



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
June 18, 2014
Legislative Office Building Room 2D
Hartford, CT
5:30 p.m.

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

Tape 1 A

Chairman Cruz asked **Board Secretary Commissioner Palmares-Leaf** to do roll call. Quorum was established. He then spoke about the findings of the RBA Population report which highlights the socio-economic conditions of the Latino community in the State of CT. Chairman Cruz told the board that the report will be thoroughly analyzed and a formal approval of it will be requested by the commission at the end of the agenda during this monthly LPRAC meeting. LPRAC aims at submitting the final version of this report to the Legislature in the month of December as stipulated by our legislative mandate along with other legislative recommendations we shall offer to the Legislature as a result of these findings. To explain this process, he introduced Commissioner Salorio who is in charge of this project via the RBA Committee.

Commissioner Dr. Salorio LPRAC is pleased to issue this Results Based Accountability population report on the condition today of the Latino community in the state of Connecticut. This population report continues LPRAC's twenty year history of examining, reporting on, and advocating for improvements in quality of life for Connecticut Latinos. It builds on previous LPRAC macro-level studies in our 2007 and 2012 Socio-Economic Surveys and the 2010 Analysis of Evidence from the Connecticut Samples of the Latino National Survey-New England. This RBA population report also builds on the multiple issue- specific RBA Turn the Curve sessions LPRAC has conducted over the past four years. The use of high level population indicators and broad focus of this report will provide a baseline that can be used in future reviews to examine progress (or not) in improving the indicators, and secondly to identify specific issues and causal factors for closer examination in future more narrowly focused TTC sessions as part of LPRAC's ongoing use of the RBA process to fulfill its legislative mandate. We thank Ron Schack and the Charter Oak Group for the considerable effort in putting together the report and for moderating the RBA Turn the Curve sessions, and we extend our enormous gratitude to all the concerned individuals and organizations that shared their time, knowledge and expertise at those sessions and made them so productive.

Public Participation / Press Conference on RBA Population Report Card:

Dr. Ron Shack, LPRAC Consultant from The Charter Oak Group, LLC provided a summary of the methodology utilized for the preparation of this report in a PowerPoint presentation, which also summarizes all the findings of LPRAC's 2014 RBA Population Report Card. Note: PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Tape 1 B

Dr. Ron Shack also provided a basic introductory course about Results Based Accountability (RBA) theory as guided by Mark Friedman for all commissioners.

Commissioner Dr. Quiñones thanked Dr. Shack for all of his work and said that the conversation at the Legislature has been around RBA and she thinks that from all state agencies coordinating their work in RBA format we at LPRAC are pretty much ahead of the game and is looking forward to the final version of the Report Card.

Commissioner Dr. Salorio said that if anyone wants to take additional RBA introductory training classes, Charter Oak, LLC periodically provide half day sessions and they are free of cost to the general public and paid training is also available.

Commissioner Hernández asked if there is a website to have access to these training sessions.

Dr. Ron Shack said that they don't have an on-going list for these; they just pick a date and then announce it to the RBA practitioner's network but he can get it to Mr. Oyanadel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of May 21, 2014 by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Hernández. Motion was adopted by voice vote with three abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Cruz reported the following:

1. It gives him great pleasure to inform everyone that on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, the President of United States, Barack Obama signed into law HR1726 which is a Bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers. LPRAC, for our newly appointed Commissioner's information, was among the handful of groups and organizations nationwide urging congressional approval of this bill working closely with the CT's Congressional Delegation. As a matter of fact, our friends, Celestino Cordova of New Haven and Jose Picard of Wethersfield were present at the White House signing ceremony of this bill. We therefore salute the Borinqueneers on this memorable occasion and commend the CT Congressional Delegation for making passage of this legislation possible. Mr. Oyanadel has informed me that there will be a special celebration in Washington, DC in the near future to issue the medals. As soon as they are prepared, LPRAC will be sending a delegation of our agency to this memorable occasion.
2. LPRAC is also coordinating several outreach events that will be explained by our Executive Director in his report but he wanted to make sure all commissioners were aware that LPRAC will be conducting its monthly commission meeting in the City of Meriden, CT immediately after the summer months to capture a higher participation from community leaders. We'll have more information on this topic coming shortly.
3. Our 20th Anniversary will be taking place in October of this year and he really would like to encourage everyone in the Board to take an active role helping the Special Projects Committee accomplish this large task for LPRAC.
4. We will also be organizing several informational forums in the upcoming months. Our staff is working on a white paper on education, a legislative Retreat that will help us develop a legislative plan of action for the 2015 Legislative Session.

Motion made to accept Chairperson's report by Commissioner Díaz, Esq. and seconded by Commissioner Palmares-Leaf. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported the following:

- LPRAC through the work of the RBA Committee, staff, and consultants finished our agency's 2014 LPRAC Population-Level Report Card as mandated by our statute – (CGS 2-120).
- LPRAC staff, at the invitation of the Commissioner of the State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is seeking our input regarding the DMV's outreach efforts dealing with the new DMV Drive Only program. The plan is coordinate a statewide "train the trainer" effort to educate immigrant advocacy leaders regarding this new law. Our next planning meeting will be Wednesday, June 25 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
- I met with the General Managers for Telemundo and Univision to discuss our recently prepared Public Service Announcements (PSA) regarding LPRAC's Scholarship program and I am happy to inform you that both media firms agreed to work with us airing this announcements starting July 1, 2014 through the month of August. We are excited to inform you that our 4 quarter newsletter is also prepared as discussed with our Public Information Committee leadership. &
- I continue with my liaison/outreach responsibilities for LPRAC by attending several activities in the community that include: introductory meetings with the Board of Education Association, attending the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony, farewell reception for the Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, 35th Anniversary Breakfast for the Center for Latino Progress, meetings with media marketers, constituents and many among others.
- LPRAC staff will be receiving a delegation of university students from the University of Puerto Rico on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 9:30 am. LPRAC staff will be providing the students a presentation about Puerto Rican and Latino politics in Connecticut, New legislation on behalf of Puerto Rican and Latino Communities, demographics, among other pertinent information.

Tape 2 A

Motion made to accept the Executive Director's report by Commissioner Palmares-Leaf and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo spoke in reference to Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) which is going to be very important, she hopes that during the time we're working with them that we advocate for an increase of bicultural and bilingual staff because she thinks the level of need is extremely high and that the DMV will have to be very prepared to accommodate the high volume of new clients seeking to get this new drive only driver's licenses.

Commissioner Palmares Leaf said that at DMV will be conducting a meeting on the 25th that she and other LPRAC staff is planning to attend. The goal of the meeting is to review the materials for the Train the Trainer session. She is going to be there representing the Portuguese speaking community and LPRAC.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As **Commissioner Borres, Chair for this Committee** was absent, report was tabled.

Motion made to table the Public Information report by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy, M.S. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

Commissioner Díaz, Esq., Chair of this Committee said that he will have the final draft at the next meeting. We are going to do away with the Proxy issue. If you can't make the meeting or are on vacation, you can use one of your call-ins for that because the way the By-Laws are going to be worded the call-in is going to have the authority as you being physically present in the room. That will be ready to be voted on in the next meeting.

Motion made to accept the Ad-Hoc Committee on By-Laws report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As **Commissioner Fernández, Chair of this committee** was absent, Chairman Cruz asked Mr. Rodriguez to update the Commission about their on-going committee work.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that they held a meeting on June 14, 2014. Chairman Cruz, Commissioner Trueworthy and Commissioner Fernandez attended. They went through a list of potential education topics and came down with eight major topics. These are the ones that they will focus on:

1. Increase availability and duration of ELL;
2. Reducing high State testing;
3. Housing;
4. Increasing availability of health care and mental health interpreters;
5. Community school programs and wraparound services;
6. Underrepresentation of Latinos in State Regional and Municipal Organizations. In particular, Council of Governments (COG) across the State;
7. Reduced absenteeism and high mobility students;
8. Juvenile arrest bill; &
9. Continue to support the CT Dreamers as they seek financial aid support from the state.

Chairman Cruz mentioned the need for LPRAC to conduct a retreat with the Board to go more detail by detail.

Motion made to accept the Priorities and Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Díaz, Esq. and seconded by Commissioner Palmares Leaf. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this Committee reported the following:

1. They received \$10,000 from Verizon Wireless;
2. They received \$1,250 Bronze Sponsorship from the CT Hispanic Democratic Caucus;
3. Also, to date, they have received 11 scholarship applications, 9 young women and 2 young men;
4. We have not received any nominations for Latina or Latino Citizen or Community Service Awards. If you have any possible candidates, please come forward.

Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Díaz, Esq. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Dr. Salorio, Chair for this Committee gave his report at the beginning of the Commission meeting.

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy, M.S. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to approve the Results-Based Accountability Report Card for the Latino Population by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Hernández. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Commissioner Castillo spoke about the need for LPRAC to advocate and research issues impacting Latino children with autism and for the State of Connecticut to provide adequate services for autistic children in our state. She argued that this should be one of our priorities considering how many of our Latino families are being affected. Commissioner Castillo stated that she works with the autistic kids that are getting out of High School and what is happening is that DDS has developed a new department but does not have the appropriate funding to provide any significant help for these children and their families. When they go to her agency, they can only provide a very limited amount of service and the waiting period for other type of readily available services is at other state departments is five years or more. She would highly recommend for LPRAC to conduct an RBA on autism.

Commissioner Palmares Leaf agreed with Commissioner Castillo's statement and announced for the record that her young son was recently diagnosed with autism and she would welcome the attention on this matter both from the state and at the LPRAC level.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. by Commissioner Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Emanuela Palmares Leaf
Secretary
LPRAC Board

EPL:cjc