the board the proposal for a project internally called Project OPEN.

MOTION #4 - 01-2008

To follow through and start Project OPEN. Presented by Barbosa. Seconded by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Memorandum of Collaboration

Director Escudero explained that this



memorandum is not necessarily a binding contract and that the commission has no financial obligations, is a statement of partnership, a declaration that we are working together with sister organizations through the United States and with the Leadership Institute. He informed that there will be a meeting in Chicago on February 13-14 and he would like to present this memorandum.

Romero commented that he attended one of these meetings in Chicago with Director Escudero and our Commission was highlighted. The Director presented the Gro-21 plan and they were the stars. He highly recommends this collaboration.

MOTION #5 - 01-2008

To move forward with the Memorandum of Collaboration with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute. Presented by Gonzalez. Seconded by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

Santiago expressed her interest in receiving again the monthly Commissions books.

Romero informed that he met with the Director to talk about this issue and that any interested in receiving the book can contact him or the Director.

Chair Florez expressed that one of the alternatives to the hard copy of these books is having this book in the website, in digital format which is a cost saving measure.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero gave a verbal update on House Bill 409 that would require that the commercial driver's license test would be only in English.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #6 - 01-2008

To accept public commentary. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Simms-Howell informed that he attended meetings with the FBI in Cincinnati, LULAC, Su Casa Hispanic Ministry with the new Director, the Chamber of Commerce.

Santiago informed about the Leadership conference in Lorain. Additional information is available in the Commission website.

Aviles Casey reported that the Wright State University has a very low Latino involvement and that the committee is meeting to organize a Latino Outreach event.

Reyes reported that she met with the Chamber of Commerce last week and there is a possible collaboration from them for the DHO, also and having a job fair the same day. She informed that the plans for the Hispanic Heritage month has begun and there is plan to prepare a whole calendar of events.

She invited board members to submit any information or events from their community, ads, etc. Also that she is on the advisory board of CAPA, one honoree at last year's DHO, and they have announced their Hispanic Series.

Barbosa informed that the Ohio Hispanics Chambers of Commerce in partnership with Nationwide Insurance will be conducting four recruitment seminars in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo and Columbus. More information will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7 - 01-2008

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Gonzalez. Seconded by . Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



February 2008

Minutes of the February 8, 2008 meeting at Room West B and C 31st. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Richard Romero
Phillip R. Barbosa
Simon Rodriguez
Michael G. Florez

Absent

Chris Rodriguez
Humberto Gonzalez

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 – 02-2008

To approve the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Aviles Casey. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero informed that the Board meeting in March would be on the 14th. and the Retreat on the 15th. He asked the Board members to submit any suggestions for the retreat's agenda and names and phone numbers of possible facilitators. Information can be sent by email to him.

Director Escudero suggested that the names and phone numbers of possible facilitators for the retreat be sent to him no later than Tuesday, February 12 at noon.

Romero expressed to the Board that he wants to receive copy of all correspondence or emails between the board members and the Director.

Florez made the correction that the original meeting was for March 7, as announced in January, and now is moved to March 14.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero expressed that he will present his January and February reports at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Romero set a meeting of the Executive Committee at 11:00 a.m. on March 14.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Santiago reported that they met with Matt Colopy from the Governor's office to talk about the DHO. The Governor wants to be involved in the event. Mr. Colopy suggested that the awards could be the Governor's Awards, like Distinguished Hispanics Governor's Awards. He suggested a partnership with the Ohio Arts Council and how they go through their awards banquet, to get ideas.

That a meeting will be set with the contact person of the committee at the Ohio Arts Council. Also to try to work with the Latino artists in the areas to create the awards for the DHO. Mr. Colopy will be talking with the First Lady regarding her being the Speaker for this year's DHO.

Santiago expressed that today she wants to close the nominations for the DHO.

Romero suggested the creation of the Chair's Award this year. He expressed that a nice award must be presented to the Governor, since he is the first Governor that has given the Commission the financial support necessary to do something significant.



Florez read the list of nominees for the DHO and for Nuestra Familia Award.

MOTION #2 - 02-2008

To accept the list of nominees for the DHO and Nuestra Familia Awards and to include a Chair's Award. Presented by Santiago. Seconded by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

MOTION #3 - 02-2008

That each has a nomination for the DHO awards. Presented by Simms-Howell. After discussion, Santiago withdrew the motion.

MOTION #4 - 02-2008

To accept ten nominations for the DHO. Presented by Santiago. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Santiago informed about the suggestion, or challenge by Simms-Howell, that every board member buy a table for the DHO.

Finance

Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report.

MOTION #5 - 02-2008

To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Education

No meeting. Director Escudero informed that a meeting would be organized soon. There are plans for a statewide conference in June.

Workforce & Economic Development

Barbosa informed that the office is working in a master agreement with the Department of Development, the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the Columbus Chambers of Commerce. A draft is being prepared and it will be presented to the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Director presented the sample certificates

to the Board and Romero explained the purpose for giving the certificates.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero informed that they are attending the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference in Chicago this month. He will present a full report about the conference next month on his Director's report.

He informed that Ohio and Minnesota are chairing the conference and fifteen boards and commissions are represented. Ohio will be presenting on OLANet and Project OPEN.

Ohio and Minnesota will propose that a steering committee be nominated and elect. Director Escudero will suggest that the Board Chair nominates Ohio.

Director Escudero gave an update to the Board regarding the statewide budget cuts been implemented. Boards and Commissions have not been officially affected so far, but will be affected. Contingency plans are being prepared and the Commission will be able to survive the cuts without any catastrophic failure of any of the programs.

The candidate search for the position of Policy Liaison is frozen. The Office of Budget and Management has barred the Commission from feeling the position, but it is been appealed.

Romero expressed that since the board is waiting for the re-appointment of Ramona Reyes, the Vice Chair position is vacant. Florez expressed that a temporary Vice Chair must be appointed.

MOTION #6 - 02-2008

To appoint Aviles Casey as Interim Vice Chair. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aviles Casey reported that she attended a



Business to Business diversity meeting in Dayton. The meeting had the purpose to address diversity issues within different business. She had the opportunity to meet Janet Mullen, from Sales and Marketing at FOX-ABC and talked about OLANet and invited her to sign so they will be able to advertise the vacancies within their company.

Santiago announced the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Lorain on April 26.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7 - 02-2008
To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Rodriguez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

March 2008

Minutes of the March 14, 2008 meeting at Room 1960 19th. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

- Blanche Aviles Casey
- Mary Santiago
- V. Anthony Simms-Howell
- Richard Romero
- Phillip R. Barbosa
- Michael G. Florez

Absent

- Chris Rodriguez - Excused
- Humberto Gonzalez - Excused
- Simon Rodriguez - Excused (sick)

Staff

- Ezra C. Escudero
- Susan De Luca

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were six commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 03-2008

To approve the February 8, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Santiago. Seconded by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero informed that the Retreat has been postponed for June 6 and 7.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for January 2008.

Director Escudero will present his February report at the next board meeting.

MOTION #2 - 03-2008

To approve the January Director's report and tabled the February report for the next meeting. Presented by Santiago. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Romero informed that the committee met and talked about the involvement of the board members locally in the three areas the commission will focused.

Finance

Aviles Casey presented the Financials.

MOTION #3 - 03-2008

To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Director Escudero explained the Budget Spreadsheet to the Board Members.

Santiago reported on the DHO. The entertainment has been secured. They are waiting confirmation from the Governor's office if the Governor will be the keynote speaker. They will inform on March 31. The hotel is secured.

She informed also that the letters to the



honorees and the save the date letters to the legislators will be send out by the office next Monday. This is one of the issues that were going to be discussed at the retreat this weekend.

She expressed that there will be ten DHO awardees and four Nuestra Familia Awards.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

No meeting.

Director Escudero informed that they kicked-off the Grassroots Initiative this week. He is very excited about all the activity and the participation that probably will bring 50 participants statewide.

Education

Aviles Casey informed that they would be reviewing a proposal she has for a pilot program at Dayton Public Schools. She informed the Director has seen the proposal and the Gonzalez has not been able to review it at this moment.

She informed that at this moment, funding is not available, but they are continued to proceed to get proposals.

Romero informed that NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected Officials) in June and he would like that the Director, the Finance Chair and himself can attend that conference.

Romero wants that the office send a letter to C.J. Prentiss asking status about the Closing the Gap Campaign, that includes what schools are in, what percentage of the Hispanic community are on that school and what percentage of Hispanics are served.

Workforce & Economic Development

No meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Escudero reported on his

participation in the National Hispanic Leadership Institute National Conference. Around twenty-six Latino Affairs Commissions participated in this conference.

This year Minnesota and Ohio shared the session that covered different issues. The created a steering committee and Ohio was selected as the lead agency. A website is in progress with information about the conferences, etc. He will inform the Board when ready.

Romero congratulated the Director for his participation in the conference and asked the Board for a round of applause for him. Round of applause.

Director Escudero informed that he is on conversations with the Office of Budget and Management and wants to confirm that the budge cut will be around a ten percent, \$70,000.00. He expressed also that no programs, initiatives or personnel will be cut as the commission absorbs this cut on this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero confirmed that the Board retreat was moved to June 6-7.

Those two days will be exclusively devoted to work on the retreat. There will be no formal Board meeting on June 6, unless determine by the Chair or formal processes that exist in our rules and by-laws. He expressed that he will be working with the Chair to find a good mediator or meeting facilitator for the retreat.

Simms-Howell wants to recognize Officer Kenneth Ramos for his fifteen years serving the Hispanic community as Community Liaison in the City of Columbus, Division of Police. Round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY



MOTION #4 - 03-2008
To accept public commentary. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Santiago informed that the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Lorain is April 25-26. Website for more information: ChipLorain.org

Florez informed that on February 21st. the Hamilton County Prosecutor met with the Mexican Consulate. They outlined the new security card for Mexican citizens, documented and undocumented, that they have to complete and be registered.

The Consulate representative explained the eight security measures for the card. Also explained that they created a network that police may be able to use from a squad card to verify identifications immediately. The consulate is also interested in setting up a date to encourage undocumented residents to come and registered and become documented.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5 - 03-2008
To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Florez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

April 2008

Minutes of the April 18, 2008 meeting at Room West B and C 31st. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

- Blanche Aviles Casey
- Mary Santiago
- V. Anthony Simms-Howell
- Richard Romero

- Phillip R. Barbosa
- Humberto Gonzalez
- Simon Rodriguez

Absent

- Chris Rodriguez - Excused
- Michael G. Florez - Excused

Staff

- Ezra C. Escudero

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven Commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 04-2008

To approve the March 14, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Gonzalez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero introduced the invited guest, former Senator, C.J. Prentiss, who made a presentation regarding the Closing the Gap in Education campaign.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero will submit his report via email, due to pressure of time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Romero informed that he would appoint Mary Santiago as Interim Vice Chair since Aviles Casey is the Treasurer.

MOTION #2 - 04-2008

To name Mary Santiago as Interim Vice Chair until Ramona Reyes is re-comes back. Presented by Simms-Howell. Seconded by Gonzalez. Motion passed.

Finance

Aviles Casey reviewed the last financial report. Due to limited time, there was no current report.



Ohio's Emerging Diversity

S. Rodriguez reported that the Grassroots trainings put together by the Director and the Community Liaison have been a success. Most of the trainings have been completed except for Lorain that is scheduled for next week.

Applications for grants are being received by the office. The amount available for these grants is \$80,000.00.

He also informed that the Legislative Day if Tuesday, May 6 and State Farm is the sponsor for the event. Legislators Kevin DeWine, Joyce Beatty and others will be the speakers.

Education

Romero appointed Gonzalez as Chair of the Education Committee.

Workforce & Economic Development

No report.

Romero appointed Barbosa as Chair of the Workforce & Economic Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Escudero informed that in March the office got permission to hire the Legislative Liaison. He also informed that for this fiscal year, there is a 10% cut and for next fiscal year, instead of two part-time staff, there will be one. No programs will be cut and no full staff positions will be eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero informed that the report regarding SB360 is in the commission's website. In response to calls and email from concerned citizens, there is a town hall meeting to discuss this bill, on Tuesday, April 29 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Romero expressed that he wants to appoint a committee to do a follow-up.

Director Escudero informed of a call

received from a concern citizen about the announcement of the Matrícula Consular displayed in OLANet. He informed also that he is working with the Office of the Governor and the Attorney General's Office to address this issue, but as far as the announcements are legal and not be supported any specific group, they will continue to appear on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #3 - 04-2008

To accept public commentary. Presented. Seconded by Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Romero informed that the next board meeting is on Friday May 16 in Columbus.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4 - 04-2008

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Gonzalez. Seconded by Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

July 2008

Minutes of the July 9, 2008 Special Meeting at West A, 31st. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Mary Santiago
Richard Romero
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Phillip R. Barbosa
Chris Rodriguez
Michael G. Florez
Humberto Gonzalez

Absent

Simon Rodriguez – Excused



Baldemar Velasquez - Excused
Lupe Williams - Excused

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were eight commissioners present constituting a quorum.

Director Escudero introduced the grassroots initiative and the steps to the implementation of the plan. He also made recommendations regarding the distribution of funds for the grants.

MOTION #1 - 07-2008

To accept the recommendations of the Grant Review Committee and to award the GRI grants. Presented by Barbosa. Seconded by Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

MOTION #2 - 07-2008

To go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Presented by Barbosa. Seconded by Chris Rodriguez. Motion carried.

MOTION #3 - 07-2008

To end the Executive Session. Presented by Aviles Casey. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

MOTION #4 - 07-2008

To adjust salaries as recommended by the Director. Presented by Chris Rodriguez. Seconded by Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

MOTION #5 - 07-2008

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Chris Rodriguez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

September 2008

Minutes of the September 9, 2008 Board Meeting at Room 1932, 19th. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Mary Santiago
Richard Romero
V. Anthony Simms-Howell

Absent

Chris Rodriguez - Excused
Michael G. Florez - Excused
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused
Simon Rodriguez - Excused
Lupe Williams - Excused
Phillip R. Barbosa - Excused
Baldemar Velasquez - Excused

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

CALL TO ORDER

Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were four commissioners present.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Romero reminded that from September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage month and he encouraged everybody, every department, elected official and organization that deals with the Latino community to take that month to learn about the Latino community contribution to the country.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his August report.



In response to Aviles Casey question, Director Escudero explained that on August 12 the documents for Project OPEN were executed. That is a requirement that the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Business Connection, the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus and the Centro Empresarial Latino to have a representative on the advisory committee at the office on economic development.

The purpose of this committee is to help the Hispanic Chamber and the Small Business Development Center (the Latino SBDC) and guide them as they move forward in executing the Project OPEN initiatives, as they grow as organizations and to be sure that the investment in this project is well administrated.

That the Commission has the Ohio Business Connection working for and with us the fiscal agency that monitors the day-to-day operation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Romero informed that he is changing the order of the agenda to continue with development discussions.

Workforce & Economic Development

Romero informed that Barbosa, as Chair of this committee, is sending letters to all county commissioners. He also expressed his concern, as Chair of the Commission, about the lot of money that is being sending back to the Federal Government under the Workforce Investment Act.

That is a major concern for himself and for the Latino community in Ohio. That money is supposed to be to businesses that need training themselves. That is why he thinks a communication piece is so important, since the money is distributed by the counties.

Director Escudero informed that they have received limited responses to the letters. That the Public Policy Director is working

on some research and that by the December meeting they will present some recommendations to the Board on what areas of workforce development present the best opportunities for engagement.

Romero expressed that the Latino population should have representation on the boards in Lorain, Cincinnati, Dayton, Youngstown, and Cleveland.

Simms-Howell expressed that any of these issues should be discussed at the next meeting, when they can be approved.

Education

Director Escudero reported that in October they would have a statewide road show, taking the programs of the Commission out to different communities. As per instructions from the Board, the office is organizing education mini conferences throughout the state.

On today's agenda, there is the list with eight locations and dates, starting with Columbus on October 8.

The main dynamic of these meetings will be conversations and presentations back and forth and will end around four o'clock. The office is publicizing the meetings as brown bag meetings, trying to encourage people to bring their lunches, so it can be start with the noon time hour.

One of the recommendations that the office has received is that perhaps local Commissioners for their local areas try to secure an event sponsor that can provide a light lunch or refreshments.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

No report.

Executive

Romero informed that the committee did not meet due to lack of quorum and that he wants that their next committee meeting be set at 9:00 am, and that the other committees will meet after that.

Finance



Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report.

Romero informed that, due to lack of quorum, they cannot go ahead with the nominations for the Executive Board for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aviles Casey announced that Tony Ortiz, one of the 2008 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans had been appointed as the Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for Wright State University and he is also the new LULAC President.

Director Escudero informed that he will be attending the Mexican Independence Day celebration in Detroit on Monday, September 15.

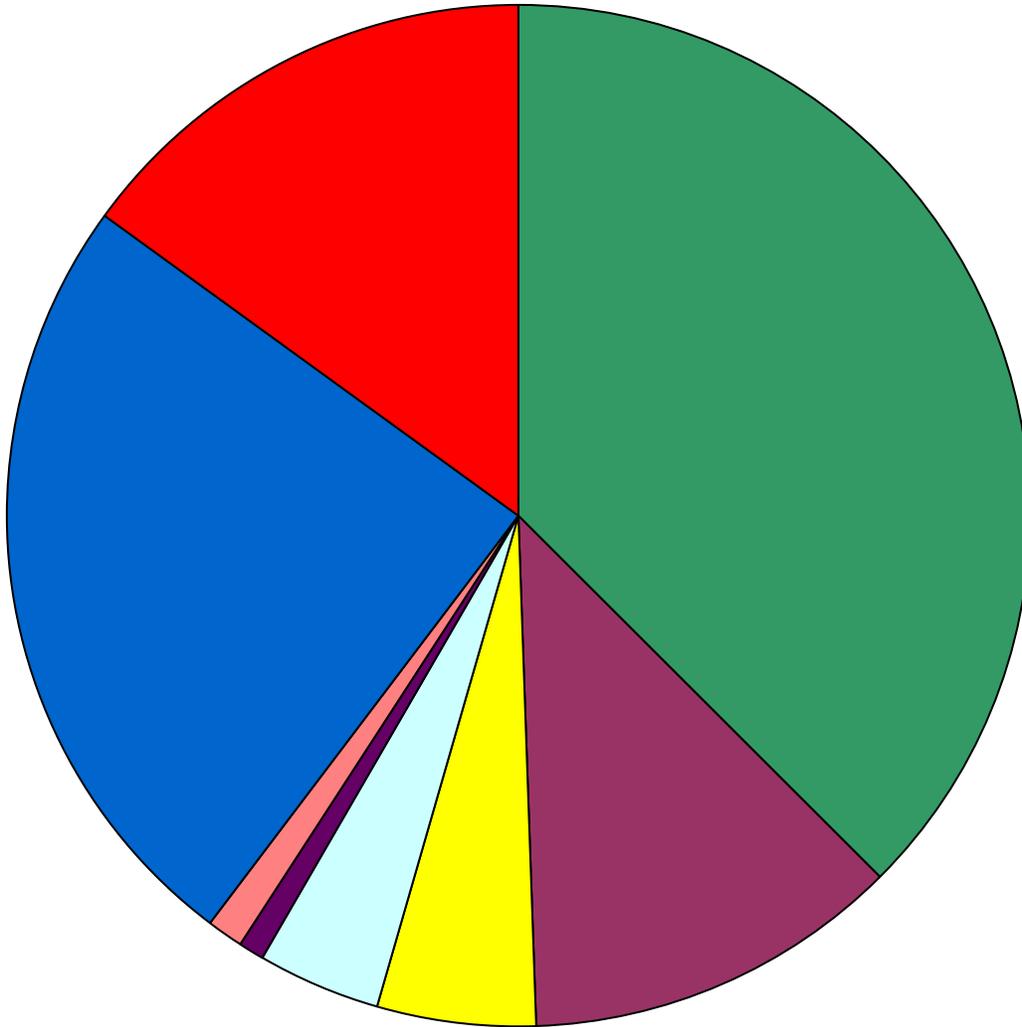
Romero informed that the Mexican Mutual in Lorain will have its Hispanic Heritage month celebration with various activities. Also that the movie “Soy Boricua Pa Que tu lo Sepas” will be showing at the Palace Theatre. Is a very informative movie, narrated by actor Jimmy Smits.

Simms-Howell informed that he attended the Baptist Convention in Cincinnati.

ADJOURNMENT

Romero adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.





FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2008 of the State of Ohio ♦ July 2007 ~ June 2008

	Payroll	\$263,033	38%	
	Services	\$83,190	12%	
	Intrastate & Supplies	\$35,088	5%	
	Travel	\$26,760	4%	
	Miscellaneous	\$5,378	1%	
	Equipment	\$8,094	1%	
	Grants	\$173,368	25%	
	Budget Cuts	\$105,210	15%	
	TOTAL	\$700,121	100%	



About The Artist...

Juan Miranda Photographer, Community Leader

Juan Miranda was born in the city of Toluca, in the mountains of central Mexico. He has been living in Columbus since 1996, where he started his career as a photojournalist. Juan has been a photographer for numerous Latino publications and has had the privilege to witness and record the explosive growth of the Hispanic community in central Ohio through the lens of his camera.

Mr. Miranda has generously shared a sample of his work with the Commission, and as such, images of

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Ohio

Latino Affairs
Commission

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ezra C. Escudero, Director