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District 58 ~ Norwalk

DECEMBER 2010

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

To the Honorable Director and members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Advise

New Legislators and Briefs

PPC Director began updates to legislator lists, so 2011 legislator briefings could be sent in January. Briefs will be sent monthly in 2011.

An extensive Excel spreadsheet was created with each new legislator's photo, district, and other pertinent information. Such information will be used for 2011/12 correspondence. Once legislators are assigned offices in Jan/2011 – the list will be complete.

PPC Director drafted letters of welcome for incoming legislators and farewell for outgoing legislators. Once permanent addresses/offices are assigned, the letters will be sent.

Senate Bill 235 - Human Trafficking

Senate Bill 235 – a PPC legislative priority passed the House and the Senate. Governor Strickland signed the bill into law on December 23, 2010. PPC Director attended the bill signing for Senate Bill 235 in the Governor's office. SB 235 will create a stand-alone felony for trafficking in persons. It will also create an offense for destruction of documents – a tool often used by immigrant traffickers to maintain power of the trafficked victims.

House Bill 495 – Sunset Review

The Sunset Review bill passed the House and the Senate. Governor Strickland signed the bill into law on December 15, 2010. The bill eliminates the named Interagency Council, but retains all the Council's duties at OCHLA. The changes are delayed until July 1, 2011, when the actual expiration of the IAC will occur.



Legislative Tracking

The Public Policy Center tracked several bills during the 128th General Assembly, but few were enacted. New legislative priorities will be assigned when bills are introduced.

Legislative Visit Day

Legislative Visit Day was set this month and scheduled for February. Buy-in from the Ohio Hispanic Chambers President was achieved and the group will serve as partner for the event. It will take place on February 16, 2011 from 8:30 AM – 3PM.

The theme will be small business and economic and workforce development policy in Ohio and attendees will advocate on such issues with their legislators. Some meetings have been scheduled with legislators, but the bulk will be scheduled in January.

Latino Community Report

The Fourth Quarter Latino Community Report was launched on OLANet. The LCR features the epidemic and policy measures addressing the Latino childhood obesity problem.

Connect/Build

Education

Scholarship Resource Center

The Scholarship Resource Center website was launched in November. Scholarship updates were made in December and will be made continually as new information is discovered.

Workforce and Economic Development

Workforce Content Development

PPC Director Barrera-Richards launched workforce development content for OLANet – which includes connection to Ohio Chambers and Hispanic Chambers.

A section is also devoted to Latino Economic Impact. A link to Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Cincinnati USA's economic impact study is active on the website.

Meetings Attended

- 12/07 Senate State and Local Government Committee
- 12/07 Senate Legislative Session
- 12/07 House Criminal Justice Committee
- 12/08 Senate Legislative Session
- 12/09 Conference Call with Dayton Chamber of Commerce President – Rafi Rodriguez re: Legislative Visit Day
- 12/11 Diabetes Education Symposium at OSU
- 12/15 Trafficking in Persons Study Commission
- 12/21 Senate Legislative Session
- 12/23 Bill Signing of Senate Bill 235 in the Office of the Governor



LATINO COMMUNITY NETWORK REPORT

Lilly Cavanaugh, Acting Director-

Strategic Initiatives

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

The sponsorship packages for the 2011 DHO event have been distributed to major sponsors. Initial follow up with potential sponsors will be completed by February 15th. Our goal is to secure supporters early enough in the year when many corporations establish their budget for the year.



Project OPEN

A follow up message has been sent to the Latino SBDC and Department of Development regarding reporting requirements for the Oct-Dec 2010 Quarter. The report is due on January 31st.

As stated in the November report, there are conversations underway to consider a change of host from the Ohio Business Connection [present host and fiscal agent] to Columbus State Community College. If such change becomes concrete, OCHLA will receive a letter from the SBDC State Director informing of the new host/fiscal agent for the project and detailing how the completion of the project and fiscal responsibility requirements will be fulfilled. A follow up meeting to discuss the progress on this task on December 29th had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. SBDC Director Karen Shuri will touch base with Columbus State early in January and provide us an update on the status of their negotiations.

Legislative Visit Day & Agenda Latina

Conversations are underway with the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, our partners for Legislative Visit Day. Sponsorship support is needed to cover the costs of these events. A package will be prepared and presented to Commissioner Andres Gonzalez who is working with our team on this project for approval. Commissioners are encouraged to help us raise support for this event through their local contacts. More details on the two events will be sent via email early in January.

Community Outreach (LCN)

All activities below have been conducted/attended by Director Cavanaugh in the area of Community Outreach:

Advise:

Division of State Fire Marshall—Fire Prevention Brochure

We were contacted by Richard Palmer from the Division of State Fire Marshall regarding an initiative to translate into Spanish Fire Safety brochures. Mr. Palmer will forward these documents to us to provide feedback on translation and cultural appropriateness of the message delivery.



Ohio Board of Regents—Mercedes Sanchez

Ms. Sanchez is planning a project for the Board of Regents regarding credentials for foreign workers. The purpose of this pilot project is to find ways to create a credentialing system to remove barriers for immigrants that come with foreign college degrees; in particular those in the health and engineering fields. Executive Director provided strategic council on how to approach the project and facilitated information to Ms. Sanchez.

Connect:

Campaigns and statewide outreach launched this month:

- Department of Veterans Services—Veterans Hall of Fame

Information shared among networks regarding the Hall of Fame, including how to apply and the history of this important recognition. An e-campaign will be send once a month between now and April to remind Hispanic constituents to nominate Latinos for this honor.

City of Norwalk Diversity Day

Major Lesch from the City of Norwalk contacted our office to request leads on potential presenters for the City's Diversity Day, to take place during March, 2011. Director Cavanaugh and Barrera Richards are working to recommend possible speakers for the event.

Build:

Trafficking in Persons Taskforce End of Year Report

The end of year report for the Human Trafficking Taskforce was emailed to all commissioners. Executive Director Cavanaugh served as part of this board; Ursula Barrera Richards also participated actively in the Taskforce working committees.

OLAnet—Directory of Organizations Update

Per our procedures, and in compliance with our Continuity of Operations and Disaster Recovery Plans, the biennial update of the Olanet — Directory of Organizations— was completed during the month of December. This process requires the contact with around 250 registered organization to confirm their information. The updated OLAnet directory will be distributed before January 15th in an electronic format to all commissioners for their information.

Administrative Section

Ethics Training Plan

The end of year report on Ethics Training completion was compiled and prepared by Office Manager Marin in December. The report will be presented in the Board Retreat to the team. This is a standard procedure to be in compliance with Governor's Executive Order 2007-01S to ensure that all ethics requirements for staff and board are being met.

Annual Progress Report

Our team is working on the preparation of the Annual Report. Per our internal procedures, the draft will be submitted to commissioners for review before January 15th. The final report will be presented for acceptance during the first board meeting of 2011, to take place on Friday, February 18th.



FY12-13 Budget Process

Executive Director continues to work closely with John Cunningham and Lawrence Parson, OBM Budget Analyst to clarify additional questions and respond to more information required for the FY12-13 Budget.

Student Intern and Volunteers

Our office had the great opportunity of hosting volunteers during 2010. In 2010, we had two regular student volunteers from Capital University and two from the Ohio State University. Additionally, we had the support of at least three additional student volunteers for our major events in 2010: The Legislative Visit Day and the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards.

Our volunteer program provides the opportunity to expose young adults to public service, government and Ohio's Latino community. Each individual makes a three month commitment and works on average of 3-6 hours a week. Their particular tasks and projects are planned in such way to satisfy school volunteering requirements or to render opportunities to explore specific fields of interest (Spanish language, psychology, law and media and communications are among the areas.) Although some of the students speak Spanish, it is not a requirement.

Leveraging the contributions of these volunteers is an excellent way for us to obtain additional support to meet the growing demanding needs for the commission's services. We are extremely grateful to each student for their invaluable support.

2010 Student—Intern:

- Saniya Khan

2010 Student Volunteers:

- Courtney Winterberg, Capitol University
- Sarah Wills, Capitol University
- Ashley Weaver, Ohio State University
- Kristina Keck, Ohio State University

Meetings Attended

Dec 09—Rafi Rodriguez, OHCC (teleconference)
Dec 09—NPM Planning Meeting (Columbus)
Dec 10—Latino SBDC (teleconference)
Dec 10—Richard Palmer, Fire Marshalls (Columbus)
Dec 16—Mercedes Sanchez (Columbus)
Dec 24—HOLIDAY—CHRISTMAS
Dec 27-31— VACATION

Respectfully submitted.