



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: July 11, 2015

Location: 60 Empire Drive, Suite 203- St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Present: BM Michael Muñoz, Chairman; BM Uriel Perez Espinosa, Vice Chair; BM Kandace Creel Falcón, Treasurer(Phone); BM Suyapa

Miranda; BM Peter Resyes (Phone); BM Krystell Escobar

Staff: Hector Garcia, Executive Director; Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator; Annastacia Belladonna, Legislative Director; Gladys Rodriguez, Office Manager.

Visitors: Greg Hubinger, Legislative Coordinating Commission; Alberto Monserrate, Latino Communications Network (Phone).

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/Timeline	Person(s)responsible
Welcome & approval of agenda	Meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Muñoz at 10:05 am. Council member Krystell Escobar made the motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Uriel Perez Espinosa seconded the motion. Motion passed with an All in favor vote.	← Motion passed	
2015 Legislative session update	<p>Staffer Annastacia Belladonna provided an overview of the 89th legislative session which had over 4,000 bills. The House introduced 2379, while the Senate introduced 2233. Of those, only 77 were enacted and 3 were vetoed. The legislative program has to be very well strategized to be effective and efficient. CLAC's legislative priorities this year were the Driver's License – HF 98/SF2 (not passed); MinneMinds – SF 606 (vetoed; passed later); HOME Bill – SF282(not passed); and the Ethnic Council Restructure – HF1353/SF 1419 (passed with some of CLAC's amendments). The Council was also successful in tabling Sen. Pappas bill by recommending that community should be involved in draft of new Statute.</p> <p>These are position statements that were presented on behalf of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HF98/97 - Driver's License Bill (supporting) • SF282 - Home Bill (supporting) • HF1353/SF1419 - Ethnic Council Bills (opposing, req. amendments) • SF375 - Child care higher education student grant eligibility modification. (supporting) • HF394 – Service-learning integrated into Minnesota's education system. (supporting) • HF1094 - Early brain development prioritized in the early childhood family education home visiting program. (supporting) <p>Providing position statements is an effective way to make sure we are engaged in the legislative process. Belladonna provided highlights on what the Council could do better next year. CLAC forged new alliances and connected organizations to bills/programs.</p> <p>Belladonna highlighted the restructuring of CLAC. Effective July 1, 2015: under Chapter 77, Article 2, Section 2, Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA). Key Changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director hired by LCC in consultation with Council Members* (formerly referred to as Board Members); • Executive Director must reapply; • Executive Director must submit strategic plan outlining steps for achieving outcomes AND report on 2015 outcomes to Senate & House Government/State Committees*. This replaces 		

	<p>“annual report” and is presented to legislature not governor’s office;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Members serve 2 terms - 4years each; • Council Members work in conjunction with LCC in evaluating, disciplining and assessing Executive Director’s performance; • Members meet monthly with automatic removal for anyone missing more than half of the meetings; • Legislative Members are voting members; • Council Members may be removed at the pleasure of the Legislative voting members for reasons other than non-attendance. <p>Latino profile maps are being created to illustrate the areas of highest concentration of Latinos in the state and who they are. The intent is to educate our stakeholders on who Latinos are. We are leveraging data that already exist and are building these maps that showcase the Latino graduation rates, Latino dropout rates and non-Latino data. Our intention is to paint a picture of who our Latino population is in those areas.</p> <p>The cities that have been identified for this year’s legislative forums are Worthington, Rochester, Austin, Faribault/Northfield, St. Paul, Mpls., Owatonna for the latter part of July & August 2015. The legislative forums will include a presentation on legislative outcomes, survey and 2 breakout session: DACA/ DAPA & Starting your own business.</p> <p>A detailed legislative report will be sent to the board by end of July early August with a caveat pending on a family matter.</p> <p>Chair Muñoz comments that a big part of the change in our statute was because the legislature wanted MCLA to be more involved and engaged but what are they going to do on their end. Are we to work with the legislative members within the Council? Or does ED Garcia have direct contact with the legislators? what are the legislators going to do differently in order for us to do that? ED Garcia addresses the question as part of his report.</p>		
<p>Executive Director’s Report 10:25-10:55</p>	<p>ED Garcia explains that this is a systemic problem, and if it’s a systemic problem, then what is the legislature going to do, what is the Governor’s office going to do, state agencies going to do to work with us to make that possible. That still remains to be seen because when the question was posed to the House, we didn’t get a clarifying answer. Hopefully with the fresh format we can begin a new and start a more collaborative joint planning type of approach.</p> <p>Chair Muñoz expresses that there are a few ways things can get done; for example through the legislators who sit on our Council and they can be our voice to the legislative body or have direct contact with the Governor’s office on a regular basis.</p> <p>One of the change is that legislative members can now vote and this can be helpful in getting them to attend the Council meetings and be more engage. If we are able to build on the relationships we have started with the cabinet agencies through this Diversity Council then it will work better. What is missing is more collaboration, team effort, more respect, among all the participants to listen to each other and</p>	<p>← Action item</p>	<p>← A. Belladonna</p>

participate.

ED Garcia introduces Alberto Monserrate from Latino Network Communications who over the past few months has been working with the Council on a community engagement effort, and introduces Greg Hubinger from the Legislative Coordinating Committee (LCC).

The insights brought to the floor on the legislation affecting the council and disparities were widely distributed. ED repeatedly brought to the attention of the legislature, the governor's office, cabinet agencies all of the recommendations that we have had over the last three-four years regarding disparities and those need to be re-emphasized over and over because we don't know if they are being incorporated in the decision making.

ED has talked over the phone with Greg Hubinger several times about the changes implemented, but it still seems unclear to both exactly how things are going to work out.

The bill on early learning was successful in getting 48 million dollars for scholarships which is what CLAC was supporting. Our position statement in that regard was that we favored scholarships target approach versus the universal. This was in consensus of the board and the legislative committee and it was decided that we would promote the scholarships and that's what in effect passed. These scholarships will be vital to the progress we make with the Rochester program.

ED provided advice to Governor Dayton mission to Mexico and NAO, MDA, MDCO, DEED, MDE, MDHR, DPS and MDR; and facilitated advice on the Latin America Center and Latino Jewish Alliance. He also provided information on a presentation with Demographer and MN Chamber of Commerce to legislators; Building Trust Law Enforcement & Community Roundtable VCCC; Partnership with US DOJ and MN National Guard; supported La Asamblea with apartment renters in Minneapolis; MPR Latino Education Discussion UBS Forum; wrote articles for La Voz Latina on marginalization Latinos and Trump derogatory statements; article on the Pioneer Press on Trump's statements and constructive options; provided an interview on City Pages Minneapolis on Trump's statements; finalized Communications Plan and partial implementation with LCN; and supported Rochester/Olmsted activities through ThinkSmall, TORCH, Latin America Center project, Tim Penny, and others.

ED Garcia invited Alberto Monserrate to present on the communications plan submitted. He added that a survey was sent out to 70,000 Spanish speaking Latinos; A. Belladonna is preparing one in English. Monserrate did a great job considering the limited amount of money that we were able to pay and the confusing time experienced this last legislative session. So far there has been 60 responses and we have learned that the issues are driver's license, education (graduation rates of HS Latinos and more financial aid for students), and jobs.

ED Garcia shares that Monserrate has agreed to a pro-bono dissemination of the English survey once it is ready. Social media is very important and is now the main outlet of communication. BM Miranda asks about the timing and actions that will be taken based on the communications plan. This plan does not include outcomes or a timeline; it includes times, but it is very vague. BM Escobar comments that perhaps this is an internal role for the staff to do whereas Monserrate just created an overall strategy

	planning of things that the Council could do. Next step would be to figure out what to do first and create the timeline.		
Southern MN Project	<p>Staffer Rebeca Sedarski mentions that she has been working out of Rochester for the past three years, but strategically suggests turning from the “Rochester Project” to the “Southern MN Region project” because it is more than just Rochester; she has been working on education and economic development issues not only in Rochester, but through all Southern MN.</p> <p>Sedarski has been meeting with the Multicultural Networking group in Mankato, and Owatonna, MN. Members of this group range from the Latino and Somali communities along with the organizations that serve these communities. MCLA was able to support the Mexican Consulate with their Mobil Consulate in Rochester, participated in the “Taste of Nations Event” in Austin, received the appointment from Mayor Ardeall Brede to be one of 7 Commissioners participating in the Rochester Police Oversight Commission to review and comment on the policies, practices and procedures adopted or to be adopted by Police Administration as they relate to the legal requirements of state and federal law and the expectations of the community.</p> <p>MCLA continue efforts to secure funding for the Early Childhood Education Pilot Project in Rochester. A business plan will be developed soon to start applying for grants. Data is being gathered to support the 300 families that are not receiving any kind of Early Childhood Education Services. MCLA also meet with the Field Representative for US Congressman Tim Walz to request information on what we need to do to have this Pilot Project be designated as a Transformation Zone (which the Northside Achievement Zone did) to be eligible to receive federal funding.</p> <p>ED García and Sedarski organized a meeting with Mayor Ardeall Brede, Superintendent Michael Muñoz, Regina Seabrook of the Rochester Public Schools, Mr. Kelly B. McCalla, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Studies and Miguel Garate, Student advisor for Riverland Community and Technical College and Beth Berry, Founder of the TORCH Program in Norhtfield, MN. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the concept of the TORCH program to the group, and as a result Riverland Community and Technical College is working on creating a TORCH model in their Austin campus.</p> <p>Met with the MN Trade Office ED, Kathleen Motzenbecker, Deputy Director Ed Dieter and International Trade Representative Barb Mattson to talk about the Northern Mexico Economic Corridor and potential opportunities for Minnesota businesses, the “Partner City” relationship between Mazatlán and Rochester, Governor Dayton’s trade mission to Mexico and the New American’s Office proposal. There was a similar meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Boerboom and Commissioner Zelle of MNDoT.</p> <p>Mayo Clinic, the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce and other organization have joined forces to organize a very important meeting called “Supplier Diversity Event: Gaining a Competitive Advantage!” This conference will focus on why diversity and inclusion are important to the economic growth of our state, the value or certification and how to access resource for businesses’ gain valuable insight and knowledge to navigate and become a supplier for Mayo Clinic, Hormel, DMC and other local organizations and energize the business costumer and suppliers through networking.</p>		

	<p>In a collaborative effort to support Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), MCLA put together a meeting in Rochester called “The Emerging Workforce Demographic Trends in Southern Minnesota and an Interactive Dialogue on Workforce Development: The Impact on Latinos and New Americans”.</p> <p>Sedarski has been invited to participate in the 5 year strategic plan meetings for the 8 county area around Rochester called Journey to Growth. This plan focuses on diversifying the economy of these 8 counties, optimize the regional talent and become a more cohesive, connected region.</p> <p>Lastly, the Latino Day at the Capitol supported La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles de Minnesota in securing meeting with legislators at the State Capitol.</p>		
Council Meeting Minutes, 03/21/ 15	Minutes from the previous meeting were presented by Chair Muñoz. Council member Kandace Creel-Falcon made the motion to approve the minutes from the 3/21/15 Board meeting. Council member Suyapa Miranda seconded the motion. All in favor vote.	← Motion passed	
Treasurer’s Report	<p>Treasurer Kandace Creel Falcon presented an overview for FY 15 year-end expenses. Things are still wrapping up and although we cannot purchase goods, some purchase orders remain open. One of the biggest expense is the office move to happen at the end of July. We moved about \$10,000 into the Odyssey funding within the Office of Enterprise technology that will be used for the rewiring of the new office and purchasing the equipment for technology. Promotional items and stationary supplies were ordered with the new name and contact information.</p> <p>For FY 16, we have two part-time employees: Annastacia Belladonna & Justin Lane. Belladonna gave up some of her salary to keep Justin Lane through September 30th for data research. The current funding only allows for A. Belladonna to continue working part-time of 30 hrs per week. The intent is to find a way to have her work full-time because she is very effective and we need her. A. Belladonna has had to work over her hours, but she has been very good at flexing her hours. J. Lane has been very valuable in providing the research.</p> <p>MCLA’s budget is very tight this year, and we’ve had to limit the purchase of things. Per the new statute, staff recommends meeting monthly during the legislative session and meeting every other month thereafter with the option to board members who are far to use Skype or conference call to join the meetings</p>		
New Business	<p>Chair Muñoz states that a new item to discuss is the monthly meetings per the new statute. The question was referred to Greg Hubinger for clarification. Mr. Hubinger states that in meeting with the different ethnic councils, he has discovered the different interpretations of the legislation that was passed. He does not see a requirement that indicates the council needs to meet monthly. It says the council has to meet, but it does not state the frequency of the meetings.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel Falcon appreciates if meetings could be scheduled in advance; Chair Muñoz seconds that. Chair Muñoz states that the statute does not say the council needs to meet monthly so we can stay with the normal schedule and get it out to board members, and post it on the website. Staffer Rodriguez comments that council meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of every other month unless quorum is not reach then an alternate date is provided. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th</p>		

	<p>which is very important because it will be the retreat. Another change in the statute is that we no longer report to the Governor and the Legislature on November 15th, but rather to the Chairs of the committee's in January 2016.</p> <p>Staffer Sedarski points out that the new statute reads "a member who misses more than half of the council meetings convened during a 12-month period automatically is removed from the council". Chair Muñoz and Mr. Hubinger clarify that it refers to however many meetings the council has over the 12-month period.</p> <p>Chair Muñoz shares his concern over replacing the council members who are no longer on the board. ED Garcia states that he has called the Governor's office and SOS office to talk to them about the appointments. Applications have been submitted by interested community members, but it's ultimately up to the Governor's office to appoint. Current vacancies are for Jesus Villaseñor, Gerardo Bonilla resigned, Luisa Pierce reapplied, but until she is reappointed she is not part of the Council, Cynthia Campos and Margaret Villanueva also resigned.</p> <p>Items for the agenda for annual retreat (September 26th): approval of FY 17-18 budget; discuss timeline/action items/outcomes for communication plan; training/planning/visioning especially adapting to the new format; discuss more in length legislative director reporting on the legislature as far as what went well as she pointed out, (1:45) and the second thing is the way she is directing folks in the community who specifically focused on those issues and what is the next level of those two things; legislative planning discussion & legislative priorities; strategy moving forward to be more effective; training for new members; January 2016 report content.</p> <p>Current officers: Chair Muñoz, Chair; Uriel Perez Espinoza, Vice-Chair; Kandace Creel Falcon, Treasurer. Council member Krystel Escobar self nominated herself as the new Secretary. Board member Suyapa Miranda seconded the motion. All in favor vote.</p> <p>ED Garcia questions Greg Hubinger about the degree of involvement with the executive branch now that the Diversity and Inclusion Council has been created; it seems that there is a trend to get us to focus on legislation primarily.</p> <p>Mr. Hubinger responds that one of the themes of legislative comments he heard was the interest of having a greater voice by all three councils in the legislative process. The legislation was direct in indicating the areas that the legislature thought the councils should be working on, and then there is an extensive reporting part with that which helps keep focus and be clear about the goals and outcomes for the agency. The new law does not restrict any work of the councils; what the legislation is looking for is clear goals of the council and then how you go about achieving those goals. The legislature is looking for our advice on policy that affects our community.</p>	← action items	
Wrap-up and adjournment	Council member Krystel Escobar made the motion to adjourn. Council member Suyapa Miranda seconded the motion. All in favor vote.		

*Written by G. Rodriguez, Office Manager
Motions taken by Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator*