



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Legislative Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
April 16, 2014
Legislative Office Building Room 2D
Hartford, CT
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Rosa Acosta, Ramón L. Arroyo, Francisco R. Borres, Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Roberto Fernández, Ana González, George Hernández, Emanuela Palmares Leaf, Dr. Eugene Salorio, Pablo Soto, Feny Taylor, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners Absent:	Migdalia Castro, Jay González and Dr. Agnes Quiñones
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Executive Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1 A

Chairman Cruz asked **Board Secretary Commissioner Palmares-Leaf** to do roll call. Quorum was established. Then he asked the three new LPRAC Commissioners to introduce themselves to everyone.

Commissioners George Hernandez, Feny Taylor and Rosa Acosta introduced themselves to the Commission and thanked their appointing authorities for the opportunity to serve the people of Connecticut at LPRAC.

Public Participation:

Mr. Scott Gaul – Community Indicators Project Director at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving which is the Community Foundation for the Greater Hartford Region provided a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation about a new initiative entitled “*Metro Hartford Progress Points – A snapshot of our communities,*” which is a call to action for groups and individuals throughout Metro Hartford region to create a more vibrant and prosperous community for all.

Chairman Cruz thanked Mr. Gaul and commented that he would like to see more reports like this from other regions of the state.

Commissioner Trueworthy, M.S. thanked Mr. Gaul and mentioned that she has worked with him previously and when this report was produced, she thought this would be a wonderful opportunity for the commission to hear this information and to see the report especially as we go through our work with the indicators at our commission. When we can pull down data and analyze it for legislation purposes.

Commissioner Palmares-Leaf asked what is the goal of this report, is it attached to a legislative agenda, or is it to shape other forms of public policy; it is a very solid report.

Mr. Scott Gaul said the one thing that we can get out of it that these 9 organizations are talking to each other and sharing some understanding of the challenges that the regions faces.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of March 19, 2014 by Commissioner Trueworthy, M.S. and seconded by Commissioner Soto. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Chairman Cruz then asked for a moment of silence and prayer for Mrs. Cardone’s mother who passed away a few weeks ago, Ana V. DiNatale passed away peacefully on April 4, 2014.

Mrs. Cardone thanked everyone.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairman Cruz reported on the following information:

1. A few weeks ago he was asked to join Governor Malloy at the Bill Signing for the Minimum Wage Bill. Also with him were Commissioner Díaz, Esq., Executive Director Oyanadel and Vice Chair Trueworthy. It was held in the City of New Britain, the same place where the President went.

2. He also attended our most recent “Turn the Curve” Session on Economic Self Sufficiency. He also motivated LPRAC Commissioners to join the RBA Committee for more information about this current research;
3. He reminded all Commissioners that each committee shall consist of a Chairperson and at least two additional members. The Chairperson shall serve ex-officio. Each commissioner, according to our bylaws have one month after being appointed to select two standing committees for participation. If they do not select them the Executive Committee and Chair can pick them on their behalf. So, if you are not participating in two committees please make your choice within the next few days; &
4. He reminded everyone in the Commission that there are still some technical changes that need to be made to the Commission’s bylaws that need to be vetted by the Ad Hoc Committee. He requested the Committee Chairs to work on these items in the next few months.

Motion made to accept Chairperson’s report by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy, M.S. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported on the following information:

1. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that LPRAC’s appointing authorities have appointed George Hernandez and Feny Taylor to the LPRAC Board of Commissioners;
2. I am currently in the process of hiring a legislative analyst for the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) to a researcher that in my opinion will do a good job at LPRAC. For the record, the search committee interviewed 12 candidates after having reviewed over 46 applications that were received within our deadline. We conducted a second interview with six finalists which included a written test. The candidate we are currently considering scored the highest score in the written exam and has significant experience in public policy. As soon as he accepts our salary offer I expect our candidate to start working at LPRAC within the next few weeks;
3. **The Public Information Committee** met with our consultants from the Latino Way to review a video production aimed at informing the Latino community in Connecticut that we are selling tickets to our agency’s scholarship awards ceremony. Once the video is produced the staff will ask Univision and Telemundo to showcase them as a Public Service Announcement (PSA). The video will be 15 seconds in length and it will be our goal to distribute it for free via social networks. The staff also attended an RFP Informational Session for a potential grant offered by the Connecticut Health Foundation on March 26. The grant entitled “Diverse Advocacy and Consumer Engagement in Health Reform will range from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for a total of 4 to 6 grants for the period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. Moreover, the staff met with Richard C. Mullins, Jr. Executive Assistant to the President Central Connecticut State University Institute of Technology & Business Development about ways outreach opportunities for both of our organizations – Mr. Mullins, as a result of this meeting was invited to join us for our RBA turn the Curve Session on Economic Self Sufficiency; finally, at the invitation of State Representative Angel Arce I spoke about LPRAC’s advocacy in support of the CT Dream Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform at a forum conducted at Trinity College on April 2, 2014.
4. **The Priorities and Legislation Committee** continues to work in support of our 2014 Legislative Agenda which includes now a success story as it deals with the passage of the Minimum Wage. Governor Malloy invited LPRAC to the bill signing Ceremony in the City of New Britain where Senate Bill 32 was signed into law. We thank Chairman Cruz, Commissioner Diaz, and Trueworthy for attending the ceremony. The Committee invited Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University and members of the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education (CALAHE) to our next Commission meeting to discuss the pros and cons of Public Act No. 12-40 “An Act Concerning College Readiness and Completion” as it pertains to remedial development education in Connecticut. The Committee also listed significant progress in our legislative efforts dealing with language interpreters in hospital settings – i.e., HB 5385 and bilingual education – SB 476 among others. The Connecticut Legislative Achievement Gap Task Force has requested LPRAC’s testimony regarding their recently released Master Plan to close the Achievement Gap scheduled for Thursday, April 17th, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2A in Hartford. Commissioner Roberto Fernandez will be our voice for this hearing. Finally, LPRAC staff received a copy of the Barbershop Apprenticeship Program from the Labor Department and I am attaching a copy of it within this report.
5. The staff is very excited to inform you that thanks to a grant from Blue Hills Civic Association, Capital Workforce Partners and the Center for Latino Progress we have two paid high school level interns working at LPRAC. Nicole Sanclemente and Jamel Wizzard will be at LPRAC for a few months after school. Finally, we are very happy to continue working with our legislative intern Alexander Walters from Trinity College. He has already helped us significantly conducting research for our Op Ed on the Minimum Wage and currently he is conducting research of all City Council people that are Latino in the State of Connecticut. LPRAC will use this information to invite them to our upcoming RBA Turn the Curve Session on Public Safety and Discrimination and on-going research on emergency responsiveness with UConn and Eastern.
6. **Results Based Accountability Committee** – The RBA Committee, as many of you already know, continues its research on the Latino Population Report Card in RBA format which will be released in a few months to the Connecticut General Assembly. As a matter of fact, the Committee conducted a “Turn the Curve” Session on Economic Self Sufficiency on Thursday, April 3, 2014 and is planning two more of these sessions regarding discrimination and public safety in the next four weeks.

7. **Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws** -- Here is the recommendation proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee in regards to the issue of proxy voting at LPRAC. The Committee also recommends making a small technical correction to the bylaws that were found while making this recommendation. The recommendations are as follows:
 - a. On line 229 Section 6 entitled "Nominations" the Ad Hoc Committee recommend adding the following language to allow proxy voting at LPRAC. *"Any commissioner that cannot be present at the November meeting may still cast a proxy vote for any candidate, for any position so long as the proxy vote is submitted to a member of the nominating committee prior to the November meeting."*
 - b. On line 225 Section 6 entitled "Nominations" the Ad Hoc Committee corrected a mistake in the current version of our bylaws. The recommended change will allow for the Nominating Committee to report in the month of **November** rather than the month of **October**.

The Special Projects Committee – Did not meet this month due to staff illness

Motion made to accept the Executive Director's report by Commissioner Díaz, Esq. and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Díaz, Esq. mentioned that the last turn the curve that we just had about the business aspect of things and he said that sometimes we get wrapped up with quantity vs. quality and the quality of individuals that were there were overwhelmingly impressive and the level of information that was shared during the RBA was spectacular, there was a significant amount of ideas that were given and we have also located some long term community partners, people who want to invest in the Latino community from the labor side from connecting vacancies of the labor force to people in the inner-city communities so when that report becomes available, he strongly encourages everyone to look at it because we can come up with some serious policy recommendations based off that data.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Borres, Chair for this Committee reported the following:

1. Staff was able to engage a Latino marketing company to create a 15 second PSA with the intent of reaching out to the community to sell tickets for the Scholarship Awards Ceremony. They were very receptive when we spoke with them and they really understood our goal. There is also going to be a way to track the success of the PSA.
2. The second thing is that we are going to be going after some grant money for a grant to help get the message out about the health care reform and just kind of informative to help out our community on how they can receive information.
3. They will be setting Committee dates and sending them by email as soon as possible.

Motion made to accept the Public Information Committee report by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Palmares-Leaf.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo asked why the PSA is only for the scholarship, we are also celebrating our 20th anniversary on the same day and she said the commission has been doing such a tremendous job.

Commissioner Borres said that by definition Public Service Announcements (PSA) are messages in the public interest that are disseminated by the media without charge, with the objective of raising awareness, changing attitudes and behavior towards social issue such as the lack of affordability for higher education. Our interest is to negotiate with Univision and Telemundo timeslots about our scholarship program that promotes access to higher education in our community – anything else will not fit the frame of a PSA.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Fernández, Chair of this committee spoke on the following:

1. The ELL bill which is Senate bill 476 which we testified in front of the Education Committee is on the Senate Calendar. Mr. Oyanadel and I spoke to Senator Ayala. There is a fiscal note attached to the bill and what we are trying to have them not ignore it but just leave it in place because we believe since the State Department of Education does not track any of the ELL expenditures for any of the school districts in the state, we don't know whether or not we have enough money or not enough money and that the money issue should be dealt with next year in the long session. The number one priority is to start getting these ELL kids the educational support necessary in our Public Schools.
2. The second priority in legislation aspect that they've been tracking is the \$2MM request to move forward with the Disparity Study in order to look at the state procurement systems as far as it goes to minority business enterprises. The problem in CT is that we will not deal specifically with the minority business

- enterprise at any type of level until the disparity is done to see that there is a problem. We don't have any data that supports that we do have a current problem.
3. The Hospital Interpreters bill passed one chamber so far.
 4. **Commissioner Fernández** also informed LPRAC he will be testifying in front of the Achievement Gap Task Force at 11:00 a.m. next day.

Motion made to accept the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Ana González and seconded by Commissioner Borres.

Discussion:

Commissioner Palmares Leaf made a comment on the language interpreters in hospitals bill and how it will have a huge impact in our community. When her mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2011, Yale New Haven Hospital did not allow her to translate for her because it was a family member and through a Portuguese translator from Portugal, not from Brazil, she was told she had cancer with her daughter standing right in front of her. She cannot tell you how hard that was for her mom and for our family and it's awesome to see how what we are doing here in this room in what we can support has a real impact in people's lives especially in moments like this when you want a human being to deliver the news and not a blue phone. We should continue to push through other pieces of legislation too.

Commissioner Trueworthy gave two comments as follows:

1. The first is an idea to be discussed in the Committee as to whether or not if there was consensus coming out from several of the different commissions, is there a way to build on that to create more pressure to get the disparity's study money back in there for all the commissions to benefit from;
2. In addition, she wants to keep on the radar, SB25, the Office of Early Childhood, there's a lot going on in Preschool from a lot of different angles and SB25 has not moved and we really need to keep the pressure on because that is the foundation of which all the future legislation or additional slots for preschool that is where all is going to happen. We need for it to move.

Commissioner Fernández asked Commissioner Trueworthy if she knew why SB25 was not moving.

Commissioner Trueworthy responded that there are three huge proposals for Preschool, two coming from the Governor's office and one from Williams and Senator Bye and there are some talking going on and working of some issue out. The fear is that SB25 won't move and if it dies – that would be catastrophic for the early childhood community.

Chairman Cruz made a comment on the hospital interpreter's bill; he too is very supportive and happy that this is moving through the legislative process. For himself on a professional level who has 27 years of experience in emergency room care and throughout the hospital care, he knows the importance of having the proper interpreters available especially in times of urgency whether it's in the emergency room or whether some acute situation that our patients are being asked the questions that we need to know and also providing them information that we need to know.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

1 Abstention: Commissioner Dr. Salorio

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this Committee tabled his report as Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández was ill. He then asked the new commissioners to join his committee.

Commissioner Borres suggested that the Public Information Committee and the Special Projects Committee could have a joint meeting at some point so they can help with invitations and other things that are going to go out too.

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Dr. Salorio, Chair for this Committee reported that they have completed their third Turn the Curve Session on April 3rd, the thanked Mr. Oyanadel, Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández and Mrs. Cardone for all their good work and preparation. The latest RBA was on Economic Self-Sufficiency and it went very well. That leaves us with Health and Discrimination. We would like to do both of them on one day in May, one from 10 a.m. to Noon and the other 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They would like to have the elected town officials since they would be appropriate for both. It will be on Tuesday, May 20th, 2014.

Lastly and instrumentally, we need to have a report in June to present to the State Legislature that reflects favorably on us as a commission. He also mentioned that we are to congratulate him as he has just been elected Vice President of his Union.

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo suggested for the RBA that we are having, maybe we can invite CHRO who covers workplace discrimination, housing discrimination and maybe that could cover a whole lot of these issues.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

Commissioner Díaz, Esq., Chair of this Committee reported that he thought he could have fixed the proxy voting issue. Unfortunately after some discussions with a lot of different commissioners and after learning about some legal questions/problems surrounding our suggested changes he will recommend either:

- A. Do away with the proxy idea and have you call in on the phone or
- B. Do some additional research to see if it is even permissible because it was brought to his attention that there may be some legality with regards to using a proxy because we are a legislative body.

In either case, he would like to do some additional research to make an official recommendation to LPRAC on this issue. He will have the revised By-Laws ready for our next meeting and he will incorporate the change based on statute that has been recommended earlier by Chairman Cruz.

Motion made to accept the AD-Hoc Committee on By-Laws report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Soto.

Discussion:

Commissioner Fernández asked to be clear that the proxy vote is only dealing with the voting of the Executive Board and not on issues or anything else.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Soto asked to get a list of members of each committee.

Mr. Oyanadel said that the Executive Board requested that for the next commission meeting and we will distribute it to all the members.

Commissioner Soto asked if it can be emailed prior to next Commission meeting.

Mr. Oyanadel said yes.

**Motion made to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. by Commissioner Borres and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.
Motion was adopted by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Emanuela Palmares Leaf
Secretary
LPRAC Board

EPL:cjc