



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

Council Meeting Minutes
Location: 60 Empire Dr. St. Paul, MN 55103
Date: December 15, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Council Members: Elia Bruggeman, Antonio Lizano, Adriana O'Meara, Nicholas Juarez, Edgardo Rodriguez, Michael Rosario, Sonia Mayo Hohnadel, Teresa Dawson, Dr. Lou Gonzales, Maricruz Hill, Alma Garay-Lehn, Rep. Al Juhnke, Sen. Joe Gimse

Staff: Rogelio Muñoz, Jr., Rosa Tock, Gladys Rodriguez, and Oscar Echandi

Guests: Rita Garcia, Business Partners Plus, John Keller, Executive Director of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Maureen Cisneros, Research Intern of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

Call to Order and Agenda Consensus

Vice-Chair Teresa Dawson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed all to the meeting. Vice-Chair Dawson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Edgardo Rodriguez to approve agenda as distributed, seconded by Nicholas Juarez. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

(Council Chair Elia Bruggeman joins the meeting at 10:10 a.m.)

Rita Garcia, Business Partners Plus, informs the members that she will be acting as facilitator throughout the meeting to accomplish the agenda and objectives and suggested to review the Council's Biennium Plan to see where the Council stands on accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were previously reviewed by the Council Secretary. Nicholas Juarez makes a motion to approve minutes with no changes, Lou Gonzales seconds. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

(Maricruz Hill joins the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)

Immigration: Presentation and Discussion

Next item on the agenda called for a presentation by John Keller, Executive Director of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM), on the issue of immigration. Director Muñoz presented the Council members with the position statement and summarized that the purpose of this statement is to bring awareness to the Latino stakeholders on the position of the Council in regards to this matter.

There was discussion on the table on the reaction of the community towards this issue and if the Council is planning on being proactive in disseminating the position statement among the Latino community so they are aware of CLAC's position.

Muñoz expressed that the Council will not be proactive, but rather use the position statement when visiting the community or when meeting with Latino leaders and asked about the Council's position. Member Juarez suggested that the staff prepare a press release to send to the Latino stakeholders notifying of the position statement. Antonio Lizano expressed that the Council needs to create partnerships before sending out a press release to get their support. Chair Bruggeman called for a round-robin to hear member's comments and input about the issue. Discussion was then tabled to hear John Keller's presentation.

John Keller thanked the Council for the invitation to speak about the issue of immigration and continued by introducing himself. He has been an attorney at ILCM since 1998, providing legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota; ILCM educates immigrant and nonimmigrant communities about immigration matters. They represent people that are victims of crime and abuse and people that are searching for citizenship for their families.

(Alma Garay-Lehn joins the meeting at 10:45 a.m.)

He expressed that the issue of immigration is a Federal issue that needs a uniform policy that covers all the states. Keller shared with the Council members a resolution passed by the Minnesota State Senate on a Comprehensive Immigration Reform insisting that the federal government take a stand on the issue of immigration. This resolution passed by 56-7 this past May of 2007. He mentioned that Governor Tim Pawlenty was part of a letter sent to the U.S. Congress expressing the urge for Congressional action this year to recognize the state's immediate need to recruit and retain professionals in key sectors. Furthermore, this letter addressed the need to increase availability of temporary H1-B visas and permanent resident visas (green cards).

The U-visa regulations provide immigration benefits to the victims of certain kinds of crime. It allows the victim to report the crime and receive lawful immigration status and the right to work; they were released this year. He concluded by reading over the titles of articles from The Wall Street Journal and the Pioneer Press on immigration.

After presentation, Edgardo Rodriguez made a motion to approve the language as indicated in the immigration position statement with the inclusion of the word "[equitable](#)" in the fifth bullet point under the recommendations, seconded by Antonio Lizano. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Edgardo Rodriguez makes a motion for the staff to send a press release to community organizations on the position statement on immigration adopted by the Council, Nicholas Juarez seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion: to send a press release to community organizations or to arrange meetings with these organizations first to partner and inform them of the Council's position on the issue of immigration. Chair Bruggeman called for a round-robin to hear member's comments and input about the motion. Motion taken to vote, nine members in favor, and two opposed: Lou Gonzales and Antonio Lizano. Motion passed 9-2.

Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) with Agencies

The purpose of the MOC with USHLI and other state Latino councils and commissions is a national collaboration to engage in legislative affairs, civic engagement, and public policy. The purpose of the MOC between the MN State Legislature, Office of the Ombudsperson for Families, and state councils is to work together. This collaboration will enhance the work of the council at the state Capitol with no fiscal responsibilities.

Member Rodriguez observed that there is some information missing on the MOC's and it should be completed before signing. A recommendation was made to add a responsibility to the USHLI to

coordinate and promote the exchange of information between the parties through their website or other means. Sonia Hohndel makes a motion to recognize and accept the MOC between the USHLI and other state Latino councils and commissions so that the Council can have an impact at the national level, seconded by Antonio Lizano. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the MOC between the MN State Legislature, Office of the Ombudsperson for Families, and state councils. Muñoz clarified that the Majority Leader of the House and the Senate will sign as representatives of the Legislature. It was suggested to have the document completed before signing.

Adriana O'Meara makes a motions to approve the MOC between the MN State Legislature, Office of the Ombudsperson for Families, and state councils, Maricruz Hill seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

CLAC Policies and Procedures

Edgardo Rodriguez presented on the Policies and Procedures and considers that although the manual has been updated as requested by the members, the current draft of the Manual still require a review of the task force to be fully effective.

Maricruz Hill makes a suggestion for staff to add revision date on all the documents provided.

There is no motion or ratification to the Policies and Procedures manual. The task force will meet again to review the document and once changes have been incorporated then it will be mailed to the Council members in January 2008 and will be brought for consensus for approval during the next meeting.

(Break- convene at 12:15)

Process: Developing Recommendations

The Council has been working with Rita Garcia, Business Partners Plus, on the operational structure and development of the agency, and in this phase, the agency has been working on how the team works as a unit. The Council has moved forward towards the development of the Legislative agenda and the Issues Briefs on Education for the Board's consensus and approval.

Some of the deliverables and outputs of the Council are the Fact Sheets, Issues Briefs on Education, focus topic presentations that provide a 15-minute review of the Council work, Focus Topics brochures summary and a complete Legislative recommendation agenda.

The Legislative committee met with staff to review the Legislative recommendations for each focus area to develop the Legislative Agenda. Committee recommended listing the recommendations first and then giving the background information to support each recommendation. The primary customer is the Governor and Legislators. Secondary audience is the county and city officials, and then service provider agencies/foundations.

Sonia Hohndel expressed that the Council has done a fantastic job at strategizing, but the question at hand is how the Council members fit into that plan. Maybe the Council can get a grant for Board effectiveness training.

Garcia makes a recommendation to introduce workshops on the focus areas between the Council meetings.

Council members suggested Director Muñoz to seek grants/funding for Board effectiveness training before the retreat scheduled for August 2008.

The members expressed their willingness to leverage the load and be communicators in taking CLAC's Legislative Agenda to other agencies.

CLAC 2008 Education Issues Brief

Education recommendations are based on research, community input and feedback from the Council; recommendations were developed to address Pre K-12 & post secondary education. Changes were made based on the Legislative committee input. The Issues Briefs are to be simple and right to the point. The Council needs to have something final and push it forward. Concurrence was achieved by the Legislative committee and it is being brought to the Board for concurrence. Muñoz requested a motion to concur to the Issues Brief on Education.

Nicholas Juarez makes a motion to adapt the Issues Brief on Pre K-12 Education, seconded by Antonio Lizano.

Discussion on motion: Members noticed that there are several typos and requested to concurrence on wording and consistency of "Early childhood education" and Pre-K.

Suggestion was made to have all documents to be discussed in the meeting printed and in front of each member before arriving.

Juarez amended his motion to adapt the Issues Brief on Pre K-12 Education *with the inclusion of the changes provided to the Admin. Assistant*, Gladys Rodriguez, Antonio Lizano seconds. All in favor, Motion carries unanimously.

CLAC 2008 Legislative Recommendations

Prioritization of topics was based on a survey of Council members creating a focus around education and health, while still continuing to provide some work around housing, economic development, and immigration per the legislative goals. A draft of recommendations for each topic area were developed by including the voice of the Latino community and through qualitative research. Feedback on the recommendations were provided by the Legislative Committee.

Council Members had concerns on the language and information of the document and asked the staff to make corrections as requested before publishing document.

Nicholas Juarez makes a Motions to approve the 86th Legislative Recommendation with the recommended changes provided by the Council Members, seconded by Antonio Lizano. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chair Bruggeman makes reference of travel reimbursement to Council Members whose term expires in January 2008, but can continue serving on the Board until June 2008 if no one is appointed by the Governor.

Bruggeman requested from the Council Treasurer a projected expense for the Council's 30th Anniversary event.

Chair mentions that the Administrative Assistant has not had an increase for 4 years and Executive Director is working with Department of Administration to fix that. In addition, director Muñoz is entitled to an increase; Chair Bruggeman and Edgardo Rodriguez will do his evaluation.

Edgardo Rodriguez recognizes Maricruz Hill for being appointed to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board. Maricruz Hills commends Rita Garcia for her work with the Council.

Edgardo Rodriguez motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nicholas Juarez. All in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Written by Gladys Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant.

Revised by Rogelio Muñoz, Executive Director

Submitted by Sonia Mayo Hohnadel, Council Secretary