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AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2011

To the Honorable Board Members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Nolan J. Stevens, J.D. - Policy Liaison

Advise

Ex-Officio Commissioner Appointments

Along with Director Cavanaugh, met with newly-appointed Commissioners Senator Manning and Senator Tavares. Introduced the Commission and ourselves to the Senators and their staffs. Discussed initiatives and exchanged ideas for supporting each other.

In-District Legislator Meetings

Continued planning and scheduling meetings around the State. Targeted local leaders and legislators. Helped to plan agendas and prepare Latinos to engage their legislators. Three scheduled meetings were all canceled as regional leaders sought to further refine their agenda and, in one case, the legislator had to cancel. Rescheduled meetings for October and continued building rapport with regional Latino advocates.

Redistricting Process

Attended Apportionment Board meetings in Columbus and updated the community with the agenda and results. Analyzed and publicized the new congressional and General Assembly districts for the community. Issued a letter to the Apportionment Board asked that the integrity of Ohio's most concentrated Latino communities be protected through the redistricting process. This advocacy was successful.

Federal Engagement

Along with Director Cavanaugh, met with Apps Akpofure to discuss his departure from Senator Portman's office and met the Senator's statewide director, Teri Geiger. Exchanged initiative and ideas with Ms. Geiger, and helped to discuss Senator Portman's video for the DHO Gala. Corresponded with Ben Famous in Sherrod Brown's office regarding the Senator's visit to the DHO Gala.



DHO Preparation

Researched the addresses of DHO appointees in order to pinpoint their state legislators. Contacted the state legislators with information on the awardees and helped coordinate commendations. Also invited and confirmed the attendance of several legislators for the DHO gala.

Legislator Outreach

Supported Organizational Development Officer Jose Cos in planning and executing a Latino Community Report focusing on diabetes among Latinos in Ohio. Garnered statistics and graphical representations of relevant data for use in the project from the Ohio Department of Health.

Updated contact information for the administrative and legislative aides of the 129th General Assembly, as well as the legislators themselves. There has been substantial turnover for this Assembly, particularly in the Senate. Continued to introduce the Commission and forge relationships.

Invited all legislators to DHO Awards Gala and updated them with registration and logistics information, as well as information on the awardees.

Connect/Build

Outreach to Community: Policy Articles

Continued to send weekly policy briefs to the appropriate OLANet alliance groups. Updated the community regarding voting rules and guidelines as well as the 2011 Ohio ballot. Also kept the community abreast of redistricting processes and outcomes.

Public Policy Center Updates

Nothing to report.

Voter Registration

Announced OCHLA's Voter Registration initiative. Continued to attend events in an effort to register voters and publicize the effort. Continued pursuing partnerships and resources for the implementation of the drive and set the plan and its parameters in place.

Legislation Monitored

Added several pieces of introduced legislation to Gongwer tracking, including legislation regarding social benefits, state employment, redistricting and school bullying.

Workforce and Economic Development

No activity to report.

Human Trafficking

Continued to monitor and publicize legislation, stories and statistics regarding human trafficking in Ohio and around the county. The next Human Trafficking Commission meeting – of which PPC Officer Nolan Stevens is a member – is in October.

Constituent Inquiry

Aided a family with the admission of their children to school after the family changed school districts. Engaged Dr. Raul Soto in the Ohio Department of Education to this end. Discussed remedies for constituent victims of workplace abuse with leaders of their community.



ODC Grant Support

Supported ODC Officer Jose Cos in the pursuit of grant money. Wrote summary regarding the capacity of the Commission to execute the directives of a potential grant.

Meetings Attended

6 September – Senator Charleta Tavares

9 September – Conference call – Carlos de Jesus and OCRC’s Beatrice Sanchez regarding constituent inquiry

13 September – Senator Gayle Manning

17 September – Bridge Builder’s Forum, OSU

19 September – Representative Ramos’s aide, Bill Arth

20 September – Latino Talent and Leadership Conference

23 September – John Trasvina, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, USDHUD along with several other local leaders

23 September – John Ramos, Benito Lucio, Liborio Alcauter – agenda setting meeting

26 September – Apps Akpofure, Teri Geiger – Senator Rob Portman’s office

26 September – Redistricting Hearing

27 September – Senator Tavares’s aides, Nicole and Marisa

27 September – Maritza Motino, John Ramos, Gerardo Davila, Liborio Alcauter – tour of Capitol and OCHLA offices in lieu of scheduled legislator meeting

30 September – Representative Hagan’s aide, Jessica Steepleton



Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Jose Cos, MPA—ODC Officer

Improved Service Delivery

OCHLA Website Updates

The following updates were made to a number of different OCHLA pages:

- An updated home page with a simpler lay out. With frequent updates, the home page needed to be cleaned and re-organized for the convenience of visitors (<http://ochla.ohio.gov>).
- Updates to the Latino health care resources page, with news about upcoming workshops in Spanish language medical training, among others ([http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns Initiatives/LatinoHealthcare.aspx](http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns_Initiatives/LatinoHealthcare.aspx))
- A Dayton report on the impact of immigration on business and commerce. The report was added to the Business and Commerce section of the OLANet Reports and Database web page, as well as to the Economic and Workforce Development web pages. The report can be viewed at: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/reports.aspx>

OCHLA Facebook & Twitter Pages

Both pages (<https://www.facebook.com/OCHLA>) have seen an increase in traffic and OCHLA links and posts have received more positive feedback, indicating that the social media tools are benefiting the Commission. Some of the updates to the Facebook & Twitter pages include:

- Information about a USDA notice for women and Hispanic farmers who may have been improperly denied USDA loans for a period of time.
- Information about the Ohio Hispanic Business Summit along with a link to their web site for registration and presentation opportunities.
- Promotion of the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards gala in October.
- Facts & Figures report on Hispanic Heritage Month from the U.S. Census Bureau, which gives demographic information about Hispanic communities in the U.S.
- Registration information for the OSU Bridge Builders Forum, a day-long event consisting of educational workshops and a college fair aimed at Hispanic male students.
- A link to a report from the Pew Hispanic Center, promoting new research findings on the increase of Hispanic student college enrollment.
- A link to the Ohio Dept. of Health's Emergency Preparedness page.
- Registration information for the Columbus ECHHO college fair.
- Announcement on the Obama Administration's immigration address.
- Event reminder and a link to OCHLA's DHO page. Profiles of this year's DHO awardees complete with a description of their accomplishments along with pictures.
- Hispanic Heritage Month resources that include: Hispanic Heritage teaching guides, biographies of recognized Hispanics, a timeline of Hispanic related events in the U.S., a Hispanic art gallery, and others.

A feature on diabetes and the Hispanic community by the Center for Disease Control.

A link to the recently published Spanish version of the Census American Fact Finder.

A link and registration information for the 2011 Latino Leadership Conference.

Information on multicultural scholarships.

-Information on minority population shifts in the U.S., complete with maps



- Pictures and information about OCHLA’s meeting with Asst. Secretary John Trasviña.

To see all updates, please visit <http://www.facebook.com/ochla>. Please note that all Facebook updates are automatically posted on OCHLA’s Twitter page, at: <http://www.twitter.com/ohiolatinocomm>

Capacity Building

Organization Development – Grants Project

The center moved forward with its regular grant announcements which are now regularly shared with all Latino leadership, community organizations and others that have requested to be part of OCHLA’S Grant Email List. The e-campaigns feature available grants from the federal government and private foundations, and was sent via e-campaign to established networks in the fields of education, economic development, and health and safety, rural community projects, research initiatives, and drug and alcohol services.

All grants that are forwarded are pre-screened to ensure eligibility for community organizations, and they are broad enough to provide an opportunity for a project centered on Hispanic populations. In most cases, the grants deal with issues affecting these populations to ensure a need for Hispanic organization involvement.

OCHLA is also offering assistance with regard to grant research, partnership development, and application materials. OCHLA has received interest for a proposal involving a child obesity research grant. OCHLA is currently working with two organizations in the preliminary stages of a grant proposal that would be submitted in February of 2012 by the corresponding agencies, which will need assistance connecting research to public policy, thus providing a direct role for OCHLA with this grant opportunity.

OCHLA began its own process to acquire grant funds for the commission, and a grant template was created to gain experience using a HUD grant opportunity that was forwarded from staff at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Using their assistance and the use of winning grant templates, OCHLA prepared a grant proposal that will serve as a guideline for future proposals, while also serving the purpose of a real grant application since this opportunity is available every year. Specifically, Mr. Ronald Tomlinson of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission assisted OCHLA staff in the development of this grant template, and offered his assistance and his Commission’s support for future grant initiatives.

During August OCHLA learned about a grant opportunity with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS—National Resource Conservation Service of Ohio). The \$90,000 grant seeks to increase awareness about conservation programs, program application, and benefits of conservation for Ohio’s Hispanic farming community. The grant application was submitted on September 13, 2011, and OCHLA is awaiting response from NRCS about potential funding.

Capacity Building—Training and Resources

In September, ODC officer Cos attended a grant writing seminar in order to improve future grant proposals for OCHLA. The session attended was hosted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety and was free of cost. Session topics included overviews of key components of grant proposals, along with resources to guide proposal writing. Components covered included:

- Grant writing basics: what you need to know before applying
- How to search for and find grants
- Writing an objective statement
- Formulating goals and objectives



- Logic model basics

OCHLA has signed up for future free training sessions with the Dept. of Public Safety, and the next training will cover the evaluation of a grant program, which is an essential piece to every proposal. It should be noted that OCHLA is uploading acquired resources to the Organization Development page in order to help build grant writing capacity for other organizations and individuals.

Health LCR

In order to advise the state legislature on issues affecting Ohio’s Hispanic communities, OCHLA has begun work on the next quarterly Latino Community Report. This report will focus on Latino health, with a special focus on the high prevalence of diabetes within these communities, both nationally and in Ohio. Health issues were selected based on an assessment of previous LCRs, and the importance of finding solutions for the prevalence of diabetes. The report will serve as an update for legislatures on some of the positives and negatives seen in Hispanic/Latino communities with regard to health. This general overview will lead into a description of the diabetes problem, with special attention to Ohio areas with high prevalence. Finally, the report will conclude with information, links, and phone numbers for available resources in the U.S. and in Ohio. OCHLA plans to publish the report by the end of October/early November through various mediums while meeting personally with state representatives who have high numbers of Hispanics in their constituencies and/or high numbers of diagnosed diabetes.

Meetings Attended

Jose Cos, along with Policy Liaison Nolan Stevens, attended a meeting with staff members from the Ohio USDA office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the validity and necessary outreach efforts of a USDA notice concerning claims from women and Hispanic farmers who were improperly denied farm loans for a period of time. The meeting was productive in establishing outreach efforts for the notice, as well as exposure of OCHLA’s services to Ohio USDA, who expressed interest in future collaboration. OCHLA offered to assist Ohio USDA by:

- Promoting the USDA notice through OLANet
- Posting a link to the notice on Facebook & Twitter.
- Referring constituent calls and e-mails to the proper USDA phone number and web site.

Additionally, the meeting made it possible for OCHLA to discover a new grant opportunity and meet with the grant coordinator in person.

September 23, 2011 – OCHLA staff hosted a meeting with Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Mr. John Trasviña. The meeting consisted of an open-forum discussion regarding fair housing and discrimination within Ohio’s Hispanic communities. Community leaders from all over the state were invited to raise questions and concerns. Mr. Trasviña was very helpful in providing information on potential upcoming Fair Housing events and trainings in Ohio, as well as information on fair housing discrimination claims.

September 27, 2011 – ODC Officer Cos and Director Cavanaugh attended a meeting with the Cincinnati Latino Coalition upon invitation to present about OCHLA’s recently launched Organization Development Center and services provided by the Commission regarding grants announcements and assistance. The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint describing such initiatives along with contact information for grants assistance and links to OCHLA’s Organization Development page, which includes resources and guides for grant writing.



Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lilly Cavanaugh, MBA -Acting Director
Lair Marin, Constituent Services

Strategic Initiatives

Project OPEN

Project OPEN is due to end on September 30th. Per the program guidelines, the final report on the project should be submitted to OCHLA by October 30th. Director Cavanaugh has informed the key stakeholders involved with this project to ensure the final reporting is completed.

Education— The Gates Millennium/HSF Bridge Builders Forum

Ohio Latino Affairs partnered with the Ohio State University and the Gates Millennium Scholars, Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) to host the first Ohio Bridge Builders Forum. The daylong event seeks to bring young Latino males to the university campus to listen to motivational speakers and student panels who talked to students about succeeding in high school and about how to get to college. Parents also had the opportunity to learn about the college admission system and finding different ways to support students as they apply for college. In addition to the workshops, Ohio area institutions participated in a mini college fair during the event. The forum brought together around 500 participants, including students, parents and teachers. More information about the Forum can be found at : <http://odi.osu.edu/administrative-offices/bridge-builders/>

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards, October 7, 2011

The majority of work for the months of August and September has evolved around the organization of the DHO Gala. This includes the preparation and coordination of the awardees nomination and selection process, work with the board to select awardees, communication with awardees regarding event, etc. Director Cavanaugh and Office Manager Marin have worked closely with the DHO Awards Committee (Mary Santiago, Tony Simms, Lourdes Barroso, Emerald Hernandez) to coordinate all logistical aspects of the gala and secure sponsors for the event.

The keynote speaker secured for this year is Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Senior Advisor and Director of the Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Labor. Senator Sherrod Brown has confirmed attendance and Senator Rob Portman will be sending a video message and will be represented by Teri Geiser, State Director. The Governor's office will be represented by Lynn Stevens.

Community Outreach (LCN)

Advise:

Assist Sec. John Trasvina, US Dept of Housing and Urban Development

Director Cavanaugh was contacted by the office of Assist Sec John Trasvina to inquire about hosting him during his visit to Columbus on September 23rd. Sec. Trasvina was interested in meeting with community leaders to discuss needs and challenges that Latinos are facing in regards to housing. He also wanted to provide information and updates on new services and grant opportunities sponsored by US HUD. The meeting was successfully held with the participation of about a dozen local leaders, including Lynn Stevens from the Governor's office and Commissioners Barroso de Padilla and Framer.



Connect:

Mexican Consulate meeting with Governor’s office

Coordinated with Lynn Stevens, Director of Minority Affairs and Lt. Governor Taylor’s office the visit and presentation of credentials by the Mexican Consulates (Indianapolis and Detroit offices which cover Ohio). The meeting took place on August 10, 2011.

Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar

Worked to coordinate the publication of the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar. The calendar brings together in one location all events taking place in Ohio during Sept. 15-Oct. 15th. As with previous years, the commission hosted a webpage with relevant information about Hispanic Heritage Month and its significance, as well as promoted the key events through hosting on our website’s homepage, e-campaigns and Facebook postings.

Latino Leadership and Diversity Conference— September 20, 2011

OCHLA successfully supported the realization of the second Latino Diversity Conference. Commissioners participated in the Inclusion track, hosting a panel regarding Latinos in Ohio. The conference had about 600 participants.

National Preparedness Month Campaign

During the month of September, the commission conducted the National Preparedness Month Campaign in an effort to better inform the Hispanic community about disaster preparedness. The campaign is organized around specific themes which are promoted every week. Bilingual materials and information was made available through the NPM page at [http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns Initiatives/Emergencyprep.aspx](http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns_Initiatives/Emergencyprep.aspx) and through e-campaigns.

9/11 Celebration

Ohio Latino Affairs participated in the organization of the 2011 celebration in commemoration of the 9/11 tragedy. This effort was coordinated through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and culminated with a display of flags in the lawn of the statehouse and a special service attended by Governor Kasich, Lt. Gov. Taylor, members of the legislature and community.

Latinas in Ohio: Hispanic Heritage Month

With the assistance of Director Cavanaugh and Office Manager Marin, hosted Ms. Lorena Mora from Mujer Latina in Cincinnati for a series of interviews with Latina leaders in Central Ohio. The interviews will be included in Mujer Latina’s effort to highlight the contributions of Latina women to our state.

Hispanic Business Summit— October 13, 2011

We continue to collaborate with the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in the organization of the first Hispanic Business Summit, to take place in Columbus. OCHLA has launched several e-campaigns and outreach blasts to promote the event in the community.

Build:

Voter Registration Campaign

Provided information, contacts and support for the planning of the Voter Registration Campaign, an effort launched by Ohio Latino Affairs to increase the number of Latinos in Ohio who register and vote.



MBDA Business Center – Cleveland

Director Cavanaugh was asked to participate in a panel hosted by the Commission on Economic Inclusion and the Greater Cleveland Partnership. The ultimate goal of the MBDA is to create \$6 billion in contracts and financing opportunities for minority businesses and 10,000 new jobs nationwide. Along with the MBDA, Hispanics have access to the Minority Business Accelerator 2.5+. This initiative focuses on growing the size, scale and infrastructure of African American and Hispanic minority-owned enterprises (MBEs) with annual revenues of at least \$2.5 million in a 16-county area of Northeast Ohio. The theme of the panel was the influence of minorities and how can they more fully participate in the benefits of economic development in the region.

Latina Mentoring Program

Hosted by the Columbus Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the purpose of the Latina Mentoring Program is to increase the capacity of young Latina women by providing a program that increases their professional and personal skills. Director Cavanaugh and Office Manager Marin are participating in this program as mentors.

Attorney General’s Office—Hispanic Heritage Month

Director Cavanaugh presented a keynote address during the AG’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 21st. The presentation provided an opportunity to share about the richness of Latino culture in Ohio and cultural diversity. A brief overview of the commission and its services was also presented.

Administrative Report - Office Functions

- Completed the training hosted by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) Business Office to implement the new web-based Service Usage Management System (SUMS).

Meetings attended by Executive Director:

- 08 August—Bianca Williams (Cols)
- 08 August—Lynn Stevens, Governor’s Office (Cols)
- 10 August—Consul Solana, Lt. Gov. Taylor (Cols)
- 24 August—National Preparedness Meeting (Cols)
- 28 August- Lorena Mora (Cinci)
- 01 Sept— MinBusAccelerator kick off (Clev)
- 06 Sept—Senator Charletta Tavares (Cols)
- 07 Sept—Rep. Ted Celeste (Cols)
- 07 Sept—OHCC -Rafi Rodriguez (Day)
- 08 Sept—LMA Graduation Ceremony (Cols)
- 09 Sept—Carlos De Jesus (Cinci)
- 09 Sept—9/11 Statehouse event (Cols)
- 13 Sept—Mujer Latina Interviews (Cols)
- 13 Sept—Senator Gayle Manning (Cols)
- 17 Sept- Bridge Builders Forum (Cols)
- 19 Sept -Empleos & Emplý. kick off event (Cols)
- 20 Sept—Latino Diversity Conference (Cols)
- 21 Sept—Keynote, Atty General’s Office (Cols)
- 23 Sept—Assist Sec. John Trasvina (Cols)
- 24 Sept—Hispanic Scholarship Fund Gala (Cinci)
- 26 Sept—Teri Geiser & Apps (Senator Portman) (Cols)
- 27 Sept—Cincinnati Greater Coalition Meetin (Cinci)
- 28 Sept—Ed Roberts (Senator Brown) (Cols)

