

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission



FROM PROCESS
TO PROJECTS
TO PEOPLE



Ohio

**Latino Affairs
Commission**

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ezra C. Escudero, Director



Commissioners ~ 2008/09

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Chair

Mary Santiago - Lorain
Vice Chair

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Baldemar Velasquez - Toledo

Lupe Williams - Wooster

Staff ~ 2009

Ezra C. Escudero
Director

Florentina Staigers, Esq.
Policy Director

Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA
Community Liaison

Lair Marin Marcum
Office Manager

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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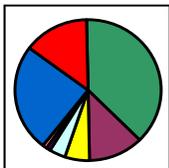
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Focusing on transformation of leaders, agencies, and organizations.



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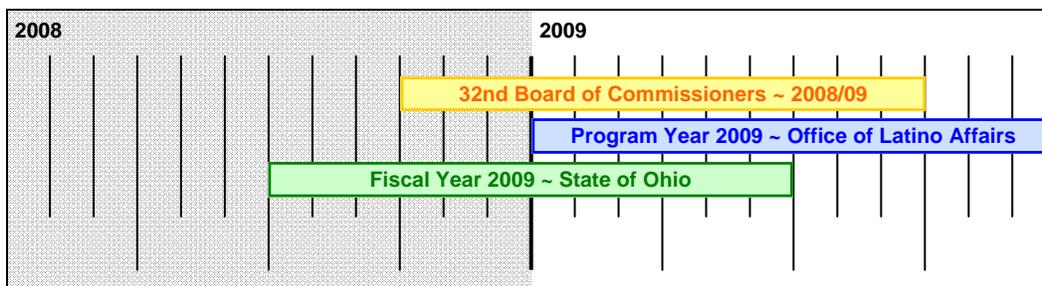


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Timeframes for the 2009 Annual Report

Note: This report covers the actions of the 32nd Board of Commissioners from October 2008 through September 2009, the finances of the agency during Fiscal Year 2009 of the State of Ohio (July 2008 through June 2009), and Program Year 2009 of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs from January through



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ezra C. Escudero
Director of Latino Affairs
State of Ohio

The end of one chapter...

This report marks the final official work of my tenure as Director of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. It has been my privilege and honor to serve the people of Ohio, our growing Latino communities statewide, the honorable members of four General Assemblies, and two Governors. With the Boards of Commissioners I have served for over six years, together we have radically transformed the Commission into an agency with a firmly rooted foundation, with a fully functional structure, with meaningful and relevant initiatives, and with a clearly charted course leading to a bright future. Specifically, those are:

- Foundation: Our statutory mandates to Advise, to Connect, and to Build.
- Structure: Public Policy Center (advises), Latino Community Network (connects) and Organizations Development Center (builds).
- Initiatives: Education, Development, Diversity.
- Future Course: Establishing and supporting Latino community councils such as the Council of Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations and the Council of Latino Social Services Agencies.

We transformed the agency into one worthy of respect. In addition to the realignment and focus described above, we have together succeeded because of our values, namely:

- Serving fellow leaders by opening doors rather than being doorkeepers
- Helping others to lift their voices rather than pretending to have the authority to speak on behalf of all
- Supporting private initiatives rather than supplanting them
- Succeeding at identifying our unique place and focus and sticking to it rather than attempting to be everything to everybody
- Striving to earn trust, respect, and the mantle of leadership rather than assuming it was ours all along

These successes gives us confidence about our capacity to effectively serve the noble communities for which the commission exists.



...is the beginning of a new chapter

Moving forward, I offer up this challenge to the constituents, policy-makers, communities, and taxpayers the Commission serves: the time has come for all to increase their support of the Commission. Because of our work:

- Our policymakers have new insight about Hispanic Ohioans and New Americans living in their districts thanks to our efforts to advise.
- Our state agency directors are better able to serve ALL Ohioans through our ability to connect with Latino communities and community leaders statewide.
- Our taxpayers have fewer social service burdens as a result of our initiatives to build the capacity of Latino community serving organizations.

The Commission has established a solid foundation and a true focus. Community support is needed especially from leaders throughout the state that can support our efforts and initiatives.

Many think that the worst thing that could happen is the elimination of the Commission. However, the other worst outcome would be the loss of the progress achieved in the last previous years as a result of an under funded Commission.

The theme of this 2009 Report is “From Process to Projects to People”. The Commission has evolved its focus as we have quickly reestablished and realigned the agency. Our focus is on people by establishing Latino community councils, Policy Action Networks, and building up existing community organizations -and our greatest impact is through the relationships we continue to foster and sustain.

Partners and team members, help each other out and our Commission - your Commission - needs your support. I am looking forward to joining you in our community to offer the support for the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission as a fellow citizen and friend.

In ongoing service to Ohio



Ezra C. Escudero
Director



From Process to Projects to People



TRANSFORMATION

is a single word that evokes notions of change,
evolution and energy.

Over the last five years, the Commission has worked to transform itself.
This transformation has been successful.

It may be ambitious, perhaps overly so, but the next challenge before the Commission
is to focus on transformation beyond the limits of one small state agency.

We must transform the outlook and mindset of elected officials and policymakers
so that Latino issues are neither overlooked nor an afterthought.

We must transform the way state agencies view Hispanic Ohioans for it is
unacceptable for them to continue to ignore over 350,000 constituents and taxpayers.

Therefore we must also transform the attitudes of Latino community leaders
to engage and empower them to raise their thoughts and voices.

That is why our focus has moved

FROM PROCESS TO PROJECTS TO PEOPLE



From Process to Projects

During the 2009 State Fiscal Year and 2009 Program Year of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, the focus switched from a predominantly process-oriented approach to one of projects. For the first time in history, the Commission enjoyed four full-time employees, rounding out 80% of the required staffing levels for fulfilling established program structure and statutory mandates of the Office.

During 2008, the Commission launched the OLANet system, documented agency business processes, and learned how to

operate the Public Policy Center, Latino Community Network, and the Organizations Development Center programs at nearly full-staffing. With all the internal elements in place, the Commission sprang into life as it began executing the three strategic initiatives: Education, Workforce & Economic Development, and Ohio's Emerging Diversity.

Additional information and history about the process and foundation-building of the Commission can be found in the 2006 and 2007 Annual Reports. An in depth

account and background on development of the OLANet community information management system can be found in the 2008 Annual Report.

¡Soluciones! and CORE

Education issues have been a key initiative for the Commission for nearly ten years.



Beginning with a seminal report in 2001, the follow-up project was the ¡Soluciones! Education Campaign from 2006 to 2009. The three year

mandate of ¡Soluciones! was centered on decentralizing community action on education priorities of Hispanic Ohioans.

After running its course, the next step became clear: during 2009, it was time to meet with community leaders once more to validate the findings, identify new priorities, and ranking priorities at the regional level, based upon local preferences and pressures.

This process of validation generated a new report, called the CORE report, which documented the local priorities and mapped them to established programs and gubernatorial initiatives. One of the key findings of the pre-CORE meetings is superficially simple, but indicative of a fundamental challenge: many Latino community issues are already being addressed by initiatives which are not reaching Hispanic Ohioans because of failed or non-existent outreach efforts.



the realization that with a new staff and nascent capabilities, it was premature for the Commission to attempt the development of a credible and academically rigorous economic impact study. Rather than attempt the study and risk losing credibility, the decision was made to un-encumber the opportunity cost earmarked for the study.

The second opportunity was driven by the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Business Connection and the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) of Ohio. Of their own accord, they launched a pilot project to establish an SBDC with bilingual, culturally-competent staff targeted towards the entrepreneurial part of the Latino community.

The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission became an SBDC co-host, and in addition to a capacity-building grant to the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus, brought the pieces together to create Project OPEN. The main objective of the project was to serve as a proof-of-concept for demonstrating the viability for a set of statewide Latino SBDC's and Hispanic Chamber-centric capacity building initiatives in future years.

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative



The third element of Commission's strategic focus for

the biennium is enigmatically titled "Maximizing Ohio's Emerging Diversity". The key drive for the "Diversity" focus is to make sure that the integration of growing diverse populations in Ohio is expedient so as to ensure that the diversity is realized as an asset to Ohio's future, as opposed to a liability and hindrance to development.

project



Project OPEN

The second strategic initiative for the biennium - workforce and economic development - was to be launched as an economic impact study of Hispanic Ohioans. In short order, two opportunities emerged. First, came

The first best bridge to the diverse populations is a local, grassroots community organization with an established and trusted presence. To that end, the purpose of the Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative (GCBI) is to begin forging a statewide coalition of Latino social service agencies and to back up the focus on service to Hispanic Ohioans with funding, training, leadership programs, and support.

The GCBI consisted of three phases. The first phase was a training phase. Hundreds of participants representing dozens of organizations attended professionally-facilitated training workshops in eight cities across Ohio. The staff of the Office in collaboration with Strategic Government Initiatives delivered training about public policy advocacy, leadership development, and grantsmanship opportunities.

The second phase was a demonstration phase. Participating organizations in phase one were invited to apply their newly acquired and honed grantsmanship skills and applied to the Commission for mini-grants up to \$10,000 for one-time projects and proofs-of-concept developed by the organizations themselves.

Phase three was an in-depth summit between grassroots Latino community organizations and Ohio's major grantmaking foundations and funds. The objective of the summit was to give the community groups an opportunity to master their understanding of grantsmanship from the foundations' perspective, and for the foundations to acquire a deeper appreciation of Latino community needs, objectives, and focus.

The collapsing economy of 2009 played a major role in phases two and three. The Office of Budget & Management eliminated about one-third of the Commission's total funding during the 2008-2009 biennium. In addition to

Projects Awarded Funding

- Central State University (Wilberforce):
Education and post-secondary prep for Latino students
- East End Community Center (Dayton):
Latino Youth Initiative Program on personal growth, identity, family and cultural influences
- Youngstown State University (Youngstown):
Increase Latino students in Computer Science Field
- YMCA Casa Amiga (New Carlisle):
Promote acculturation of Latinos in Clark County, awareness and inclusion
- Family Service – Servicio a la familia (Cincinnati):
Improve access for Latinos to mental health services in south-west Ohio
- Hispanic Business Association (Cleveland):
Create and implement services to certify Hispanic businesses with city and state government agencies
- The Salvation Army (Cincinnati):
Implement an indoor soccer league for Latino males ages 14 and up
- Terra State Community College (Fremont):
Increase outreach to Spanish speaking area residents, improve participation and retention of Latino students



Grant Reviewers

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation

The Columbus Foundation

The Dayton Foundation

The Women's Fund of Central Ohio

Community Foundation of Lorain County

Toledo Community Foundation

SC Ministry Foundation

Iddings Foundation

The Raymond John Wean Foundation

“across-the-board” budget cuts, procedural steps and unannounced bureaucratic roadblocks were put in place to deny Commission use of authorized and allocated funds.

As a consequence of statewide budget cuts and unilateral OBM budget freezes to the Commission, the total number of available mini-grants was cut by two-thirds.

Furthermore, a near-total freeze in philanthropic giving served as a severe disincentive to foundations’ efforts in expanding their focus in the timeframe. Securing foundation participation was already difficult. A number of groups were unwilling to support “Latino-specific” pilot initiatives. The consensus was expressed with a desire to do “broadly-defined diversity-driven projects.” Between diverging interests and economic collapse.

Lessons learned

The grassroots initiative provided us the opportunity to build the capacity to serve Hispanic Ohioans. The mini grant application process enabled organizations to assess their potential in view of local needs. Although we were not able to launch stage III of the initiative which called for a summit between grassroots Latino community organizations and Ohio’s major grant-making foundations, we did have the opportunity to include these main foundations as reviewers of the grant applications. The foundations provided expertise and experience which gave Latino organizations a real world test and provided a platform for the onset of relationships between organizations and foundations. Among the lessons learned were concerns about key grassroots organizations receiving low scores for their projects, the underrepresentation of small, upstart organizations and the challenge of fiscal documentation for many of these groups. At the same time, we foresee opportunities for extensive follow up with

key organizations, there is a need to search for alternate forms of documentation and the establishment of tiers based on size of organization and revenues for future potential grant opportunities.

Focus on people

With the realignment of the commission and focused on our mandates to Advise, Connect and Build, Ohio Latino Affairs has evolved from process, to projects to people. Hispanic Ohioans are integrating into mainstream and accepting with enthusiasm their civic responsibilities as they take leadership roles in their respective communities. The expanding relationships and networks among Latino organizations across Ohio are increasing the capacity of those groups to better serve and to learn from each other. The ability of Ohio Latino Affairs to offer cultural competence and strong local relationships and networks provides state agencies new means to meet the needs of Hispanic Ohioans which translates into efficiencies and empowerment.

It is within these transformations that our office established two key councils and one advisory group: the Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations, the Ohio Council of Latino Social Service Agencies, and the Policy Action Network.

The Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations

Created as a statewide council to begin the development of a Latino economic development agenda that explores opportunities to create new businesses and grow existing businesses. OCHCBA



also seeks to increase membership of Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations in every region and to create new Latino Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) across Ohio.

In the short term, it is expected that new regional partnerships among chambers will result in increased business opportunities. The long-term intent is to establish an independent, self-sufficient Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers & Business Associations which creates business opportunities and advises Ohio Latino Affairs and state agencies on matters dealing with Latino economic development.



Inaugural OCHCBA Summit Participants



The Ohio Council of Latino Social Service Agencies

Represents Latino led grassroots organizations which deliver social services in communities across Ohio. The council provides Ohio Latino Affairs the networks and structure for continued input to our commission on issues of importance to the Latino community not for profit social service organizations.

OCLSSA also serves as a forum for the collection of feedback, ideas and concerns, providing a voice for Latino communities and leaders. At the same time, the council brings together organizations committed

to the increase of outreach initiatives, improvement of relationships with state and local governments and the support of capacity building opportunities with the potential of translating into efficiencies, better services and the continuous integration of Latinos to mainstream communities in Ohio.

Policy Action Network

The Public Policy Director created this network as the result of continued communication and interactions with leaders throughout the state who are interested in legislation and committed to acting on policy matters affecting Latinos and new Americans in Ohio.

The PAN provides regular feedback on the effects that policy related issues may have among Latino communities. The Policy Action Network also reports in timely fashion potential concerns from the community level on a wide array of subjects and acts as the front line contact during initial research of issues of interest to state government regarding Latinos.

The PAN also educates Latinos regarding civic responsibility, the importance of playing an active role in local and state government, and serves as a channel to directly voice Latinos interests on issues dealing with policy and advocacy.



Ohio



DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Program Year 2009 of the Office of Latino Affairs ♦ January ~ De-

January 2009

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative

Follow up message has been sent to organizations with instructions for their first progress report. A draft of the report is due February 6th.

Soluciones Education Campaign

The Toledo Mini Conference was successfully completed with over 20

attendees. Nelson Ramirez from the Governor's Closing the Achievement Gap Office co-presented along with the OCHLA team. The rough notes have been posted online for review by the conference participants. A final draft of community input will be ready by Feb 15th.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

Director Escudero is in the process of reviewing alternatives for future technical

support for OLANet. Organizations continue to update their profiles and information. The period to comply with profile up date has been extended to mid-February.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

SGI Support for Fundraising Campaign and Logistical Support - Contracts are signed. First meeting regarding fundraising campaign held on Jan 23rd. Community Liaison has provided SGI (J. Wermuth) with all required information to prepare plan. A draft of her plan, outline of responsibilities and sample letters is due by Feb 9th. Additionally, J. Wermuth will provide a short training for commissioners on fundraising during the OLA Retreat (Feb 21st). The first meeting on Logistical support for Legislative Visit Day and DHO is set for February 4th. The event has been set for September 18, 2009. Contract draft has been received and is being reviewed by AG's office. It is planned that the contract will be signed and processed by early February.

Legislative Visit Day

Outline for the Legislative Visit Day purpose of event, educational tracks, legislative meetings and logistics are ready and will be discussed on February 4th with SGI.

Agenda Latina - Spring Road Show: Youth Leadership Conference

A meeting was held with Jason Riveiro, LULAC Ohio to secure their partnership for this event. Also, CHIP Lorain has accepted to be our partner institution for the NW, NC and Central Ohio Conference. Event location and dates:
Central Ohio: Columbus on April 10, 2009
SW Ohio: Cincinnati and Dayton on April 11, 2009
NE Ohio: Youngstown on April 24, 2009
NW & NC Ohio: Toledo, Bowling Green, Cleveland, Fremont, Lorain on April 25, 2009

Networking/Media/Public Relations

The Ohio State University College of Public Health contacted community liaison to request assistance for their health conference in the Spring. The goal is to include Latino networking groups and leaders in the discussions of health disparities, research and community involvement. Timely and effective feedback was provided creating linkages opportunities between the college and Latino grassroots organizations and leaders who will participate in the event.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - Committee Changes

The House has approved committee changes that include the following: the creation of a committee for Aging and Disability Services, Alternative Energy and Natural Resources, Consumer Affairs and Economic Protection, Elections and Ethics, Environment and Brownfield Development, Faith-based Initiatives, Housing and Urban Revitalization, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans Affairs. Other committees have been also been amended to avoid overlap of the new committees.

General Assembly - Committee Member Appointments

A list of committee member appointments is forthcoming sometime in early February. After appointments are made, the PPC Director will then compile a list of committee members whose work in the committee aligns with our priority program areas and legislation.

Intern Projects

The PPC has now taken on an intern policy assistant in order to complete four main projects: 1) Monthly Policy Briefs 2) Legislative Proposal Research 3) Compiled list of Latino leaders in government in Ohio 4) Updated Congressional lists and LCRs.



Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC director submitted the December Monthly Policy Brief the first week of January, which includes summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. The PPC intern will be taking over the research and compilation of the MPBs as of the January brief. MPBs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2008.aspx>.

Issue Policy Brief on Law Enforcement Enforcement of Immigration Law

The PPC center continues to gather more detailed information regarding law enforcement policy in order to create a detailed IPB on the Reports and Database Section of OCHLA's website. This will appear much like the "English Only Issue Policy Brief" available on the web now .

Local Initiatives

In particular, the PPC has been in contact with local community members regarding the initiatives they have undertaken in their communities. While initial information supplied the content of a original brief, which was presented to the Board in December, the PPC Director is in the process of obtaining more detailed and comprehensive information to continue to more fully develop the brief.

City of Oberlin Resolution Regarding Immigration

The PPC director continued to correspond with and receive updates from Mark Fahringer of the Lorain Catholic Action Commission, who helped push for a resolution that would prohibit law enforcement from becoming involved in immigration matters. An amended version of the resolution was passed 6-1 on January 20, 2009. The final version prohibits the denial of government services based on immigration status, makes it the general practice of law enforcement to not inquire about immigration status, and reinforces the police department's commitment to not avail itself of the option to participate in the federal government's 287(g)

program (which trains local departments to enforce immigration law).

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

City of Norwalk

Mayor Sue Lesch welcomed Commissioner Romero and Community Liaison to the meeting. An overview of the Commission's history, mission and programs was presented. The Norwalk Hispanic Taskforce is very interested in networking with OLA, making use of the policy information we have available, and building relationships with other Latino community contacts in the area with our collaboration.

As a follow up to this meeting the Executive Director has been invited to be a presenter during the City of Norwalk's Diversity Day (March 11, 2009) which will bring together community leaders, different agency staff, police and elected officials. A detailed report on this meeting was submitted to Director Escudero on 5 January 2009.

Toledo Conexion Latina

Participated in the second meeting of Toledo Conexion Latina on 01-17-09. The purpose of the meeting was to continue strategic planning and discussions about main needs in the community. These meetings are allowing Community Liaison an opportunity to learn more in depth about the NW Ohio Latino community and strengthen relationships with leaders and organizations.

POLICY OUTREACH

Legislator Orientation and Latino Community Reports

The PPC has compiled the information for the Legislator Orientation Packets, which includes the Latino Community Reports (LCRs). The packets will be ready by the first week of February, when the PPC director and Executive Director will begin meeting with legislators.



Policy Proposals

The PPC Director has also developed a policy agenda for the upcoming year. A formal policy proposal will be presented to the Board at the February retreat in order to agree on priority legislation. However, initial research has begun on possible legislation that the commission will try to put forth this year.

Legislative Visit Day and Nonprofit

Lobbying

The PPC director has begun developing the curriculum for workshop sessions. In particular, a legislative track for community organization leaders that will focus on non-profit lobbying. The PPC Director has begun to extensively research the law on permissive lobbying for non-profits in order to educate community organizations on what they can and should do in terms of lobbying. Information for the web will also be developed for the Legislation 101 section of the Reports Database Section of the website.

Policy Action Network/ Policy and Leadership Alliance

The PPC updated the Policy and Leadership Alliance group on OLANet to include all Policy Action Network members that have recently expressed interest in receiving updates. Emails were sent out to those who had not yet registered on OLANet to inform them they would not receive policy updates or weekly briefs unless they register.

Weekly Policy Brief

Additionally, the PPC, has begun to send out the weekly policy briefs via OLANet's policy and leadership alliance group in order to get the information to community members more timely and efficiently. These weekly briefs will go out every Monday. The monthly policy brief, which will be a compilation of the weekly briefs, will then be posted monthly.

Workforce Development Project

Stage One, State Structure: The PPC

director has completed the initial stage of the Workforce Development Project Plan, by compiling general information about the WIA, and how it's provisions apply to Ohio policy. It also includes an overview of the State and Local Structure in Ohio with maps that demonstrate the counties and one-stops that correspond with the 20 WIA areas in Ohio. The PPC also has a draft list of all Latino Workforce Investment Board members in the WIA areas that correspond to the 8 most Hispanic-populated counties in Ohio, that is pending confirmation from the Board Chairs.

Stage Two, Assessment: Furthermore, the PPC has begun the initial steps of the second stage of the project, which will be the longest and most difficult stage because it involves qualitative research methods. The PPC will be attempting to collect quantitative data as well, but the majority of research will derive from interviews with the following groups: Latino Workforce Investment Board Members, Latino Youth Council Members, Latinos working in the Workforce Investment Departments and Youth Services, Non-Latino department heads working in the Workforce Investment Departments and Youth Services, and Latino community organization leaders.

BWC Constituent Information Brief

The PPC director finalized the constituent information request brief regarding undocumented immigrants' access to worker compensation benefits and the BWC's relationship with Immigration and Customs Enforcement after sending it to the BWC for review.

February

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

A preliminary report from each funded project was received in early February to assess opportunities for project visits, as



part of the new legislator orientation. The Latino Community Network (LCN) Director has been working diligently with the Public Policy Center (PPC) Director to coordinate potential legislator and elected official visits to the project sites.

The Grassroots Progress Reports have been received. All programs are progressing per their action plans. The reports outline the main activities, outcomes and challenges experienced by each initiative.

Director Cavanaugh has been working with Executive Director Escudero in processing the Mini-Match for the Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana for \$3,000. This organization has secured a match funding guarantee from Stadium Auto Group in Youngstown to go towards a capacity building initiative in the area of workforce and economic development. The funding will be disbursed in March 2009.

Solutions Education Campaign

LCN Director has completed all education mini-conference notes and prepared a draft report to PPC Director. Together, the directors are working on a final report which should be presented for review by the Executive Director at the end of March. The final report will link information from the mini conferences with historical data from previous community meetings and the new directives outlined by Governor Strickland’s plan for education and the Board of Regents plan.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

Director Cavanaugh secured the participation of four additional organizations for the Impact Campaign profiles. They are: Adelante, Inc., (Toledo); Esperanza, Inc. (Cleveland); Spanish American Committee, (Cleveland) and Sofia Quintero Arts and Cultural Center (Toledo). Interviews with Ana Quevedo will take place during the month

of March.

Additionally, the LCN Director has reviewed and provided feedback to the draft profiles of three other organizations and is working to support any needs Ana Quevedo may have to ensure the timely completion of this project.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

Technical support for OLAnet continues to be a major issue. The weekly email subscription feature has not worked since January, 2009. This is critical given that the weekly email is the main continuous form of communication we have with the community. A decision regarding new support for OLAnet is critical.

Close to 85% of the registered organizations in the OLAnet database have updated or confirmed their organization’s information. During the month of March, we will continue with this update and review as well the alliance membership to ensure the information in the database is more accurate.

Agenda Latina Spring Road Show:

Latino Leadership Conference

Director Escudero held a meeting with Chair Richard Romero and Vice Chair Mary Santiago to review the goals and objectives for the Latino Leadership Conference. CHIP Lorain has confirmed its acceptance to be host for the Latino Leadership Conference, north region (to include participants from Toledo, Bowling Green, Fremont, Cleveland and Lorain).

The Executive Director will meet with LULAC’s representative, Jason Riveiro to refine the plans and partnership details for this event. A marketing campaign and finalized plan for this event should be ready no later than March 15th, 2009.

Latino Leadership Council Meeting Planning



LCN Director met with PPC and Executive Director to outline plans for the Latino Leadership Council Meeting. The event will be hosted a day prior to Legislative Visit Day. Director Cavanaugh has developed the rationale for the event and with approval from the Executive Director, the list of invited grassroots organizations. A complete outline of the Ohio Council of Latino Social Service Agencies Proposal is attached.

Legislative Visit Day Planning

Meetings with Director Staigers (PPC), Director Escudero and Nichole Glenn (SGI) were conducted to review the budget, program outline and expectations for the organization of the Legislative Visit Day. Director Cavanaugh has been in communication with Nichole to provide logistics information as well as requirements for the planning of this meeting. A "Save the Date" Reminder for Legislative Visit Day has been sent out through OLANet's E-Campaign feature.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Gala

Vice Chair Santiago has approved the DHO package and requested that Commissioners receive their packets before March 10th. The nominations for DHO Awardees will be due in June.

Janet Wermuth (SGI) presented a training session on corporate fundraising as part of the Ohio Latino Affairs Board and Staff Retreat to provide our team with guidelines for the corporate sponsorship campaign to be conducted. The contract with the University Plaza Hotel is still in process and should be finalized by early March.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - Committee Member Appointments

Committee member appointments were made in early February. To view a list of

Senate Committees and Members go to <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/committees/>. To view a list of House Committees and Members go to http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.php?option=com_displaycommittees&Itemid=60.

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 35 - "Local Law Enforcement Immigration Authority"

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Senators Jimmy Stewart (R - Albany) and Bill Seitz (R - Cincinnati) introduced Senate Bill 35, which would mandate that the Ohio Attorney General pursue a memorandum of agreement with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to deputize Ohio law enforcement officers as immigration enforcement officers. This would provide for the enforcement of both criminal and civil violations of immigration law. This memorandum agreement is commonly referred to as a 287(g) program.

A "Special Policy Alert" was sent to the community immediately (within 24 hours of introduction and within 4 hours of notice via Gongwer News Service). The bill was assigned to the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Additionally, upon recommendation from the Commission Board, Executive Director Ezra C. Escudero, with input from PPC Program Director Florentina Staigers, compiled a Tactical Plan that was approved by Communications Committee Chair, Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez to address SB 35. (See appendix B for tactical plan).

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 3, Small Business Rule-Making

The PPC Program Director, at the request of Director Escudero began initial research on Senate Bill 3, which would require a rule-making agency to prepare a cost-benefit report for rules that may have an adverse impact on small businesses and



submit them to the new Ohio Small Business Ombudsperson in the Office of Small Business. The PPC Program Director has not yet completed an analysis and has no recommendations at this time, but this information is forthcoming in March. The full summary and text of the bill is available at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_SB_3. (See also Appendix C for a summary of SB 3 provided by the Legislative Service Commission).

General Assembly - Día de Los Niños (Children’s Day)

Intern and Policy Assistant, Marco Satala, continues to work on research regarding Día de Los Niños in order that the Public Policy Center (PPC) has the relevant information to put forth legislation in the House and Senate that would declare April 30th Children’s Day in the State of Ohio.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

In the month of February the PPC team (Program Director Staigers and Policy Assistant Marco Satala) were able to begin consistently sending out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. Without the help of Policy Assistant Satala, and due to time constraints of the PPC Program Director, the news had previously only been posted on the OLANet website at the beginning of the month.

Now it is being distributed weekly via an email-campaign feature of OLANet as well as posted on the website. Email feedback from the community has been very positive regarding this new feature. MPBs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>. (See appendix D to view the February Policy Brief).

Issue Policy Brief: State and Local Enforcement of Immigration Law

The PPC Program Director has begun using the “English Only Issue Policy Brief”

as a model for a forthcoming State and Local Enforcement of Immigration Law Issue Policy Brief which will be comprised of the same type of information such as: synopsis, current status, history, and different versions of state and local legislation/resolutions. The webpage will become active in March.

English Only Issue Policy Brief

The PPC Program Director updated the English Only Policy Brief to reflect changes in the legislative session of Ohio, as well as other states.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Metro Parks

Andrea Dalton of The Metro Parks will be launching an initiative to educate the community regarding the Monarca Butterfly migration, and how it connects Ohio with communities in Mexico. Ms. Dalton requested advise on how to connect and reach out to the Latino community in Central Ohio.

Columbus Public Libraries

LCN Director participated in two meetings to provide information and ideas about outreach opportunities in local libraries; also provided commentary on their present plan and activities to reach young mothers and children in Columbus.

Constituent Services

Director Cavanaugh issued a special report for the Executive Director summarizing constituent services from December 2007- to February 2009. Among the interesting facts and figures:

- 35: State, local government and federal agencies assisted with information
- 172: Number of inquiries received and processed through the OCHLA website
- 55.: Events and news registered in the OLANet system for the period mentioned
- 223: Number of registered organizations in the OLANet database



Ohio Arts Council

Juan Dies is working to create a comprehensive Latino Art Directory for Ohio. LCN Director has been working closely with Juan Dies to provide information on Latino contacts across the state to secure the information needed. The Latino Art Directory should be ready by May, 2009.

Minority Health Commission

Yvonka Hall will be hosting a series of Oral Health and Access to Dental Care Forums across the state and would like Latino participation. LCN Director has facilitated contacts and is helping promote the event.

Columbus State Community College

Kim Bradzwell will be hosting a Women's Conference and has requested LCN help to secure Latino women speakers. Contacts were provided.

Ohio Department of Transportation

Tina O'Grady has requested our support to promote the hiring of bilingual motorcycle course instructors for their programs. Information has been distributed to Latino media, key leaders and contacts across the state.

ACLU Ohio

Shayra Diaz requested support to promote the statewide Advocacy Workshop Event to be hosted in Columbus. LCN advertised the event through OLANet and local networks.

The Latino Educational Assimilation Resource Network, Inc (LEARN)

LEARN is a non-profit organization promoting the use of hands free translation equipment. Through grants, LEARN is able to donate these machines to fire stations and police departments. Director Cavanaugh has made this organizations' information available to the Latino councils and key leaders across the state with the expectation that alliances and collaboration opportunities will be

created.

Educators & Community Helping Hispanics Onward (ECHHO)

ECHHO will be hosting a Latino College Fair in Columbus. Delaine Crutcher has been working with LCN Director to secure speakers for the conference "Guiding the Way to Inclusion." Support is also being provided in promoting the event.

City of Norwalk Hispanic Taskforce Diversity Day

Executive Director Escudero has been invited to be the keynote for the event, scheduled for March 11, 2009. Director Cavanaugh continues to work closely with this group to cultivate collaboration and stronger network opportunities in this region of the state.

F.A.L.C.O.N. [Farmworker Agencies Liaison Communication and Outreach Network]

Director Cavanaugh has been working closely to establish a stronger relationship and connection with FALCON. They are a very valuable resource as they are able to connect Latino farmworkers with many state and local resources. The LCN Director's goal is to ensure that Latino Councils and grassroots organizations around the state learn about the importance of collaborating with FALCON at the local level and learn to use their resources. LCN Director is promoting and will be participating in the 2009 FALCON Conference, to take place in Fostoria on March 12, 2009.

POLICY OUTREACH**Legislator Orientation and Latino Community Reports (LCRs)**

The PPC Program Director put together a legislator orientation packet comprised of the following: Latino Community Reports, An Overview of Commission, Global Ready Ohio Strategic Plan for the Biennium 2008-2009, and a brochure



which includes information about OLANet, the Grassroots Initiative, Project Open, and Soluciones.

During the month of February, nearly 20 LCRs were created to correspond with Legislators with whom the PPC Program Director and Director Escudero met.

Policy Proposals

The PPC Director presented a Proposed Policy Agenda to the Commission Board at the February retreat. However, the proposal is still being modified and will be ready by the March Commission Board meeting.

Education Mini-Conference Report

The PPC Program Director has begun working with LCN Program Director to produce a report regarding the winter 08-09 Education Mini-conferences.

Status of Limited English Proficiency students (LEPs) in Ohio Report

On February 2, 2009, the PPC Program Director received a phone call from the Office of Senator Erick Kearney requesting a meeting regarding LEP funding in Ohio. The PPC Program Director worked with Dan Fleck, of the Lau Resource Center at the Department of Education to compile a report on the Status of LEPs. Furthermore, Maria Citino, a former Commission intern had done much of the initial research for a report of a very similar nature, and so the work of the PPC Program Director was simply updating parts of the initial research. The report was presented to Senator Kearney's staff on May 6, 2009. (See Appendix F to view the LEP report, which is also available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/cib-education.aspx>)

Legislative Visit Day and Nonprofit Lobbying

The PPC Program Director has continued to work with Director Escudero and Latino Community Network (LCN) Program Director Lilleana Cavanaugh to plan the Legislative Visit Day for May 19th.

Event information was included in the Weekly Policy Brief sent to community members. Furthermore, Program Director Staigers sent invitation to Senate President Bill Harris, House Speaker Armond Budish, and Governor Ted Strickland to say a few words to the Day's participants.

Grassroots Mini-grant Recipient Legislative Site Visits

The PPC Program Director worked with LCN Program Director to gather information about the mini-grant funded projects to determine dates for Legislator Site Visits, when the PPC Program Director will encourage legislators in the area to visit the programs. The PPC Director composed an invitation template to use for legislators. However, at this time there are no upcoming site visits until the month of April due to the schedules of the program participants.

Media Coverage: The Spanish Journal

The PPC Program Director submitted an article for a February issue of the Spanish Journal in an effort to connect the community with policy. The February article was published in Spanish and gave a summary of the Governor's State of the State Address. (See appendix G to read the English version of the article).

Workforce Development Project

The Public Policy Center has continued to assess relationships between Latino community organizations and State and Local workforce development agencies through interviews and conference calls with Latino community agency directors.

March

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

The Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana (OCCHA) of Youngstown has confirmed receipt of the mini match for the Grassroots Capacity



Building Initiative. Documentation has been received and project is underway. Grant recipients and community foundations have received copies of the mini-grants progress reports. Executive Director Escudero will upload the report to the Grassroots Initiative webpage to make the information available to all constituents.

Latino Leadership Council Meeting

LCN Director Cavanaugh has contacted all potential participants to the Latino Leadership Council. Participation confirmation has been received for the majority of these participants. Initial plans and reservations have been made for an event location. Fundraising efforts have been initiated for this event.

Executive Director Escudero and LCN Director Cavanaugh have scheduled a conference call with Mike Parks, from the Dayton Foundation to request his advise and assistance in planning the content for the session regarding a Foundation's Perspective for the forum.

Soluciones! Education Campaign

LCN Director continues to assist PPC (Public Policy Center) Director in the formulation of the Education Report. The draft of this report will be ready for the May board meeting.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

Three new drafts of organization and individuals profiles were received and reviewed. LCN Director continues to provide support to Ana Quevedo to ensure the profiles will be ready by the June deadline.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

LCN Director has participated in presentations from potential suppliers for the website solution. A decision in this area is of major importance, given that some features in OLAnet are not working

(example: weekly email subscriptions and hyperlinks within email campaigns). This is hindering our ability to maintain the community informed on events and news.

Agenda Latina Spring Road Show:

Latino Youth Leadership Conference

Instead of the usual eight city tour for the Agenda Latina, the Latino Youth Leadership Conference will be conducted only in Lorain, during the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (C.H.I.P) - 14th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. Ohio Latino Affairs (OLA) will be in charge of the Youth component of the conference and will conduct the Latino Youth Leadership Workshop. This event will bring together youth representing different regions of NW, NC and NE Ohio. An attendance of 100+ students is expected.

The program for the day will include three interactive forums on Policy, Business and Community. Tina Staigers (OLA) will facilitate the first session; Victoria Nunes (Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Columbus) will facilitate the business forum and Jason Riveiro (LULAC) will conduct the community forum. Ohio Latino Affairs partners in this event are C.H.I.P and LULAC.

Legislative Visit Day

The online registration form is in its final stages of testing and will be completed by the end of March. Marketing for this event will begin on the first week of April.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

An update meeting was conducted with Commissioner Santiago regarding the plans for DHO. The contract with University Plaza hotel is finalized and deposit for the event has been delivered.

Director Cavanaugh is waiting for Executive Director to produce the DHO packets so they can be mailed no later than the first week of April to all commissioners.



Corporate Fundraising Campaign

Janet Wermuth (SGI) has received some feedback from commissioners on possible donors for the campaign. Three different fundraising packets have been prepared and will be mailed out by LCN Director during the first week of April to Commissioners and potential donors: (1) DHO only packet; (2) All events packet which includes DHO, Legislative Visit and Latino Leadership Council; (3) Legislative Visit and Latino Leadership Council packet.

OHCC & OHCBA Meeting

Director Cavanaugh participated in the meeting of the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers and Business Association meeting. More details on the results of this meeting will be included in the Executive Director's report.



POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 35 - "Local Law Enforcement Immigration Authority"

On March 3, 2009 the Senate State and Local and Government Affairs Committee heard sponsor testimony on the bill, which would mandate that the Ohio Attorney General enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE so that law enforcement officers would enforce immigration law. On March 10, 2009, the same committee heard proponent/ opponent and interest party testimony on the bill. PPC Program Director Florentina Staigers testified as an interested party.

General Assembly - House Bill (HB) 4, Distance Learning

On March 24, 2009 The PPC Program Director testified in front of the House Education Committee as an interested party on House Bill 4, which would create a pilot distance-learning project that would include a foreign-language course.

General Assembly - El Día de Los Niños (Children's Day)

Intern and Policy Assistant, Marco Satala, finalized his work on research regarding Día de Los Niños so that the Public Policy Center (PPC) has the relevant information to put forth legislation in the House and Senate that would declare April 30th Children's Day in the State of Ohio. The PPC Program Director reviewed the information and updated a project plan to move forward with the legislation in the month of April.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (Program Director Staigers and Policy Assistant Marco Satala) continue to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. MPBs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Ohio Department of Commerce

Commerce has requested our assistance to reach out to the Latino community regarding the conversion to Digital TV. LCN Director has been working closely with Terry Finfrock and has provided information, contacts and continues to help them in the delivery of their outreach strategy.

Census 2010 Open House

LCN Director participated in the Opening of the Columbus Suburban Local Office for the Census. Contact has been made with Rose Simmons and a future meeting will be arranged between Simmons and our Directors to learn more about the Census efforts in Columbus.

F.A.L.C.O.N. had a very successful meeting in Fremont this month. As a follow up, LCN Director has been asked to participate in a committee that will plan a future meeting in Columbus to prepare an

informational meeting for Latino service providers.

With the assistance of Rafael Rodriguez, LCN Director is making connections in Lake County and will participate in the next Latino Networking Circle meeting, to take place during the second week of April. This is an important step on our outreach efforts above US 30.

LCN Director participated in the Columbus Council on World Affairs 33rd Annual International Awards Ceremony. This was an opportunity to network with many leaders in the community.

The Ohio Bar Association contacted our office to inquire about outreach opportunities to Spanish speaking lawyers across Ohio. General information about OLANet and the different Latino networking organizations across the state was provided.

Gloria Vasquez and Tim Dougherty met with LCN Director and Public Policy Center Director Staigers to discuss a launching an organization for Advocacy Training. Both directors Cavanaugh and Staigers provided guidelines and general information regarding possible support and assistance to formulate a project proposal for the organization and program.

POLICY OUTREACH

Legislator Orientation/Outreach

During March, the PPC Program Director and Director Ezra Escudero continued to meet with legislators and leadership in order to present Legislator Orientation/Outreach packets, which are comprised of following: Latino Community Reports, An Overview of Commission, Global Ready Ohio Strategic Plan for the Biennium 2008-2009, and a brochure which includes information about OLANet, the Grassroots Initiative, Project Open, and Soluciones.

Additionally, thank you notes were sent to all legislators met with during February.

Education Mini-Conference Report

The PPC Program Director has continued working with LCN Program Director to produce a report regarding the winter 08-09 Education Mini-conferences. Extensive research is required for the report, which contains analyses of the Governor's proposed education plan, the Board of Regent's 10-year strategic plan, Ohio Department of Education resources, and pending legislation.

Legislative Visit Day

The PPC Program Director has continued to assist Latino Community Network (LCN) Program Director Lilleana Cavanaugh in the planning of the Legislative Visit Day for May 19th.

OLANet

The PPC Program Director created two new webpages. One addresses "state and local immigration enforcement" in general, and the other is dedicated to Senate Bill 35. The webpages can be viewed at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ipb-statelocalenforce0901.aspx>

Community Action Plans

The PPC Program Director finalized eight Community Action Plans (CAPS) for Senate Bill 35, which are plans detailing how to organize a grassroots response to legislation on the local level. The CAPS were sent via email to the Policy Action Network.

The Spanish Journal Article

The PPC Program Director continues to submit monthly articles to the Spanish Journal in an effort to connect the community with policy. The March article described the movement of Senate Bill 35 and how to respond.

Dayton Forum on Immigration

The PPC Program Director gave a presentation regarding immigration policy



and jointly led a forum workshop on the same issue.

Community Meeting Regarding Legislation

The PPC Program Director has had limited involvement in a community-led effort to call a statewide meeting to discuss Senate Bill 35 and other policy.

April

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

A review of all files for each mini-grant was completed. Reminders have been sent to all organizations regarding final reports. No additional activity to report.

Latino Leadership Council Meeting

The Latino Leadership Council meeting has been re-scheduled. The reason for the change is due to the slower than usual sponsorship funding stream to cover the expenses of the participants. It is our hope that the funds will be secured in time for the September 18th date. The plan is to host the Latino Leadership Council meeting during Friday, September 18th and Saturday, Sept, 19th. All Executive Directors that participate in the meeting will be invited to be part of the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala on the night of Friday, Sept. 18th.

Soluciones! Education Campaign

The draft of the report was shared by Directors Staigers and Cavanaugh with Director Escudero. The final report should be ready in May, as scheduled.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

The project continues to progress. We are in the process of selecting individuals to be included in the profiles. The organizations profiles have been completed. Publication of the English version of the profiles to the website will take place in June.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

We continue to face challenges with OLAnet, mainly due to the fact that the weekly subscription alerts is not functioning. This affects our ability to deliver and share information in a timely fashion with our audiences.

Agenda Latina Spring Road Show: Latino Youth Leadership Conference

Ohio Latino Affairs hosted the youth component at the 14th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (C.H.I.P) in Lorain. With the participation of around 75 students, our team delivered a strong program for the day which included two interactive forums on Business and Community. As a result of the workshops, students worked on developing and presenting a business plan for an new business idea (for the business component), and an action plan for student diversity education and awareness for a high school (community involvement component).

We are very grateful to Victoria Nunes (Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Columbus) and Jason Riveiro (LULAC) for facilitating the workshops. Ohio Latino Affairs partners in this event are C.H.I.P and LULAC.

Legislative Visit Day Planning

Successful marketing and awareness encouraging community participation in this event is moving very smoothly. Director Staigers has been working diligently to ensure the participation of elected officials during the Community Expo and networking time planned during Legislative Visit Day. Registration is moving smoothly. We are expecting over 100 participants in the event and 50 legislators.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award

The webpage for DHO 2009 is ready to be



launched after May 19th. The DHO Nomination packet has been distributed to commissioners and will be made public to everyone in the community on May 19th. The response from potential donors for the event continues to be a challenge.

Corporate Fundraising Campaign

After mailing the sponsorship packets last month, we have received a very low response from potential donors. Funding streams are very limited and we will have to continue to work even harder and more creatively to secure sponsorships for this event. More intense work in this project will be a top priority during May and June.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - Senate Bill 35 - "Local Law Enforcement Immigration Authority"

Senate Bill 35, which mandates that the Ohio Attorney General enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE, is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and may be set for a committee hearing any time.

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 118 and House Bill (HB) 156, El Día de Los Niños (Children's Day)

Public Policy Center (PPC) Program Director Florentina Staigers successfully implemented a plan to have El Día de Los Niños Legislation introduced in both the House and Senate and to receive a proclamation from Governor Ted Strickland.

The PPC Program Director drafted the legislation, which was modeled after past federal resolutions, identified appropriate sponsors, requested their sponsorship, and guided the identified sponsors, (Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Representative Marian Harris (D-Columbus) through the drafting and co-sponsorship process.

PPC Program Director Staigers, with assistance from PPC Assistant Marco Satala, also identified and contacted national and local allies. The State Library of Ohio was the most enthusiastic supporter, and has been an integral collaborator on the project thus far.

Furthermore, in order to foster grassroots support for the legislation, the PPC Program Director planned an event centering around the introduction of the legislation, produced sample letters for community members and local libraries, sent various invites and policy alerts regarding the legislation, and with much of the information provided by the Policy Assistant, produced three web pages dedicated to El Día de Los Niños (one provides an overview, the other is for the Senate and House bills).

The Commission and State Library received a proclamation from Governor Strickland the last week of April, and on April 29th the Commission hosted an event that comprised of the following: a tour of the Statehouse; the viewing of House session where the legislation was introduced and the Latino community members in attendance were recognized by the House members; and a small celebration in the Commission offices.

Both bills read as follows:

Section 1. That section 5.2265 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5.2265. The thirtieth day of April is designated as "Dia De Los Ninos" or "Children's Day" to recognize children as Ohio's future, center, and priority, to promote the importance of linking children to books, languages, and culture, and to honor the Latin American tradition of celebrating this day.

The PPC Program Director will continue to track SB 118 and HB 156 and garner the necessary support from the community.



Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (Program Director Staigers and Policy Assistant Marco Satala) continue to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Continued support to the **Ohio Department of Commerce** regarding the conversion to Digital TV. Ohio Latino Affairs Commission was part of the collaborating agencies mentioned in Governor's Strickland's DTV Take Action Week Recognition, on 04/26/09.

The **Department of Public Safety** requested our assistance to distribute preparedness materials among Latino communities. We will distribute the materials as LCN Director travels around the state.

El Día de los Niños Legislation

LCN Director collaborated with PPC Director Staigers to host a group of Latino Readers and children for the introduction of the Dia de los Niños Legislation.

Swine Flu –H1N1 Information

Director Cavanaugh has been working in close contact with the Department of Public Safety, EMA and other entities to ensure that appropriate information is shared with the Latino communities. The effective use of our leadership and communication networks has been very effective in providing the Latino community with relevant and timely information.

F.A.L.C.O.N. (Benito Lucio) hosted its first meeting to plan a community information fair. LCN Director will

participate in this effort.

LCN Director has been collecting and sharing information regarding grants with community leaders. Also, Director Cavanaugh will participate next month in the **Grant Workshop presented by Senator George Voinovich.**

POLICY OUTREACH

Legislator Orientation/Outreach

During April, the PPC Program Director and Director Ezra Escudero finished meeting with legislators regarding the 2009 Latino Community Reports. The 2nd quarter template, which will focus on education, is in the process of being produced, and meetings with Senator and Representatives will continue.

Education Mini-Conference Report

The PPC Program Director completed the first draft of the Education report and submitted it to the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Board of Regents to review and edit. A May 1st Deadline was requested for the agencies to review and contribute, after which Director Escudero, PPC Program Director, and Latino Community Network Program Director, Lilly Cavanaugh, will work together to determine the final content of report. The final draft of the report is expected to be ready by May 19th.

Legislative Visit Day

The PPC Program Director has continued to assist Latino Community Network (LCN) Program Director Lilleana Cavanaugh in the planning of the Legislative Visit Day (LVD) for May 19th. All 132 legislators were sent invitations to the LVD and by April 30th, 33 legislators had RSVP'd to the event.

Latino presenters were invited and secured, two of whom are working for legislators, and one legislative liaison for a major executive department.



Grassroots Legislator Site Visits

PPC Program Director collaborated with Central State University, East End Community Services, Cincinnati Family Services, and Terra Community College to invite local legislators to participate in a site visit to view their programs and receive information on how the grant has been utilized.

The Spanish Journal Article

The PPC Program Director continues to submit monthly articles to the Spanish Journal in an effort to connect the community with policy. The April article focused on the El Día de Los Niños legislation and the need to move forward with positive legislation.

LEON Advocacy Committee Immigration Workshop

The PPC Program Director gave a presentation on pending state legislation.

Lorain Hispanic Leadership Conference

The PPC Program Director participated in the Lorain Leadership Conference and began networking with individuals interested in the area of human trafficking, which was a central focus of the conference, and an area of interest for the PPC due to last year's legislation and the continued push for additional legislation.

Dayton Foundation/Casa Amiga

The PPC Program Director and LCN Program Director worked together to address the concerns of the Dayton Foundation in regards to the closing of a Latino-serving organizations, Casa Amiga. The PPC Program Director, at the request of the Dayton Foundation, sent correspondence to the Clark County Job and Family Services to inquire about the reasons they had discontinued their funding contract with Casa Amiga.

May

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - Senate Bill 35 - "Local Law Enforcement Immigration Authority"

Senate Bill 35, which mandates that the Ohio Attorney General enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE, is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and may be set for a committee hearing any time.

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 118 and House Bill (HB) 156, El Día de Los Niños (Children's Day)

Legislation that would "designate the thirtieth day of April as 'Día De Los Niños' or 'Children's Day' to recognize children as Ohio's future, center, and priority, to promote the importance of linking children to books, languages, and culture, and to honor the Latin American tradition of celebrating this day is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and the House State Government Committee. The Public Policy Program (PPC) Director, Florentina Staigers, will continue to track SB 118 and HB 156 and garner the necessary support from the community.

General Assembly - House Bill 184, Employment Verification, Detention and Sanctuary Policy

On May 19th, 2009 Representative Courtney Eric Combs introduced a bill that would implement employment verification provisions, certain measures dealing with the detention and fingerprinting of immigrations, and a prohibition against local sanctuary policies.

General Assembly - House Bill 76, Highway Naming

The PPC Program Director testified as an interested party to House Bill 76, which

The logo for the state of Ohio, featuring a red outline of the state and the word "Ohio" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

would designate a portion of State Route 43 within Portage County as the “Corporal Jason J. Hernandez Memorial Highway.”

Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LCN has issued E-Campaigns for the Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue. This event will bring leaders from throughout the state, who have a vested interest in the education of Ohio’s Hispanic population, to not only share their concerns, but also to discuss solutions, best practices, and next steps.

This dialogue is being co-hosted by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), The Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (OCHLA), The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN), Educators & Community Helping Hispanics Onward (ECHHO), the Hispanic Roundtable Community Programs and the State of Ohio GEAR UP Program.

The Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue will take place on Tuesday, August 11th, 2009 at the Double Tree Columbus-Worthington Hotel (175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235) between 11 AM and 1 PM

Latino Coalitions and Networking Events

Due to budget constraints, LCN Director will not be participating in the regular networking meetings of Latino Coalitions/Networking organizations in Dayton, Cincinnati, New Carlisle, Toledo, Norwalk, and Painesville during the latter part of May and the month of June.

POLICY OUTREACH

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (Program Director Staigers and Policy Assistant Marco Satala) continue to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership

Legislative Visit Day

The PPC Program Director worked with Latino Community Network (LCN) Program Director Lilleana Cavanaugh in the planning of the Legislative Visit Day (LVD) for May 19th. Highlights of the LVD-related projects include appointment setting with legislators on behalf of participants, production of content material including an issue brief, and legislator invitations and correspondence to ensure attendance.

Education Mini-Conference Report

The PPC Program Director completed a final draft of the Education report, which includes additions and changes by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Board of Regents to review and edit. The draft report was presented to the State Superintendent of ODE on May 18, 2009.

The Spanish Journal Articles

The PPC Program Director continues to submit monthly articles to the Spanish Journal in an effort to connect the community with policy. The May article focused on the Legislative Visit Day and introduction of HB 184.

In-depth Updates

In addition to Weekly Policy Briefs, the PPC Program Director continues to provide in-depth state legislative updates to advocacy organizations who request them. In May updates were provided to Latino and Immigrant Rights Advocates (LIRA), Immigrant Advocacy Network, and the Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

June

BUDGET UPDATE

Much of the activity this month has concentrated on our efforts to keep the community informed about our budget



situation, and to secure their active communications with legislators regarding the Latino Affairs Commission.

The LCN Director has worked intensely to ensure Latino leaders and community are informed, connected and actively involved in the advocacy process. A special report regarding the impact of serving the Latino community through Ohio Latino Affairs was prepared and submitted to Director Staigers and Escudero.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

Reports from grassroots initiative recipients are beginning to arrive in our office. Several of the awardees have informed us that some of the activities/events will continue through Fall 2009. Therefore, the LCN program is requesting a timeline with detailed financial information to know when the grants will actually finish. Per the guidelines of the grant process, the final report should be submitted when the project is finished.

Education Campaign

In collaboration with Executive Director Escudero and PPC Director Staigers, we have been working on finalizing the Education Report and deciding a new name for the initiative. More details will be included in the PPC Director's report.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign
Moving along with this project, LCN Director requested photographs from all the profiled organizations. We should be working on the draft version of the website during July and August, with a launch date for the Campaign taking place in September, during Hispanic Heritage Month.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

The process to update and confirm information on all registered organizations has started in June. An updated version of

the organizations directory should be available by early August.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Discussions are underway with DHO Committee Chair Mary Santiago and Director Escudero regarding possible alternatives for the DHO 2009. More detailed information about any changes on the DHO plans will be submitted in the July report.

A total of 16 nominations were received for the DHO Award and 7 nominations for Nuestra Familia Award. Given that there was no Board Meeting in June, the selection of the DHO Awardees was not completed. An alternate plan for the selection of awardees will be presented by DHO Committee Chair, Mary Santiago in a conference call to the commissioners before June 30th. Detailed information on the process will be described in next month's report.

Corporate Fundraising Campaign

The campaign continues to move along slowly. In spite of much effort, the response is relatively low and grim. Fewer than \$3000 have been secured commitments to date.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - House Bill 1 - Budget Bill

House Bill 1, which is the appropriations bill for state government, includes proposed cuts to the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission that are substantial. The cuts proposed by the initial Executive budget and the House budget, the Senate Budget, and the Executive's newest budget range from 11% to 43% to 37% respectively.

During the month of June, the Public Policy Center Program (PPC) Director, Florentina Staigers, worked extensively with Director Ezra Escudero and Latino Community Network (LCN) Director



Lilleana Cavanaugh to address this emergency situation. PPC Director Staigers attended budget committee hearings, sent out weekly budget updates to the Policy Action Network, included updates in the Weekly Policy Briefs., creating excel sheets of contact information for key policymakers, making phone calls to community members, creating and sending a letter to all members of the House of Representatives regarding impact of the cuts, and writing individualized letters to each conference committee member.

General Assembly - House Bill 184, Employment Verification, Detention and Sanctuary Policy

On June 3, 2009, Representative Courtney Eric Combs gave sponsor testimony before the House Judiciary Committee on HB 184, a bill that would implement employment verification provisions, certain measures dealing with the detention and fingerprinting of immigrations, and a prohibition against local sanctuary policies.

On June 24, 2009, the Judiciary Committee heard proponent testimony on the bill, where organizations such Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), Minuteman Civil Defense Corp, and Federation of Immigration Reform and Enforcement Coalition (FIRE Coalition) testified. Testimony is available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/prsl28hb184.aspx>.

General Assembly - House Bill 227 - Employment Verification

On June 17, 2009 Representative John Domenick (D-Smithfield) introduced House Bill 227, which would require that a public employer register with a status verification system and use that system to verify the employment authorization status of all new employees. It would also impose state income taxes at a rate of six per cent per annum on the compensation of specified independent contractors who fail to document such verification. The bill

text is available at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_227.

General Assembly - House Bill 76 - Highway Naming

PPC Director Staigers attended committee hearings for House Bill 76, which would designate a portion of State Route 43 within Portage County as the “Corporal Jason J. Hernandez Memorial Highway.” The bill was given favorable consideration and is now awaiting assignment by the Rules and Reference Committee to receive consideration on the floor.

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 118 and House Bill (HB) 156 - El Día de Los Niños (Children’s Day)

Legislation that would “designate the thirtieth day of April as ‘Dia De Los Ninos’ or ‘Children’s Day’ to recognize children as Ohio’s future, center, and priority, to promote the importance of linking children to books, languages, and culture, and to honor the Latin American tradition of celebrating this day is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and the House State Government Committee. PPC Director Staigers attended sponsor testimony hearings in the House and Senate, and drafted and presented Interested Party testimony in the House.

General Assembly - Senate Bill 150 -Local Immigration Enforcement Authority

On June 29, 2009 Senator Gary Cates (R-West Chester) reintroduced a bill that would provide that a board of county commissioners may direct a sheriff to take custody of persons who are being detained for deportation or who are charged with criminal violations of immigration law and to expressly authorize state and local employees and county sheriffs to render assistance to federal immigration officials in the investigation and enforcement of federal immigration law.

Senate Bill 150 is a reintroduction of the



last general assembly's Senate Bill 260, which contained the same provisions. The bill text is available at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_227.

General Assembly - Senate Bill 35 - Local Immigration Enforcement Authority
Senate Bill 35, which mandates that the Ohio Attorney General enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE, is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and may be set for a committee hearing any time.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

LCN has issued E-Campaigns for the **Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue**. This event will bring leaders from throughout the state, who have a vested interest in the education of Ohio's Hispanic population, to not only share their concerns, but also to discuss solutions, best practices, and next steps. This dialogue is being co-hosted by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), The Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (OCHLA), The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN), Educators & Community Helping Hispanics Onward (ECHHO), the Hispanic Roundtable Community Programs and the State of Ohio GEAR UP Program.

The Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue will take place on Tuesday, August 11th, 2009 at the Double Tree Columbus-Worthington Hotel (175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235) between 11 AM and 1 PM.

Latino Coalitions and Networking Events

Due to budget constraints, LCN Director will not be participating in the regular networking meetings of Latino Coalitions/Networking organizations in Dayton, Cincinnati, New Carlisle, Toledo, Norwalk, and Painesville during the latter

part of May and the month of June.

POLICY OUTREACH

Mt. Vernon Hate Crime

PPC Director Staigers has kept informed regarding a case in Mt. Vernon, Ohio where a teenage boy had a noose put around his neck and was dragged several feet. The Latino community reacted strongly to news that the attacker received only a ten day jail sentence. LULAC requested the Commission's assistance in the matter. Thus far Ohio Latino Affairs has primarily played the role of observer in the planning of an event focused on bringing awareness to issues of diversity and hate crime. However, PPC Director Staigers will put together a report for key government officials to inform them about the case and the community's response.

Latino Community Reports - New Webpage

PPC Director Staigers created a new webpage for the Latino Community Reports which is easily accessible to legislators. Additionally, an email was sent out to all legislators informing them of this new online resource available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/LegislativeLatinoCommunityReports2009.aspx>.

Latino Community Reports

Quarter II: PPC Director Staigers created a template for the new Latino Community Report, which will focus on education statistics and a summary of the Education Report. However, this report will require extensive data work with U.S. Census statistics.

Education Mini-Conference Report and One-Page Overview

PPC Director Staigers redrafted the education report to conform to the new education campaign title: CORE Campaign (Communities Organizing to Reform Education). PPC Director Staigers also drafted a one-page overview of the



Commission's Successes in Education. It will be posted on the web pending a new graphic for the CORE Campaign.

El Día de Los Niños Information

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Policy Assistant Marco Satala) drafted information for both Senator Fedor and Representative Harris (co-sponsors of El Día de Los Niños legislation -- see above) for their sponsor testimony. The PPC Director assisted Representative Harris by identifying and contacting organizations to testify as proponents.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team continue to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Briefs, and Reports Database and Library

The PPC Program Director continues to update webpages as our tracked legislation moves forward in the legislative process. Newly created pages include an "Employment Verification" Issue Policy Brief page, as well as pages regarding newly introduced bills on e-verify, HB 184 and HB 227. Available at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/IPB-EmploymentVerification0902.aspx>.

The Spanish Journal Articles

Although the PPC Program Director continues to submit monthly articles to the Spanish Journal in an effort to connect the community with policy, there was no June article because the budget situation was too volatile to ensure timely accuracy.

Tuition Equity

PPC Director Staigers began researching Ohio Administrative Code regulations regarding tuition as well as international

student rates. An email was sent to Educators and Community Helping Hispanics Onward (ECHHO) to survey anecdotal information regarding undocumented students' admission to college. Follow up calls and more intensive research is planned for after the budget bill's passage.

July

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

Six of the eight mini grant recipients have presented final reports (See attachment). In all projects, the objectives of the grants were met. Three of the six programs have some activities extending into Fall & Winter '09, they are:

1. Terra Community College will continue with outreach, retention and orientation initiatives when the new school year starts in the fall.
2. Central State University plans to implement final components of the grant on the Hispanic Leadership Youth Summit and to launch the CSU Latino Foundation this fall.
3. The Salvation Army's West Side Hispanic Indoor Soccer League will extend the program through fall and winter 2009.

There are two ongoing initiatives that will end by December 2009. They are:

1. Youngstown State University's project "A bridge to building capacity for Hispanics"
2. Family Service of Cincinnati's project "Bilingual Mental Health Counseling Program"

The Casa Amiga project "Bilingual Information and Referral Coordinators" is already finished. However, the final report will not be received until the end of August. This is due to issues obtaining documentation after the organization closed its doors due to lack of funding in May, 2009. Maria Messer, who



coordinated the project, has assured that the final report will be ready by the deadline.

Keystone Mini Match Grant

The Keystone Mini Match grant program was established to engage Latino grassroots organizations in developing project proposals in partnership with Ohio Latino Affairs. The goal was for these organizations to secure a match for our funding (ranging between \$3,000 to \$5,000). The grassroots organizations to be considered had to be Latino led and operated, with a history of service and recognized statewide.

The Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana (O.C.C.H.A.) was the only applicant and recipient of a \$3,000 award. Their project report is included in the attachment as well.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

Our plan is to have a draft of the web page for the Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign before the end of August 2009. Director Escudero will create the page. We are in the process of receiving photographs from the organizations that will be profiled.

1. Su Casa, Cincinnati
2. Spanish American Committee, Cleveland
3. Esperanza Inc., Cleveland
4. L.E.O.N., Columbus
5. El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Lorain
6. Sofia Quintero Arts and Cultural Center, Toledo
7. O.C.H.H.A (Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana), Youngstown

We are also extending an invitation to the DHO and Nuestra Familia candidates submitted for consideration this year to be part of the campaign. A public event to launch the Ohio Impact Campaign will be scheduled during Hispanic Heritage Month.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

OLAnet

Progress continues to be made with the project to update all organizations profiles. At this point, 75% of registered organizations have been contacted. New entries and revisions are being made to web pages. An updated version of the organizations directory should be available by the end of August.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Fundraising for the DHO has been a major challenge with a response much lower than expected. Additionally, the DHO event would have been hosted just days apart from the OHCC annual gala. In an effort to make optimal use of resources and ensure the target audiences would not have to pick one or the other event, a decision was reached to collaborate with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. We are delighted to have the opportunity to partner with the OHCC.

The new event's name is the "Ohio Latino Awards," which honors Ohio Hispanic Businesses and their supporters, as well as the Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans. The new date for the event is September 04, 2009 and the location is The Renaissance Hotel, downtown Columbus. LCN Director Cavanaugh and Executive Director Escudero are working closely with the OHCC to define roles, responsibilities for the event. LCN Director has actively worked this month to provide logistical, coordination and administrative support to OHCC as needed.

The Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awardees for the 2009 are: Maria Lang, Rosa Torres Caskey, Maria Cardona. The Nuestra Familia Awardees include Onnie Martin, Joanne Bailis, and Dina Ferrer.

All awardees have been contacted by the commissioners who nominated them and have also received a formal congratulatory



letter prepared by LCN Director and signed by the Executive Director.

Corporate Fundraising Campaign

Much time during July was invested contacting potential donors for the DHO Event. However, fundraising response continues to be much slower than expected. As of July 31, about \$4,500 in financial commitments had been secured.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly

The General Assembly is on summer break, until the week of September 7th, when committee hearings will resume. Session will resume the week of September 14th. Thus, there has been no new bill activity.

General Assembly - House Bill 1 - 2010-2011 Biennium Budget Bill

House Bill 1, the appropriations bill for state government, included catastrophic cuts to the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. The final cuts to the Commission's budget between FY2009 and FY2010 is in excess of 37%.

As a result of the budget cuts, the Public Policy Center (PPC) Program Director Staigers, along with Director Ezra Escudero and Latino Community Network (LCN) Program Director Lilleana Cavanaugh engaged in extensive strategic planning during the month of July.

General Assembly - House Bill 184, Employment Verification, Detention and Sanctuary Policy

The bill would require public and private employers to register and participate in a status verification system to verify the work eligibility of all new employees and to affirm their participation in the status verification system on their state income tax returns. The bill would also require jail officials to make a reasonable effort to verify the citizenship of confined persons

who have committed a criminal offense and to notify the Department of Homeland Security in certain circumstances, and would prohibit local jurisdictions from enacting sanctuary policies. The bill is currently in the House Judiciary Committee and has received two hearings: sponsor testimony and proponent testimony. Testimony is available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ochla/prs128hb184.aspx>.

General Assembly - House Bill 227 - Employment Verification

Representative John Domenick (D-Smithfield) introduced House Bill 227, which would require that a public employer register with a status verification system and use that system to verify the employment authorization status of all new employees. It would also impose state income taxes at a rate of six per cent per annum on the compensation of specified independent contractors who fail to document such verification. The bill is currently in the House Commerce and Labor Committee, and has not received any hearings. The bill text is available at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_227.

General Assembly - Senate Bill (SB) 118 and House Bill (HB) 156 - El Día de Los Niños (Children's Day)

Legislation that would "designate the thirtieth day of April as 'Día De Los Niños' or 'Children's Day' to recognize children as Ohio's future, center, and priority, to promote the importance of linking children to books, languages, and culture, and to honor the Latin American tradition of celebrating this day is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and the House Rules and Reference Committee, respectively. HB 156 was amended in committee and now includes other state designations. It is pending a vote on the House floor. SB 118 received sponsor testimony only.

General Assembly - Senate Bill 150 -Local



Immigration Enforcement Authority

Senator Gary Cates (R-West Chester) reintroduced a bill that would provide that a board of county commissioners may direct a sheriff to take custody of persons who are being detained for deportation or who are charged with criminal violations of immigration law and to expressly authorize state and local employees and county sheriffs to render assistance to federal immigration officials in the investigation and enforcement of federal immigration law.

Senate Bill 150 is a reintroduction of the last general assembly's Senate Bill 260, which contained the same provisions. The bill text is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. The text is available at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_227.

General Assembly - Senate Bill 35 - Local Immigration Enforcement Authority

Senate Bill 35, which mandates that the Ohio Attorney General enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE, is currently in the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee and may be set for a committee hearing any time. It has received sponsor and all party testimony.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Provided assistance to the **Ohio Community Service Council** (state agency) to review their Spanish outreach materials (for content appropriateness for target audience and Spanish translation).

Provided assistance to **Terra Community College** for content and translation on ad to be used as part of marketing campaign to reach out to Latinos.

Fire Safety for Norwalk – Translated text for Spanish brochure for David Wallace, who is in the process of creating a pilot program to train emergency personnel on

how to reach out, understand and serve the Hispanic community.

Fifteen constituents' requests were handled during the month of July. Inquiries range from requests for information on how to reach Latino organizations and services, how to access agencies help for Latinos and how to recruit/ advertise job opportunities for Latinos.

Participated in the **Census 2010 Hard to Count Committee Meeting** and provided feedback on the Fact Sheet to be used for the Census. Also, LCN Director provided a wealth of community contacts and information to the committee for future use to reach out to Latinos in Ohio.

Latino Coalitions and Networking Events

Due to budget constrains, LCN Director will not be participating in the regular networking meetings of Latino Coalitions/ Networking organizations.

POLICY OUTREACH**Mt. Vernon Hate Crime**

In line with the Commission's statutory mandates, the PPC Director Staigers completed a report to policymakers, including the Governor and Senate President, regarding the community's response to a case in Mt. Vernon, Ohio where a few assailants put a noose around a Latino teenager. The Latino community reacted strongly to news that the attacker received only a ten day jail sentence. LULAC requested the Commission's assistance in the matter.

Thus, PPC Director Staigers attended all conference calls and planning meetings regarding the "Vigil for Justice" event planned by LULAC in order to be able to inform policymakers about the situation, and to be able to connect Latino community members and organizations across the state (also in line with the



statutory) mandates. Ohio Latino Affairs will likely continue its involvement by building a long-term plan to address issues of hate and prejudice.

Latino Community Reports

Quarter II: PPC Director Staigers has created the newest edition of the LCRs, which will focus on education statistics for Latinos and provide a summary of the CORE Education Report. The reports are 85% complete. <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/LegislativeLatinoCommunityReports2009.aspx>.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team continue to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Briefs, and Reports Database and Library

The newest created page is regarding Senate Bill 150, available at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/prsl28sb150.aspx>. Additionally, the PPC Program Director continues to update all webpages as our tracked legislation moves forward in the legislative process.

The Spanish Journal Articles

The PPC Program Director submitted a July article to the Spanish Journal that explained that the Commission faced a catastrophic budget cut of 38% and that all programs and initiatives would likely be cut.

August

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

The Family Services Mental Health project

was completed (see report attached). The impact of this project for the community goes beyond the delivered service; it represents a timely overview of the mental health challenges experienced by Latinos. The concrete data and documentation of this project sheds light to the specific needs and presents an opportunity to support the argument for increased and improved services in mental health for Latinos.

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

Due to the work in the Latino Gala Awards, the projected outcomes for August on this project will be completed in September.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

The Ohio Latino Awards Gala event planning and logistics has been the focus of most of our work this month. Several meetings have been held with OHCC to plan and coordinate the gala. Constant interaction has been required to ensure efficiency in handling logistics and administrative tasks for the event.

Thanks to Commissioner Santiago's intense work, we have secured Senator Sherrod Brown as the keynote speaker. Our office also requested and will obtain acclamations from the City of Columbus, Governor's office and Senator Brown for the event. Additionally, regular communications are maintained with awardees and potential donors to ensure they receive up to date and timely information about the gala.

The Gala Award is being heavily promoted through E-Campaigns, press releases, photo/media opportunity communiqués and website. Online registration through OCHLA's website is activated and expected to help facilitate the process. Our office Manager, Lair Marin continues to do an outstanding job keeping track of the registration for the event. We expect



to attract between 250-300 attendants for the gala.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly

The General Assembly is on summer break, until the week of September 7th, when committee hearings will resume. Session will resume the week of September 14th. Thus, there has been no new bill activity.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Participated as panel guest at the University of Dayton's Leadership Academy. This event trains and empowers students of color to be effective leaders at UD. The panel consisted of five experts in different fields who provided contextualized leadership experiences for the students.

The Ohio Literacy Network has requested LCN Director to be part of the Ohio Literacy Board. This board meets 4 times a year only. The mission of the Ohio Literacy Network is to build Ohio's workforce by strengthening adult and family literacy education. Strengthening our relationship with the OLN will be important, since they play an important role in our communities through critical services for Latinos. The services include free literacy, ESOL programs, GED preparation, among others. The first board meeting to be attended will be in November.

Through OLANet and communications with the community leadership network, we continue to promote the Conference "Fiscally Fit Fathers." This is a financial education conference focused on fathers. The goal is to provide them with tools and financial information to better manage family resources. The conference will take place on September 18th, 2009 in Columbus State Community College.

Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue

Along with PPC Director Staigers and Commissioner Andres Gonzalez, LCN Director participated in this meeting hosted by Ohiocan.org, the Hispanic Roundtable, OCHLA, Gear Up, ECHHO and the Ohio Board of Regents.

The goal of this meeting was to dialogue about effective models that are helping Latino communities to access higher education, a discussion of the analysis of gaps that exist and how they can be addressed, and the identification of issues and opportunities that can be identified for this group to take action.

Director Cavanaugh participated in a conference call with the Governor's Faith Based Initiatives office to review grant opportunities, learn more about their work, and discuss how OCHLA can help increase the participation of Latino grassroots organizations in the offerings of this important state office.

LCN Director Cavanaugh participated in the 71st IME – Instituto Mexicano del Exterior – Informative Conference held in Mexico, DF. Mexico. This event was fully sponsored by the Government of Mexico and provided a key opportunity for Director Cavanaugh to learn from experienced elected and appointed Latino leaders from across the US, while at the same time, learning about valuable resources and information available through the Mexican Consulates and IME.

POLICY OUTREACH

Latino Community Reports

Quarter II: PPC Director Staigers has created the newest edition of the LCRs, focused on education statistics for Latinos and a summary of the CORE Education Report. With the hard work of Intern Marco Satala, the reports have been completed for all high Latino population districts, all Senate and House Education



Committee members, and Leadership. The Education LCRs will be added to the web shortly.

Mt. Vernon Hate Crime

Following the Commission’s involvement with the Mt. Vernon hate crime incident, the Public Policy Center Program Director Staigers sent correspondence to Representative Courtney Combs citing concerns regarding hate speech posted on the “comments” section of a column he wrote for the Middletown Journal. PPC Director Staigers pointed out to the Representative the type of rhetoric that is being incited by House Bill 184, not only in recent blogs, but also during the past committee testimony.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Intern Satala) continues to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Action Network

PPC Director Staigers has worked to convene the Policy Action Network in a small group setting to begin implementing the action items identified at previous policy-focused meetings.

The group met for the first time on August 18th and will continue to meet on a monthly basis to focus on action steps. As part of this meeting, PPC Director Staigers has produced a document which is compilation of action items suggested by attendees of previous, an analysis of where the community is regarding the action items, and, in collaboration with Ruben Herrera, a meeting record of the August 18th meeting. All documents are available upon request.

Non-Profit Advocacy and Social Service Council

PPC Director Staigers participated in an Alliance for Justice webinar focused on lobbying/advocacy for non-profits in order to gauge whether or not to recommend it to the list of social service council members.

The webinar was helpful and informative. Thus, since the Commission has been unable to convene the council due to budget cuts, information about the webinar was sent to council members, as well as an update regarding the postponement of an initial meeting of the council.

287(g) Regulation Changes

PPC Director Staigers also researched and provided information to advocacy groups on changes in sec. 287(g) Code of Federal Regulations, which governs the program that allows local law enforcement agencies to be trained in enforcing immigration law. The executive administration is requiring that all memorandums of agreements must be newly entered into, with additional requirements and safeguards. The ACLU, however, has cited concerns with the changes.

OLAnet Policy Briefs, and Reports Database and Library

PPC Director Staigers updated the library, and in particular, has organized the library contents according to the Commission’s alliance groups. These changes are available for viewing at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/reports.aspx>.

Tuition Equity

PPC Director Staigers has reviewed information collected from correspondence with the Board of Regents and research, and met with Senator Kearney’s office to discuss a strategic approach to affecting change in tuition policy. It was determined that it will be necessary to procure community feedback before proceeding.



Education Budget Analysis

PPC Director Staigers is in the process of evaluating the new biennium budget and the effects of the budget changes on the Governor's initial proposed education plan and the Ohio Dept. of Education's current education programs. The budget analysis will be in the form of an addendum to the CORE Education Report.

September

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Grassroots Initiative

Central State University held the Latino Youth Leadership Summit on September 30th. The event is part of the programs sponsored through the Grassroots Initiative. PPC Director Tina Staigers and LCN Director Lilly Cavanaugh participated in the summit as moderators for two sessions. There were over 60 kids representing schools from Dayton and Middletown Public Schools.

Hispanic Heritage Month Events

Ohio Latino Affairs initiated the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting on its homepage a congratulatory and informational piece regarding the significance of the celebration.

After several months of hard work, we were able to compile a list of 121 events taking place across Ohio in celebration of Hispanic Heritage. The statewide calendar has been widely shared through our website.

E-campaigns and Latino media alerts were issued to encourage the participation of the community in the events. PPC

Director also produced an informational letter to legislators outlining opportunities to be part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. A copy of the Statewide Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar is included with this report. In addition, our team will attempt to participate in as many HHM events as possible.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Ohio Latino Awards Gala

Under the leadership of Commissioner and DHO Chair Mary Santiago, the gala was successfully held on September 4, 2009. The event gathered approximately 280 guests, including Senator Sherrod Brown as keynote speaker and Governor Ted Strickland, who provided the welcome address. The Awardees for 2009 are:

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans:

- Maria T. Lang - Cincinnati
- Rosa Torres Caskey - Dayton
- Maria Cardona - Lorain

Nuestra Familia Awardees:

- Onnie Martin - Cincinnati
- Joanne Bailis - Cleveland
- Dina Ferrer - Lorain

Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Awardees:

- Lourdes Leon - Hispanic Business Woman of the Year
- Jose "Rafi" Rodriguez - Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year
- Victoria Nunes - Corporate Hispanic Business Advocate
- Liborio Alcauter - Emerging Hispanic Business of the Year

Our team excelled in providing outstanding administrative and logistical support for the gala, as well as constant coordination with the OHCC gala planning committee and the public. The final report on finances for the event is being completed in coordination with Gus Hoyas from the OHCC and the gala committee.

Public Policy Annual Report

Public Policy Center (PPC) Director Florentina Staigers has completed an annual report for the Public Policy Center for Fiscal Year July 2008 - July 2009. The information was compiled from the monthly reports. The annual report is available upon request, but was also sent



to Commissioners via email on October 7.

The report outlines accomplishments, challenges and opportunities on the key focus areas of the PPC:

1. Policy Research and Information (127th and 128th GA)– Details all activity that focuses on policy and legislation research, production and correspondence. Summarized in a graph with more details below the graph.
2. Advise – Activity that fulfills the mandate of advising policymakers on issues affecting Latinos
3. Increasing Channels of Communication – Summarizes events, programs, information, correspondence that seeks to better connect the Latino community with government so that Latino Ohioans feel they have a voice in government.
4. Enhance Government Effectiveness- Describes programs and reports that have been created to help government better understand and serve the Latino community.



POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - New Appointees

In July, included in the budget bill was a provision that changed the number of ex-officio members of the Commission from two to four. Both the majority and minority leadership of each chamber may choose an ex-officio member.

In September, the House appointed two members: Representatives Terry Boose (R-Norwalk) and Dan Stewart (D-Columbus). Letters of congratulation and information about the Commission were sent to both members. Additionally, meetings have been scheduled with the legislators to give them more information about the Commission’s strategic plan.

General Assembly - Senate Bill 150

The Senate State and Local Government

and Veteran’s Affairs Committee (SLGVA) held two hearings on Senate Bill 150, which authorizes a board of county commissioners to direct the county sheriff to cooperate with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in investigating civil violations of immigration law. The first hearing was for sponsor testimony, and Senator Gary Cates (R-West Chester) and Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones both testified regarding the bill.

The testimony is available on the Commission’s website at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ochla/prs128sb150.aspx>.

The testimony of Sheriff Jones is a summary that was produced from the notes from the hearing because Sheriff Jones did not submit written testimony. The second hearing was for proponent testimony. However, no proponents were present to give testimony.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LCN and PPC directors have prepared a budget and schedule plan to participate in the most relevant Latino networking meetings across the state. It is our intent to be part of about 5 meetings for each of the key networking groups in the year. See attached report for details.

H1N1 Influenza Meeting

The meeting was hosted by the Governor’s Office - Global Relations, with the goal to assemble trusted community leaders and representatives from the local network of Global Business, English as a second language, Refugee and Diaspora communities, who are in a position to better inform their constituents about the H1N1 Influenza Virus (Swine Flu).

LCN Director Cavanaugh and Executive Director Escudero participated in this meeting on behalf of the Commission and were able to provide information regarding the Latino community. Our office will continue to actively participate in this

committee and will begin issuing information to Latino networks and leaders using our E-Campaign feature and OLANet as resources, as more facts and information about the prevention campaign become available.

F.A.L.C.O.N. (Farmworker Agencies Liaison Communication and Outreach Network)

LCN and PPC directors participated in a video-conference hosted by F.A.L.C.O.N. with members of this organization from around the state. The purpose of our involvement in the meeting was to inform FALCON members about our mandates, key initiatives and resources available to help them connect with Latino communities. PPC director also provided an overview of upcoming legislative activity that is of interest to the migrant groups served by FALCON.

Hispanic Alliance – Cleveland

Commissioner Andres Gonzalez facilitated an invitation for PPC and LCN Directors to participate on the Hispanic Alliance Meeting in Cleveland. The Hispanic Alliance is a network of organizations working to integrate the Hispanic/Latino community by uniting, supporting, and strengthening Alliance members in Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio. Their goal is to further the social, educational, and economic development of the Hispanic/Latino community. It is our intent to continue to build a strong relationship with the Alliance and learn the Latino community in Cleveland and find areas of collaboration.

USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services)

LCN Director participated in the quarterly meeting sponsored by C. Gallegos from USCIS with community based organizations in Columbus. The purpose of this meeting is to provide up to date information regarding matters of immigration and to answer general questions from the group on the same

subject. Additionally, this gathering provided a good setting to inform USCIS about the commission, our mandates and to express our interest to help them connect with Latino networks across the state.

Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue.

LCN Director and Commissioner Andres Gonzalez participated in a follow up meeting for this group on September 29th at Wittenberg University in Springfield. The purpose of the second meeting was to discuss more specific plans about effective models to help Latinos improve their opportunities of access to higher education.

LCN Director presented a copy of the C.O.R.E. Education Report to the group for information. A telephone conference has been set with Commissioner Gonzalez and PPC Director Staigers for Oct 2nd to further discuss our participation in this group.

Make a Difference Day Ohio – MDDO

Director Cavanaugh has been invited to participate in the MDDO Steering Committee. The Make A Difference Day is the largest national day giving back to community. MDDO was created to promote participation by Ohioans in the national effort. Since 2000, when MDDO was established, Ohio has led the nation in the number of service projects.

The 19th annual Make A Difference Day will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009. LCN Director's objective is to inform the community about this service day and encourage them to engage in projects that serve Latinos or the general community. The informational campaign about MDDO will be launched early October.

2010 Census: Ohio Complete Count Committee

LCN Director participated on the Second



Ohio Complete Count Committee meeting. At this meeting, reports were presented by each of the state sub-committees. Ohio Latino Affairs Executive Director serves as chair of the hard to count sub-committee.

Induction of Ruth Gonzalez de Garcia – Civil Rights Commission

On September 10th, our team had the honor to be part of the ceremonies inducting Ruth Gonzales de Garcia from Toledo into the Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame. Director Escudero accepted the award on behalf of Mrs. Gonzales de Garcia.

2009 Latino Talent and Leadership Conference

LCN Director participated as moderator at the Latino Talent and Leadership Conference and provided feedback and ideas regarding the format of the conference. The conference, hosted by Emploos and Employment, was designed to promote talent search, career development and professional growth for the next generation of Latino leaders.

Latino Cancer Summit

This summit was hosted by the Ohio State University and L.E.O.N. The purpose of the summit was to bring awareness about the cancer trends and challenges among the Latino population, best practices and interventions in the Latino community across Ohio, including a discussion on community perspectives on cancer.

LCN Director collaborated with the Latino Cancer Summit organizers to promote the event among social service agencies and the general public. Director Cavanaugh also moderated a panel with Latino cancer survivors who shared about their experiences.

POLICY OUTREACH
Latino Community Reports
Quarter II: Education

PPC Director Staigers added the Education Reports to the LCR webpage that is available in the community reports section of the Reports Database and Library. Additionally, Office Manager Lair Marin is in the process of scheduling meetings to present the reports.

Quarter III: Ohio Hispanic Impact

The focus of the third-quarter LCR will be on the Ohio Hispanic Impact campaign that the Commission is implementing in order to dispel stereotypes of Latinos and instead highlight positive contributions. Policy intern Satala is in the process of researching statistics to include in the LCR. PPC Director Staigers has completed a draft template for the Hispanic Impact LCR.

Special Request

PPC Director Staigers received a request from Nick Torres, Legislative Aide to Senator Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati), to produce the LCRs for the Senator (whose district falls below the 5,000 count of Latinos cap). These reports were produced and sent to Mr. Torres.

HB 184 – Employment Verification Meetings and Information

PPC Director Staigers requested that Office Manager Marin schedule meetings with legislators regarding House Bill 184, which is an employment verification bill sponsored by Representative Courtney Combs (R-Hamilton).

The Executive Director Ezra Escudero and PPC Director Staigers are in the process of meeting with all the members of the Judiciary committee, which is hearing the bill. Additionally, PPC Director Staigers developed talking points to be used during meetings with legislators regarding e-verify. These talking points are available upon request.

Legislator Briefings

An e-campaign feature has been set up in order to send all the legislators information for PPC Director Staigers via



email. An email was sent to all 132 legislators with information regarding Hispanic Heritage month, the upcoming Board meeting, and Ohio policy news. This feature will be used to send the Legislators an e-newsletter.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Intern Satala) continues to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Action Network

PPC Director Staigers has worked to convene the Policy Action Network in a small group setting to begin implementing the action items identified at previous policy-focused meetings. The group met for the second time on September 21st with a focus on coalition-building. The meeting was very productive and a first step in creating community accountability for policy advocacy. Members volunteered to contact separate groups and individuals regarding the immigration-related legislation in the House and Senate. The group will continue to meet on a monthly basis to focus on action steps.

Community Updates and Strategic Information

PPC Director Staigers fulfilled the request of a Dayton community member regarding information for meetings with legislators regarding employment verification. Additionally, upon the suggestion of Policy Action Network members, PPC Director Staigers researched, compiled, and sent to all SLGVA Committee members information regarding frequently asked questions about immigrants (such as crime statistics, whether or not they pay taxes, how many are in Ohio, etc) as well as information regarding hate groups that

have previously testified on immigration-related bills. The information was sent the day preceding Senate Bill 150 testimony.

Tuition Equity

PPC Director Staigers and Latino Community Network (LCN) Director Lilleana Cavanaugh created a project plan to assess a number of private and public universities/colleges regarding access tuition rates for immigrants. LCN Director Cavanaugh implemented the assessment through phone interviews and PPC Director Staigers assisted in the effort.

CORE Report Addendum (Education Budget Analysis)

PPC Director Staigers finished evaluating the new biennium budget and the effects of the budget changes on the Governor's initial proposed education plan and the Ohio Dept. of Education's current education programs. The budget analysis is in the form of an addendum to the CORE Education Report. The report was sent to all Commissioners on September 18, 2009 via email.



October

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign

Director Escudero has received the finalized profiles to date. Our website homepage features now an introduction to the Ohio Hispanic Impact Campaign and the first organization showcased is Adelante, Inc. from Toledo. The information is available at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/>

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Emergency Preparedness: H1N1

Influenza

We continue to receive weekly updates with information on the H1N1 and share this information with the community and leadership as appropriate. Email

campaigns have been sent to community leaders emphasizing resources in Spanish and access to materials through www.flu.gov.

Additionally, LCN Director participated in a conference call hosted by the White House which included Latino and Asian organizations. The purpose was to receive updates and provide feedback regarding the H1N1 on how to reach Immigrants and non-English speakers. Information on H1N1 clinics is regularly posted in OLAnet.

FEMA (Federal Agency Management Agency) – New Spanish Website

During the second week of October, the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA unveiled its redesigned Spanish language website. Director Cavanaugh participated in a conference call hosted by the White House to review the newly released website, and speak to FEMA’s Administrator, Craig Fugate, to discuss how organizations can help ensure that the Latino community is prepared before an emergency or disaster. The new website is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/esp/>

Public Safety Emergency Training

LCN Director and Office Manager participated in the training to receive public safety emergency notifications. Both have read and are familiarized with the OCHLA Continuity of Operations Plan.

2010 Census: Ohio Complete Count Committee

LCN Director continues to participate in the Hard to Count Sub-Committee meetings. Our goal is to advise and connect the Sub-committee on every possible aspect to facilitate the outreach to Latinos in Ohio. Part of the work completed this month includes translation and feedback of some key promotional and informational pieces. Starting in November, a series of E-Campaigns will be launched to ensure Latino organizations

have sufficient materials and information to share among the communities.

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - House Bill 184
Public Policy Center (PPC) Program Director Staigers continued to meet with members of the House Judiciary committee regarding House Bill 184, which is an employment verification measure. The meetings with all the Judiciary committee members are now complete.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Karen Gasper, Ohio Attorney General’s Office

The goal of this meeting was to provide information about Ohio Latino Affairs, learn about the outreach initiatives of the OAG’s office, and provide advise regarding how they can best serve the needs and inform the Latino community. We hope to establish a long term relationship with this important office and to identify potential opportunities to collaborate.

Latino Faith Leaders Informational Session

LCN Director Cavanaugh participated in the **FALCON / ODJFS meeting** hosted by Benito Lucio for Latino Faith leaders. The session provided outreach materials and information on services available to the Latino community.

Hispanic Student College Access and Success Dialogue

We continue to participate with this group with PPC Director Staigers taking a lead role regarding our participation and input. The group is planning a conference call in November to discuss a possible College Fair in the Cleveland area in the following weeks.

Make a Difference Day Ohio – MDDO

The Make A Difference Day is the largest national day giving back to community.



MDDO was created to promote participation by Ohioans in the national effort. Since 2000, when MDDO was established, Ohio has led the nation in the number of service projects. Our main goal this year was to increase the awareness among Latinos regarding the service day, and to channel information and project ideas to the different community organizations. This was accomplished through Weekly E-Campaigns. Ohio Latino Affairs was acknowledged in the literature of this event as a supporter of Make a Difference Day Ohio.

Minority Health Commission

In 2007, the Minority Health Commission launched an project to collect information in the form of forums on the subject of health disparities. The draft comments of these conversations and preliminary recommendations have been received. Ohio Latino Affairs, through the LCN Director is participating on the meetings to review the results of the findings, and develop an implementation plan for local, regional and state use.

Rescue and Restore Coalition – CORRC

LCN Director participated in the Human Trafficking Workshop for facilitators. The purpose of this training is to provide information about the issue.

Latinas in Government and the Public Sector Forum

LCN Director participated as panelist in this event hosted by LATINA (Leading and Advocating together in new arenas) group in Cleveland, a non profit volunteer organization that fosters leadership and facilitates development among Hispanic women. The goal of the forum was to encourage the participation of Latinas in public service.

POLICY OUTREACH

Latino Community Reports

Quarter II: Education

In October, PPC Director Staigers began

meeting with members of the House and Senate Education Committees to present the newest LCR, focused on Education, as well as the CORE Report.

Ohio Hispanic Impact

PPC Director Staigers compiled demographic research on Latinos in Ohio and created a web page that provides this information. Please visit the website to view this component of the Hispanic Impact campaign: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/cib.demographics.aspx>

Additionally, The focus of the third-quarter LCR will be on the Ohio Hispanic Impact campaign that the Commission is implementing in order to dispel stereotypes of Latinos and instead highlight positive contributions. PPC Director Staigers is reworking the draft template for the Hispanic Impact LCR to coincide with the new webpage.

Legislator Briefings

An e-campaign feature has been set up in order to send all the legislators information for PPC Director Staigers via email. An October brief was sent to all 132 legislators with information regarding upcoming Board meetings, and Ohio policy news and events.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Intern Satala) continues to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Action Network

PPC Director Staigers has worked to convene the Policy Action Network in a small group setting to begin implementing the action items identified at previous policy-focused meetings. The group met



for the third time on October 27th with a focus on internal communication as well as discussion on the registration policy changes. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to focus on action steps.

Latino Media Brief

An article about the Commission’s strategic education initiatives was sent to all Latino media outlets in an effort to provide media outreach and awareness.

Tuition Equity

PPC Director Staigers continued with tuition equity research, including research and assessment of related North Carolina policy changes, which drew nation-wide media attention. PPC Director Staigers is also working with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers regarding their state survey of admission and verification of undocumented students.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Registration Policy Changes

PPC Director Staigers created an issue brief for community members to help them better understand the background, context, and history of the policy changes as well as the changes itself. The policy brief also included information on the consequences of the policy change. Furthermore, PPC Director Staigers has been attending community meetings to gather feedback from the community on the changes, and has been responding to numerous constituent calls and emails.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Catalogue

PPC Director Staigers is guiding Policy Intern Marco Satala in compiling a catalogue of ESL resources for English language learners. This will provide an assessment of existing resources in order to determine if additional resources are needed.



November

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Ohio Council of Latino Social Service Agencies

LCN Director Cavanaugh is in the process of planning and coordinating the first Summit of the Ohio Council of Latino Social Service Agencies. Invitations have been extended to directors of key grassroots Latino social service agencies to participate in the summit. Two sponsors for the event are secured and the participation of the US Census is confirmed.

The summit’s objectives are to support capacity building for Latino community not for profit social service organizations, to provide a structure for continued input to Ohio Latino Affairs on issues of importance to the Latino community, to create a forum for the collection of ideas and concerns, and encourage communication and networking opportunities within the Latino community not for profit social service organizations.

The program for the summit will include sessions on the 2010 Census, Emergency Preparedness and Advocacy.

There will also be sessions to discuss the benefits of Latino social service agencies working together, how can resources and information best be shared, and what future collaboration can be contemplated among the organizations. (Complete program and objectives/participants is attached to this report).

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Emergency Preparedness: H1N1 Influenza

The Ohio Latino Affairs Board continues to receive weekly updates on the situation of the H1N1 emergency. Regular updates are sent out to community leaders and organizations to increase awareness

among Latino communities of the vaccination's importance. Some of the issues reported at the community level regarding lack of participation in the vaccination effort include: difficulty with times and location for vaccination clinics, concerns about documentation required to receive the vaccine, language barriers.

Bilingual information is being sent electronically to organizations which include flyers, posters, messages in Spanish and informational videos. The goal is that each organization will be able to reproduce the materials that best fit their particular audience's needs.

Continuity of Operations Plan

Director Cavanaugh has received feedback on the draft of the OCHLA Continuity of Operations Plan. This is a required document part of the Pandemic Assessment and Preparation system for the State of Ohio.

Revisions to the plan will be made and a final plan will be presented to the Commissioners for information early in 2010.

2010 Census: Ohio Complete Count Committee

LCN Director coordinated conference calls between April Raffay, State Data Center Coordinator at the Department of Development and key community leaders (Evelyn Rivera and Benito Lucio) to discuss the particular needs and outreach efforts directed to migrant communities, Latinos in rural areas, women, children and Latinos with mental disabilities.

These conversations are very productive and provide an opportunity for Census Coordinator and team to receive first hand information about the dynamics and particular challenges presented to reach out and communicate to the Latino community in regards to the Census 2010.

Executive Director Escudero and Director

Cavanaugh participated in the Complete Count Committee meeting, hosted on November 23rd and presented a report of the work completed by the Hard to Count Sub-committee in regards to the Latino population. Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the US Census Bureau participated in the meeting and later met with community leaders and representatives from the Latino and New American communities at the Ohio State University (meeting attended by Director Cavanaugh).

Ohio Latino Affairs continues to play a key role in the dissemination of census information across Ohio, including weekly e-campaigns, translation of materials, identification of community leaders, liaison work among partnership specialists, Census personnel and Dept. of Development's staff with Latino organizations and community leaders.

Minority Health Commission – Minority Health Forums - Latino Health Coalition

The Latino Health Coalition requested assistance from the LCN office to identify key leaders and organizations involved in Latino health issues who could participate in the Minority Health Forums. These forums are part of the Minority Health Commission's program to help end health disparities, increase awareness, enhance patient-provider communication, and improve cultural and linguistic competency in delivering health services.

LCN Director provided information and contacts, promoted forums and participated in the Columbus Forum, hosted at the Hispanic Coalition on Monday November 16th.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Ohio Community Service Council

Director Cavanaugh presented at the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Community Service Council on the subject of diversity awareness and cross cultural communications. The Community Service



Council is the state agency in charge of organizing community service and volunteerism efforts for the state. They coordinate the Ohio Citizens Corps and AmeriCorps Vista programs.

Ohio Literacy Network

LCN Director participated as newly appointed Board Member to the Ohio Literacy Board. The OLN is committed to building Ohio's workforce by strengthening adult and family literacy education. The Ohio Literacy Network plays a key role for the Latino community through its connections with ABLE programs, English and GED exam preparation.

Toledo Latino Connection Meeting

LCN Director participated in the November meeting of the Latino Connection networking group, along with Margarita de Leon (Census Partnership Specialist). The two key topics at the meeting were preparation for the 2010 Census and the importance of Hispanics participation. The group also discussed a potential project to support an elementary school program. This was a good opportunity to reconnect with Latino leaders in the Toledo area and support the Census 2010 effort as well.

LifeLine Ohio

LifeLine Ohio is a not-for-profit organ procurement organization that promotes and coordinates organ and tissue donation in central and southeastern Ohio. They have recently started a campaign among the Latino community entitled "Done Vida" to encourage education and information within the Hispanic community regarding organ donation. LCN Director met with R. Lewis to provide advise regarding their outreach strategy and offer contacts in the community.

Council on World Affairs, Women in International Affairs

LCN Director has been asked to

participate in the advisory board meeting of the Council's Women in International Affairs Series. The purpose of the meeting is to provide ideas on programming that highlight women of prominence in the international arena and issues relating to women around the world. The expectation is that these forums will be used also to connect the relevant issues presented in the forums with some of the realities faced by women in our communities. This can be used as a platform to increase awareness about women as new Americans, Hispanics, and their contributions to our state.

Kent State University

Executive Director Escudero and LCN Director provided an overview of the Commission, its mandates and history to a group of students from Kent State University. These students are participating in internship programs within state government.

POLICY OUTREACH

Latino Community Reports

Quarter II: Education

In November, PPC Director Staigers continued meeting with members of the House and Senate Education Committees to present the newest LCR, focused on Education, as well as the CORE Report.

Legislator Briefings

An e-campaign feature has been set up in order to send all the legislators information for PPC Director Staigers via email. A November brief was sent to all 132 legislators with information regarding upcoming Board meetings, and Ohio policy news and events.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Intern Satala) continues to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of



the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Policy Action Network

PPC Director Staigers has worked to convene the Policy Action Network in a small group setting to begin implementing the action items identified at previous policy-focused meetings. The group met for a fourth time on November 23rd with a focus on internal communication as well as statewide proactive policy changes. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to focus on action steps.

Latino Media Brief

An article to the community regarding the registration issue was sent to all Latino media outlets on November 16th, in an effort to provide guidance to the community through these contacts.

Reform Immigration for America Campaign

PPC Director Staigers has been collaborating with the Reform Immigration for America (RIFA) Campaign, which was officially launched in Ohio on November 19th. PPC Director Staigers has attended the campaign meetings to receive updates and information on the campaign to be able to share the information with community members.

PPC Director Staigers has also provided guidance to RIFA in identifying members of the community and the legislature who may be interested in assisting the campaign.

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (CORRC)

PPC Director Staigers has been assisting the coalition in finding legal assistance for trafficking victims. The coalition is looking for a clinic or program to house their clients for free or reduced fees.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Registration Policy Changes

PPC Director Staigers continued to respond to community concerns regarding the registration policy changes. Activities included:

- Numerous team meeting discussions to determine the Commission's actions/responses.
- Creating an issue brief to the members of the Board of Commissioners that included an overview of the issue, an official statements, and media talking points.
- A request to the Dept. of Public Safety to disaggregate data on the recipients of the October 8, letters
- Matching the zip code data provided by the Dept of Public Safety to metropolitan areas and counties.
- A November 4, 2009 survey sent to community contacts asking for feedback on the policy changes.
- Compiling and analyzing feedback from community on the policy changes.
- Attended numerous community meetings to answer questions and provide guidance.
- Responded to numerous constituent calls and emails.
- Created a report to public officials regarding community reaction.
- Began to create a policy brief webpage.

Tuition Equity

While most of the tuition equity project work was sidetracked by the registration issue response, the PPC Director Staigers was able to review survey results from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers' state survey of admission and verification of undocumented students.



December

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Ohio Council of Latino Social Service

Agencies

The first summit of the Council was successfully completed on December 4th-5th, 2009. A group of eleven leaders from Latino Social Service Agencies had the opportunity to meet and begin the creation of a network to increase the flow of information, improve efficiencies, and consider areas of potential collaboration in the future.

Representing Ohio Latino Affairs were Chair Santiago, Vice-Chair Gonzalez and Commissioner Simms-Howell, along with Directors Escudero, Cavanaugh, Staigers and Lair Marin. The forum presented Ohio Latino Affairs with a valuable opportunity to hear directly from these leaders about issues of importance for Latino communities across the state, and to craft a general agenda about the potential role to be played in supporting opportunities and considering challenges faced by these organizations.

The summit included sessions on the 2010 Census, Emergency Preparedness and Advocacy. A decision was reached by the group to continue the dialogue initiated during the summit in 2010. For this purpose, Sonia Troche (Toledo), Victor Leandry (Lorain), Giovanna Alvarez (Cincinnati) and Victor Garcia (Springfield) will be holding a conference call in January to consider next steps.

C.O.R.E. Education Initiative

Director Cavanaugh continues to work with PPC Director Staigers to provide contacts, resources and information regarding the compilation of the English Language Learning Catalogue. This project is part of the CORE Report initiatives and will be completed early in 2010. Additional support in the area of education initiatives has been provided to the Public Policy Center on a regular basis,

including participation in education meetings with legislators.

TACTICAL INITIATIVES

Emergency Preparedness: H1N1

Influenza

In response to a request from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Latino Affairs coordinated a statewide teleconference regarding the issue of H1N1 and the challenges to outreach Latinos on December 21st. Participating in the conference were Ohio Dept. of Health Director, Dr. A. Jackson, and experts from EMA and Department of Health who provided an update on the H1N1 situation and explained outreach efforts.

Latino leaders provided useful feedback to the team of experts regarding the challenges faced at the community level to attract Latinos to vaccination clinics and made suggestions about practical solutions to increase vaccination rates. Information was also shared about Latino media outlets and networks that can help facilitate the outreach process.

E-campaigns with information about Spanish outreach materials and other resources from the EMA, Ohio Department of Health and www.flu.gov continue to be shared with the networks.

2010 Census: Ohio Complete Count Committee

Ohio Latino Affairs worked with April Raffay to review and assess the Census Tool Kits for diverse populations in order to identify the kits that would be most useful for the Latino community. As part of this collaboration, a Latino resource section within the Ohio Census Website has been created and can be reached at: <http://census.ohio.gov/OhioHardToCountSubCommittee.aspx>

The information includes Common questions asked by the Hispanic/ Latino community, Census E-Campaigns, Ohio



Hispanic/Latino Outreach and Toolkits as well as general information from the Census.

Weekly e-campaigns, translation of materials, identification of community leaders, liaison work among partnership specialists, Census personnel and Dept. of Development's staff with Latino organizations and community leaders continues to be a regular activity. (This includes another campaign to increase the number of Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted sites within geographic areas with high numbers of Latino citizens.)

POLICY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

General Assembly - House Bill (HB) 227
HB 227, sponsored by John Domenick (D-Smithfield) would require public and private employers to register and participate in a status verification system to verify the work eligibility of all new employees and to affirm their participation in the status verification system on their state income tax returns. State income taxes at a rate of six per cent per annum will be imposed on the compensation of specified independent contractors who fail to document such verification. The bill received sponsor testimony on December 1, 2009 and the webpage regarding the bill was updated accordingly: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/prsl28hb227.aspx>.

General Assembly - Senate Resolution (SR) 133

SR 133, which would recognize January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, was introduced by Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) on December 9, 2009. The resolution is currently in the Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice Committee. It has not yet had a hearing. In conjunction with this resolution, Senator Fedor is planning a public awareness event at the statehouse on January 11th. For more information and

for the agenda for the event please visit: <http://ohiosenatedems.blogspot.com/2009/12/state-senator-teresa-fedor-presents.html>.

The event has also been posted on OLANet and the office team has been disseminating information about the event to all networks. Additionally, Public Policy Center (PPC) Program Director Florentina Staigers has created a legislative policy brief webpage for the resolution, which is available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/prsl28sr133.aspx>.

Hispanic Impact

Along with the creation of a new Latino Community Report that focuses on Hispanic Impact (see below), PPC Director Staigers also created a Demographics webpage, which is an internet hub of all of the office's statistics on Latinos in Ohio. The web page is featured on our homepage along with the current Hispanic Impact profile. It is also available in the reports database and library at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/cib.demographics.aspx>.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Trafficking in Persons Study Commission

LCN Director Cavanaugh has been invited to serve on the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission. The commission is working to develop a collective understanding and consensus on steps to take that will attack and minimize human trafficking in Ohio. This commission provides a key opportunity to voice the concerns of the Latino community and provide insight regarding effects of human trafficking in Hispanic communities.

LCN Director will be working with the Prevention, Education and Outreach Subcommittee, while PPC Director Staigers will work on the advocacy/legislative committee.



International Human Trafficking

The Governor's Office extended an invitation to participate in an International Human Trafficking meeting with Ms. McCusker from Israel Initiative Incorporated. The goal of this organization is to take steps towards engaging all relevant and necessary parties in the eradication of human trafficking. Although the immediate concern deals with Somali youth, the scope of the conversation was broadened to include awareness of other cultures affected by all forms of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day, - January 11, 2010

OLA has been asked by Senator Fedor's office to support their outreach efforts to the Latino community to participate in the Human Trafficking Awareness Day. E-Campaigns, contact lists, media lists and phone calls have been issued to encourage participation of the Latino community in this awareness event.

Ohio Dept. of Administrative Services, Minority Business Outreach Seminar

Patrice Davis from DAS, has requested our assistance to reach out to Latino businesses in an effort to include them on the upcoming Minority Business Outreach Seminar, to take place in February 2010. The goal of the seminar is to increase certification, thereby hopefully increasing the number of minority businesses who are awarded contracts with the state. LCN Director will be advising Ms. Davis, connecting DAS with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and making available our expertise and networks to support the successful realization of this seminar.

Governor's Office: Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit

LCN Director has been contacted by the H. Hinton, Director of Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach to request our support for the mentioned summit. The conference will focus on

promoting the status of Ohio women and girls in the areas of education, economics and health. A meeting has been secured for January to discuss our role and how to enhance the participation of Latinas in this important meeting.

MACC Statewide Conference

The Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence (MACC) will be hosting its annual conference during September 23-24, 2010 featuring the Latino community. To this end, they have requested our assistance as part of their statewide planning committee. Ohio Latino Affairs will be providing advise, connecting MACC with the different Latino Health networks across the state and facilitating the promotion of this event through Latino media, OLANet and other existing networks.

Latino Circle Networking Group, Painesville

Participated in last networking event of the year and provided update on the commission (programs, update on Census and HINI.) This meeting provided an excellent venue to touch base with leaders from the NE region of the state and receive feedback on the state of Latinos in those areas.

WiseLatinas Summit

LCN Director has been invited to participate in the planning meeting for the next WiseLatinas Summit which will take place in 2010. The goal of this group is to create opportunities for Latinas leadership training, to increase networking opportunities and to strengthen and empower Latinas within Ohio and connect them to the national level.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Itzia Price Johnson from the commission has requested our assistance to reach out to the Latino community in Central Ohio, and also participate in the January luncheon "Shaping our Future: the



Regional Plan for Central Ohio.” LCN Director is making available our networks and communications channels to ensure the promotion and participation of Latinos in this event.

Norwalk Hispanic Taskforce

The Norwalk Hispanic Taskforce will be hosting its Diversity Workshop 2010 on February 20, 2010. It has requested our assistance to connect with leaders, including Census and LULAC. LCN Director will be providing contacts and supporting the promotion of this important workshop which enables the Latino community in Norwalk to reach out to the community at large.

USCLA Conference

Directors Escudero and Cavanaugh participated in a planning teleconference for the February 2010 meeting of the United States Commissions of Latino Affairs Conference in Chicago. Ohio Latino Affairs has played an important leadership role in this organization that brings together Latino Affairs Commissions from all the United States.

Administrative Transition Report

In view of the internal changes to take place as of December 21, 2009, Director Cavanaugh has participated in the following activities:

- Several orientation meetings with outgoing Director Escudero
- Meetings with representatives from the Auditors Office
- Transition and introduction meetings with DAS team and other support units
- Meetings with Chair Santiago and other commissioners regarding the transition plan

POLICY OUTREACH

Latino Community Reports

PPC Director Staigers sent out an electronic copy of the CORE report and

Education LCR to the legislators on the Education committee members who were unable to meet with OCHLA. In a final attempt to meet with these legislators, the email also invited them to contact the office to set up a meeting. Additionally, in December, the PPC Director Staigers created and sent to all legislators an electronic copy of the Quarter III LCR on Hispanic Impact.

These newest LCRs were also added to the website and are available for viewing at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/LegislativeLatinoCommunityReports2009.aspx>

Legislator Briefings

PPC Director Staigers continues to send legislator briefings, via an e-campaign feature. The December briefing was sent to all 132 legislators and was comprised of the Hispanic Impact LCR, information on upcoming Board meetings, and Ohio policy news and events.

Weekly and Monthly Policy Briefs

The PPC team (PPC Director Staigers and Intern Satala) continues to send out a Weekly Policy Brief with summaries of national and local news regarding laws and policy affecting Latinos. It is distributed weekly via email to members of the Policy and Leadership Alliance. Monthly Policy Briefs are available on the web at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/mpb2009.aspx>.

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)

PPC Director Staigers sent an e-campaign regarding a lawsuit filed by ABLE against the Northwest Ohio Border Patrol as well as three law enforcement agencies in Attica, Norwalk and Plymouth. ABLE sought assistance from our agency in disseminating information about the suit and identifying possible plaintiffs.

Human Trafficking

PPC Director Staigers is a member of the



Legislative and Lobbying committee of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (CORCC) and provides assistance and input to the committee regarding legislative matters. PPC Director Staigers also continues to attend monthly meetings of the full Coalition as well as the Legislative Committee.

PPC Director Staigers, in an effort to solidify the relationship with CORCC, has created an issue policy brief webpage on human trafficking legislation, which includes: a description of Ohio's current laws; criticism of the law; laws of neighboring states; Ohio and national reports, resources and news; and links to interested party websites.

This will soon be linked to the CORCC website, which is currently under construction. Furthermore, when new legislation is introduced this section of the Commission's website will be used to provide information about the legislation.

Latino Media Brief

An article to the community regarding relationships with law enforcement and human trafficking was sent to all Latino media outlets on December 16th, in an effort to provide guidance to the community through these contacts.

Líderes Learning to Lead, Líderes Learning to Change

PPC Director Staigers helped facilitate a youth conference that was sponsored by the National Council of La Raza, Adelante, and the Ohio Hispanic Coalition. The conference was focused on encouraging Latino and African American youth to become involved in issues affecting them, especially immigration reform.

The youth were tasked with coming up with an action plan to affect change by the end of January and the sponsoring organizations would help them to guide them in fulfilling their plans.

Non-Profit Advocacy

PPC Director Staigers researched, analyzed and created a PowerPoint presentation regarding lobbying and advocacy limits for non-profit organizations. The presentation was given at the Latino Social Services Council meeting and received positive feedback from the Council members.

Ohio Hispanic Coalition

PPC Director Staigers presented on state policy matters at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition networking meeting on December 2, 2009. The networking meetings are attended by various Latino and Latino-serving organizations and individuals.

Policy Action Network

PPC Director Staigers has worked to convene the Policy Action Network in a small group setting called an Action Circle to begin implementing the action items identified at previous policy-focused meetings. The group convened via conference call due to variable weather on December 22nd regarding how the group will assist in pushing for immigration reform, and whether its purpose should change given the presence of the Reform Immigration for America campaign here in Ohio. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to focus on action steps.

Reform Immigration for America Campaign

PPC Director Staigers has continued to collaborate with the Reform Immigration for America (RIFA) Campaign, which was officially launched in Ohio on November 19th. PPC Director Staigers has kept in close contact with the RIFA team regarding their campaign strategy.

PPC Director Staigers has provided the campaign with support by sending out emails announcing their leadership training, consulting with RIFA directors on relationships and strategy in the Latino community, and connecting advocacy



group leaders to the campaign.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Registration Policy Changes

PPC Director Staigers continued to respond to community concerns regarding the registration policy changes. December activities included:

- Individual Correspondence (emails and phone call inquiries) regarding the injunction and the court decision
- Mass correspondence (e-campaign alerts, conference calls, and meetings) regarding the injunction, court decision, and response
- Creating an issue policy brief webpage on the BMV issue.

Columbus Global Academy

In October PPC Director Staigers received an email from Brenda Custodio, who works at the Global Academy (a Columbus Public School focused on English as a Second Language students), regarding the deportation of students without their parents, and the fear this was instilling in other students at the school.

In response, PPC Director Staigers contacted and informed the following stakeholders:

- John Stanford, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Ted Strickland
- Kris Long, Policy Director, Office of Governor Ted Strickland
- Raul Soto, Jeremy Marks, Jennifer Vargo from the Ohio Department of Education
- Dept of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- Dept of Education, Civil Rights Division
- Ramona Reyes, a Columbus Public School Board member

PPC Director Staigers informed them that the Commission would write a formal letter to the Department of Homeland Security to advise them of the Commission's concerns related to the

incident. The letter was sent on December 29, 2009. PPC Director Staigers also advised the Dept. of Education to look into developing a policy or guidelines (unless there already is one) on how school districts should respond to immigration raids where parents are deported and immigration enforcement instances where kids are deported -- and separated from parents.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Catalogue

PPC Director Staigers has been working with Policy Intern Satala to create a statewide directory of Latino-serving ESL classes in the major cities with high Latino population throughout Ohio.

With input from the entire office team, the catalogue is beginning to come together and should be ready by February 2010.

LULAC Parental Involvement Initiative Grant

PPC Director Staigers prepared a letter of support signed by the Commission's director for LULAC Ohio in their pursuit of a grant opportunity involving parental involvement initiatives. If LULAC receives the grant, the Commission hopes to collaborate with them, as the initiative is in keeping with the Commission's CORE Campaign, which includes parental involvement as one of the strategic plans for 2010.

Tuition Equity

PPC Director Staigers submitted a research request to the Ohio Board of Regents regarding enrollment and tuition laws and policies regarding undocumented students.





MINUTES OF THE BOARD

of the 32nd Board of Commissioners ♦ October 2008 ~ September

18 November 2008

Riffe Center #1932, 77 South High Street,
Columbus

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners - Present

Baldemar Velasquez
Mary Santiago
Richard Romero
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Michael G. Florez
Lupe Williams

Commissioners - Absent

Simon Rodriguez
Chris Rodriguez
Humberto Gonzalez
Phillip R. Barbosa
Blanche Aviles Casey

Staff - Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Call to Order

Commissioner Romero called the meeting to

order at 1:30 p.m.

Call of the Roll

There were seven commissioners present.

Motion 1 – 11-2008

To approve the September 2008 minutes. Presented by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

CHAIR’S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero expressed that the past elections were historic and sent the message that all parties must work together. He also expressed that this is an opportunity as all, as Americans, to come together.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Director Escudero presented the September and October, 2008 reports.

Commissioner Romero expressed that he was not in accordance with the change of stationery for the Office of Latino Affairs and the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. He expressed that this issue should be bring to the Board for approval by motion.

Motion 2 – 11-2008

That the standard logo of the Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs and its full name identity should be used for any official promotional literature. Presented by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Seconded by Commissioner Mary Santiago. Motion carried.

Commissioner Romero asked Director Escudero that to present the Financial Report together with the Budget Report due to the absent of Commissioner Aviles Casey. Director Escudero presented a Special Budget Power Point presentation and the Financial Report.

Commissioner Santiago asked about a hard copy of the budget presentation and the Director informed her that he could provide it. Commissioner Florez brought to the attention of the Board that the motion to approve the Director’s Report for September

and October is still pending. Commissioner Romero asked for a motion.

Motion 3 – 11-2008

To approve the September and October 2008 Director’s reports, the Special Budget Presentation and the Finance Report. Presented by Commissioner Velasquez. Seconded by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Director Escudero previously presented the Finance Report.

Ohio’s Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Simon Rodriguez informed that the Committee met this morning to talk about the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Recognition Gala (DHO) and that it was already established that the event was moved from the spring to the fall. They discussed to establish a timetable that will be available by the December meeting.

Motion 4 – 11-2008

To move the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Recognition Gala Dinner for September 18, during the Hispanic Awareness Month celebration. Presented by Commissioner ????? Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Education

Director Escudero previously gave a report.

Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Romero encouraged Board members to be able to attend the Ohio Council of Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations Inaugural Statewide Summit on December 4-5.

Director Escudero reminded that the Board meeting is on December 9 and informed that there are fixed costs and accommodations to make for this event and if board members are interested, is advisable that they call the office.

Commissioner Romero suggested to the board members that they find out how many



Latinos serve on the Workforce Development Boards for their counties. He expressed that Commissioner Barbosa and him are concerned about all the money available for workforce development that is return to the government for lack of use and that the unemployment rate among Latinos is the highest and is a shame that the money cannot be used to train Latinos for real jobs.

He expressed that everybody can contact their counties and asks how many Board members they have in their Workforce Investment Board that are Latinos. Each county has a workforce investment Board. He also expressed that the next step is, if there are none, to encourage county commissioners to appoint Latinos to their boards.

Director Escudero requested that due to conflict with an appointment with Senator Teresa Fedor at 3:30 p.m. today, the verbal update on the pending bills at the Legislature from Legislative Liaison Florentina Staigers be presented now.

Commissioner Romero congratulated Policy Director Staigers for passing the bar and she got a round of applause.

Commissioner Romero expressed that they will do the election of the new Executive Board first, second Commissioner Velasquez make his presentation and then Ms. Staigers will present her update.

Motion 5 – 11-2008

That the present Executive Board continues to serve for year 2009. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Florez. Motion opened for discussion.

Commissioner Velasquez asked for an explanation of this motion. Commissioner Romero responded. Commission Velasquez expressed his opinion about how the Commission should be moving forward in various issues.

After the discussions, the motion was carried.

Florentina Staigers gave her verbal update of Senate Bill 205 (Human Trafficking) and others.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero suggested postponing for the December meeting the re-introduction of the Hispanic impact campaign. He informed that Marco Satala is working on that and that he is working with the consultant Ana Maria Quevedo, which whom he worked many years ago. She is writing the twelve profiles for the Hispanic impact campaign, the positive profiles of individuals and community leaders. He informed that she is going to be in town the week of December 8 and he plans to invite her to the December 9 Board meeting to give a more in-depth presentation to the Board.

Director Escudero presented to the Board, to be considered at the December 9 meeting, two different, Poll Worker Policies, after explaining to them that the Department of Administrative Services explained that in order to be paid for being a poll worker, such policy has to be implemented, approved by the Board. He explained that with the policy in place, the staff will have the opportunity to participate in the process.

Motion 6 – 11-2008

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

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Simms-Howell announced that tomorrow at the Cincinnati Public Schools, the Department of Public Safety would present a forum on safety. The Agent in Charge of the Cincinnati FBI office will be the keynote speaker.

Director Escudero announced that the Hispanics Chambers of Commerce recognized the Commission with an award for the OLANet. Round of applause. He



thanked all for their support and vision.

Commissioner Florez announced that the Prosecutors Office and the Mexican Consulate are having a meeting in December or January (he will inform date later) on how to get undocumented Mexican citizens in Hamilton County into the system.

Commissioner Simon Rodriguez announced that in Toledo the Spanish American Organization and the Latins United Club, of which Commissioner Barbosa and he are members, are collaborating to promote a fifty-fifty raffle fundraiser and potluck during the Ohio State-Michigan game. The event is at the Latins United Club on South St. Claire Street on Saturday.

Motion 7 – 11-2008

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried. Commissioner Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

9 December 2008

Riffe Center #1932, 77 South High Street, Columbus

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners - Present

Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
Michael G. Florez
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Lupe Williams

Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey
Phillip R. Barbosa
Humberto Gonzalez
Chris Rodriguez
Simon Rodriguez
Baldemar Velasquez

Staff – Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Call to Order

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

Call of the Roll

There were five commissioners present. No quorum.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero thanked everybody for being at the meeting and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He also acknowledged the complaint from Commissioner Simms-Howell about the minutes. Commissioner Romero expressed that the Commission will have a great year, keep growing, be more connected with the Legislators and earn the respect of all people in the State of Ohio.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Escudero asked the Commissioners indulgence about the Director's Reports for this month due to the presentations for the day. He will present his reports at the January 2009 Board meeting.

Director Escudero introduced James Manuel from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Manuel thanked the Board Chair. He gave a presentation about a program of their organization called Tech Columbus. He also invited the Board to visit Tech Columbus and held a meeting at their offices.

Commissioner Simms-Howell asked Mr. Manuel if their company gets federal funding and about the global impact of what they are doing, since it requires some risks that dollars would be lost.

Mr. Manuel explained to Commissioner Simms-Howell that they have a program Impact Columbus that has a resident entrepreneur program, that they are serial entrepreneur individuals that started many companies that are still up and running. He expressed that they are kind of the rock stars in the entrepreneurial world.

Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed to the Chair that it would be good that they include Latinos and minorities into that program.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee met this morning and Commissioners Mary Santiago, Flores and Director Escudero attended. He expressed most of the conversation centered on getting ready for next year, the retreat and this year's creation of the committees on Education, Economic Development and Workforce and Ohio's Emerging Diversity. He also informed that they talked about creating a committee to address immigration issues and he appointed Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez to lead that effort. In addition to that, they talked about the need that all the Commissioners get a full understanding of everybody's work, the work of the committees and the office. He plans to visit the Commission's office next Friday after lunch, to spend some time with the staff and to prepare for the retreat.



Workforce & Economic Development

No report.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

No report.

Finance

No report.

Commissioner Romero expressed that they are waiting on the re-appointment or new appointment of the Commissioner that chairs this committee.

Director Escudero reported that they had an excellent statewide meeting, a summit of the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the Hispanic Business Associations at The Columbus Renaissance on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6. This event was possible thanks to the financial support of State Farm Insurance, Key Bank Foundation and the Hispanic Roundtable of Cleveland. More than thirty persons representing the key organizations attended. The meeting had an open agenda with the purpose of bringing these organizations together to begin dialogue about creating a statewide economic development agenda for Ohio Latino business community. He expressed

that the meeting was a great success, not only because of the dialogue, but each of these individual organizations came together and at the last week's meeting decided to recognize one single umbrella organization, the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, an organization that was founded with that intention. He informed that every group represented recognized the OHCC as their umbrella organization. Each of these participating groups committed to an ongoing dialogue and action to develop a statewide Latino economic development agenda, to work together on projects where there is common ground and begin a new day of increase communication and shared dialogue together. The role of our agency and specifically the office will be to offer full logistical support to the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. We facilitated that dialogue, activated a new list-serve called Latino Business@Ohio.gov and hopefully before Christmas we will be launching a webpage in our site that is devoted to the Hispanic Chambers and Hispanic Business Associations and this new ongoing partnership.

Commissioner Romero wanted to thank the participation of the Department of Development through Michelle Abraham. He wants his comment in these minutes. He also commented that this is very exciting and this is the purpose of this Commission.

Education

No report.

Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed his concern about the kids that go to kindergarten and first grade and has to deal with the language barrier. After all he had studied over the years, finally concluded that it is important to pay attention to pre-school; that the kids should be better prepare in knowing the language if they are taught since pre-school. He likes that the Commission pays attention to that education process.

Commissioner Romero expressed that they skipped the Education Report because the Chair is not present, but that he know that the staff went out to get feedback from the

community and he is waiting for the retreat to have the opportunity to bring all Commissioners up-to date. He appreciated the comments from Commissioner Simms-Howell.

Vice Chair Santiago recommended that since the Commission is still waiting for the re-appointments of Board members, they should start going on Commissioner Simms-Howell suggestions to start on something regarding education.

Commissioner Romero agreed with Vice Chair Santiago that they should not wait for the re-appointments, but at the same time, he wants to wait for the dust to settle, really see what we are going to do with this committee. He expressed that there are talks about asking non-Commissioners representing different areas throughout the State to serve in this committee. This is an idea he likes to explore and wants the Commissioners take into consideration. Maybe they know somebody in their areas that is an expert in some area, like education, business development, immigration, because anytime you have experts in a committee that advances the cause.

Commissioner Romero expressed that this year the Commission is going to take a very strong stand on immigration issues. That he wants the Commissioners to be prepared for that, do research to see what other states are doing with regard to protecting the immigrants and come back with some recommendations.

Florentina Staigers expressed that this is a challenge and that she is taking the challenge. She wants to see some positive policy changes coming out of the House and Senate. She informed that together with Director Escudero probably after their retreat, they would be setting an agenda to establish priorities and what sorts of policy changes are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero will welcome great ideas and input for next year's retreat.

Florentina Staigers presented a Resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 260. Oberlin City Council will hear this issue on December 15 at 7:30 p.m. She distributed to all an Issue Policy Brief on Local Law Enforcement Initiatives.

She gave a brief explanation and told the members that probably reading the complete brief would be their homework later. She informed that there has been communication and dialogue about law enforcement initiatives because the Senate Bill 260 passed the Senate unanimously on April. She explained that this measure would allow local law enforcement agencies to enforce civil violations to the immigration laws, which now they only are allow to enforce criminal provisions to the immigration laws.

Commissioner Romero asked Florentina Staigers that together with the Director prepare a statement that she would be able to share with the members of Oberlin City Council. He suggested also that they should start the process of proposing initiatives that better position the State in regards to immigration issues, instead of speaking when something will occur.

Commissioner Romero consulted with the Commission legal counselor if he is allow as individual and Chair of the Board of the Commission to support the Oberlin City Council initiative. The counselor expressed he is allow to. Commissioner Romero expressed that he supports the Oberlin City Council initiative and that he will work with the Director to draft a statement.

Commissioner Romero introduced Gretchen Lopez, Program Director of the Ohio Seniors Health Information Program (OSHIP) at the Ohio Department of Insurance to present information about new changes in Medicare. Mrs. Lopez presented and distributed information about the new changes for Medicare.

Commissioner Santiago informed that she and Lilleana have been visiting hotels for the DHO Gala. She put together recommendation and budget for the



University hotel, distributed to the members in attendance and will send them to the ones not present. This issue will be discussed by the full board for a vote at the next meeting in January 2009.

Public Commentary

Public introduced themselves.

Lupe Williams
Commissioners - Absent
Blanche Aviles Casey

Staff – Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that he and his wife attended the Cincinnati Public Schools Safety Program presented by the FBI. He informed also that the LULAC National Convention would be in Cincinnati in the year 2011.

Commissioner Williams informed that she participated in the National Immigration Forum State of Politics through of phone call that includes part of Texas and Arizona. They concluded that a day must be set to resolve the issue of immigration. They resolved that by Thanksgiving 2009 is the time they want the Comprehensive Immigration Law to take place.

Director Escudero informed, to clear concerns of Commissioner Simms-Howell about the DHO date and the OSU game, that the DHO is Friday, September 18 and the game is Saturday the 19 in Cleveland. There is no conflict with the date.

ADJOURNMENT

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

20 February 2009

Riffe Center Room East B, 77 South High Street, Columbus

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez
Andres E. Gonzalez
Humberto Gonzalez
Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Baldemar Velasquez

Call to Order

Commissioner Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Romero took the swearing of Andres Gonzalez, as the new Board Member of the Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs; congratulated and welcomed him to the Board. Round of applause.

Commissioner Simms-Howell pointed out, for the benefit of the public, that there are two vacant positions on the board. Commissioner Romero expressed that they are monitoring closely the appointment of the two new members.

Call of the Roll

Commissioner Romero asked Vice Chair Mary Santiago to call the roll in the absence of Commissioner Florez. There were five commissioners present. Three Board members will arrive later and there will be quorum.

CHAIR’S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero expressed that this meeting is before their retreat, which will be very helpful as the Commission moves forward. He expressed also that the Commission has done a lot of work under the new budget approved by the Governor. That the Commission is trying to work with all the various communities through the State of Ohio and that finally have a Board Member from Cleveland, one of the largest Hispanic communities in the State of Ohio, Commissioner Andres Gonzalez. He informed also that the Commission has done a great job informing the communities about the Commission goals and purposes and that OLANet is keeping the communities informed and connected with each other. He informed that as per request of Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez they



have added another committee to deal with immigration issues and keep track of Hispanics in Ohio regarding their status in their communities. He expressed that they will dedicate a lot of time at the retreat to this issue. Commissioner Romero informed that he made the decision to add new energy to each of the committees, as follow:

Education

Chair – Comm. Andres Gonzalez

Vice Chair – Comm. Blanche Aviles Casey

Economic Development/Workforce

Development

Chair - Comm. Humberto Gonzalez

Vice Chair- Comm. Anthony Simms-Howell

Diversity

Chair – Comm. Mary Santiago

Immigration and Status of Hispanics in

Ohio

Chair - Comm. Baldemar Velasquez

Vice Chair – Comm. Lupe Williams

Commissioner Romero informed that there is a quorum now with the arrival of the other Board members and they will go to the approval of the minutes.

Director Escudero suggested the postponement of the approval of the minutes as a courtesy for the new board member.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Escudero distributed copies and presented the 2008 November report. Director Escudero explained that his report now includes the Community Liaison and the Policy Liaison reports. Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed that he likes very much the report and the new title for the report. He expressed also that the report must go out the Governor and the Legislators, since these are very good reports that show what the Commission is doing.

Director Escudero distributed copies and presented the December 2008 Directors' Report.

Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed

that the Commission has survived for all these years because its represents the Hispanic/Latino people that has no representation in the Legislature. That the Commission is a junior body that advice the Governor and the Legislators and represents so many races. That we have not reached that level of inclusiveness but eventually one day we would.

Director Escudero explained that in March he would have a new proposal to present to the Board regarding the new contractors for OLANet. Commissioner Romero expressed that a reporter contacted him regarding OLANet about being able to navigate the programs and not able to contact OLANet. The Chair likes in the future we can make it easier for people to access OLANet and maybe even secure Ohio Latino Affairs.Org or something to that effect, because it is easier to go to that location. He wants to see a survey that shows if the community finds it easy to find information on the commission and find it easy to navigate through OLANet.

Director Escudero informed that these reports would be posted on the website by noon on Monday.

Commissioner Simms-Howell asked the Director about the budget cuts and if the office has been preparing to avoid cutting certain things.

Director Escudero answered Commissioner Simms-Howell explaining what he had been doing and that he had been working with the members of the Executive Committee to discuss what they were going to look at cutting. The core operation of the office has been intact. Victims of cuts have been few but meaningful. They have been able to eliminate components of programs.

Nothing has been interrupted. Working with his team, they have been talking about creative ways that will have the Organizations Development Center activities moving forward, even without having an Organization Development Liaison in place. A number of programs due focus on capacity building, so we are still able to



fulfill our mandates, to show some clear results for strategic initiatives and diversity, development and education. Some of the things we have not been able to do, we have been able to manage the message across the State effectively.

Director Escudero presented the January 2009 Report.

He asked Florentina Staigers the Public Policy Liaison to present her report and share her experience in meetings with legislators. Commissioner Romero expressed that he is very pleased with the report and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

Director Escudero informed that they have contracted the services of professional author, journalist and community member, Ana Maria Quevedo, to put together a series of profiles to answer the questions: How does the Latino community make Ohio a better place? What is the positive impact of key individuals and key organizations? How do they enrich the fabric of everyday life in Ohio?

He expressed that there is no shortage of bad news, that we start talking about the positive contributions. He explained that first two articles are the first in a series of a dozen different articles, all over the state, covering different issues and different contributions of the Latino community to the wealth and health of life in the State of Ohio.

He explained that what he is presenting today is a draft, the text is 99% complete and they have the right to modify the text. These articles will be fully translated into Spanish with native level proficiency by the author of the articles. Since the articles are missing the photographs, a photographer will be contracted for this purpose. Mariana Quevedo a graduate in photojournalism from Ohio University will be the photographer to take the photos to complete the articles. He informed that he exploring the idea of working with Latino media around the State, who will publish their own news good

stories and maintains contact with each other and they can re-print their profiles in our website.

Director Escudero handed out a one-page document that reflects what the Commission is and what it does. This document was prepared in advanced the meeting the Governor this evening, which is the first session of the retreat. He expressed that he is proud of his team and the efforts they have done to put this work together.

Motion 1 – 02-2009

To accept the November 2008, December 2008 and January 2009 Directors' Reports. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago.

Before approving the motion on the table, Commissioner Velasquez asked about the study of the Latino population in Ohio. (?)

Director Escudero explained that the study has been put on hold due to the budget cuts. That it is a project for later if the Commission gets the funds in the next budget. Commissioner Romero explained that this would be part of the work for the newly created committee chaired by Commissioner Velasquez.

After discussion, Motion 1 – 02-2009 was carried.

Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed that now that there is quorum, they should go back to the approval of the minutes.

Motion 2 – 02-2009

To approve the Minutes for August 2008, November 2008 and December 2008. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Commissioner Romero informed that he met with Director Escudero and Commissioners Florez and Santiago, and with the consultant and talked about the retreat. He asked Board members if they received the packet of



information mailed to them, so they will have time to get a sense on what they were going to do over the weekend. He thanked Commissioners Florez and Santiago for laying out the outline on how the retreat was going to take place.

Finance

Due to the absence of Commissioner Aviles Casey because of a family emergency, Commissioner Romero asked Director Escudero to present the Financial Report. Director Escudero presented the Financial Report.

Motion 3 – 21-2009

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

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Santiago informed that there is no new report, except the report included in the packet of information. Commissioner Romero introduced the new Chair of the Education Committee, Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez.

Workforce & Economic Development

No report

Education

Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez expressed that he is honor to be a Commissioner for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs and being asked to be the Education Committee Chair. He expressed that education has been one of his passions. That he will be able to assist in moving forward the Latino agenda on education. He informed that they will be meeting with the Superintendent of the Department of Education soon and he will be able to provide more information further.

Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed that he will be watching Commissioner Andres Gonzalez, since childhood education is one of his passions right now and that he has been involved for the past years with the Cincinnati Public Schools. Commissioner Romero expressed that he expect great things from Commissioner Andres Gonzalez.

Commissioner Simms-Howell reported that the Major Leagues Baseball is presenting their civil rights game in June 19-21. It is a very big event in Memphis, Tennessee. He informed that he is a member of the steering committee. Commissioner Romero expressed that for the interest of the agenda, Commissioner Simms-Howell will be able to give more details of this event under the section of commissioners' reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Escudero referred that at the August or September meeting they presented a sample on Poll Workers Policy for Office Employees. The draft of this document is on the yellow packets and is submitted for review, consideration and hopefully approval by the Board. This policy is mirrored from a sister Commission in State government here in Ohio.

Motion 4 – 02-2009

To approve the Poll Worker Policy for Office Employees as submitted. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero informed that regarding about the budget defense he has no detailed information at this time. Some changes in the budget process and the impact of the federal expending packets that came out on State budgets pushed things back. The legislature will be dealing with the budget until June 30. The Governor has recommended the amount of \$570,000.00 for the Commission's next budget. As informed before, there will be no mini grants, no new organization liaison.

The Commission will continue with core operations, Project Open for another year at fifty percent funding levels, upgrade and enhance OLANet, opportunity to have some seed money for economic impact study, semi-annual Agenda Latina town hall meetings every six months, have resources for the office and for eight to ten board meetings per year.



Director Escudero informed the Board that with the level of funding recommended for the Commission, they still would be very effective and successful in continuing to promote the mandates and helping to move the community issues forward.

Director Escudero answered the question from Commissioners Santiago and Gonzalez regarding having a Roster of the Board members with their geographical locations, which is part of the packet they present to legislators.

Florentina Staigers informed the Board that Senate Bill 35 was re-introduced in February and gave a report. Commissioner Romero suggested that in the future the Commission should be more proactive making sure that we are dealing not only with the legislators that are proposing the bill but working with the leaders both in the majority and the minority on both the House and the Senate.

Commissioner Florez informed that he spoke with Ed ?? Legal Counsel from the Hamilton County Sheriff's office about this particular legislation and he told him that he would talk to the Sheriff and get back to him concerning the Sheriff's position on this issue. His first reaction was that the county jail is already crowded and they are not getting any money from the federal government. He believes that his reaction means they will not enforce this.

Commissioner Velasquez expressed his appreciation for the good job done regarding this issue.

Director Escudero updated the board regarding next month meeting in Chicago. This time the meeting is co-hosted by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute and the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. Our Commission came together with our sister agency in Kansas, Indiana, Washington State and Utah and talked about being together at someone's else meeting covering other topics and that they will benefit to cover some other topics, maintaining an ongoing dialogue with each

other, learning about best practices from other Latino commissions around the country, improve our reporting, operations practices as an agency. Once a year we come together with other dozen Latino Affairs' commissions around the country to discuss common issues, explore common ground, acquire best practices information and share ideas with each other.

Director Escudero informed that the host graciously would provide the venue and the airfare. Commissioner Romero expressed that this is the third opportunity for him to look at other commissions and that he discovered that we are different from the national organizations like Image, NCLR, Naleo because we have in the way we are structure as a State commission, the ear to the ground. Many of these national organizations want us to give them the real pulse of what is happening in the community. He expressed also that this commission has been a model to other commissions and that is an honor for the commission to continue being a role model to these commissions.

Director Escudero informed that the dates for the meeting are March 18, 19 and 20 in Chicago. He expressed that is anyone is interested in being involved, can contact him directly to talk about it. Director Escudero informed that a survey was sent to the twelve participating commissions in order to prepare an agenda. The agenda will be included in his next report.

Motion 5 – 02-2009

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

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Simms-Howell informed that he was in a meeting at the Cincinnati Public Schools and was impressed with the lunch program for pre-schoolers. He informed that LULAC is having their convention in Cincinnati in 2011.



Commissioner Santiago informed that the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Lorain is on April 24 and 25. She also informed that the International Festival, in the last week of June will be in charge of the Puerto Rican community this year. At the next meeting, she will provide more details.

Commissioner Romero informed that he has some data given to him by Matt Colopy from the Governor's office about Latinos in Ohio. Director Escudero clarified that the information is from the Dept. of Development based on the Census Bureau.

Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez reported that on March 25 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. there would be a Workforce Development Open House in one of the Latino grassroots organizations in the Cleveland area. It is the first time that they are coordinating it with the Hispanic Business Association.

Commissioner Williams reported that they have been organizing "vigilias" (vigils) for immigrants. She also reported that she have been in contact with the Mexican Consulate regarding the issue of the "tarjeta".

Commissioner Velasquez explained that is a card to draw money, like an ATM, that has no charge to cash a check and has a charge of \$3.00 per card. He informed that in December he visited American Electric Power in Columbus. They gathered around 6,000 signed postcards of supporters of FLOC around the country to ask the CEO of American Electric Power to meet with FLOC. ????

Director Escudero announced that there would be three Agenda Latina instead of eight. April 10 in Columbus; April 11, Cincinnati-Dayton area, and the Mega Event together with the Lorain Leadership Conference in April 24-25.

He announced also that the Legislative Visit Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19. and the regular scheduled Board meeting is on Wednesday, May 20.

Motion 6 – 02-2009

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Seconded by Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez. Motion carried. Commissioner Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

27 March 2009

Riffe Center Room 1932, 19th. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez
Andres E. Gonzalez
Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Baldemar Velasquez
Lupe Williams

Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey
Humberto Gonzalez

Staff – Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Call to Order

Commissioner 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 – 03-2009

To approve the Minutes for February 20, 2009. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero thanked Tina Staigers for defending before the Legislature HB35. He expressed that she was very professional and focused and wants his commentary in the minutes. He asked for a round of applause. Round of applause.

He expressed that since the Commission



does not have large amounts of money to do marketing that one of the most effective ways of marketing is that when Commissioners are invited to a public meeting among leaders or organizations or events introduce themselves to organizers and let them know of their presence, not only as individuals but also as a Commissioner.

This way the Commission presence is acknowledge. That it is a very inexpensive way to let them know that the Commission is out there working in the community. Commissioner Romero mentioned that we are getting closer to Hispanic Heritage Month. He would like that Commissioners ask all the different non-profit organizations and community organizations about events in their respective areas.

It is an opportunity for the Commission to acknowledge the accomplishments and achievements that the Latino community had made. He said that he wants to start collecting that information and suggested to his fellow Commissioners to send emails to everybody to take note and find what events will be held on their communities.



DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Escudero distributed copies and presented the February 2009 report.

Director Escudero informed that good profiles are coming up soon for the Hispanic Profiles Campaign. He also informed that they are still working some OLANet issues in the system administration and he wants to inform the Board, since it is not on the report. He informed that the Commission is in the process of receiving proposals from different teams that work closely with the development of the system. The company that developed the system is no longer in existence.

He informed that the Commission is in the process of a system re-build for OLANet, working with a couple of companies and some other friends. He will have more details about this at the May meeting. Commissioner Romero requested that the

reports be compiled in a package and send to the majority and minority leaders at the House of Representative and the Senate.

Motion 2 – 03-2009

To accept the February 2009 Directors' Report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

Commissioner Romero informed that the Executive Committee met this morning and talked about a new process of how they are going to do the meetings. The committee decided that from now on the Board meetings will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the hearings, where public is invited to talk about issues and share information affecting the Latino community, will be at 1:30 p.m.

He informed that they discussed the retreat and there is an assignment for that will be given to everybody, regarding on how the Board is presently doing things, and what are the most important items they are addressing. He informed that the assignment would be to look over all of the important topics and issues and give feedback to the Director. He also encouraged the other two Directors of the Commission, Tina and Lilly, to offer their feedback. After gathering all the feedback, they will be summarized to make some recommendations.

Finance

Commissioner Romero informed that Commissioner Aviles Casey is excused and she will be able to continue attending the meetings after May. He asked Director Escudero to present the Financial Report.

Director Escudero presented the Financial Report.

There was no motion to accept the Financial Report.

Communications

Commissioner Romero informed that, at the Retreat they appointed Commissioner

Baldemar Velasquez as the new Communications Chair. They also suggested that Tina Staigers works with Commissioner Velasquez to watch as the House bills come out.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Santiago informed that the nominations forms for the DHO have been distributed. She also informed that this year the event will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and the contract has been signed. The information will be available on the Web. She asked that the "Save the Date" packages be sent out next week.

Community Liaison, Lilleana Cavanaugh informed that the Latino Leadership Council meeting would take place on Monday, May 18 followed by the Ohio Latino Affairs Legislative Visit Day on Tuesday, May 19. The purpose of this council meeting is to bring together the directors of Latino agencies that are providing social services; and to form a capacity building of the organizations and provide the opportunity of all of them to come together probably for the first time.

She informed also that the office is inviting 14 executive directors from organizations around the state. That they will provide a forum where they can share some of their experiences they are having right now with different communities, how are they dealing with the challenges that are being presented and what steps can be taken forward for working together.

Director Escudero informed that the model they are using is very similar that the one they are using with the Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations and they the goal is to have a self-standing independent partner that can bring together the collective influence and resources of the social service agencies that we can partnered with and advocate with different issues as they arrive. This is fully supported by those statutory mandates that fall into the build category.

Director Escudero informed that this is a small group of 14 organizations for the entire

state. The criteria for that group is grassroots and Latino community organizations that provide social services. He explained that they are not inviting chambers of commerce, community councils or cultural organizations because the focus is to work with these groups to help increase their capacity to deliver additional social services in the communities they are located. In order to make sure we have a cohesive and unify message, he humble ask the Commissioners, please do not unilaterally invite organizations to attend.

Please check with office first and determine together whether an organization fits the criteria. He explained that this is on a tight budget and focus, that if we broaden the group anymore, the specific objectives of that meeting will be lost because the group will be too diffuse to be zero in their specifics needs and their capacity to serve.

Commissioner Romero expressed that he applauds the Director and Lilly for taking on this initiative. He also thanked and commended Lilly for her work with the Latino organizations.

Commissioner Santiago informed that they will have the Legislative Visit Day and that Tina will develop the curriculum for the morning.

Education

Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez expressed informed that Director Escudero, Lilly and Tina went to his office in Cleveland to meet and talk about the Soluciones campaign in March 5. They decided to move forward with the campaign in order to present it to the full Board next month for their review and acceptance.

He informed that on March 16 Director Escudero and he participated in a conference call with Dr. Raul Soto of the Department of Education, who was able to give them an overview of the evidence base model proposed under Bill 1. That they were very appreciative of the \$8.2 billion dollars that will be allocated to the State of Ohio and that hopefully we will be able to capitalize at



the Commission, work together and align the Commission education mission with the Governor's overall mission. He informed that as a result from this conversation, they will be able to meet with the Superintendent of Education on May 18 at 1:30 p.m. Director Escudero and Commissioner Romero will be in attendance.

Commissioner Florez asked Commissioner Andrés E González if there would be a Part II as a continuation to the Education Report done by the Commission.

Commissioner Gonzalez responded that it has been reviewed and has become a template and the basis that the Spring Board will be using.

Director Escudero informed that the following events are in the month of May:
 May 18 - First summit of the Council on Latino Social Services agencies
 May 18 - Meeting the Superintendent of the Department of Education
 May 19 - Legislative Visit Day
 May 20 - OCHLA Board meeting

Commissioner Romero expressed that he wants input from the Commissioners and the Director if the Census issue should continue to be under the Workforce and Economic Development Committee or a new committee should be created work on this.

Commissioners Florez, Velasquez, Simms-Howell, Andres Gonzalez and Director Escudero expressed their opinions.

Commissioner Williams expressed that she considers that immigration should be the top priority for the Latino Affairs Commission. That she believes that immigrants undocumented or not should have an organization that stand up for them and they can go to without fears. Also, that in all documentation of the Commission the word immigration should be included. She also thinks that Immigration is keeping the Commission to move forward.

Commissioner Romero asked the board members if they are comfortable in creating

task for to deal with immigration.

Commissioner Florez expressed that he is comfortable with the structure and little uncomfortable on making immigration the issue.

The rest of the board members expressed that they are comfortable with it. Commissioner Romero appointed Commissioners Baldemar Velasquez and Lupe Williams chairs of the newly created task force to deal with immigration issues.

Workforce & Economic Development Director Escudero informed that Project OPEN is moving forward and they have completed their second quarterly meetings with the SBBC and the Hispanic Chambers. That he has been working with Commissioner Humberto Gonzalez setting up additional meetings with the Department of Development. He informed that tomorrow they are hosting an event with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Senate Bill 35

Policy Liaison, Tina Staigers gave a verbal update on Senate Bill 35. Update on the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Summit in Chicago

Director Escudero informed that they were able to participate in the forum as a courtesy of the Hispanic Leadership Institute. They have been inviting Latino Affairs commissions from different states for five years now. There are new steps in the direction of formalize the directors group, adding more structure and more meetings. There will be email communications as they develop some documents and potential statements of information. He will offer full details of the summit on the Directors' report for the month of March.

Biennium Budget

Director Escudero informed that the House continues to work on the budget and that the Commission lines items in the budget are still moving through nicely. That they are



anticipating an early May date for the final testimony before the Senate Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Motion 3 – 03-2009

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Andres Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

Director Escudero informed that as part of the Lorain Leadership Conference they are hosting organizing a youth leadership component on Saturday, April 25. The agenda is finalized. The objective is that at the end of the have the youth participants to present to the entire group their thoughts priorities in the areas of education, community life and the environment.

Director Escudero explained that since the conference is less than away, the agenda for 2009 is close. Since this is a pilot conference, looking for input for ideas to improve the program for 2010.

Commissioner Santiago gave the website of the Lorain Conference interested in getting more information. The website is www.chiplorain.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that there is a new Latino radio in Cincinnati.

Motion 4 – 03-2009

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

Commissioner Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

11 August 2009

Riffe Center Room 1932, Room West B, 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez
Andres E. Gonzalez
Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Baldemar Velasquez – Conveyed that he will be arriving 15 minutes late

Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey
Lupe Williams

Staff – Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Lair Marin

Call to Order

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

Call of the Roll

There are five commissioners present, so no vote can take place until Commissioner Velasquez arrives. Commissioner Romero gives floor to Executive Director Escudero since there is no quorum yet for motions.

Director Escudero suggested skipping to Section VII to talk about the Gala.

Ohio Latino Awards Gala 2009

Director Escudero gives a quick recap of the details and asks Commissioners to look at the handouts in their folders. We will have the first of what hopefully will be a series of shared awards galas with the Chambers. The event will take place on Friday, September 4th. It will be called “The Ohio Latino Awards Gala”; you should find invitations in your folders.

Senator Sherrod Brown will be the keynote speaker thanks to Commissioner Santiago. The basic flow will be our flow and will transition to the keynote speech, after the speech, the dinner will be served and the



awards will be presented after the dinner. The balance of the function will be 50/50, one-half will be presented by OHCC and the other half by us. There will be a total of 12 awards, 6 from us OCHLA and 6 from the Chambers OHCC. We are working together to develop all the audiovisuals. Something new is that there will be a VIP room where the interviews, media and all awardees will meet with the Commissioners and HCC boards. All Commissioners are encouraged to be in the VIP area. We have secured full control of the event's logistics and the on-line registration system. This will be manned by two of our full time staff.

All the proceeds will go to the OHCC. Both logos will be on the stage, table and podium. We will have a full accounting at the October Board meeting. The cost of the entrance tickets will be \$75 and Commissioners and staff will pay for their tickets. Tickets are now available online. Lodging reservation will have to be made by the Commissioners themselves.

Commissioner Romero suggests that since the dinner plate only costs \$35, the Commissioners should only pay for this amount.

Director Escudero will work with the Office of Ethics to confirm that this is viable. There will be no entertainment. If the first lady does attend, she will be handing out her Children's book. There will be an art exhibition. There will also be an audiovisual presentation of past Gala photographs. Commissioner Romero suggest that there be a short presentation o both organizations goals and objectives for guest that aren't familiar with the agencies. Director Escudero states that there will be audiovisuals from past awards ceremonies.

Commissioner Romero suggests that awardees should be informed in advanced that they must pay for theirs lodging. Menus will be taken care of by OHCC. Commissioner Santiago states that the goal is 250-300 people, around 150 OHCC and 150 OCHLA. Last year we had 143. Director Escudero states that apart from the

economy, one of the challenges we are facing and against us, is that the date coincides with the Labor Day weekend.

Commissioner Romero suggests that College students could partake and we could find sponsors. Director Escudero responds that we will look into this, but must take into account the RSVP's number and that many colleges still have not started school yet. As an example OSU does not star classes until Sept 23rd. Chair opens up the floor for questions and there are none. Director Escudero proposes moving to Section VIII, C and discuss the Census presentation item since this does not require a vote. Commissioner Romero agrees and gives floor back to Director Escudero.

Census 2010

Director Escudero gives a presentation on the Census 2010. Director Escudero has been asked to serve as a member in the statewide committee and the hard to count subcommittee. Along with Dr. Jackson from the Department of Health, they both serve as co-chairs at a statewide level. They met last month to go over what their agency's plans was to move forward to make sure that every Ohioan is counted. This is the presentation that Director Escudero gave and they are very happy with it and are very supportive.

Census bag that will be distributed prior to the Census campaign. In October, you will all be receiving a sling bag with the commission logo and Census logo. Inside we will have material as well as information inside of everything we need to do locally to make sure we get the message out to the communities of the importance of Latinos participating in the census. The Census paid for the bags. Everyone will be able to give this presentation. The centering question is how our agency can work to ensure that every Hispanic Ohioan is counted in the 2010 Census. The objective is to tell everyone to fill out the form and no one will come knocking at your door.

The question for our plan is how our agency can help to ensure that every Hispanic Ohioans is accounted in the 2010 Census.



The answer is by leveraging the agency's networks and assets to educate trusted messengers and facilitate the census bureau as partners. Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez arrives constituting the total of six commissioners for quorum.

How do we reach the 300,000 Hispanic Ohioans? The answer is by leveraging the agency's networks and assets to educated trusted messengers and facilitate the Census bureaus partners.

How can we facilitate their communication and relationships with those trusted messengers? We focus our energies on approximately 80 to 100 readily identifiable trusted messengers, community leaders, starting with those of you around this table and expanding beyond that and focus on high valued relationship building with you to help you become our trusted messengers on the Census message. That would be a very doable goal for an agency our size and with our resources. What won't we do, we are not going to start working on other initiatives. The Census work is not going to distract form our other work. We are not going to stray from our established mandates, we are not going to mess up established relationship that are out there or create new messaging. We are not going to reinvent wheels.

We are not going to take the shotgun approach and try to reach out to all 300,000 Hispanic Ohioans. We are not going to ignore the partners that the Census has already established out there, key individuals, or key organizations that are already out there working and prompting the Census. What we will do is continue with our other work but we are going to augment our existing efforts. We are going to multiply the effects of the collaborations we are already have and promote the messaging that is already out there.

We will share technology on tools and techniques on how to get the message out there. We are going to focus on approximately 80 identifiable community leaders around the state that can reach

Latino population in Ohio. Create open Forum across the state for our partners that help them. Agenda Latina is a perfect example with the road show meetings so that they can co present with us to help us deliver the message. One of our key assets with be OLANet, we will have a section about the Census and devote this tool towards promoting all the messages and activities that have to do with the Census. The idea is that in the Fall if we can secure the funding we will conduct the road shows in partnership with the organizations and those trusted messengers to bring them in teach them what they need to learn about the Census. This is where the bags come in, for the 80 messengers to have their tool kits to present the Census message.

April 1st is the deadline for the Census, so in March, when we have the road shows we will have the last push to get them to fill in the form and no one is going to come knocking. In addition to the OLANet and Agenda Latina, we have two community councils. One is already up and running and the other one that we have not been able to get running again due to lack of funding. The first one is the Council of the Hispanic Chambers of Businesses associations otherwise know as the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. The second one is the council Latino social services agencies there is an outstanding invitation for a summit to bring them to Columbus. If we can secure some funding to make that happen we have a potential sponsor.

We can bring them in to talk not only about the agenda we already have planned but also to talk about the Census. Between these 2 groups alone there are over 25 out of those 80 key community leaders, Chamber's Presidents, Chambers Executive Directors, not for profit Board members, not for profit Executive Directors around the state that we can say look we need you to be our partners on this because Latinos must be counted. So this is the third set of resources that we have available to us.

Commissioner Simms reminds the Board that Ken Blackwell was able to supply a lot


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of information and recommend that he be contacted for advice.

Commissioner Gonzalez asks if the material will be ready for HHM in order to maximize the information and do some outreach. Director Escudero responds that there is a tool kit, but due to time constrain it might not be ready.

Commissioner Romero says that he wants to make sure we are exploring every avenue that is out there like a lot of media outlets, Radios, smaller newspaper that we can reach out to. Director Escudero informs that in regards to media, the Census bureau has been perfectly clear that they do not want us to touch the media. It is something that they are planning and budgeting.

Commissioner Florez proposes that since we have reached quorum, he would like to move to approve the March 27 minutes.

Motion 1 – 08-2009

To approve the Minutes from March 27, 2009. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Motion carried.

CHAIR’S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero expressed that he has a couple of comments he wants noted in the minutes. The Latino Community is proud of the fact that we now have a Latino Supreme Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor. That we can all take pride in, as we get ready to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month. We should set out to highlight all the great accomplishments and share as much information as possible to share of what is going on out there throughout the State. This is one of the purposes of the Commission to share information.

Floor is given to Director Escudero to introduce the Education Report.

EDUCATION REPORT

Director Escudero asks Tina Staigers to please present the Education report to the Board. Tina Staigers asks that

Commissioner Gonzalez and Director Escudero to present and thanks the Board for the opportunity for her to just give a brief background. A quick summary of the report is that it is derived from our mini conferences that were held in the winter of 2008 – 2009 given in eight cities. Where we gave the community an opportunity to prioritize their issues as far as the Soluciones Campaign and our previous work. This is a compilation of all those priorities put together but most importantly, we have begun to connect these priorities with government resources, which are the tables in the report. We began with what the Department of Education and Board of Regents has currently addressed as priorities.

Something that was a component of that report that we recently took out to revise is Governor’s Strickland Education Plan. He has outlined a mayor overhaul to the education system reflected in the Budget Bill number #1. Basically, we analyzed his recommendations from the get go as far as what he wanted in the education plan and how that process of the budget bill panned out and what we are left with as what his initial wish list was, what we now have and what were the changes.

We are going to be talking with the Department of Education and Board of Regents as well to get an update on those different programs, which could have been affected. Again, the idea is to see what we are going to be doing as an education plan, the communities priorities as well as what resources are already out there as we don’t want to reinvent the wheel. I will leave it to Director Escudero to talk about the recommendations.

Commissioner Gonzalez states the educational draft that is in front of you is that we clearly looked at the advise, connect and build that we put together to report here are the mini conferences that were held throughout the state. We also looked at the Soluciones.

Basically, we are building a foundation on



the existing initiatives and on some of the documents that we have been able to gather as a result of all the great work that this Commission and previous chairs of our education committee has done. We are looking at the core priorities.

On page 4, we have the four areas that we decided were the primary core areas that we decided were the core areas to address. One is the early childhood education, two is the k-12, three is the higher education and the fourth is English language learners. In those four areas, we are looking at programs or initiatives that we would be able to implement as a commission.

Very much of this work is aligned with Governor Strickland's educational plan and initiatives. We are not reinventing the wheel; we are looking at what has been proposed, what has been informed, emerging themes. What we have really done is aligned our work moving forward with the Governor's mandate. In early childhood, we are looking at awareness and there will be a comprising PSAs. We are going to be doing a lot of campaigns and awareness in our own communities throughout the state just to make sure that are families know that this has been provided. Results shows that when children attend early childhood programs they are more prone to stay in school and complete high school. We would be eliminating the issue of dropouts by doing that effort through early childhood. Also, a compilation of what exists out here in terms of early childhood programs looking on how we can again connect our communities with those resources.

So, OLANet will be used as a primary vehicle to do that. K-12 we are looking at a developing an outreach and access program initiative that would help us improve our family community engagement in schools. We have a compilation of programs that have been proposed, what we are doing is looking at what are some of those programs and what are some of the best practices that exist that we might want to incorporate as part of OCHLA's educational action plan moving forward. On the Higher education,

we are looking at developing an initiative aim and insuring tuition equity. This is very timely; Lily, Tina and I were part of the first meeting that the Ohio Access network in partner with OCHLA, roundtable, ECO put together.

It was a dialogue with higher end institutions on what were some of the programs that exist and some of the gaps to see who we were and what were some of the issues we need to tackle as a community statewide. We want to make sure that we are part of the solution as we move forward. Therefore, higher education will become a pivotal one because often times, we are just looking at accessing and how are we able to bring some of our best and brightest students into colleges. However, we spend very little time proving the resources to retain them in those colleges and universities. What is it that we need to do, as a group of professionals and obviously OCHLA is one of those key holders?

We are looking at creating an Ohio Latino scholarship network that will be a network of all Latino serving scholarships serving programs in Ohio. Part of the higher education is looking at the Dream Act and how OCHLA can become from a policy standpoint an advocate of really reshaping the policies and the laws here in Ohio. Therefore, that are students that are undocumented have a chance to really achieve the American dream as many of us have done. The last thing is the English language learning which is OCHLA effort to develop a catalogue or directory of English learning programs throughout Ohio.

We know that we have a lot of individuals who are limited English proficient and this is their primary barrier to accessing some of the services and this has an impact in achieving educational attainment or also entering the workforce. We want to do an attempt at looking at the resources that exist, how can we then become an organization that will provide better access and link individuals into those resources. These are in a nutshell what our core priorities are. The next documents are all the


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programs we have listed here with the challenges and some of the resources that are now in place that we used to put together this Core Report for our educational initiative. With this, I will turn over to Director Escudero.

Commissioner Simms has a question before the presentation regarding Core priorities. He would like that the early childhood Headstart should be a component of the educational plan since undocumented citizens do not qualify for Headstart.

Commissioner Gonzalez, points out that in page 6 in the early childhood this has already been taken into consideration.

Director Escudero makes the Education presentation. The main point is that the name had shifted from the Building Blocks name to the Core name. The items, the recommend next steps and actions items are the same. The second big change is the budget ahead of his budget report is that there are nine distinct, discreet initiatives that we were proposing in the area of education, but because of budget limitation, we will need to scale back to three in this biennium.

The Core model or core program is the successor to Soluciones. It is the two-year plan for the biennium for the Educational issues. It is designed to completely integrate with our statutory mandates of advising, connecting and building. It rests on a firm foundation of community input and through our partnership with different stakeholders in the state of Ohio, which include the Office of the Governor, the Board of Education and the board of Regents. It rests on this report that you now have and on your acceptance today, it will no longer be a draft it will become our report. What are the objectives that we set forth?

First, we wanted to make sure that this was comprehensive in nature and to cover all the different facets of education. We wanted to make sure that we had unique, discreet components, blocks and moving forward they will be rings that represent unique

projects, unique goals, timeframes and outcomes. With this kind of model, we can do three or four since this kind of model is helpful because these also have start date and end dates, measurable outcomes with concrete results. The four facets are early childhood, K-12, higher education and English language learning. We have these six building blocks, something that we'll discuss in committee and recommend back to the board are the six building blocks or rings still doable in the light of our limited budget situation or which one might we move forward in this biennium and save others for later that is yet to be determined. In terms of identifying partners, we have two distinct set of collaborators that we can work with. IN terms of advising, we can work with State Government. We plan to launch a subset of the interagency council for Latino Affairs specifically in the area of education. This involves identifying participants from the Board of Education, the Board of Regents, someone form the Office of the Governor's Office to serve on the interagency council. In terms of connecting and building working with outside groups, we have a third community council that we are proposing to the Commission. We have one with the Chambers, we have one with Social Services agency, and this would be the Ohio Latino Education network of Stakeholders. From the organizations side, we include groups such as Echo, Lulac, LEON, and different Coalitions. In addition non-for profit groups like Adelante, El Centro Esperanza, The Ohio Hispanic Coalition, etc. So, those groups will come together with us to form this third community council of education Stakeholders. What are we going to do with the area of advice, we are going to convene again a subset of interagency council to focus on internal transformation within state government and those are the agencies mentioned earlier including development. On the connect and build side, we have the network of stakeholders to focus on the outside, external community transformation so that these partners can include grassroots social service agencies and community organizations that focus on educational issues. These two documents, the power point with the rings instead of



blocks and this report are the sum total of our presentation to the Board for your approval to become our educational report and our educational strategy moving forward in this biennium.

Commissioner Florez moves to accept the Education Report and to vote that its draft phase becomes final phase. Commissioner Simms seconds.

Open for discussion.

Commissioner Romero asks if all the Commissioners were involved. Commissioner Gonzalez confirms that all this information was sent and shared will all Commissioners.

Commissioner Santiago asked if the results were shared with the communities that participated in the town meetings and if we received any feedback. Community Liaison Cavanaugh confirmed that yes it was shared, sent to participants and no responses were received. Director Escudero also stated that the draft is posted in the OCHLA website and all have access to it.

Commissioner Velasquez does not see where the Latino population mixes in with the broader statistics of drop-off high school population or grade school. Are there any statistics that fit into these broader categories? In order to engage other authorities to participate and involve in helping this children in the communities, like universities. Commissioner Gonzalez responds that it's a point well taken, that document and data we have it. This is an attempt form the education committee to bring you a high-level document action plan for us in terms of moving forward as an initiative. This is the strategy that we will take in engaging our legislators, our civic leaders and higher institutions. This information will be added to this Report as we make the case to those key stakeholders.

Commissioner Romero summarizes that there is no timeline and Commissioner Gonzales confirms that yes that is why this is a Draft for feedback and to incorporate.

Commissioner Gonzalez also wants to says that this is the result of a great job done by Director Escudero, Community Liaison Cavanaugh and Policy Liaison Staigers who did a yeoman's job of doing the research together, putting all the documents together and really looking at all that data and using all these as the platform for our education plan. And running it by our community stakeholders.

Motion 2 – 08-2009

Commissioner Romero motions to accept the Education Report and to vote that its draft phase becomes final phase. All voted in favor. Vote is passed and motion carried.

Commissioner Romero opens the floor to Director Escudero to see if any other items need to be voted on since Commissioner Florez needs to leave.

Director Escudero stated that yes, to please go to point B under VIII. New business Information.

He will present the Transition Plan and Budget Plan for the Commission for the new biennium. The first document with the bigger seal on front that is all words is the actual resolution that we seek the commission's vote for. The second document is the spreadsheet for 2010-2011. The first point in the resolution document states that because of our budget situation and the need for us to reduce headcount we need in the office to reduce the number of fulltime employees from four to three. This first provision would establish the Directors termination effective January 1st 2010 and covers exactly 14 pay periods in the current fiscal year and that is the exact amount we have funding for to sustain four full-time employees.

After that pay period of January 2nd, we must be down to three employees. Point number 2 would establish Community Liaison Cavanaugh as Executive Director immediately upon Director Escudero's departure either by termination or by resignation. That way the Board does not have to wait to convene a special meeting.



This sets up a transition plan right away without any ambiguity also provides for her to be Executive Director at the current Executive Director's level with all the benefits and authorities that Executive Escudero currently enjoys. Point Number 3 adopts the spreadsheet as the official budget plan for the commission and establishes the Executive Directors authority to implement the programs and initiatives in accordance to this plan and to make changes if necessary as guided by mandates through the office of the Governor, budget and management and Department of Administrative services. Point 4 establishes our three strategic committees, which do not change from the previous biennium diversity, development and education. Point 5 establishes the three strategic initiatives with the commission. Namely our Hispanic Impact campaign, Project Open and the CORE education campaign. Step 6 establishes the three advisory committees that are strategic alliances, the Latino Social services council, the Hispanic Chamber Council and the Latino Education network of stakeholders.



Finally point 7, this outlines our tactical and statutory initiatives which includes our program Office structure, no change form before, the events that we do, DHO.

Legislative Visit Day, The alliance summits, the road shows. OLANet and it's four parts and our identified services. This documents them in a formal plan for the new leadership.

Commissioner Simms wants to make a point of clarification that this report does not come from the Director Escudero it comes from our Chairman recommending us that this be signed by Richard Romero. We wanted to make this clear since Director Escudero cannot appoint anyone for this position. The commissioner does the appointment for the office replacement. This is only the recommendation that he has discussed with all of you.

Commissioner Romero expressed that the only concern and change he would like to make is to item number 3. Director Escudero clarifies that the in this item 3 the only gives the authority to make the adjustments on

the budget in order to make payments but not to make decision on the program changes in the budget which is something that only the Board can do. Commissioner Romero expresses an example in regards to the number of board meetings we have to hold, by State we are required to have six in order to meet our requirements. We should plan to have nine in the budget to assure that the six are met.

Director Escudero would like to clarify that he does not check for approval for everyday financial decision that is made. He works within the plan he's given and work and make day-to-day decisions within the established plan. What this point seeks out is to continue that business process that within the parameters of the established plan that the Director has full authority to run the day-to-day operations. Any changes to the plan would of course come to the board for approval. Commissioner Romero expresses that he is still not comfortable to give his approval.

Commissioner Florez clarifies that what they are voting is on appointing Community Liaison Cavanaugh as the next Executive Director if we vote for this.

Commissioner Santiago states that she is not comfortable having the resolution been put in front of her today that it feels like a contract and maybe it should be restructured.

Executive

Simms expresses his concern about this been postponed until October. Regardless of what the board stand is and ultimately decides in regards to transition, the clock is ticking and we cannot go past the halfway point in the mid year with four full time employees.

Director Escudero explains that this is why he publicly announced his intent as soon as he got the budget because his goal as leader of the office was to eliminate any ambiguity in our team because we knew that at a certain threshold one would have to go. The objective was to meet with each one of you and present this plan was to eliminate the

rest of any ambiguity that was still lingering out there. Director Escudero conveyed that he was actively looking for new employment. If I should leave, the office would be without a Director until the board convenes a special emergency meeting to appoint an active Director. This plan was to put that out there and have a solid plan in place that would eliminate the rest of the ambiguity. Moral in the Office has been abysmal; we lost half of our funding and we are losing one fourth of our staff and we need leadership from this Board moving forward. I ask that you please consider.

Commissioner Santiago states that she has no problem with most of the plan, but does not understand why all of it has to be approved. Director Escudero explains that this is a document that all four of the staff reviewed and all we wanted to do was maximize stability. The first main point was his termination and Community Liaison Cavanaugh succession upon his departure. The other five points are exactly what is going on today and we wanted to maximize stability for the office, the programs and the initiatives moving forward by having a single document that says this is how we are setting up, here are the things we are working on and here are the groups we are collaborating on. We wanted to capture the snapshot now and have the stability to move forward.

Commissioner Gonzalez explains that what Director Escudero is trying to do is ensure a very smooth transition in terms of succession plan and at least I have to applaud these efforts. As Board members and as Commissioners we are entrusted by the Governor to ensure that the commission is a viable commission, that we are abiding by our mandates and that we obviously have staff that is able to deliver the goods. It seems to me that if we can tweak two or three things this is a viable document and a succession-planning document that we can approve along with this budget. This would be his preference and if we could do prior to today if not today, he would be more than willing to entertain that.

Commissioner Simms likes the document but he would rephrase stating “Community Liaison Cavanaugh would become the ad interim Executive Director or acting Executive Director and offer her contract and see if she accepts. Executive Director Escudero explains that after consulting with the Attorney General and checking Department of Administrative Services, we called CSA and they did clarify that because the position is exempt and unclassified it does not have to be posted, the board can take action when the board is ready to. Commissioner Velasquez is concerned with the appearance to the public and in regards to the budget.

Commissioner Gonzalez explains that what he sees it completely different, the reality that Director Escudero is willing to step down and not really fire anyone else at the end of the year is commendable in terms of been a serving leader as ensure stability and continuity of the services of the organization.

Commissioner Romero conveys that he applauds the effort of the staff but thinks the transition plan needs to be given to the board and form a transition team to look over the transition plan. He pushes that Commissioners Gonzalez, Santiago and Velazquez and anyone else to be part of this transition team. Commissioner Simms responds that we do not have time and is a decision that has to be made now because in this fiscal period of December/January the Director is leaving, we can approve now and make changes later. Commissioner Santiago states that she can approve this budget today, but is uncomfortable with line 6.

Motion 3 – 08-2009

Commissioner Simms motions to accept the document as it is with the change according to the amendment that Commissioner Santiago proposes which is to omit line number 6.

Commissioner Romero states that it is not going to be under his proposal. Commissioner Florez asks if the motion is on the floor. Commissioner Gonzalez seconds it; therefore, we have a motion on



the floor now.

Discussion is called.

Motion 4 – 08-2009

Commissioner Romero motions to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Simms seconds. Vote is passed and motion carried.

Executive session is called and the rest of the staff leaves the conference room.

Motion 3 – 08-2009

Commissioner Romero request the votes to accept the Budget and Transition Plan. Vote is not passed. Motion is not carried.

Motion 5 – 08-2009

Commissioner Florez motions that on the event of the departure of Director Escudero from the employment of the office and resignation that Community Liaison Cavanaugh should be designated ad interim Executive Director of the Office of Latino Affairs. Commissioner Santiago seconds. Motion carried

Commissioner Romero asks that Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Santiago and Commissioner Florez to work with the language on how transition should occur in regards to the commission's situation.

Commissioner Florez leaves Board meeting, there is no quorum for voting. Commissioner Simms would like to show on record that he commends the office and Director Escudero for the work he has done. This past four years have been wonderful for the commission in term of budget increase and I think that for the first time in this commission we have had a Director that had reached the legislators and the community and I want to make a consensus that we should be proud of it. He does not want us leaving today and the Executive Director thinking that we have rejected what he put forth because he supported him.

Commissioner Simms sees that Director Escudero position comes from the heart because he wanted to make sure that we had

continuity in the commission. I want this to be respected and want us to remember this with all the work that they do in office every day. I want it to show on record that I do personally appreciate it and that Commissioner Romero should have done this work and assume that he should appreciate it and do it. I would like to see that Commissioner Romero finds time so that we do not go through this again, sit down with the Director, and never permit this to happen again.

Motion 6 — 08-2009

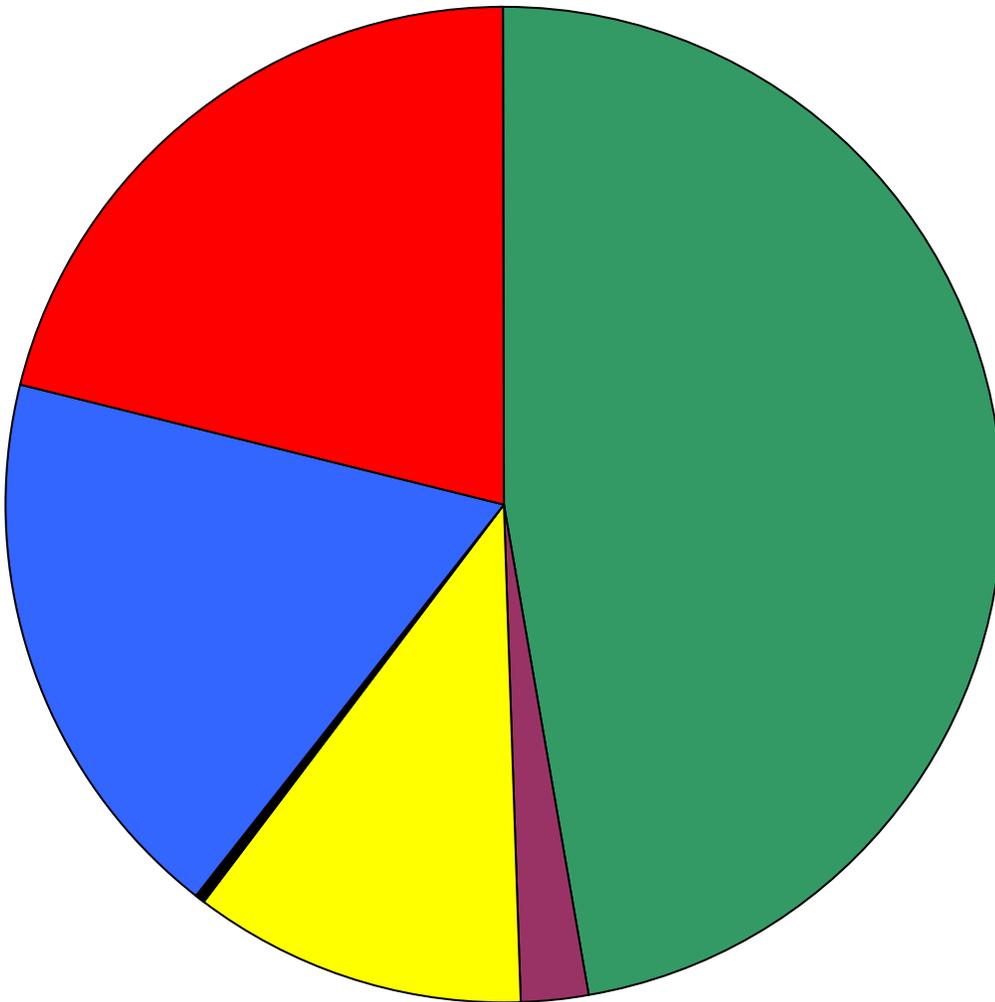
Commissioner Simms motions that the Public be recognized. Commissioner Santiago seconds.

Commissioner Simms inquires regarding the Nominations and Commissioner Romero requests that Commissioner Simms and Commissioner Velasquez and anyone else interested to be in charge of the Nominations committee. Commissioner Simms accepts.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.





FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2009 of the State of Ohio ♦ July 2008 ~ June 2009

Payroll	\$329,685	47%
Services	\$17,072	2%
Intrastate, Supplies, Travel	\$74,857	11%
Equipment	\$2,082	0%
Grants	\$128,718	18%
Budget Cuts	\$147,707	21%
TOTAL	\$700,121	100%

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Ohio

Latino Affairs
Commission

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ezra C. Escudero, Director