



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315
E-Mail: lprac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site: www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

Chairperson

Isaias T. Diaz, Esq.

Vice Chair

Enrique Marcano, Sr.

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Maritza Tirú

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Lourdes E. Montalvo

Juan M. Pérez

Norma Rodríguez-Reyes

Eugene M. Salorio

Danny Torres

Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
February 16, 2011
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:45 pm

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Carlos Candal, Esq., Isaias T. Díaz, Esq., Yolanda Castillo, Hon. Migdalia Castro, Richard A. Cruz, Francisco O. Cuin, Dr. Sonia B. Manjon, Enrique Marcano, Sr., Lourdes E. Montalvo, Juan M. Pérez, Ed Rodríguez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes, Eugene M. Salorio, Maritza Tirú and Danny Torres
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Lucia Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Director and Grants Writer

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Mr. Oyanadel to do the roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú, Mrs. Cardone were not present. Quorum was established.

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced State Representative Susan Johnson to address the Commission.

State Representative Johnson thanked Chairman Díaz, Esq., Commissioner Montalvo and Mr. Oyanadel for discussing licenses issues affecting Latino barbers in Willimantic. She is currently in contact with the new Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Jewel Mullen about these previously mentioned issues stated that she sits on several committees and is listening and watching on ways for the state can increase job opportunities for everyone. She commented that self employment is one way and Latino Barbers is a great way to make progress. She's glad to work with LPRAC and to support tests in Spanish as well as English for barbers that need it. She also supports creating apprenticeship program so that people can work their ways through and then take the exams.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. thanked her for her for taking the time to work with Commissioner Montalvo and that LPRAC is looking forward to working with her to have English and Spanish tests for barbers and the apprenticeship program for new barbers.

Commissioner Arroyo asked if she has introduced any type of legislation for that purpose.

State Representative Johnson responded that it might be a good idea to speak to the Commissioner of Public Health first because it may not require legislation. This is something can be done administratively. Hopefully the Commissioner can enlighten us on that possibility but it may be quicker to go through the Commissioner.

Commissioner Ed Rodríguez arrived shortly after the meeting started.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. introduced Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner of Public Health.

Commissioner Dr. Mullen thanked LPRAC for the invitation and for bringing the barbers issues to her attention. She also thanked Jen Phillipon from the Department of Public Health Practitioner and Licensing section who also is present. She mentioned that this is her second week as Commissioner of Public Health and that this is the first official presentation in her new position. She's looking at this issue as a beginning of a long collaboration and problem solving. We are talking about a profession and it's a life work. She actually did not know that there was not a test in Spanish for barbers and cosmetologists. She was wondering why and if there are other states that provide barbers licenses in other languages and before she asked about this, Jen brought her some information about what happens in other places because we also need to know what we can modify, whether or not we need to start from scratch or whether or not there are other things the other states do that we can learn from. There are many states that do not have these tests in Spanish. Our licensing division has already been looking into what those are. We have to be careful in the translation of these tests and we can't just score it the same way either. Also, we must ask if there is a cost effective way of doing this or that the people not pay too much either.

Jennifer Phillipon stated that they've been doing some research on this. They can look at the examination company and ask them to develop a Spanish version as they don't have one; they do know of other examination companies that do have the Spanish version. They can look to see how much it would cost for them to come to Connecticut.

Commissioner Pérez said that the main issue for the barbers is they just want to cut hair. The language used in the test is "Latin" and the terminology is very difficult for both English and Spanish speakers. He recommends having

just a barbering license test separate from the cosmetology test or to translate the test into Spanish so that Hispanic barbers can better understand the test.

Jennifer Phillipon said that during the last legislative session, it was approved that barbers have their own exam and the barber only program needs 1,000 “practice” hours. This should be in place by the beginning of next year.

Commissioner Arroyo asked if you are from another state and have taken the license already. Do you have to take it over again if you move to a different state?

Jennifer Phillipon said that you do not have to take the test again.

Commissioners Carlos Candal, Esq., Danny Torres and Maritza Tirú are present.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the presence of David B. Fein, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut from the U.S. Department of Justice.

David B. Fein, U.S. Attorney announced to LPRAC that he was appointed by President Obama in 2010 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate and took office on May of 2010. They have undertaken a serious new initiative in the district in the area of civil rights. At the direction of the President and Attorney General Eric Holder, many attorneys throughout the country are focusing on the criminal rights side and civil rights side and are working with the FBI. We are hosting a full day conference at the Quinnipiac College in Hamden, CT on March 16, 2011. Governor Malloy will be speaking here too. We will be educating people about hate crimes, human trafficking and child exploitation and many other topics and invited member of the Board and staff to attend this important event.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. introduced Lindsay Farrell, Political Director of CT Working Families.

Lindsay Farrell, Political Director spoke about a coalition called “Everybody Benefits” and they’ve been working on legislation that would provide paid sick leave to employees working in Connecticut – Senate Bill 913 that is being taken up by the labor committee that would allow workers to have accrued paid time off for sick time. We are urging the commission to support the bill. Her email is lindsayctwfp@gmail.com.

Commissioner Pérez thanked Ms. Farrell and said that he was one of the first CT elected official at the CT Working Families.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that this will be brought up in the next Priorities and Legislation Committee meeting and then it will be brought up at our Board for a vote.

Lindsay Farrell, Political Director asked for Board members to website their website called “Everybodybenefits.org.” for more information on the subject.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that Yvette Bello, Director of the Latino Community Services is present.

Ms. Bello said that the Latino Community Services formerly known as Latinos Contra el Sida was founded in 1986 and they work to reduce the spread of HIV/Aids within the Latino community. We are still predominately affected as well as the black community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011 as amended by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr.

Discussion:

Commissioner Tirú would like a correction made in the attendance. She said that both Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and she were present via telephone conference.

Approved as amended by Commissioner Tiru unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON’S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reported the following:

1. Please read the Acting Executive Director’s Report/Chairman’s Report for this section of the minutes listed herewith.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson’s/Acting Executive Director’s report by Commissioners Cruz and Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chair to this committee said that as he is new to this committee, they have been talking with the Acting Executive Director to set up committee meeting dates and are looking to have quarterly meetings. They are looking at the website and a lot of other work to be done. A memorandum will be sent out with these dates.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Approved unanimously.

PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chair to this committee reported that their committee meeting will be held the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Teleconferencing is available if needed. So far the committee reviewed the In-State Tuition bill, Set-aside legislation issue, the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling bill, and the Health Care Reform Sustinet. They've discussed recommendations to improve the licenses for the barber issue in Willimantic as well as the CLAS Standards bill and the need to increase the number of court interpreters in the system. CLAS is the Culturally Linguistic Standards bill that the Health Equity Commission can work to enforce these standards.

Mr. Oyanadel said that the Health Equity Commission is currently working on a bill that will create some enforcement procedures to the federally accepted guidelines for culturally linguistic practices. We are right now working through this Commission to develop the appropriate language so that the actual commission can have the appropriate authority to regulate and to observe if the HMO's and organizations are actually in agreement or in support of following the guidelines that have been imposed at the federal level.

Commissioner Candal, Esq. said that they will also be examining the paid sick day legislation as mentioned earlier, as well as the issue with the death penalty, there's going to be a presentation in an effort to appeal the death penalty statute and we are going to make a recommendation to the commission regarding those reports and the redistricting issue that Mr. Santiago brought to our attention.

Motion made to approve the Priorities and Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Pérez, Chair to this committee reported that the committee has had two meetings before this one. They had one on January 31st and also one yesterday following their meeting with the State Attorney General. We already have the contract from Amarantes and it is at the Office of Legislative Management waiting for them to process it as well as the preliminary budget. He encourages all commissioners to reach out to merchants to buy ads as it is a way to expand and to help out the staff on working on making this event a success. In this committee, they divided some tasks into subcommittees. We have a golf committee with Commissioners Marcano, Sr., Torres and Cruz. They had to cancel the last meeting but they are already working on finding a location. The other Ad Hoc Committee is with Commissioners Castillo, Montalvo and Tirú in reference to the scholarships. They are also working on the Hispanic Veterans Event in May 2011 and on having five stamps for the Stamp Exhibition in September 2011. Yesterday they met with the Attorney General and three of his attorneys to see if LPRAC can have their Scholarship Ceremony at the Casino and they are going to work on that in the next few weeks on getting an opinion from the Attorney General's office. Another new item this year is that they received an invitation to participate at the Latino Expo. Last year we did not go for budgetary reasons and this year the cost is \$950.00 for March 19, 2011. It is a two day event. Also, the committee is considering doing a retreat. We will have more information about the retreat at the next meeting.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Discussion:

Commissioner Salorio asked if the retreat is only for the Special Projects Committee or everyone.

Commissioner Pérez said it is for everyone.

Motion approved unanimously.

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Salorio, Co-Chair of this committee gave definitions of what RBA is. They are Outcome, Indicator and Performance Measures. We do not have the resources or even the legislative mandate to have programs so we can report on them. He thanked Commissioners Mañon and Torres for volunteering to work on areas and both Commissioner Castillo and he would like to work together to get other Commissioners to work on their areas of expertise as we go through these, Health and Education. Mr. Oyanadel is working with Dr. Negrón towards having an RBA – Turn the Curve Roundtable Session in April or May. We also have Discrimination, Security and Economic Self-Sufficiency.

Commissioner Castillo said there are a lot of areas to cover and maybe by next year, we can have enough data to come back to the legislature and recommend policies to help the Latino community.

Motion made to approve the Results Based Accountability Committee Report made by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

Commissioner Honorable Castro came in.

Approved unanimously.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that Mr. Oyanadel just handed him the Appropriations Committee Report which Senator Harp is the Chair and that's where we were first given the task of dealing with RBA, it is in two weeks and both he and Mr. Oyanadel will be there to address the Appropriations Committee and all other commissioners are welcomed to attend. We are going to inform them about our RBA training and we are going to report all of our successes but at the same time we will pose the question. OLM said they were going to provide us training and we've been waiting for it but in the meantime we've been complying with the parameters of the mandate and we've been doing the best we can with our own personal research on what RBA is. Maybe with putting the buzz in Senator Harp's ear, we can get the ball rolling to getting the training from OLM. Then we can go to OLM and tell them that Senator Harp agrees that we should have the training.

Commissioner Pérez would like to remind them that we have been two years without an Executive Director.

Commissioner Honorable Castro said that she would like to attend the meeting as Senator Harp is from New Haven and she knows her very well.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said the hearing it's going to be at the Legislative Office Building on Tuesday, March 1st from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 2D.

Motion made that LPRAC authorize the Acting Executive Director to send a letter to the Governor of Puerto Rico and to the Attorney General with jurisdiction to Puerto Rico and the student movement with respect to the protests that are happening in Puerto Rico and any agency pertaining to that issue in respecting the civil rights of the students, the right to assembly, the right to free speech and for the Puerto Rican law enforcement community to also refrain from abuse of the students, with a friendly amendment from Commissioner Rodríguez to draft a letter rather than send a letter, made by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro.

Discussion:

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. would like to have the letter copied to U.S. Attorney.

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Rodríguez Reyes, Torres and Tirú

4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Honorable Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Salorio

Motion made to support the CT Latino Expo, Telemundo Expo and the Puerto Rican Parade made by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro with a friendly amendment from Commissioner Pérez that we table the Telemundo Expo and the Puerto Rican Parade events and that the March 19, 2011 event not exceed \$500.00 and that the Special Projects Director Lucia Goicoechea Hernández negotiate the price with the organizers.

Commissioner Rodríguez said that because of budget cuts, he doesn't think we can afford this.

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes said we can ask them to see if we can pay a lower price.

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez Reyes, Torres and Tirú

1 Abstention: Commissioner Rodríguez

4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Honorable Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Salorio

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said to table the discussion on giving \$10,000 towards renting 10 minivans for the Latino Advocacy Day as we do not have a date yet.

Motion made to adjourn by Commissioner Honorable Castro and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maritza Tirú
Secretary to the Board
LPRAC

MT:cjc