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Dan Ramos
State Representative
District 56 ~ Lorain County

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District 13 ~ Huron & Lorain
Counties

Charleta Tavares
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District 15 ~ Franklin County

DECEMBER 2015

To the Honorable Board Members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Our team is pleased to bring 2015 to a wrap after a very effective and busy year of activities. During the month of December, we had the opportunity to testify before the Sunset Review Committee. Under Ohio's law, a number of Ohio's boards and commissions and other parts of state government to which members are elected or appointed, are subject to review by the Sunset Review Committee. The committee is made up of legislators of both houses appointed by leadership to review existing boards and commissions and make recommendations about their future. This process takes place every 5 years and the recommendations of the committee take the form of a bill that will be presented in 2016. Our commission has successfully been reviewed by this committee in the past.

The major highlight of this month was Agenda Latina 2015. The event gathers Ohio's grass-roots organizations, leaders and OCHLA to strengthen the connection between the Latino community and the State of Ohio. Leaders and organizations work to develop a statewide community agenda based on community feedback. Participants engage to assess needs and opportunities, to foster collaboration and partnerships, and to examine and emulate best practices.

Agenda Latina 2015 focused on increasing collaboration and tapping into the competitive advantage of Latino serving organizations. Together, the group analyzed:

- Community needs and the regional landscape
- Expertise, program focus and competitiveness



- SWOT Analysis
- Partnerships and collaboration potential
- The opportunity for OCHLA to align its program efforts with community priorities

After an interactive and engaging process, Agenda Latina participants identified priorities and analyzed issues with high impact on Hispanic Ohioans' general quality of life and the progress of Latino serving organizations. By consensus, the group requested OCHLA to play a role focusing on developing strategies to meet needs in the following priority areas:

- Language Access and Cultural Competence
- Voter Registration/Show to the Polls
- Civic Engagement and Latino representation on boards, commissions and local government

Agenda Latina's report was shared electronically with board members and will also be discussed at our annual retreat in February, 2016.

Finally, we are working on preparing our end of year reporting in preparation for our annual report which will be issued in early January.

Meetings Attended by Executive Director

- 02 Dec—Margarita de Leon, Kaleidoscope
- 03 Dec—Multicultural presentation, Franklin County Courts
- 04 Dec—Anahi Brown, Affordable Care Act
- 05 Dec—Agenda Latina 2015
- 07 Dec—Sunset Review Testimony (Represented by Chair T. Ortiz)
- 16 Dec—Kent State University, Linda Robertson
- 22 Dec—Heather Tapia - International Women's Day Recognition Award
- 23 Dec—Kimberly Dent, Exec. Dir Fatherhood Commission
- 30 Dec—Elizabeth Sammons, ADA Hispanic Outreach

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Andrea Lewis, Public Policy Officer

Annual Report

Throughout the month of December I worked to develop the commission's annual report. The goal was to make the report concise and visually appealing while highlighting OCHLA's most important work done this year. Summaries and photos for the highlighted events and projects were selected, and we worked with an intern to format the content in a way that would grab the reader's attention. The report will soon be sent to printing.

Latino Community Report

Final edits were made to the latest Latino Community Report "Ohio's Changing Face: The Case for Culturally Responsive Institutions". This report investigates the services Latinos and other minority



groups receive in the areas of education, healthcare and government, along with the impact culturally competent practices have on the provision of these services. The reports were printed and copies were sent to all members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor's office. I created an e-campaign with a link to the report, which was sent to 400+ individuals on a ListServ. The report can be found online on our [Public Policy, Latino Community Reports Section](#).

Latino Education Summit

Work has steadily continued on preparing for next year's Latino Education Summit. The education committee held a meeting to discuss logistics, award nominees, budget, etc. We have been able to secure Interim ODE Superintendent Dr. Lonny Rivera as next year's keynote speaker. Nominees for the Education Summit award were decided upon and I sent emails to all seven nominees providing them with information about the summit and other details. Additionally, I have reached out to a potential speaker who says he is seriously considering the speaking proposal. I created two e-campaigns during the month promoting the Latino Education Summit and sent them to our ListServ of 400+ individuals. Finally, I've been working with the Department of Education to set-up the billing process to receive the \$10,000 pledged to the Education Summit. Everything is in order and on schedule for the time being.

New American Summit

Rep. Kevin Boyce has asked me to lead a legislative committee that will devise legislative priorities for the New American community. I have been working very closely with the Community Relations Commission, Rep. Boyce's office, CRIS, AACCS, ETSS and other community members to devise these priorities. Recently, I organized a meeting with members of our committee and we were all able to agree upon four bill ideas that we would like to see introduced in the coming year. We believe these bills would have a positive impact on the New American communities. We will be working with legislators over the coming months to have these ideas drafted into bills.

MBE Certification for Non-Profits

I have met numerous times with Rep. Sears over the past months to discuss the feasibility of certifying non-profit organizations for the MBE/EDGE programs. Recently I had the opportunity to discuss this initiative with a professor from OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs who specializes in non-profit management. Together we devised language for a bill that would allow non-profits to receive MBE/EDGE certification in Ohio. There is no precedent for this initiative, so we were very thorough in our research and work. I created a document of our findings and presented it to Rep. Sears this month. I have also sent a "thank you" letter to Ms. Tschirhart for her assistance with this project. We will continue our work on this project next year.

Cesar Chavez Day Initiative

During the month of December Katie Espino (Wright State) and I met with Representative Rick Perales and Senator Charleta Tavares to ask for their support in sponsoring a bill that would recognize March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day each year. Both Rep. Perales and Sen. Tavares are very interested in the proposal, and we will be working with them in the coming year on this project. All four of our legislative board members were contacted about joint sponsoring the bill.



Sunset Review Testimony

This month I made final edits to the Sunset Review testimony with suggestions from Director Cavanaugh. I coordinated a hearing date for our commission and sent the necessary documents to the Chairman's office. I also completed a questionnaire required by the committee in addition to the testimony. On December 7th I accompanied Chair Ortiz to the hearing. Legislation containing the committee's recommendations is expected to be introduced early next year.

Incarcerated Latino Population

Throughout the month I worked with an intern and Organizations Development Officer Georgina Alvarez to translate the commissary list for the Spanish-speaking inmate population at Belmont Correctional Institute. I sent the translated list to the prison, and they hope to have it approved and copies made by January. I also had the opportunity to speak with the Superintendent of the Ohio Central School System to gauge the feasibility of providing ESL classes to the inmates, but the Superintendent informed me they have tried this before and it was not successful. They no longer offer ESL classes, so I will be reaching out to Deputy Warden to see about initiating a Conversation Partner Program within the institution. Additionally, I have been corresponding with an employee of DRC's religious services about providing church services in Spanish, and he will be looking into this in the coming months.

Legislative Fellowship Speaking Engagement

I was invited by the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to speak at their annual LSC Fellow Orientation on December 8th. The LSC Fellowship is a one year program that provides college graduates the opportunity to work in state government, and encourages careers in public service. As a fellow of the 2013 class, I was pleased to speak with the current cohort about my experience as a fellow, my time spent in the Ohio House of Representatives, and my current position with the Latino Affairs Commission.

Legislative Updates

During December I drafted two legislative updates that were sent to our ListServ of 400+ individuals. The legislative update sent on December 14 featured summaries and status updates of HB 383, SB 249, HB 407, and HB 347. The legislative update sent on December 30 featured summaries and status updates of HB 189, HB 270, HB 298, and SB 154. With each of the updates I included relevant news articles and a list of upcoming events.

Professional Development Workshop

On December 3rd, I facilitated a teleconference with presenters of the upcoming professional development workshop. We gave updates on our progress and finalized logistics. I have been working with the Central Ohio ESC to secure a videographer for the workshop, as Columbus City Schools has asked if we can record the workshop so they may make the presentation available to teachers who cannot attend. I also made a e-campaign to promote the workshop, and sent it to our ListServ.

Meetings Attended:

12/3—Professional Development Workshop Teleconference

12/3—Community Leaders Forum



- 12/4- Agenda Latina
- 12/4- Jennifer Thornton, US Attorney's Office
- 12/7- Rep. Kevin Boyce and New American Summit Committee
- 12/7- Sunset Review Hearing
- 12/8- LSC Fellowship Presentation
- 12/15- OCHLA Board Meeting
- 12/15- Rep. Rick Perales
- 12/15- Sen. Charleta Tavares
- 12/16- Mary Tschirhart, OSU
- 12/22- New American Summit Legislative Meeting
- 12/22—Rep. Barbara Sears
- 12/23—Kimberly Dent, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lair Marin-Marcum, Community Liaison

During the month of December, we focused on finalizing the 2015-2016 OLANet Latino Serving Organizations Directory. The new directory is now available electronically through our [Hispanic Serving Organizations page on the website](#). The [resource lists available on our Latino Community Network page](#) have also been updated. We are also working on finalizing the statistics for all completed projects in 2015 and preparing input for the commission's annual report.

Below all highlights of projects and meetings for the LCN that also took place during the month of December 2015. We are pleased to have exceeded our goal for social media exposure with 1,049 likes on our Facebook page.

OUTLET	DESCRIPTION	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Website Calendar	Community Events	72	30
Facebook	Number of "Likes" to date	959	1,049
Facebook & Twitter	Postings of news, resources, events	188	127
Website (Job Opportunities Page) Facebook & Twitter	Job Openings Promoted	40	62

December constituent inquiries processed:	23
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Student Intern / Volunteers

In the month of November we've had 3 Interns volunteers. We will start recruiting in December and January since we will have 2 intern volunteers will leave in December (Iliana Vasquez and Jordan Royster) after OSU semester finishes. We will have 1 intern/volunteer return from 2014 Morgan.



December 2015 Meetings Attended:

- 10 Dec – Conference Call Ohio Language Access in Healthcare Conference Steering Committee
- 15 Dec – Morgan Williams - OCHLA Dec. 2015 returning Intern / Volunteer meeting
- 15 Dec – OCHLA December Board Meeting
- 18 Dec – 2016 Latino Health Summit Steering Committee- 1st Conference Call
- 22 Dec – Intern/Volunteer Candidate Rachel Mack - Summer 2016 Interview
- 22 Dec – Meeting with Heather Tapia - International Women's Day Recognition Award
- 30 Dec – Meeting with Elizabeth Sammons - Ohio Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- 30 Dec – Interview with Amy Lucé - Intern/Volunteer Candidate for Summer 2016

Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Georgina Alvarez— ODC Officer

Grant Announcements—E- Campaigns -

This month I met with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA,) to put them in contact with Latino organizations, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and grassroots organizations, to discuss funding possibilities. The USDA is a good source for business and community development opportunities and we will continue to interact with them and provide face to face opportunities with Latino grassroots organizations to focus on funding and programs of mutual interest.

During December, we prepared The [Ohio Grant and Foundations Database](#), a tool made available to the public and Latino serving organizations outlining the major funders focused on geographical areas with high Latino demographics. The database provides contact information, categories of funding opportunities, as well as other valuable information on grant makers. The database was distributed in late December and will be added to our website [Grant Writing Tools](#) and [Resources](#).

Building rapport with Hispanic grassroots and serving organizations

The main event for this month was Agenda Latina, which took place on December 4th with the participation of 20 community leaders and grassroots organizations' Executive Directors. The summary for this event is covered on the introduction to this monthly report and copies of the complete report have been distributed to commissioners electronically.

Meetings Attended:

- 03 Dec - Meeting with USDA to discuss grants possibilities, with the participation of Catholic Social Services -Ramona Reyes, Adelante -Guisselle Mendoza, HOLA - Veronica Dalhberg and Ohio Hispanic Alliance - Josue Vicente
- 04 Dec - Agenda Latina 2015 event in Columbus
- 15 Dec - Attended the Workforce and Economic Development Commission and the Commission's BOD
- 23 Dec - Attended meeting with Kimberly Dent, Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (ODJFS)

Respectfully submitted,

