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JUNE & JULY 2011

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

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Nolan J. Stevens, J.D.- Policy Liaison

Advise

Ex-Officio Commissioner Appointments

The liaison contacted the office of Senate President Niehaus, forwarded the statute and explained the need for appointments. We also gave to his aide a list of suggested candidates from each party. We will continue to press the office for appointments while the legislature is on break.

Census Updates to Legislators

Latino Community Reports regarding 2010 Census data was distributed to state agencies as a follow-up to distribution to the general assembly.

Budget Process

OCHLA's budget emerged unscathed from the Ohio Senate and through the governor's signature. The Public Policy Center was closely involved with the end of the budget process in June. We oversaw the successful implementation of strategy to ensure the passage of OCHLA's budget through the Senate. Worked with the office of Senator Charleta Tavares (D - Columbus) to craft an amendment that would have restored OCHLA's funding to the levels proposed initially by the governor. While the amendment was ultimately unsuccessful, the Commission's budget emerged unchanged from the Senate. The PPC continued to encourage constituent support for the passage of the Commission's budget through the conference committee phase. Liaison remained in contact with key personnel in the office of Conference Committee chairman Senator Chris Widener to monitor the committee's consideration of OCHLA's budget. Our commission received outstanding support from the community in the form of written & oral testimony, as well as telephone calls. We are extremely thankful for the support and engagement received during this important budgetary process.



Sunset Review Process

The Public Policy Center monitored OCHLA’s status relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the Sunset Review Committee, reviewed Senate committee testimony proposing that OCHLA be added to the list of boards and commissions being abolished and solicited and organized testimony from constituents highlighting the value of the Commission and asking that it be retained. Ultimately, OCHLA was renewed for another term as the Sunset Review Committee initially proposed. The Commission will be up for review again in 2016.

Census Updates and Hispanic Outreach Updates with State Agencies

As part of our interagency council activity, Policy Liaison Stevens met with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Introduced the Commission to both agencies and confirmed their information in the newly updated Catalogue of Latino Outreach Initiatives. Began to partner with both agencies to ease their efforts to reach Ohio’s Latinos.

In-District Legislator Meetings

With the goal to increase civic engagement and provide direct interaction opportunities between community leaders and their legislators, the commission will implement a plan to hold In-District legislator meetings across the state. Our goal is secure face to face time with at least 10 legislators and 30 leaders across the state. the PPC Liaison began to organize and initiate meetings in July. The first meeting was set-up between Senator Eric Kearney and key Latino leaders from the Cincinnati area. The meeting will take place August 1, 2011.

Redistricting Process

Attended Joint committee on Congressional Redistricting meeting in Columbus, and updated the community with the schedule, agenda and results. The Policy Liaison analyzed census tract data in North-Northeast Ohio in an effort to draw a minority-competitive Congressional district, but found that the numbers simply are not there. Announced the Apportionment Board’s first meeting on August 1, and began preparing for the same approach with General Assembly seats.

Federal Engagement

Met with Senator Sherrod Brown’s regional representative. Introduced the Commission and queried after general information about the Senator, his Committees and his feelings on various legislation. PPC Liaison will meet with Senator Portman’s regional representative in August. Will report to the community the substance of these meetings in August.

Connect/Build

Tactical Brief

No activity to report

Outreach to Community: Policy Articles

The Public Policy Center releases bilingual information on a regular basis for Latino media outlets on subjects of interest to the community. The June article was on the role of federalism in the immigration debate. In July, and for the first time, we gave the forum to another state agency with difficulty reaching its Latino constituents. Accordingly, the July article was on the Kasich administration’s focus on Patient-Centered Medical Homes, and was written by the Ohio Department of Health.

Public Policy Center Updates

The Policy Resource Section on the OLANet reports and database library has been updated with pages on House Bills 252 and 286.



The June Legislator Brief was sent to members of the Ohio House and Senate. This is an electronic communication that details information about the Commission and provides legislators of important policy issues facing Latinos in Ohio and nationally. Articles included are generated from the PPC’s Weekly Policy Briefs.

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Legislation Monitored

Monitored the movement of an election law bill that would have mandated that voters present photo identification at the polls, House Bill 159. Also monitored the introduction of and hearings on bills regulating school bullying, including HB 116 and HB 208. Monitored the introduction of new immigration legislation, HB 259 and HB 286. The Public Policy Center also updated the community on this legislation at each stage of the process.

Overhauled the bill-tracking system used on Gongwer for screening meetings to attend flagging legislation key to Latinos. Removed some bills that had been enacted and added others of concern to Latinos in Ohio.

In August, the PPC will be altering the website further. We will create new pages for individual pieces of legislation as we already have for current immigration bills. We will also add “hub” pages for specific policy areas with links to proposed legislation and links to online resources regarding the various topics.

Workforce and Economic Development

No activity to report.

Human Trafficking

No activity to report.

Tactical Brief

No activity to report

Meetings Attended

- 08 June - Meeting with Representative Christina Hagan
- 08 June – Meeting with Representative Dan Ramos
- 08 June – House Education Committee Hearing
- 15 June – House Education Committee Hearing
- 15 June – Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing
- 23 June - House State Government and Elections Committee Hearing
- 14 July – Legislative Liaison Training
- 18 July - Meeting with Ohio Department of Health
- 20 July – Meeting with Minority Health Commission
- 20 July – Joint Redistricting Committee Meeting
- 21 July – Conference All on Cincinnati Legislator Meeting
- 26 July – Regional Representative of Senator Sherrod Brown



Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Jose Cos, MPA—ODC Officer

Improved Service Delivery

Catalogue of Latino Outreach Initiatives

The Catalogue of Latino Outreach Initiatives (CLOI), which includes descriptions of Ohio state agency services and Latino initiatives with direct points of contact to bilingual staff, was officially completed and published in the month of June. As a project designed to connect communities to government, CLOI is available to constituents and government officials through various different mediums, which include:

- An announcement on OCHLA's homepage.
- A newly created page for CLOI, designed to announce future updates to the catalogue.
- A promotional e-campaign delivered to community members, leaders, and state agency liaisons.
- Future meetings with specific state agency staff members to advise on how the catalogue can benefit their interaction with Latino constituents.

OCHLA Facebook & Twitter Pages

In order to facilitate access to the vast resources and information delivered by the commission, Facebook and Twitter pages have been created as social tools to connect directly with community members. In addition to increasing awareness about the Commission's existence, history, and services, the Facebook page features updates on news and events concerning Latino communities in Ohio as well as updates on OCHLA initiatives that positively affect these communities. Future updates will include pictures from events concerning Latino communities. June updates to the Facebook page include:

- Promotion of the On-the-Job training programs provided with assistance from the Job and Family Services Department, which are intended to create jobs in Ohio while developing a strong workforce.
- Announcement about the publication of CLOI, including a direct link to the CLOI page on OCHLA's website.
- An announcement about the recently created Latino Community Reports.
- Promotional announcement with information and a link to OCHLA's news and events database within OLANet, to provide access to these important updates to a wider audience.
- Informational announcement to increase awareness on Prevention & Wellness Month. A U.S. Department of Health initiative to promote ideas for healthy living and preventative care.
- Announcement about EdChoice Scholarships for Lorain City Schools.
- OCHLA's policy brief on Ohio's redistricting process.
- Information about the Governor's Excellence in Exporting Awards. With information on how businesses can apply.
- Promotion of the first ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference, .
- Announcement and link for the newly created OCHLA volunteer page, which presents potential volunteers with a job description and the benefits of volunteering for OCHLA. Information, pictures, and a link concerning the LULAC National Convention & Expo.
- Promotion of the newly launched Organization Development Center.

To bolster this community outreach effort, a Twitter page was also created to include Facebook updates in an automated fashion, in order to take advantage of popular social media tools.



Capacity Building

Organization Development – Grants Project

To move forward with the organization development center and build the capacity of Hispanic serving organizations, a survey was distributed to organizations to understand the obstacles, advantages, and collaborative networks that affect their ability to access, apply, and obtain grant funding. The goal of the survey is to inform an effective search for grants that will be distributed to organizations through the OCHLA website, Facebook page, and specific e-campaigns. Additionally, OCHLA will begin to offer technical assistance in applying, writing, and implementing grants. This process will help fulfill the “build” mandate while giving OCHLA greater justification for its own grant proposals to improve the commission’s service delivery. To coincide with this effort, the organization development web page on the OCHLA site <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/organizationsdev.aspx> has been updated to include:

- A description of the grants initiative along with a link to the org. development survey, which was also distributed via e-campaign.
- A grant writing resources page, which includes guides to finding and writing grants, as well as listings of grant funding opportunities for organizations to take advantage of.
- A page for other organization development resources, divided into different service categories, such as education, health, and workforce development.

Additionally, a grants search on grants.gov was done to find grants suitable for community organizations as well as for OCHLA. .

OCHLA Mental Health Webpage

To coincide with an upcoming Latino Community report focusing on health issues, a mental health web page has been created to provide constituents with an extension to OCHLA’s healthcare resources page that provides information on mental health issues affecting Latinos in the U.S. and Ohio. Content for the page will come from community organizations and state agencies. The page is available at: [http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns Initiatives/LatinoMentalHealth.aspx](http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns_Initiatives/LatinoMentalHealth.aspx)

Race to the Top report

As part of OCHLA’s mandate to “advise” the general assembly and government, as well as constituencies, Jose Cos has started on the first of a series of reports concerning the Race to the Top grant and how it relates to Ohio’s growing Hispanic student population. As a \$400 million grant awarded to the state of Ohio in 2011, Race to the Top is a program designed to improve education standards and school and teacher quality in order to achieve certain goals, a few which involve closing the gap between Ohio’s white and minority students with regards to performance and graduation rates.

The series of reports will coincide with the Race to the Top timeline, and the first will provide legislatures and communities with a snapshot of Ohio’s Hispanic student population, complete with background information, statistics, obstacles, and advantages in achieving Race to the Top objectives.

OCHLA Website Updates

Consistent website updates took place to enhance OCHLA’s ability to serve Ohioans in a variety of ways. The following updates were made to a number of different OCHLA pages.

- **Healthcare Resources page** [http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns Initiatives/LatinoHealthcare.aspx](http://ochla.ohio.gov/Campaigns_Initiatives/LatinoHealthcare.aspx)
Updated to include a link to the U.S. Department of Health’s Prevention & Wellness Month page, as well as information on the National Library Services’ database for resources for the blind, including free audio and braille books. Other announcements include a link to the Kaiser Foundation’s informational guide to important U.S. health care reforms as well as a link to the Cuyahoga County Employment &



Family Services' Health Start program, which provides free healthcare to low-income families with children up to age 19.

- **Education Resources** page <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ResourcesEducation2011.aspx>
Updated with a Bilingual Education packet created by LEON, to assist Spanish speakers in communicating with their healthcare providers.
- **Immigration Policy Brief** page <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ipb-immigration1001.aspx>
Updated to include a page for House Bill 252, a bill that would define an "illegal alien" as someone that is a non-citizen and someone that is "deportable". This bill would require prosecutors to, upon a guilty plea to a felony or upon conviction of a felony, inquire about the immigration status and citizenship of the felon under the "Immigration and Nationality Act", 8 U.S.C. 1373.
- A newly created **volunteer** page <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/volunteer.aspx> to help recruit dedicated volunteers for OCHLA and Hispanic serving community organizations. The page includes a detailed job description as well as encouraging words about the benefits that the opportunity provides prospective volunteers.

E-Campaigns

Two e-campaigns were sent out in the month of June. One of them promoted the creation of the Facebook page and was sent out to community members, leaders, and state agency legislative liaisons. A second e-campaign was sent out to promote On-the-Job training programs provided with the help of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Other activities:

Jose Cos, OCHLA's Organizations Development Center Officer, attended a meeting with web developers Minds On along with OCHLA staff members. The purpose of this meeting was to analyze the possibility of working with Minds On in developing a more modern, and more effective and efficient website that would serve a wider audience while decreasing the manual labor involved with managing the site. Minds On offers an advanced level of web functionality that would make OCHLA's website more useful and interactive. This prospect will be compared to other possibilities with a cost and benefit analysis based on OCHLA's goals to improve website access and update the look and features of the site to better serve its visitors.

Jose Cos, along with Policy Liaison Nolan Stevens, attended a meeting with staff members from the Ohio Dept. of Health concerning the publication of CLOI. This meeting was intended to present the catalogue and offer any future help and assistance with initiatives involving Hispanic populations. The meeting was especially productive in that ODH staff expressed great interest in collaborating with OCHLA on the planned Latino Community Report for the fall quarter, which will center on diabetes, and will make use of ODH expertise and resources to create a report that is valuable for legislatures and assists in the fight to prevent and treat diabetes.

Jose Cos, along with Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh and Policy Liaison Nolan Stevens hosted a meeting with Angela Dawson, who serves as the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. The purpose of this meeting was to formally present CLOI and to get tips and advice from her experience and expertise with regards to grant writing. Forward grants that OCHLA is not eligible for, but that seem useful, to community organizations on a regular bases.

Meetings attended

- 20 June—MindsOn
- 18 July—Dept. of Health
- 20 July—Minority Health Commission



Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lilly Cavanaugh, MBA -Acting Director
Lair Marin, Constituent Services

Strategic Initiatives

Project OPEN

Quarterly report is due by July 30th.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards, October 7, 2011

the DHO committee has met to review logistics, sponsorship prospects and outline the program for the DHO awards, which will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Nomination forms will be mailed out to commissioners during the last week of July for completion by August 15th. The selection will take place during the board meeting on August 16th. The specific theme for 2011 will be “A tribute to Hispanic Women and their contributions to the state of Ohio.”

Constituent Services

Summary of Constituent Services January—June 2011

Categories	No. of Inquiries
Business & Commerce	3
Culture & Arts	4
Education & Youth	11
Faith	0
Health & Safety	17
Justice & Civil Rights	22
Labor & Workforce Dev.	25
Media & Communications	7
Policy & Leadership	9
Others	22
Online Olanet inquiries	93
Total	213

Community Outreach (LCN)

Advise:

2011 Governor's E-Awards

Executive Director Cavanaugh has been asked to be part of the E-Awards Selection committee. The Exporting Awards have been in place for the last 25 years and represent an effort from the Governor's office through the Department of Development to recognize outstanding Latino companies who are excelling in the export market. More details about the awards is available at: <http://www.development.ohio.gov/globalmarkets/EAWards2010/Default.htm>



Trafficking in Persons Commission

Attorney General Mike DeWine will continue with the efforts initiated during the previous administration on the issue of human trafficking. To this end, the Trafficking in Persons Commission will be reinstated. Director Cavanaugh has been asked and accepted to continue to represent Ohio Latino Affairs in this important taskforce.

Common Sense Initiative

Director Cavanaugh met in June with Mark Hamlin to obtain updates about the Common Sense Initiative and learn about opportunities for the Latino community to provide input in this effort. Mr. Hamlin also received updates regarding the work of the commission.

Connect:

Small and Minority Business Expo, Cincinnati—June 14, 2011

Promoted The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) sponsored a small and minority business expo to connect southern Ohio entrepreneurs with experts who will provide guidance on utilizing all available government resources to improve operations and increase competitiveness. The free expo, "Achieving Success by Effectively Utilizing Your Government Resources," was held on June 14th and OCHLA promoted it through our networks.

LULAC Convention, Cincinnati Ohio, (June 29– July 1st)

Director Cavanaugh participate in the LULAC National Convention in Cincinnati. The successful event attracted visitors from all across the country and engaged national renowned Latino leaders. OCHLA actively supported the organization and implementation of the event.

White House Hispanic Policy Conference—July 11 & 12th

Executive Director Cavanaugh and Commissioner Isabel Framer accepted invitations to assist this conference. The White House Office of Public Engagement and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics partnered to host the first ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference. 160 Hispanic leaders from 25 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico joined over 100 Administration officials to discuss the President's agenda and its impact on the Hispanic community and more importantly, to strategize together on how we best move forward together to improve outcomes and access for the Hispanic community.

The purposes of the policy conference were three-fold:

- **Relationship Building**—Connecting national leaders to key Administration decision makers.
- **Obama Administration 101**—Ensuring folks gained a deeper understanding of the multifaceted ways this Administration's agenda connects to the Hispanic community.
- **Working Together**—Allowing participants to connect with each other and with federal agencies.

The meetings were extremely useful as they allowed us to better understand how to work with the Federal government and to enhance or create new relationships with key federal officials.

Latino Leadership and Diversity Conference— September 20, 2011

A number of OCHLA Commissioners will participate in a panel regarding Latinos in Ohio during the conference. The panel will be part of the Inclusion track, which seeks to better inform conference participants about the challenges and opportunities faced by Latinos in the state.



Hispanic Business Summit— October 13, 2011

We continue to collaborate with the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in the organization of the first Hispanic Business Summit, to take place in Columbus. OCHLA has launched several e-campaigns and outreach blasts to promote the event in the community.

Budget Hearings and Sunset Review Hearings—June 2011-

Executive Director Cavanaugh invested a good part of the month engaging community leaders to support OCHLA through these hearings and supporting the team in the coordination of the testimony efforts.

Mexican Consulate meeting with Governor's office

Asked for assistance by the Mexican Consulate to facilitate a protocol meeting among Consul and Governor's office. Will coordinate effort through Lynn Stevens, Director of Minority Affairs. The meeting has been secured and will take place in August, 2011.

FBI- Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director Cavanaugh met Mr. Todd Lindgren, FBI community outreach specialist to (1) update about the status of Latinos in Ohio and (2) discuss about the different programs offered by the FBI and possible collaboration on some of their initiatives. We will seek opportunities to bring community leadership and the FBI closer in order to better understand the role of the agency and the resources and information available for the community.

Ohio Citizens Corps -

Continue ongoing relationship with the council as part of their Advisory Community Board. The Citizens Corps seeks to engage community members in volunteerism and serves in occasions of national or natural emergencies.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office

Met with Katharine Adams, Assistant to the Business Counsel Section of the Attorney General's office to provide overview of the commission and provide consultation/advise regarding their outreach efforts for the Latino community.

Multicultural Day -Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Columbus

Participated in the Multicultural event in representation of the Hispanic community for Ohio.

Build:

Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Commissioner Tony Simms-Howell has been selected as an inductee to the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The nomination for his consideration was submitted earlier this year by Director Cavanaugh. We are extremely pleased and proud of Commissioner Simms-Howell accomplishments and join the entire community in congratulating him.

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Nominated Latina candidate, Blanche Avilez Casey to be considered as an inductee to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.



Administrative Report - Office Functions

Lilleana Cavanaugh, Executive Director

End of year financial process

Office Manager Marin and Director Cavanaugh completed end of fiscal year requirements.

FY 2012 Budget Allotments

Worked with CSA office to finalize budget allotments for FY 2012.

Biennial Budget Hearings

With the support of staff, coordinated testimony of community leadership for budget hearings and also presented testimony on behalf of the agency. Detailed updates regarding legislative budget activity was submitted to the board on a regular basis throughout the month of June and early July.

OCHLA's website

Met with representatives and received bid from Minds-On for hosting our website.

Personnel

Due to budget cuts, the position of PPC director was eliminated thus terminating the employment of PPC Director. Contractors continue to be employed until July 15th to cover responsibilities of the PPC and ODC.

Volunteers

Staff is working to secure more volunteers for the office during the summer months. We need to have at least 3-5 volunteers to cover key projects for the agency.

Meetings attended by Executive Director:

- 02 June—Mark Hamlin, CSI (Columbus)
- 03 June—Orvell Johns, CSA (Columbus)
- 08 June—Rep. Ramos (Columbus)
- 08 June—Rep. Hagan (Columbus)
- 09 June—Natl PreparednessMonth Planning Meeting, EMA (Columbus)
- 10 June—Dan Harris, MindsOn (Columbus)
- 15 June—Carlos de Jesus, Cincinnati leader (Conf. call)
- 16 June—Multicultural Day, DSCC Columbus (Columbus)
- 18 June—LorenaMoraMowry (Cincinnati)
- 20 June—Dan Harris, Minds On (Columbus)
- 22 June—Joyce Hill, Dept of Development (Columbus)
- 22 June—Sunset Review Hearings
- 23 June—Felicia Godbolt (Columbus)
- 24 June—Fiesta of Hope, Esperanza Inc (Cleveland)
- 28 June—Todd Lindgren, FBI (Columbus)
- 29 June—LULAC National Convention (Cincinnati)
- 30 June—LULAC National Convention (Cincinnati)
- 01 July—LULAC National Convention (Cincinnati)
- 05 July—Elizabeth R. VRSC (Columbus)
- 06 July—EMA, National Preparedness Month (Columbus)
- 06 July—Davis Harris, MindsOn (Columbus)
- 07 July— Leo Pierson (conf. call) (Cincinnati)
- 11-13 July—White House Policy Conference (DC)
- 18 July— Katharine Adams, AG's office (Columbus)
- 20 July—Lynn Stevens, Governor's Office
- 25-30 July—Vacation

