



In Attendance

Council Members: Elia Bruggeman, Antonio Lizano, Adriana O’Meara, Nicholas Juárez, Mario Vargas, Edgardo Rodriguez, Michael Rosario, Sonia Mayo Hohnadel, Alma Garay-Lehn, and Maricruz Hill, Rep. Al Junhke

Absent: Rep. Willie Dominguez, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Sen. Joe Gimse

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

Guests: Rita Garcia

Call to Order and Agenda Consensus

Meeting called to order by Elia Bruggeman at 8:34 a.m. CLAC Council welcomed new council member, Mario Vargas is from El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. Introductions of all Council Members followed.

Review of agenda

Nick moves to amend the agenda to postpone the election of officers until after the first break as some people need to leave the meeting, Adriana seconds; all in favor and agenda is amended. Agenda is approved with no other new business.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Hohnadel reviewed minutes from last Council meeting and submitted them Council approval. Nick Juarez noted a correction on page 5. Nick clarified his vote as “no” rather than Alma. Edgardo Rodriguez clarified his proposal to exclude an executive session of the entire Council so that anything sensitive could be discussed at a later that time. Nick Juarez motioned to approve as amended, Edgardo Rodriguez seconded, all in favor.

Maricruz joins at 8:40 a.m.

Review CLAC Biennium Calendar

Rogelio Munoz provided a review of the first year biennium calendar. He noted that CLAC has completed the first year of the biennial plan. During this time, Rita Garcia provided staff with three defined tiers of success. Tier 1 activities drive the work of CLAC. Tier 2 outputs reflect CLAC work in the community. Tier 3 outcomes note CLAC impact and influence in affecting policy.

Edgardo asked for opportunities for flexibility in following the biennial calendar and the defined staff roles.

Antonio joins at 9:00 a.m.

Adriana reports that she met Sen. Torres Reyes and introduced herself. Sen Torres Ray communicated her support and commendation with CLAC's work. Maricruz added that staff from the Community Action Council ran into Carlos Mariani and also receive compliments about CLAC and the staff. Elia shared that the Council Members are also proud and although sometimes they do not communicate this message, the Council Members are happy with the work of the CLAC staff.

Rosa reported on the completion of fact sheets for the focus areas along with a legislative update which was mailed to community leaders. Rogelio also reported on CLAC health access focus groups begun last May. Michael shared his experience in attending the focus group. He found the focus group conversation to be very powerful and commended community affairs unit in his work.

Rogelio noted the operational costs for the next biennium: 280,000-308,00-314,000. He also indicated that budget shortfalls might cause the Council's budget to be reduced by 3%. Edgardo commented that prudent financial management of current assets will prove ineffective as CLAC cannot carry this year's monies into the next year. However, CLAC is beginning to attract attention from alternative funding sources. The Council on Black Minnesotans and the Indian Affairs Council have visiting to discuss how CLAC approaches funding activities.

MN Legislative Process

Rep. Al Junhke next presented on how a bill becomes law. Minnesota encompasses 201 legislators (134 in the house and 67 in the senate. Every house members represents 37,000 people, while each senator represents 75,000. The smallest county has the smallest population.

In Minnesota, the three branches of government are all equal. The legislature is currently controlled by the Democratic Party, 85 members DFL 49 Republicans in the house and 45 democrats to the 27 Republicans in the senate. These numbers are significant because the legislature can override gubernatorial veto.

MN has a biennial session; the next one will start in February. The legislature adjourns the first Monday after the third Sunday of May. This year, the legislature adjourns on May 18th. The second biennium begins when the preceding legislature sets the date for convening. A typical legislator earns \$31,300 and is considered "citizen legislators.

How does a bill become law? Every two years the governor puts out a budget. The department of revenue puts together the governor's recommendations. The Governor must present the budget proposal to the legislature by February 1st. Within this scheme there are several important dates. In February 28 the department of revenue publishes the budget forecast that estimates MN income/expenditures for the next four years. Junhke recommends anticipating this event and meeting with the governor or staff between October and January.

The first year of the biennium is where the budget is allocated. After November 6th the legislature organizes and elects a speaker for a 2 year term. The speaker appoints the chairs of committees. Once committee chairs are selected, committee members are selected in January. The speakers names committee members. Junhke recommends for CLAC to meet with the chair or staff (contact the committee administrator or CLA who schedule meetings, does appointments). In this work, the key person is the Committee Administrator who is present every day. Their job is to gather information, schedule hearing and work with the chair and gives input. The Committee Administrator is key to effective interception.

Important items discussed in the second year is policy and bonding bills

Antonio inquired about hearing logistics. Junhke replied that multimedia presentations can be made if requested; however, it is important to keep them simple. Simple population facts and figures are helpful.

Alma joins at 10:15 a.m.

Racial Equity: The need for diverse perspectives in the legislative process

Jermaine Toney from Organizing Apprenticeship Project presented on the mission to advance racial, economic equity through policy research and strategic convening.

Jermaine shared on his report that racial demographics. In Minnesota Latinos will outnumber African Americans by 2030. Communities of color in MN represent 14% of the total population. Minnesota also tops the charts in quality of life indicators.

Rosa asks for an indication of the reaction of the legislators when OAP present on the diversity demographic projection for Minnesota.

Jermaine noted a mixed reaction. His experience shows different reactions. Some legislators have shifted their leadership. Others have surprisingly been supportive. Other legislators do not seem to have the support from their communities. A third group of legislators remain silent on the issue.

Jermaine suggested that CLAC can play a strategic voice in carrying this voice through trainings, conversation, and civic engagement

Officer elections

The next item involved the election of new Council officers. Nominations were received from the floor. Each nominee will present a position statement in 2 minutes followed by private ballots.

Edgardo nominates Elia for Chair; Nick self-nominates; Mario nominates Edgardo, Edgardo declines. Sonia closes nomination for Chair

Positions: Elia has enjoyed serving on the board this past year and like the biennium plan, the staff is doing a wonderful job and thinks this past year has been a great experience for her and she is still learning.

Antonio asks: What are the strengths that you bring as Chair?

Elia replies that the knowledge of being on the board for a few years and her educational background and budget knowledge are big strengths. Elia feels her leadership abilities are also strength. She is not one to micromanage, but encourages personal development.

Mario replies to the same question in noting that the Council chair, shares responsibility in working with the Executive Director but also in creating leadership within the board. As the Council Members also share CLAC goals, the best way to operate is to engage ourselves within the different expertise. We are all experts in diff areas, last year Mario was involved in the education area and he challenges each member to promote CLAC and its work.

Nicholas replies that he was just reappointed and thinks can bring a new energy to the board. His work with the legislative committee encourages him to motivate this committee toward more effective legislative engagement. The members of the Council draw their strengths from their

expertise. Nicholas wants to start seeing those strengths in collaboration within the CLAC and for CLAC to be a leader in working with other state agencies and groups to resolve the issues.

Mario asks: How do you make sure the staff will have what they need, the support from the board.

Nicholas replies that this support is possible by following the biennium action plan. Additionally, the legislative committee and board need to help staff.

Nicholas Juarez is elected chair

Nominations are open for Vice-chair

Adriana nominates Elia; Alma nominates Mario; Antonio nominates Sonia, Sonia declines. There are no further nominations, Sonia motions to close nominations, Adriana seconds.

Discussion

Mario stresses building relationships and bridges in moving big projects ahead. Antonio requests additional information on Mario. Mario moved to Minnesota in 1992 and has been involved with every segment that CLAC is focused on. He has worked on the 2000 Census and through this engagement became aware of the concerns with the community. He currently works for BlueCross/Shield in the area of outreach.

Elia is elected new Vice Chair

Treasurer

Adriana nominated Edgardo; Antonio motions to close nominations
A call for vote for nomination of Edgardo for treasurer, all in favor

Secretary:

Sonia nominates Adriana, Adriana declines; Sonia nominates Michael; Michael declines. Adriana nominates Mario, he accepts. Edgardo nominates Sonia, she declines.

We have one nomination for Secretary. Sonia moves to close, Antonio seconds. All in favor.
Mario is the new CLAC secretary.

Rogelio congratulated and presented a certificate of appreciation for a one year service to CLAC. Awards were presented to Nicholas, Michael, Antonio & Alma.

Council Members Development: How to know your district (Rita Garcia)

The purpose of this exercise is to determine how well the CLAC has functioned in achieving the agency goals. Council member are brought to represent the people of your districts; therefore this assessment reflects that the council is well informed of what is going on in the community.

Exercise also calls for the following input:

- a. What does the Council do well?
- b. How is Council following biennium plan?
- c. What are recommendations for improvement?

Council member feedback stressed that staff has done well in outreach and building the awareness of CLAC in the community. In this sense, CLAC has greatly improved in internal and external

communication. The theme of credibility is important for CLAC as a Council. The Council members also replied that the council members and staff work well together as a team.

Al Juhnke's long term support and presence was mentioned as crucial legislative representation.

Other areas of strength for CLAC include staying focus and taking ownership of defined goals, mission and support of Business Partners Plus. Members also mentioned the effectiveness of quarterly meeting plans and responsible fiscal management.

Council members also mentioned several opportunities for growth. These included the policy engagement in hearings and meetings with state representatives and organizations. Another area included the continuing publicity of CLAC in building relationship with Governor's office. A third area identified during CLAC's legislative engagement included the solicitation of expert advice from the community in helping testimony impact. Other input included:

- the funneling of community agencies through CLAC so to present a stronger, joint legislative agenda
- Legislative Day at the Capitol
- Active participation of the committees in between the quarterly meetings

Health Focus groups Preliminary Findings

Oscar provides preliminary findings and results of the 2008 community engagement. This engagement occurred in both the quantitative and qualitative levels.

HACER assisted in finalizing the survey. CLAC received 96 responses (46% of total). This was the first time since 2002 that CLAC has engaged statewide Latino voice. The results of the survey revealed 3 policy recommendations in the areas of health coverage, communication and prevention.

Antonio requested clarification on the next steps. Oscar replied that CLAC create legislative agenda around community input. For example, one policy recommendation would be to provide assistance to help people with the application process. Edgardo sought clarification on CLAC's objective. Oscar replied that the main objective would be to capture the voice of the community to transmit to the legislature. We need to educate our families about the insurance and understanding the total income. Adriana agreed and commented on the lack of education of the health system

Legislative Action Plan

Rosa next presented on the Legislative Action Plan. This proposal grew from Rosa's experience after the first year of engaging the legislature. In assessing work of the staff, Rosa suggested this plan and shared with legislative committee to find ways in which to align this plan with CLAC's strategic plan.

Nick offered input as member of the legislative committee. He has met with staff, and the committee understands the legislative process is flowing and changing. As the plan was presented, it defined the responsibility of the staff. He observes that the original plan is a lot of work to put on staff. He recommends that the legislative committee and the Council Members can provide that relationship and support as experts in the area where they can contribute to the metrics of success.

Rosa next outlined the legislative plan for the second quarter.

Mario observed that he would like to see more board involvement in the planning and execution of the plan. He suggested that on major public relations and position statements, the CLAC Council (or at least the Legislative committee) should be consulted before any publications.

Antonio present a motion to permit the Executive Committee create point of view in official, public communication. Seconded and motion passes.

Mario Vargas opened a discussion on the number of times that the board meets per year to react (or be proactive) to legislative developments. Committee participation was mentioned as providing immediate Council member reaction to legislative developments.

Rep Junhke suggested that CLAC council can meet using alternative technologies, such telephone. If this is not possible, then CLAC can request a change in statutes.

Elia motions to revisit this discussion in a later Council meeting Nick seconds the motion.

Antonio motions for the executive committee to meet before CLAC's next full Council meeting if an emergency situation arises in regards to external communication. Adriana seconds. All in favor. September 2008 was designates to discuss CLAC 2009 legislative agenda

Mario recommends more explicit reporting when seeking input from legislative committee.

Antonio motions to accept the treasurer's report and exec directory report as we have already seen them electronically. Alma seconds, all in favor

Edgardo motions to hold off on discussing the board succession planning until next council meeting, Antonio seconds, all in favor

Office of ombudsperson

Elia needs approval on the appointment of Catalina Jimenez, immigration attorney who was appointed to the board of the Office of Ombudspersons. She was the only one who appointed. Antonio recommends inviting Catalina. Sonia seconds, all in favor

30th anniversary

The Council Members were requested to solicit 30 attendees each for the event. Rogelio also offered a financial report to date. Since the last Council meeting, CLAC has secured about 8,000. CLAC is utilizing this money for the 30th anniversary event rather than monies from CLAC's general budget.

Sonia expresses her concern at her own transportation logistics in fulfilling invitation requirements.

Salute to MN as part of CLAC 30th Anniversary

Antonio History society will permit CLAC to use photos. This presentation will highlight Latino contributions in MN and their evolution in the past 40 yrs. Individual nominations will take a snap shot of current settings through personal interviews and photos.

The presentation will last about 15 minutes and will include music and artistic input.

The information will be collected this month. The Council will approve the presentation and will send it to the executive committee for approval.

Census

Mario reiterated his interest in involving CLAC with launch of the 2010 Census. He and Rogelio will convene the participant community members. CLAC will serve as the convener and solicit participation through a letter invitation.

Other Business

Evaluation of executive director

Edgardo, Antonio & Michael are part of the taskforce working on the annual evaluation of the Executive Director.

Our next meeting will be in September 27 to review recommendations for the legislative agenda. Gladys will send a reminder to council members.

Topics for the next Council meeting agenda include a debriefing on the Business Partners Plus presentation and the Executive Director evaluation.

Nick moves to adjourn, Antonio seconds, all in favor

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.