



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
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## MINUTES

### Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Thursday, August 26, 2010

12:15 – 4 PM

University of Oregon, Wayne Morse Suite  
70 North West Couch Street, Portland

#### ATTENDEES

**Chair:** José Ibarra  
**Commissioners:** Gil Carrasco (joined meeting at 3:20), David Molina, Judith Parker (*phone*), Steven Bender (a quorum was established at 2 pm.)  
**Speakers:** Consuelo Saragoza (OLAA), Cameron Smith (Governor's Office), David Smith (Univision) Ursula Rojas Weisen (Mexican Consulate), David Yandell (Oregon State Police)  
**Guest(s):** Oswaldo Bernal (Univision), Mary Alecia Briggs (Sen. Chip Shields office), Angel Dorantes (University of Oregon), Tony DeFalco, Ricardo Gloria (Oregon National Guard), Emilio Hernando (University of Oregon), Natalie Patrick-Knox (CAUSA), David McDonald (Western Oregon University), Suzan Miller (Univision), Alberto Moreno (Dept. of Human Services), Kent Neely (Western Oregon University), Adriana Ortega (Bureau of Labor and Industries), Chris Splitt (Rep. Ben Cannon's office)  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Joy Howard  
**Absent:** Andrea Cano, John Haroldson, Marcela Mendoza, Dagoberto Morales-Duran

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Ibarra called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum was not established until 2 pm at which time votes were taken.

#### **II. David Smith and David Villalpando from Univision Portland**

Website: <http://kunptv.com/>

Univision presented on their work and services. They are the primary Spanish speaking television media in Oregon. They serve the bi-lingual, bi-cultural communities and Spanish speaking families. Their programming includes the Latin Grammy's and prime time programming, local news, and community calendar. Fisher Communications recently affiliated with Univision which will help Univision grow its reach further into Oregon and SW Washington. The station has been nominated for an Emmy award for its news coverage. Univision's webpage provides resources, reporting on key issues, and events.

Univision also promotes health and wellness partnerships and recently ran a campaign on diabetes. It was so successful that DHS reported that the numbers of Hispanic individuals attending diabetes screening clinics rose by 35% following the campaign. It is this and other health campaigns that have garnered Emmy nominations for Univision.

Univision offers their assistance to the OCHA in its outreach and resource sharing. Univision is proposing a partnership with OCHA for improving outreach and collaboration. Education, health empowerment and other key issues are all of interest to them. Univision is also interested in assisting with crafting the message and marketing for the Commissions to communicate in a positive way.

Chair Ibarra noted the importance of Univision in helping share information on events that the OCHA is promoting in areas of health education and other areas. Their local news show is especially helpful. OCHA has been part of the reporting on the news a number of times.

### **III. Consuelo Saragoza from Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA)**

Website: [www.olaaction.org](http://www.olaaction.org)

Consuelo Saragoza from OLAA reported on their work. They provide a venue for advocacy on refugee rights, health issues, economic opportunity and other key issues.

On October 17 -18 they will be hosting a summit which will include identify and prioritize policy recommendations on critical issues of concern to the Latino community. They are inviting Latino organizational and community representatives from across the state to ensure regional engagement and support to help frame the issues and courses of response and action. She encourages everyone to take the survey on the OLAA website.

#### How can OCHA help?

Ms. Saragoza requests that OCHA endorse the upcoming summit. The endorsement would include a mention of the OCHA in the list of endorsers in the summit program and a letter from the OCHA. She is also inviting organizations to have a booth at the summit. The cost of display tables is \$25.

Chair Ibarra thanked OLAA for its good work. There is no objection to the OCHA to endorse the Summit. Due to a lack of a quorum, the OCHA will vote on its endorsement at a later time.

### **IV. Ursula Rojas from the Mexican Consulate**

Website: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/portland/>

Ursula Rojas from the Mexican Consulate reported on the work of the Consulate. She shared a paper on immigration rights that is posted at their website and encouraged everyone to go to the site to read it. She is the

community relations Lead at the Consulate. They have a services and policy agenda aimed at improving the lives of Mexican immigrants in Oregon. The Consulate has developed an annual \$100k scholarship fund and GED preparation, literacy courses. Long term, these efforts are aimed at growing leadership and achievement of youth with few other means. Non-profits can apply to the consulate for its funds. This is the way that the Consulate can monitor and track its scholarships. The application for non-profits requesting scholarships is on the website.

The Consulate has been partnering with community services on hosting a health station during National Health Week, with health fairs, free screenings, etc. She encourages everyone to share the news about Health Week.

There are a growing number of Mexican indigenous people who are immigrants and are working in Oregon. The indigenous people often don't speak either Spanish or English. The Consulate has developed interpreter services to support these individuals and meet their needs in the community.

The Consulate is hosting a fiesta in celebration of the Mexican Revolution and Independence. There is also an exhibition at the Oregon Historical Society on the Mexican revolution and culture. She invites everyone to their reception at the Portland Art Museum. Independence, Woodburn, Sandy, Hillsboro, Gresham and other communities are all hosting celebrations with the Consulate.

**V. Awards and Resolutions for consideration**

- 1) The OCHA honored the memory of Andre Ererra, the WWII Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Arizona. Mexico also honored him with its highest military award. A high school has been named after him. Mr. Ererra was undocumented at the time of his enlistment and became a hero in France in his leadership in capturing 2 German units. Because his service is an example of the high achievement and sacrifice, the OCHA honors his memory.
- 2) The OCHA prepared letters of appreciation to Western Oregon University and President Minahan for their ongoing commitment to Latino students and their families. Two members of the staff at WOU accepted the letter and discussed their efforts in hiring bi-lingual/bi-cultural staff and professors. They have doubled the numbers of Latino students at WOU and noted that these students are among their most dedicated learners.
- 3) The OCHA recognized the commitment of University of Oregon in building a Latino Student Resource Team. Two members of the University accepted the letter and reported on U of O inclusionary work with Latino Students. This involves working with Spanish speaking parents helping them understand the SAT and other tests involved in matriculation to college.

**VI. Danny Santos and Cameron Smith from Governor's Office, and David Yandell from Oregon State Police**

David Yandell, Danny Santos, and Cameron Smith discussed their conversation regarding the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ICE and OSP. On July 14<sup>th</sup> they met on Secure Communities and entered into an agreement with Immigration. At that time, OCHA noted that the Commission could have been involved in these discussions. The speaker is here to become better acquainted with the Commission and bring everyone up to date about the meetings. The Commission expressed concerns with the Secure Communities agreements. At the core of the discussions are 2 unrelated fingerprint databases that, under Secure Communities, will be linked and can be searched simultaneously. Those who are discovered to be on the database and are undocumented would be deported. The people in the database are criminals with serious offenses. The deadline for Secure Communities is 2013.

**Discussion:**

Points of discussion included the policy creating fear of individuals to report crimes to the police. It also is creating a fear of undocumented parents to leave their homes so that they are depending on their teenage children more and more to do shopping and running errands. This has also shifted the power in family relationships from the parents to their teenagers. Also, the group felt that it was very important to include community members as part of the police training on these issues. The Public Safety Academy for police might also be a good way to reach police on the subject. The Chief of Police in The Dalles has met with a delegation of the Commission and is open-minded person and was appreciative of the OCHA's assistance in helping with opening a dialogue with the local Latino community.

Carrasco - Technically, entry without inspection in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325 is a misdemeanor if the arrest is made with probable cause at the border; however, once an entry into the interior of the U.S. has been effected, illegal presence is no longer a crime within the meaning of that section. Instead, it is a civil offense involving the immigration status of the individual that is adjudicated in a civil tribunal, i.e., immigration court. *See U.S. v. Rincon-Jimenez*, 595 F.2d 1192, 1193-94 (9th Cir. 1979). That being said, many people erroneously *believe* illegal presence is a crime. That the undocumented are criminals is one of the many myths that it is important for us to dispel.

The speaker encouraged the Commissioners to get on the agenda of the Sheriff's Association to discuss their concerns. Univision also offered to help provide information. The Consulate noted that they are notified when Mexican immigrants are arrested. More and more this includes arrest for running a red light. Some of the consequences include the growth of scams around "international drivers licenses" where people desperate for drivers licenses are charged \$250 - \$500.

Cameron Smith noted that the Governor's office will be tracking whether the arrests rates are indicating racial profiling. Danny Santos discussed the Governor's office interest in monitoring for racial profiling, and Consulate notification. He encourages including the Police Chief's association in the discussion of concerns.

Questions:

Q: The Commission noted that there has been criticism of the database for being a repository for low level crimes and traffic violations. Is this the case?

A: Mr. Yandell responded that he will check on their ability to share that information.

Q: Can Oregon back out of its agreement?

A: For the State to withdraw its support, Mr. Yandell indicated that it would need to have a good basis to do it.

Q: Can the OCHA get a list of those who were at the table when the agreement was crafted?

A: Yes.

Q: Who should the Commission contact if there is evidence of abuse of power in enforcing the new program?

A: Contact Mr. Yandell and the Oregon State Police

Q: How many deportees come back into the US?

A: The speaker will ask ICE about that.

## **VII. Internal work of the commission**

1) The Commission postponed its discussion of its internal work until when a quorum is present.

2) Good of the Order

a) The Commission thanked the legislative staff from Sen. Shields, and Rep Cannon's office for attending the meeting today. Rep. Cannon and Sen Shields are both strong community advocates for the Latino Community. Ben Cannon is a school teacher and his spouse also teaches ESL in Gresham. He has a deep commitment to the Latino community.

b) Chair Ibarra reported on a number of issues including the adoption of the DREAM Act at the National level. Senator Merkley is a sponsor of the national DREAM act. Senator Wyden is also supportive.

3) Public Testimonial

a) Mr. Salinas addressed the Commission. He discussed the will of the Latino Community to pursue education. There are a number of pioneers in encouraging migrant education that are still living in Oregon and deserve recognition for their issues. He noted that the City of Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana is considering giving the Chamber of Commerce the charge of running the Fiesta. He asked the Commission to send a letter registering their concern that

running the Fiesta remain with the Latino community over the Chamber of Commerce. The Commission thanked Mr. Salinas for his presentation.

**VIII. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m.**