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DIRECTORS' REPORT

MARCH 2010

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

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER REPORT

Florentina Staigers, Program Director

Policy Research and Information

General Assembly

House Bill 403, Emergency Response Measures

After receiving support from the Commission's Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director, on March 3rd, 2010, Public Policy Center (PPC) Program Director Florentina Staigers prepared and gave testimony regarding HB 403, which would grant civil immunity to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers in non-chartered cities. PPC Director Staigers testified that community based emergency response mechanisms are important in diverse communities, and that removing impediments to Latino volunteers would be beneficial.

Senate Bills 35 and 150

Senate Bills 35 and 150 would give local law enforcement agencies the authority to enforce immigration law. The bills were scheduled for a proponent hearing on March 2, 2010. It also received an all-party hearing on March 16, 2010, during which PPC Director Staigers gave testimony and answered questions from the committee.



All testimony is available at <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ipb-statelocalenforce0901.aspx> by clicking on the bill links. On March 23, 2010 the bills were favorably recommended by the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (SLGVA) and on March 24, 2010 both bills passed in the Senate.

Senate Bill 35 passed 21-11 (largely split along party lines with R's voting for it, D's voting against it). Votes will available to view either later today or tomorrow at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/votes.cfm?ID=128_SB_35

Senate Bill 150 passed 22-10 (again, largely split along party lines with R's voting for it, D's voting against it). Votes will available to view either later today or tomorrow at: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/votes.cfm?ID=128_SB_150

Because of the continued scheduling of hearings and rapid movement of the bill, PPC Director Staigers, again spent much of March invested in emails, e-campaigns, updating the website, and phone calls regarding the legislation. Additionally, PPC Director Staigers sent information and resources to Senate members regarding the legislation. The next step in the bill process is that the bills will be assigned to a HOUSE committee where the legislation will either complete the same process as in the Senate or may be stalled. PPC Director Staigers has already begun efforts to address the House members regarding this legislation.

Senate Bill 235

On March 2, 2010, Senators Teresa Fedor ((D-Toledo) and Timothy Grendell (R-Chesterland) introduced a bi-partisan bill, Senate Bill 235, to create the offense of trafficking in Ohio similar to the federal definition. Currently, Ohio law has no stand-alone criminal offense. The bill is currently in the SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE. It received a sponsor-testimony hearing on March 10, 2010. PPC Director Staigers has continued to monitor the bill as it moves through the legislative process.

Senate Bill 238

Senate Bill 238 would prohibit illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law. SB 238 was introduced by Senator Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on March 16, 2010 and is currently in the SENATE INSURANCE, COMMERCE AND LABOR committee. The bill has received sponsor testimony and may be scheduled for additional hearings at any time. PPC Director Staigers continues to monitor the bill as it moves through the legislative process.

Legislative Tactical Plan

PPC Director Staigers drafted a tactical plan that describes the mandates of the Commission, how the office carries out those mandates, and recommendations for the Commissioners on how they should support the office's efforts to "advise on legislation affecting Latinos." Board changes/approval is pending.

Resolutions

PPC Director Staigers drafted and recommended resolutions on the following topics for the Commissioners: immigration reform, state and local immigration enforcement, human trafficking, and in-state tuition for foreign-born students.



Advise

Latino Community Reports (LCRs)

PPC Director Staigers finalized and sent the first quarter report for 2010, which was focused on the Census efforts of the Commission.

Legislator Briefings

PPC Director Staigers continues to send legislator briefings, via an e-campaign feature. The March briefing included a Legislative Visit Day save-the-date, the Census LCR, and board meeting information, as well as the usual policy news brief.

Policy Briefs

Without a policy intern, PPC Director Staigers had to reduce the frequency of the policy brief to bi-weekly in January, February, and the first half of March. However, a new intern, Saniya Khan, was hired, which enabled the Commission to resume a weekly schedule for the briefs in the second half of March.

Increase Channels of Communication

Legislative Visit Day

PPC Director Staigers, along with the Executive Director and Office Manager have begun plans for the 2010 Legislative Visit Day.

Policy Resource Database and Library

PPC Director Staigers has continued to update and expand the Commission's Resource Library on Policy. In March, the Human Trafficking Issue Policy Brief was updated, and a webpage for SB 235, creating a human trafficking offense, was created

Ohio Action Circle

The Ohio Action Circle is made up of many members of the Commission's Policy Action Network. It is an action-focused strategy group focused on advocacy and leadership. The Commission often convenes the Circle, at the request of its members. In March, PPC Director Staigers convened a conference call as well as helped a couple members of the group begin to build a website.

U and T Visa Resolutions

PPC Director Staigers has been working extensively with the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (CORCC) Legislation and Lobbying committee to research and draft a resolution that would facilitate the handling of U and T immigration visas by Columbus City officials involved in the enforcement or prosecution of trafficking cases. In collaboration with the CORCC Legislation and Lobbying Committee Chair, PPC Director Staigers prepared a draft resolution which will be presented to the Columbus City Council for introduction.

Enhance Government Effectiveness

English Language Learner's Catalogue

The Commission's ELL Catalogue is in the final stages of production. Policy Intern Khan built off the content from the previous intern's work and PPC Director Staigers developed the content into a catalogue. Last minute requests for inclusion have delayed the catalogue however, and it is expected to be completed by mid-April.



In-state Tuition for Foreign-Born Students

Policy Intern Khan and PPC Director Staigers have done initial research for an issue policy brief on in-state tuition for foreign-born students, which will be published when Ohio legislation is introduced. Additionally, the PPC Director Staigers has begun to actively garner support from the community and certain target legislators as well as advise key stakeholders as to the impending introduction of a bill.

Newsletter Article for Senator Ray Miller

At the request of Senator Ray Miller, PPC Director Staigers prepared an article for the Senator regarding SB 35 and 150, which give local law enforcement the authority to enforce immigration law. The article was submitted for the Senator's newsletter, which is received by the constituents in his district.

Capacity-Building

501(h) Election for 501(c)(3) Organizations

PPC Director Staigers continues to try and alert Latino-serving 501(c)(3) organizations to the dangers of advocating without having filed a 501(h) election with the IRS. PPC Director Staigers continues to offer to make presentations to the executive boards of organizations and made one such presentation in March.

LATINO COMMUNITY NETWORK REPORT

Lilly Cavanaugh, Acting Director-

Strategic Initiatives



Financial report and narrative of activities were presented to Executive Board for update. A meeting with project partners will be scheduled for April to provide information on progress of this initiative.

Ohio Emerging Diversity



Census 2010

There has been increased work levels in the translation and dissemination of Census materials and information. Constituent inquiries regarding census forms have been received. Most confusion exists regarding questions #8 and #9 regarding race and ethnicity. Communications with Census Complete Count Committee (April Raffay and Steve Kelley) to clear questions is maintained on a regular basis. Census participation rates for Ohio are between 61-66%. For detailed tracking information, visit: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map>





Hispanic Impact Campaign

April's profile will feature the Sofia Arts & Cultural Center in Toledo. Please visit our homepage to read the story: <http://ochla.ohio.gov>.

Emergency Preparedness

A meeting was held with John Poole and David O'Ralley from the Ohio Service Council (<http://www.serveohio.org/>) to review potential collaboration opportunities for emergency preparedness geared towards Latino communities in summer or fall 2010. More details will be shared as plans solidify.

Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week—March 21-27

Assisted Ohio EMA office in the translation and dissemination of information for the Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week. This important information included description of emergency categories, system warnings (sirens, alarms), and safety procedures. This is the first time that OCHLA has actively engaged in this emergency preparedness effort. Information was shared with communities through local networks and Latino media channels (See informational email attached.)

Community Outreach (LCN)

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

Advise:

Governor's office -Women Initiatives—Ohio Women's Summit

Successfully completed. As a result of the summit, the governor has created the Ohio Council for Women and Girls. OCHLA has requested information and inclusion of Latinas in this council. We will continue to work closely with this office to ensure active participation of women from the Latino community. For details on the results of the summit, visit: <http://www.ohiowomen2010.org/>

Minority Business Symposium

Attended the DAS MBE Outreach Minority Business Symposium held on March 25th, 2010. There were over 100 minority business owners in attendance.

Connect:

SB35 and SB 150

Constant interactions with community leaders and contacts were conducted to ensure communication and information flow on these two bills. Please refer to PPC Report for specific details.

Ohio Arts Council

Met with Julie Henahan to discuss how we can best connect Latinos to the services offered by the Ohio Arts Council. Also, followed up on the status of the Latino Arts Directory project initiated by the Ohio Arts Council. Director Cavanaugh will be providing information and expertise to the Council in their efforts to reach out to the Latino community.



Minority Health Month

OCHLA is promoting the activities during Minority Health Month throughout the state and has provided the Minority Health Commission with contact information about Latino networks. For details on the activities planned during April's Minority Health Month, visit:

<http://mih.ohio.gov>

2010 Forging New Links Conference—March 15, 2010

Participated in this conference hosted by the Ohio Service Council. This is a conference on national service, volunteer administration and service learning which provided Director Cavanaugh the opportunity to learn more in depth about opportunities to connect Latinos and grassroots organizations to current efforts to increase volunteerism at the community level.

Special request for information regarding BMV policy and Puerto Rican birth certificates

The BMV is working on a clarification memo regarding the policy for Puerto Rican birth certificates. Communications and information is being sent on issues regarding this and other BMV policies to Angela King, Supervisor of License Control and have also been shared with the Governor's office.

Build:

Legislative Visit Day

The date for Legislative Visit Day has been finalized. This event will take place on Tuesday May 18th, 2010. More details to follow.

Ohio Diversity Latino Talent and Leadership Conference—October 14, 2010

Met with planners of the Diversity Latino Talent & Leadership Conference to provide contacts and information about Latino leaders in order to encourage more regional participation in this event. The conference is a full day event for both Latinos and non-Latinos, and will consist of keynote addresses, presentations, and panel discussions that will focus on issues relating to the recruitment, mentorship, and advancement of Latinos and other minorities in the workplace. In addition, it will promote leadership development, cross-cultural competency, and professional growth of all conference participants. This conference is sponsored by Empleos & Employment. For details, go to: <http://www.ee-diversityevents.com/ohioconference.html>

LULAC 2011 Convention—Cincinnati—June 28-July 3, 2011

Participated along with Director Staigers in first planning meeting for the 2011 LULAC Convention to take place in Cincinnati. This event brings together over 20,000 participants from around the country. The conference will run from June 28-July 3rd at the Duke Energy Convention Center, and the theme will be "Reaching New Frontiers: Expanding the Latino Agenda." OCHLA will be actively involved in this event.

Rehabilitation Services Commission

Met with Julie McComas from this commission to provide information, resources and contact and strategize about their outreach efforts to the Latino community. The Rehabilitation Services Commission has available portions of their website in Spanish, see: <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/Espanol/default.aspx>. Our office will continue to work closely with RSC and promote their services to the community.



NADE (National Association for Developmental Education) Conference—March 12th

Director Cavanaugh was invited to be the keynote speaker at this conference. The theme for the presentation was Hispanic Outreach. For details about the conference, visit: <http://www.oade.org/nade2010/Entire%20Call%20to%20Conf.pdf>

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Lilly Cavanaugh, Executive Director -

Strategic Plan

Operational action plans were prepared to compliment the strategic planning process. A report on the outline of the plan was approved at the board meeting. OCHLA's staff will work with the ad hoc committee to finalize the strategic plan and oversee its implementation.

Board Meetings Schedule

The Board meeting schedule for 2010-2011 was approved at the March board meeting and has been uploaded to the website.

Human Resources

Performance Appraisals were completed for all staff members. Will be working with Office Manager to update job description.

Directors' Calendars—

Director Lilly Cavanaugh

- 2 March—Senator Cafaro (D—District 32)
- 2 March—Julie Henahan (Columbus)
- 4 March—Julie McComas (Columbus)
- 5 March—Chris Kennedy (Columbus)
- 5 March—Fire Marshall Cooper (Columbus)
- 8 March—Ohio Women Summit (Columbus)
- 8 March—Latina's Luncheon (Columbus)
- 11 March—Josue Vicente, Census 2010 (Columbus)
- 12 March—NADE Conference (Columbus)
- 15 March—Forging New Links Conference (Columbus)
- 16 March—MDDO Awards (Columbus)
- 18 March—Comm. Tony Simms (Cincinnati)
- 19 March—Cristina Farr (Columbus)
- 22 March—John Poole/David O'Ralley (Columbus)
- 23 March—Representative R. Winburn (40th District)
- 25 March—MBE Symposium (Columbus)
- 25 March—LULAC Convention meeting (Cincinnati)
- 31 March—Chair Mary Santiago (Lorain)
- 31 March—Cesar Chavez Awards, Adelante (Toledo)



Director Tina Staigers

- 2 March – Senate State and Local and Government Affairs Committee (Columbus)
- 2 March – Senate Minority Leader, Capri Cafaro and Jennifer Farmer (Columbus)
- 2 March – Latino Dream Team Strategic Meeting with Republic Party Chair Kevin DeWine (Dayton)
- 3 March – House Local Government/Public Administration Committee (Columbus)
- 3 March – Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (Columbus)
- 9 March – Meet with Senator Nina Turner, D-Cleveland (Columbus)
- 10 March – Senate Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice (Columbus)
- 10 March – Conference Call on Lorain Hispanic Leadership Conference (Columbus)
- 11 March – Esperanza Executive Board Meeting (Cleveland)
- 11 March – Nueva Luz Immigration Meeting (Cleveland)
- 15 March – Conference Call with Silvia Castro, Utah Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council
- 16 March – Senate State and Local and Government Affairs Committee (Columbus)
- 17 March – FALCON Pre-Season Migrant Workers Conference (Fostoria)
- 19 March – Kae Denino, CORRC Public Awareness Committee Chair (Columbus)
- 19 March – CORRC Public Awareness and Legislation and Lobbying Committees (Columbus)
- 19 March – Latino Empowerment Outreach Network Advocacy Committee (Columbus)
- 22 March – Meet with Tabitha Woodruff, CORRC Legislation and Lobbying (Columbus)
- 22 March – Ohio Latino Action Circle Members, Ruben Herrera, Gary Daniels (Columbus)
- 22 March – Reform Immigration for America Meeting on Local Immigration Enforcement Measures (Columbus)
- 23 March – Representative Roland Winburn, D-Dayton (Columbus)
- 23 March – Senate State and Local and Government Affairs Committee (Columbus)
- 23 March – Senator Shannon Jones, R-Springboro (Columbus)
- 23 March – Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor (Columbus)
- 24 March – Senate Session (Columbus)
- 24 March – LULAC Convention Planning Meeting (Cincinnati)

Respectfully submitted,

