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JULY 2015

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

During July, our team had the opportunity to work closely with several Latino grassroots organizations. One of our most important connections was with Mary Lou Reyes, new Executive Director for OCCHA. We visited the program office in Youngstown and met with Mary Lou to learn about the programs, priorities, needs for the organization, as well as to discuss ways how the commission can be of support to them and assist in rebuilding their programs and outreach to the Latino community. It was very useful for us to receive first hand information regarding the composition of the Latino community in Youngstown and surrounding areas. We also met with Maggie McClendon from Youngstown State University for an overview on education for Latino youth.

Director Cavanaugh and Public Policy Officer Lewis traveled to Painesville, Ohio to participate in a community meeting with H.O.L.A. and meet with Veronica Dahlberg. Again, we were able to obtain first hand information on the dynamics taking place in the community. We also heard about the growth of Hispanic businesses, the increase of civic engagement and community education programs, and the issues they still face on a regular basis regarding deportations, police stops and the dilemmas of families that are separated due to deportations. Additionally, we learned about problems with scams via email and text messages that are threatening individuals. We will be working with Attorney De Wine's team to provide information on these threats and ask their cooperation in educating the community on how to respond to these types of intimidations.

Director Cavanaugh and Organizations Development Officer Alvarez had the opportunity to visit the Spanish American Committee in Cleveland, speak to their team and present to the board of directors. As stated in earlier reports, ODC Officer Alvarez will be working with the Spanish American Committee in their effort to strengthen the organization and secure more funding opportunities to continue their work in Cleveland.

We continue to work closely with Adelante Inc., and El Barrio in Cleveland regarding their



potential collaboration for the workforce development project as well. Finally, we are pleased to report that our regular meetings with the Latino Connection group representing Adelante Inc. (Toledo), El Centro (Lorain) and the Hispanic Coalition (Columbus) are progressing well. The purpose of this network is to enhance the quality of life for Hispanic Ohioans through partnerships and devising a common agenda that focuses on tactical initiatives. Our plan is to analyze current programs offered within each organization, to identify program areas that can be further developed and to apply for potential funding opportunities.

Language Access Project—Meeting with Jamoya Cox and Natasha Curtis to report on findings

Director Cavanaugh met with Jamoya Cox from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Natasha Curtis to share the findings of our Language Access Survey and discuss possible collaborations in this area. The OMHAS has been the leader statewide in implementing their cultural competence and diversity training and we are interested in learning how our findings can provide useful insight that can be considered in their planning.

Kent State University

Director Cavanaugh and Public Policy Officer Lewis were invited to visit Kent State University by Linda Robertson, Director of the Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education to learn about their ongoing project “Changing Attitudes, Improving Learning”. This is a pilot project with the Lorain, Painesville and Lakewood City Schools to better connect students and families with the educational system, and to work together to increase the success rates for those students, while working with teachers to increase cultural competence and parents to understand how to navigate and function in the American school system. The program seeks to change school cultures and enhance cultural learning for all (schools, teachers, parents, children.) Kent State University is interested in collaborating with the commission on this project. Director Cavanaugh and PPC Lewis will continue conversations with Ms. Robertson and her team to define the specific ways how the commission could support this initiative.

Highlight of Administrative Matters –

Initiated new Fiscal Year 2016

Completed performance appraisal for PPC Officer

Meetings Attended by Executive Director

01 July— Jamoya Cox, ODMHA

01 July— Natasha Curtis

07 July—Visit to OCCHA, Mary Lou Reyes (Youngstown)

07 July— Maggie McClendon, Youngstown State University (Youngstown)

08 July—Linda Robertson, Kent State University

09 July—17 July— Lilly out of the office—Vacation

22 July—First Ladies Summit on Infant Mortality (Columbus)

23 July—Latino Connection (Adelante, El Centro, OHC) (Lorain)

23 July—Spanish American Committee, Board Presentation (Cleveland)

27 July—Jimmy Sheppard, Ohio Department of Education

28 July— Painesville Community Visit. Veronica Dahlberg (Painesville)

30 July—DACC Advisory Committee



Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Andrea M. Lewis, Public Policy Officer

During the month of June, efforts were focused on finishing the Latino Community Report, and ensuring that OCHLA's rent funds were included in the budget. Further investigation on the topic of undocumented children and their educational rights was conducted as well.

- **Advise**

Interagency Council

The purpose of creating an interagency council is to promote the cultural competency of Ohio's state agencies, and to share best practices and ideas for engaging the Latino community. The first agency I have engaged is ODJFS, as they have a number of Latino employees on staff who are seasoned veterans in Latino community outreach. I was able to engage the Diversity and Inclusion Department, and through conversations it was decided that OCHLA would create a webinar for employees on Latino culture and services offered by OCHLA. I have developed the webinar outline with the help of an intern, which is in the process of being created and will touch on topics brought forth by ODJFS's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. ODJFS is eager to reestablish the council.

As the line of communication is established with each agency, the Communications Departments will also be asked to add Latino media outlets to their press lists. I've reached out to the Latino Media outlets, who are all on board and will be glad to receive press releases and other pertinent information from state agencies. I spoke with ODJFS about the importance of Latino media outlets receiving the same information as other outlets, as many Latinos get their news from Latino media. JFS is on board and has added the media list to their press list.

Educational Rights of ELLs and Undocumented Children

Throughout June, I worked to increase the awareness of the needs of Latino, immigrant and New American students with the Ohio Department of Education. I spoke many times with the LAU Resource Center regarding the rights of students and parents who are ELLs. Together with Commissioner Ortiz and Wright State staff, we attended a meeting with the Directors of the Lau Resource Center and Assistant Superintendent Lonny Rivera, to discuss the laws governing ELL programs. The ODE was made aware of the lack of ELL services provided by a school in Dayton, Ohio.

During July, Executive Director Cavanaugh and I had the opportunity to meet with ODE Chief of Staff Jimmy Sheppard, as well as their legal counsel and other ODE employees. We discussed many of the barriers ELLs and undocumented children are facing in Ohio public schools, and offered our support to increase awareness. OCHLA proposed the idea of creating a webinar that can be distributed to school administrators and instructors, with guidance regarding how to serve the needs of immigrant and undocumented children. We also proposed that ODE gauge the feasibility of contracting with an organization to provide a 'language line' for Ohio's teachers and administrators to use in school. OCHLA will research the feasibility and logistics of using a 'language line', and will look into what other states are doing to effectively communicate with parents who do not speak English.



During July I had the opportunity to meet with the principal and teacher of a Central Ohio school that has a 20% Latino population rate. We discussed the barriers teachers face when communicating with parents, and the importance of educating teachers and staff of the barriers facing undocumented and ELL children. There is a complaint with the Department of Justice against this school and others for failing to communicate with students' parents in a language they can understand. OCHLA offered to present a workshop for the teachers on this topic. I had a conference call with the Central Ohio Education Service Center to suggest the possibility of offering Professional Development workshops to teachers on the topic of undocumented children and ELLs. The ESC is very interested in providing workshops on this topic, but would like more information on potential presenters, as there is no one on staff who could facilitate this conversation. I have reached out to the Stark County ESC, which provides workshops on this topic, and will share my findings with the Central Ohio ESC once I am able to meet with them.

This month I also assisted a constituent whose child received a scholarship to attend a private school that did not offer ELL services. After speaking with ODE regarding the laws governing interpretation services, ELL classes and transportation, it was discovered that state education mandates do not apply to schools that are funded privately.

Legislative Relations and Legislation Tracking:

- Invited Representative Rogers to the HOLA meeting in Painesville and asked him to present the introductory remarks at the Fiesta Mexicana in downtown Painesville in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Invited Reps. Greta Johnson and Emilia Sykes to the HOLA (Hispanics of Lake and Ashtabula) community meeting in Akron. Rep. Sykes attended the meeting and was well-received by the community.
- On behalf of the Spanish American Committee I invited Rep. Dan Ramos to be the keynote speaker at their annual Black Tie Gala in September. Rep. Ramos has graciously agreed to present the keynote address.
- Asked Senator Dave Burke's office to create a commendation in honor of the Annual Farmworkers Day hosted by Pathstone. Sen. Burke was invited to present the commendation, but could not due to other commitments. Pathstone also asked that OCHLA create laminated posters to promote event. OCHLA obliged and printed promotion posters in Spanish and English.
- Spoke with Rep. Patterson's office to get an update on HB 149, and to ask if the substitute bill has been approved yet. As of now it has not been dropped.
- Coordinated a legislative meeting for the Canton Latino Business League and Rep. Christina Hagan in Alliance, Ohio. Sent information to the Business League on potential entertainment for their September Health Fair.
- Spoke with the US Dept. of Health and Human Services regarding the URM program, and to see if HB 50 would extend adoption services to unaccompanied minors. It would only be extended to minors who gain legal status and are transferred to the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program.
- Met with Rep. Kevin Boyce and asked for his partnership with a Latino Town Hall in Columbus. Rep. Boyce has agreed to hold a town hall in September.
- I have coordinated a meeting between Representative Barbara Sears, the Commission on Minority Health and five Latino organizations around Ohio to discuss grant funding disparities in the Latino community. We will meet with Rep. Sears in August.
- Created talking points for Chair Florez on the topic of engaging Senator Portman about the DHO.
- Met with Rep. Perales' aide to provide commissioner handbook and answer questions about commissioner duties
- Researched relevant news articles for legislative update



- Updated monthly events on Legislative Update
- Drafted a news article regarding Ohio's biennial budget.
- Drafted and sent Legislative Update to 400+ individuals. Update featured the biennial budget article.
- Drafted and sent Legislative Update to 400+ individuals. Update featured the LCR.

Latino Community Report:

The LCR was printed, and copies of the report with introductory letters were sent to all members of the Ohio General Assembly, Governor Kasich, DAS's Equal Opportunity Division and the MBE Division. The report was also sent to OCHLA's ListServ of 400+ individuals, as well as Small Business Majority and other interested parties. The reports will be distributed at the upcoming Hispanic Chambers Quarterly Meeting to assist in the creation of legislative priorities.

• Connect

Constituent Outreach

- Sent constituent information on ESL classes in Central Ohio.
- Sent constituent information on Ohio's gun reciprocity agreement with other states.
- Contacted Sister Francisca, a well-known advocate for Latinos in Southeastern Ohio, to establish a line of communication and see how OCHLA can assist her in her efforts.
- Sent constituent information on how to obtain a visa for his fiancé.
- Made changes to the OCHLA website to make it clearer and more intuitive for constituents.

Community Outreach

All OCHLA employees attended a trip to Youngstown to meet with the Executive Director of OCHA, as well as a YSU advisor. OCHLA learned how both organizations are working to assist the Latino community.

Director Cavanaugh and I traveled to Kent State to visit KSU's Student Multicultural Center and meet KSU students, faculty and staff. During the trip we heard from staff and students regarding their efforts to assist Kent State's Latino students. Linda Robertson of the Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education discussed the potential for collaboration on a project focused on ensuring success for ELL learners.

Director Cavanaugh and I also traveled to Painesville to attend an HOLA meeting and connect with Executive Director Veronica Dahlberg. We were able to listen to the concerns of the community, and have pledged to assist Veronica in her efforts to promote civic engagement with Latinos in the NE Ohio area.

I had the opportunity to present a legislative report at the quarterly Immigrant Advocacy Task Force Meeting. I discussed the major provisions of HB 64, HB 50, SB 134, HB 149, HB 48, SB 33, SB 87.



July 2015 Meetings Attended:

7/7 - Mary Lou Reyes, OCCHA Youngstown
7/7 - Maggie McClendon, Youngstown State University
7/8 - Kent State, Office of Education
7/14 - Rochelle Rankin, Whitehall MS
7/15 - White House Conference Call on Community Policing
7/16 - Women's Policy Meeting, Innovation Ohio
7/16 - Rep. Kevin Boyce
7/20 - Pablo Nuñez and Maria Goeser, ODJFS
7/22 - Commissioner Ortiz and Wright State Staff
7/22 - Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lonny Rivera, ODE
7/23 - Human Trafficking for Labor Workshop
7/24 - Jennifer Dillard, The Women's Fund
7/27 - Rhonda Dickson, Central Ohio Educational Service Center
7/27 - Jamie Dickey, Nationwide Insurance
7/28 - HOLA Meeting, Painesville
7/29 - Intern Interview
7/30 - Immigrant Advocacy Task Force Meeting

Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lair Marin-Marcum, Community Liaison

During the month of July, we focused on the 2015 Ohio Latino Health Summit including Agenda finalization, presentations, partners, workshops, exhibitors confirmations and venue logistics of the event. The Ohio Latino Health Summit will take place at OSU Wexler Medical Center in the "Fawcett Center" with the partnership of LULAC, Molina Health, OSU, Buckeye Health and CareSource.

The LCN continues working on Updates on the mid year 2015 OLANet Latino Serving Organizations lists and uploading. It is also important to highlight that during July Constituent inquiries reached almost twice as much as the monthly average.

Below all highlights of projects and meetings for the LCN that also took place during the month of June 2015.

• Connect

- Meeting with Mr. Nathan Thornhill - He was looking for school principal positions, organizations, programs, education-specific questions and Latino demographics in Columbus.
- Meeting at ODJFS "Air Center" with Pablo Nunez and Maria Goeser to introduce Public Policy Officer Andrea Lewis and go over programming and their roles to better partner with each others organizations.
- Call with Linda Walker for the Ohio Health movement. They would like help in the Community to so some outreach. Will be setting up an additional meeting to go more into detail and to assist with connecting with Ohio Latino leaders and organizations.



- **Advise**

- Meeting with Public Policy Officer Andrea Lewis & Commissioner. Advice on assistance of professional Contacts for Aida Montes-Peifer / Wright State

Connecting the Community: Information and Resources

OUTLET	DESCRIPTION	JUNE	JULY
Website Calendar	Community Events	59	52
Facebook	Number of "Likes" to date	805	860
Facebook & Twitter	Postings of news, resources, events	265	230
Website (Job Opportunities Page) Facebook & Twitter	Job Openings Promoted	72	70

JULY constituent inquiries processed:	46
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Student Intern / Volunteers

During the month of July we were up to 5 Interns volunteers, but with less hours due to vacations and other training opportunities for the students.

July 2015 Meetings Attended:

- 2 July – Meeting with Elizabeth Olate - The 2015 Ohio Latino Health Summit - Morning presentation
- 6 July – Meeting with Nathan Thornhill— Moving to Ohio need information
- 7 July – Briefing meeting with OCHLA Team and OCCHA in Youngstown
- 8 July – On-Site Meeting with Commissioner Guzman-Bowman at OSU for 2015 Latino Health Summit to visit Bio-Medical Tower in campus and confirm logistics
- 14 July – Columbus Public Health / Minority Health Advisory Committee Bi-Monthly meetings
- 15 July – Conference Call with ODJFS Pablo Nunez & Maria Goeser - El Centro San Jose in Canton
- 15 July – Meeting Big Brother Big Sisters - VP Elizabeth Martinez. Connecting with other organizations
- 17 July – DHO 2015 Meeting with LEON and Hilton Events & Catering Director Anthie Constantinidis
- 20 July – Conference Call with MetroHealth Mari Galindo for Presentation Latino Health Summit / Workshop presenter "The Advocate's Role Responsibilities & Protocol"
- 20 July – Meeting at ODJFS "Air Center" with Pablo Nunez and Maria Goeser
- 20 July – Debriefing with Executive Director Cavanaugh on 2015 Latino Health Summit Status



- 21 July – United Way of Central Ohio Hispanic/Latino Engagement Committee Meeting & Ohio Latino Demographics Presentation
- 21 July – Meeting with Dr. Cruz-Ortega, Afternoon presenter on Latino Health Summit "Healing in Faith & Health" Workshop & Panelist - Afternoon Session "Behavioral Health Resources & Best Practices"
- 22 July – Meeting with Wight State , PPO Andrea Lewis, Comm. Tony Ortiz and Aida Montes-Peifer
- 22 July – Conference Call with Dr. Maria Pujana, Latino Health Summit Morning Presenter "Ventanas de Salud" session
- 23 July – On-Site Meeting with Commissioner Guzman-Bowman at OSU "Fawcett Center" and Meredith Heine, Executive Event Planner for 2015 Latino Health new venue location.
- 23 July – Call with Health Food Movement - Linda Walker
- 24 July – Call with Vice Chair Mari Santiago to do a 2015 DHO update
- 28 July – Meeting with ED Cavanaugh and intern Daniel Stemen to go over Hispanic Heritage Month Video Project ideas
- 28 July – Call with Mujer Latina Hoy Lorena Mora to coordinate Latino Health Presenters videos.
- 29 July – Intern/Volunteer Interview with Britney Davis
- 31 July – Meeting with Yvette Mendoza to discuss Kent State University Intern Volunteer Opportunities.

Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Georgina Alvarez— ODC Officer

Capacity Building

During the month of July, three e. grant campaigns were sent out. The first e-campaign provided funders profiles by region based on the database of The Grantsmanship Center,. The second e-campaign with opportunities is based on our internal research based on the State's private foundations, and the third campaign was the announcement with the updated available grants.

Minority Health Reporting

The final report for the execution of the Grant MGS 15-03 was sent to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. The grant in the amount of US \$5,000.00 focused on training for leaders regarding how to navigate the American Health System and how to work with interpreters and others connected to language access. Leaders from six cities benefited from this grant, including: Dayton, Lorain, Toledo, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo.

Building rapport with Hispanic grassroots and serving organizations

During the month of July, I had two day working sessions (the first day was on June 30th) with Ramonita Vargas, ED Spanish American Committee in Cleveland on grant writing for a Federal Grant on "Healthy Marriage, Relations Education and Economic Mobility".

On July 23 participated on a Board of Trustees' meeting to introduce ourselves as a Commission as well as to explain the type of support that we are able to give the organization.



We met with the executive directors of the Hispanic Coalition, Adelante Toledo and El Centro de Servicios Sociales Lorain, as part of the Conexión Latina, to continue our efforts to create a stronger group through a shared grant that can help them work together.

Our team visited OCCHA in Youngstown to connect with the organization and try to find ways of supporting them with their programs.

Meetings and Events Attended

- July 1 - Working session on grant writing with Ramonita Vargas, Executive Director, Spanish American Committee – Cleveland. *(This was a two session which included June 30th)*
- July 7 - Meetings in Youngstown with Mary Lou Reyes, new Executive Director to OCCHA, and Maggie McClendon from Youngstown State University
- July 8 - Participated in a State Government training session on “Grant Auditing”
- July 17 - Participated in the meeting in the City of Columbus on “Intergenerational Living: Family Perspectives”
- July 23 - Meeting with “Conexión Latina” at El Centro de Servicios Sociales in Lorain
- July 23 - Participated in the Board of Trustees’ Meeting at the Spanish American Committee – Cleveland

Respectfully submitted,

