



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

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Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
October 19, 2011
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:35 pm

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Francisco O. Cuín, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon, Enrique Marcano, Sr., Lourdes E. Montalvo, Juan M. Pérez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Maritza Tirú
Commissioners on phone:	Honorable Migdalia Castro and Dr. Eugene Salorio
Commissioners Absent:	Carlos E. Candal, Esq., Ed Rodríguez and Danny Torres
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director Lucia Goicoechea Hernández and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Mrs. Cardone to do roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú, Secretary of the Board was not present at the time. Quorum was not established.

Commissioner Dr. Salorio called at 5:40 p.m.

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. introduced State Representative Andrew Fleischmann, also President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut. He spoke the way Big Brothers Big Sisters equalizes life opportunities for the youth, spoke about new policy ideas to diversify the number of mentors and about the future of the agency. He gave special thanks to our Interim Executive Director, Werner Oyanadel, who is in the process of becoming a big brother and who has been very much open to helping with their Latino outreach which is not as strong as it should be and not as strong as it must be.

Commissioner Tirú came in at 5:47 p.m.

Commissioner Honorable Castro calls at 5:48 p.m., as well as Commissioner Candal, Esq.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the next guest, Regina Roundtree, Executive Director of the Hartford Action Plan on Infant Health.

Ms. Roundtree announced that they received a grant in partnership with the City of Hartford Health & Human Services from the C.D.C. (Center for Disease Control) in the amount of \$4.5 MM over the next 5 years to reduce the teen birthrate by 10% by 2015. Hartford, as a City, has an extremely high rate, almost 2 ½ times the national average. The highest teen birthrates are in the South end, Frog Hollow and Barry Square followed by the Northeast section and then back to the South section. She also informed us that she has been tasked with doing the community mobilization work for this grant. The targeted neighborhoods this year are Barry Square, Frog Hollow and the Northeast Section because they are the top three. She specifically asked for assistance in getting more Latino representation on their Board of Director for their agency as a whole and informed us that there is a community action team that they have as part of the grant.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes came in at 6:05 p.m.

Tape 1 B

Commissioner Tirú asked what does the program offer to orient the parents of these teenagers? She also commented that you can work with the teenagers as much as you can but if you don't get the parents to help you to accomplish that 10%, it is not going to go anywhere. You have two groups that you really have to reach out which is the parents and these kids. Also you have your brochures and literatures translated into the language where they can understand and we can be very helpful for them.

Ms. Roundtree said that the grant has 5 components mandated by C.D.C.:

1. Evidence based curriculum which deals directly with the youth, everything else has to do with the adults;
2. Access to clinical care;
3. Community mobilization and sustainability is what she is working with. This is what is targeted at the adults. The study circles, the town hall meetings and training to the adults in the community.
4. Working with diverse cultures, so they are integrating everything about understanding the Latina, the West Indian and even within those cultures, very conservative. Knowing how to move throughout our community has been some of the things we've been studying this the last 6 months and that is one of the reasons she has come to LPRAC for help.

Commissioner Pérez stated that Hartford has about 26 magnet schools and also colleges such as Trinity College, Hartford University, and St. Joseph. Most of those organizations' young people that are active on this are college students. In Windham, Eastern has the big LGBT Community, the Males Clubs, the African American Club, the Latino Organization, and they provide assistance to victims of rape, they are very against sex trafficking and some of these progressive organizations and students organization would be your best ally for outreach. He also commented that they should get some media attention on these issues.

Ms. Roundtree thanked Commissioner Pérez and asked him to email this information to her.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the third guest, Mirva Jackson.

Mirva Jackson, Executive Director of a non-profit organization that serve the Hartford area, AFCAMP (African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc.) She is seeking LPRAC's support in their efforts to obtain a grant and therefore she is looking for a letter of support from LPRAC to continue to advocate for the most at risk children and families in the State of CT.

Discussion:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that we have already taken an active direction in supporting this. If you look in your packets, there's a correspondence dated 10-19-11 signed by the LPRAC Acting Executive Director and addressed to Ms. Judi Jordan, Director of Grants Development and Contract Management in the Department of Children and Families in Hartford, CT in which we voiced our support for your organization as requested.

Commissioner Honorable Castro left at for another meeting at 6.50 p.m. and will try to return.

Commissioner Pérez welcomed Dr. Andrew Kerantzas from the Mental Health Institute and agreed to be on our panel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of September 21, 2011 by Commissioners Salorio and Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Cuin. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

1 Abstention: Commissioner Arroyo

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. updated the LPRAC as follows:

1. Himself, State Representative Ayala, Carmen Sierra and several other community individuals met with the new DSS Commissioner, Mr. Roderick L. Bremby regarding the cuts to the Latino non-profits. We asked him to reconsider these cuts as they will disproportionately affect the people the serve.
2. We had an event honoring the judges, Carmen Espinoza and Judge Sanchez-Figueroa. It was a great event.
3. He thanked the Senior Legislative Secretary, Clarisa Cardone for providing coverage at the 2011 CL&P Social Services Agency Forum at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, October 6, 2011.
4. The Acting Executive Director provided a PowerPoint Presentation about Latinos in CT during Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 6, 2011 at the request of the State Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection formerly known as the State Dept. of Public Safety. There were several Latino officers present including a Latino Lieutenant, David Rosado who we managed to build a great friendship and partnership with.
5. Himself, Acting Director Oyanadel joined Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Montalvo attended a community outreach event sponsored by the GBLN in Bridgeport, CT and informed more senior citizens and people from the community about the new birth certificate for people born in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Oyanadel's report to the LPRAC was submitted in writing.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. mentioned that if he had the ability to do so, David Rosado would definitely be who he would consider of the caliber that he could be our first Latino Commissioner of Public Safety.

Mr. Oyanadel added to the report that Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes was appointed to travel to Israel and has accepted the invitation for that trip.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Cuin.

Discussion:

Commissioner Montalvo mentioned that with the partnership with the Secretary of State's office, the Acting Executive Director Werner Oyanadel and Commissioner Pérez were part of a panel discussion talking about civic engagement in the State of Connecticut.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes announced that she is very privileged and honored to be a Commissioner but the National Association of Latino Elected Officials and the Anti-Defamation League have chosen her to be the representative of CT to go to Israel from November 27th to December 7th, 2011. She hasn't gone yet to the workshop on what it is they are going to be doing there but is very honored on being chosen for this. She was concerned that she received a letter as a Commissioner to the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. Many of you may not be aware that a year or two years ago she was chosen to be the Keynote Speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and she was sent a very, very nasty letter from the Commission in which they felt that at that time maybe somebody more qualified should have been chosen for that. She was a bit concerned that they are sending her this letter as a Commissioner; she hopes that the Commission doesn't get upset this time that she is being chosen for this event. As many of you know that I don't have just one hat as a Commissioner but many, many hats through her daily events. You have to be an appointed person and she is the Vice Chair of the Democratic Party in New Haven, she is also an elected position and she holds a lot of other hats. She is sure she will represent everyone well and wishes that everyone was going with her as it will make it more exciting for her.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. acknowledged that everyone is proud of her and they are all honored to have her as one of their colleague.

Tape 2A

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioners Tirú and Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee said that they have been asked for a lot of help.

1. They are continually posting on the social network what they are a part of. If you are on Facebook, please put "like" for us and ask your friends to join us and even on Twitter.
2. They've been asked by the Secretary of State's Office to assist in helping with the translation of the new voter registration form in Spanish.
3. They also have been invited to participate in having a booth next Wed., October 26, 2011, Google Small Business Marketing at the Science Center in Hartford, CT.

Mr. Oyanadel elaborated that Google Jobs is going to have a workshop and they are inviting all Latino businesses to participate in a way that they can provide for profit or non-profit groups access to an internet site so that they can advertise their businesses on-line. There will be a broad range of agencies, including the Secretary of State's office who is also one of their big partners in this big effort. The event is free to the public.

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Commissioner Cruz (cont.)

4. Starting October 20-24, 2011, NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America) is a HUD certified organization who helps homeowners who are in trouble with their mortgage.
5. There is also one on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, another homeowner's assistance event. This is sponsored by the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office too. It'll be from 10 am to 7:00 pm.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that we need help developing our Talent Bank. We need help to expand our network and expand our partnerships.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes agreed 100% and said that we should be asking all of the people that are asking us to partner with them is about their marketing dollars. How much money do they have in their marketing budget and public relations and how much of that have they spent in the Latino market. She has noticed that they have a lot of money and spend it on the mainstream market and then they want us to provide the networking in letting everyone know what's going on free of charge.

Mr. Oyanadel also agreed with the comment from Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes. In the past, LPRAC actually supported legislation that would have required the DSS to advertise for the HUSKY program via the Latino media. The good news at the time is that the legislation was adopted into law; however, due the economic crisis the funds were not included in the implementer of this bill.

Commissioner Castillo said that it is nice to hear all these issues but we are here to make impact in making changes in law. They have a lot of work and money that they get to do that job and at the end when they can't find anybody else then they come to us. If we're going to tackle everything we do, we are not going to be successful. The stuff with DCF, when we try to approach them and they came to us, but they turned around and did not follow through at a certain point. We have to be very careful as to who we want to partner with or collaborate with because at the end, it is our community that will come back to us and say "Uds. se metieron con ellos, Uds. dijeron que eran buenos" and then we get in trouble. Our job is not really to get into every issue that comes along to our commission, it is nice that we collaborate but we can't do everything. What we need to do is to make sure that in those communities, we partner up with those other Latinos that are out in the community, activists, and political leaders and put it back to them to work with those people and not have us do the brunt of the work.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that we need to make up our mind as to what our function is and unfortunately we are not an advocacy organization. We know what our job is and we do it very well. We cannot take every battle because we will crash and burn.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández mentioned that Ms. Roundtree sat there and said she got a \$4.5 million grant but she's the one sitting here advocating for teen pregnancy prevention in our community. Where's the Assistant Director that maybe has a Hispanic surname. They come here and ask for assistance but they don't look like us. When you're cutting up that pie, a piece should come to us. There was an article recently in the Hartford Courant how our community is suffering the largest joblessness with the current economy we have right now. We have to hold them accountable. She said the money was divvied up different ways, where come here and tell us how. That argument that we don't exist any more is old and is not accurate. We have ALPHA (Association of Latino Professionals in Finance Accounting), CHBA (CT Hispanic Bar Association), SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers), CALAHE (CT Association of Latinos in Higher Education) and other numerous organizations. We should say how many of us are not just on the board but how many are your staff, how many are your professional staff.

Commissioner Montalvo mentioned that as a Commission, we should partner some of these individuals that come to us with other agencies throughout the State of CT to have them collaborate with each other rather than us taking it on our shoulders.

Commissioner Cruz said that this is why we really need to work on the Talent Bank. He would like to request a sub-committee to start to help and formulate this Talent Bank.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes asked what's the purpose of this Talent Bank, when has it ever been used because remember we spoke about the Secretary of State mentioned it, a whole lot of people mentioned it how it has a very low percentage based on the 10 or 12% Latinos in the State of CT and how many are on Boards and Commissions. A lot of Boards and Commissions, we don't even have 1% on there. We have a whole bunch of names of people that are more than qualified and yet all the Legislators stated that it is their appointment and they will chose who they want to chose not anyone that has been recommended from our Talent Bank. What is the purpose for having all of these names and having the Talent Bank if it will never be used.

Mr. Oyanadel said that originally we had two databases. We had a database of people that were interested in the issues and topics of the commission and we actually were able to get more than 20,000 names in it – to manage this, you need to have somebody actively working on it or it becomes outdated almost immediately. We also had a Talent

Bank that was created to send recommendations of people that wanted to be appointed for Boards and Commissions. In this database we had hundreds of resumes of people that wanted to participate in the process but they got very frustrated because for years, they just sat there and the appointing authorities never actually requested those names. We collaborated with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, with an organization entitled *DemocracyWorks* and others; unfortunately, we found that when we actually presented that list of names to the appointing authorities that they would tell us that they would only appoint people from their list of volunteers list for their campaigns. A second point we need to be careful about is that the resumes and information collected in our database is open to the public because we are part of a public agency and some people may or may not like that their information may be shared if requested under FOI requests.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-

Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. tabled report to next month's meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Juan M. Pérez, Chairman of this committee spoke of the Scholarship Ceremony on Saturday, October 22, 2011 and hopes to see everyone there. Then he gave kudos to the three LPRAC staff on all the work they do. He also spoke about the reception for the Judges on how wonderful it was. He then announced that next month the committee would like to start working on the golf tournament for next year's scholarship celebration.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioners Castillo and Rodríguez-Reyes.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo spoke of having a conference on issues that are affecting our community, not now but long term and have a conference in collaboration with the other state agencies. Commissioner Cruz recommended that maybe we meet with the other commissions and have a reception to talk about our commonalities as commissioners and then try to plan a collaboration conference with issues that are affecting our people throughout the state. Then we talked about the Christmas party and to have it in Waterbury. We wanted to check with everyone if it's a good idea.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said he has a place in mind and if the price is right, maybe we can do it there.

Commissioner Pérez asked all Commissioners to respond to the email on having our Retreat on Nov. 4th & 5th, 2011. We have the facilitators and it is still in the planning. If no consensus, we could move it to February or March 2012.

Commissioner Tirú said that we should really keep this for this year and we don't know if some of the present commissioners will be replaced or some commissioner may not be reappointed.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Castillo, Co-Chair for this Committee spoke about the RBA Turn the Curve to be held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2011 from 10 am to 12:00 Noon at the LOB. We will be discussing Diabetes and Obesity.

Motion made to approve the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Tirú.

Tape 2 B

Discussion:

Commissioner Montalvo thanked Mr. Oyanadel and Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández for all of their hard work on this. She also asked everyone to take some time and attend this event.

Commissioner Castillo thanked the staff for all of their hard work that they truly do for everyone otherwise these things won't get done.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú
3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Díaz, Esq. spoke about the Executive Board elections to be done at the next commission meeting.

Motion made to nominate Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes as Chair of Ad Hoc for Nomination Committee by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

Discussion:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked who would like to volunteer to help the Ad Hoc for Nomination Committee. They are as follows: Commissioners Pérez, Cuin, Montalvo and Cruz. He then asked Mr. Oyanadel to send the forms to Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes.

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. asked when the deadline is.

Mr. Oyanadel responded that the By-Laws are silent on this issue. The Committee can decide their own rules but the report to the commission is next month.

Commissioner Pérez said that the deadline is always the Friday before the third Wednesday of the month.

Commissioner Castillo asked which position is open on the Executive Board.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said all positions are open.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Tirú
3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez and Torres

Motion made to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maritza Tirú
Secretary
LPRAC Board

MT:cjc