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DIRECTORS' REPORT

NOVEMBER 2010

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

Advise

Legislator and Policy Briefs

PPC Director continues to send legislative briefing to legislators and policy briefs to those on the distribution list. Policy briefs continue to focus on monitored legislation and include an update on followed legislation.

Legislator Directory

PPC Director has concluded the 129th General Assembly guide, with district, photo and party information. Addresses will soon be added, so letters can be sent at the beginning of the 129th General Assembly.

Special attention is being made to leadership posts and break-up of Committee assignments, so policy can be targeted to members. There will be a reduction of House Committees to 17 (down from 27). Senate Standing Committees are the same for now.

Human Trafficking Advocacy

- OCHLA participated in Human Trafficking Advocacy Day by contributing to legislative strategy and bringing attendees to advocate with legislators. Alliance members attended the press conference and visit day and many others took part in the letter-writing campaign.
- A press campaign on the Advocacy and attendees resulted in press coverage by El Sol Cleveland and Hispanic Ohio - Northcoast Now.



- Assisted Jobs and Family Services and Salvation Army to develop invitation list for a video conference on Human Trafficking. The conference took place in December.
- Senate Bill 235 passed the House and Senate in December.
- Connected to Legislators and Staff for Human Trafficking legislation:
 - Connected to Rep Grossman at the behest of a House Aide. She wanted information about human trafficking.
 - Met with Rep. Garland's aide for Advocacy Day.
 - Met with Sen. Miller's aide for Advocacy Day.

Inter-Agency Council

A concerted effort continues to be made regarding attendance at Commission meetings by the Inter-Agency Council representatives. Attendance has increased since the beginning of 2010 with the goal being at least 3 presentations and audience attendance of 3 or more.

Presentations have yielded outreach information sufficient for an e-campaign. Most recently, the Public Utilities Commission forwarded information about energy savings. The information is available here: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/PUCO/Consumer/information.cfm?id=8792> The Department of Development also forward information regarding the PIPP Plus program. Information can be found here: http://www.ohiomeansbusiness.com/OhioDepartmentOfDevelopmentVideo/Spanish_Main.wmv

Communications with Interagency Council:

- Monthly invitations and reminders about Commission meeting;
- Request for information regarding Spanish-language calendars;
- Ohio Department of Education – requested connection to the ELL and Limited English Proficiency compliance office within ODE for a constituent. Dan Fleck, an LEP consultant, will be presenting in 2011.

Legislative Tracking

The legislative year will conclude by the end of December. The lame duck period resulted in the passage of two bills OCHLA is monitoring:

- SB 235 – Bill to create a human trafficking felony.
- HB 495 – Agency Consolidation. Bill will consolidate the Interagency Council's duties within OCHLA.
- Commission Appointments
 - OCHLA has 5 Commission members who have not received the Advise and Consent of the Senate. Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, Max Rodas, Baldemar Velasquez, Richard Romero, and Emerald Hernandez.
 - PPC Director is monitoring the Senate State and Local committee schedule for appointees to be reported out of Committee.

The Public Policy Center's 128th General Assembly's legislative priorities are attached. New priorities will be presented as introduced in the 129th General Assembly.

Governor-Elect Kasich Administration Connection

As part of the legislative strategy, efforts are underway to connect to the new administration. PPC Director located the transition team email and forwarded the Director's *Welcome* letter.



Connect/Build

Education

Scholarship Resource Center

OCHLA's Campaigns link is now active and contains content, tips and scholarships for Latino students. PPC Director worked with several organizations to acquire content, including the Ohio Board of Regents, Cleveland Scholarship Programs and relied on general research. Connections with universities and colleges continue to yield scholarship information.

Race to the Top Connection

PPC Director prepared for a meeting with State officials on Race to the Top in November. However, it was decided that OCHLA and the RttT team will instead meet in the new year. A connection was made with the team and its leader – Michael Sawyers. They will present during Agenda Latina 2011. Presenters will introduce RttT to Agenda Latina's attendees; discuss RttT's educational role in underserved communities; and ability to take part in contracting in local communities.

Bullying in Schools

The Ohio Justice in Policy Center in Cincinnati provided valuable informational resources regarding the bullying case in Middletown, OH. They would like to partner with OCHLA and LULAC to share information and develop a plan for counteracting bullying and ethnic/cultural-related problems in Southwest Ohio. A meeting will be planned in early 2011.

Workforce and Economic Development

Legislative Visit Day will focus on Workforce, Economic and Small Business Development. This year, OCHLA will partner with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers. Save-the-dates have been sent to Hispanic Chambers and distribution lists. A logo has been created for the LVD and it merges OCHLA and the Ohio Hispanic Chamber's logo for the LVD 2011 – November 16, 2011.

Workforce Investment Boards

Content continues to be developed for OLANet with each Workforce Investment Board. PPC Director has contacted each Ohio WIB for (1) vacancies and (2) process for appointment. One third of the WIBs have responded with the requested information.

Workforce Content Development

PPC Director Barrera-Richards continues to develop workforce development content for OLANet – this will include connection to Ohio Chambers, Hispanic Chambers, Department of Development, Latino SBDC, and MBE certified business deadlines for contracts through OLANet. Including public sector RFP's or links to where RFP's can be accessed, is also in the content development phase.

Meetings Attended

- 11/03/2010 – Salvation Army
- 11/5/2010 – Conference Call with Senator Seitz Aide on SB 269
- 11/09/2010 – Conference Call with Polaris Project on Human Trafficking
- 11/10/2010 – Human Trafficking Lobby Day – Escorted John Ramos from LULAC
- 11/10/2010 – Met with Senator Miller's Aide on Human Trafficking
- 11/10/2010 – Met with Rep. Garland's Aide on Human Trafficking
- 11/17/2010 – Met with Senator Fedor's Aides on Human Trafficking
- 11/30/2010 – Attended Criminal Justice Committee Hearing – Consulted on Sunset Review Legislation by Senator Gilmor's Aide
- 11/30/2010 – Ohio Poverty Law Conference – Update on Immigration Related legislation



LATINO COMMUNITY NETWORK REPORT

Lilly Cavanaugh, Acting Director

Strategic Initiatives

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

The final Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala Report was presented to the Board's Executive Committee. Although an opportunity exists to partner with the Latino Leadership Conference for 2011, the available dates for this event are not conducive to the DHO Gala event. Therefore, the DHO for 2011 will not be in partnership with the Latino Leadership Conference.

Executive Director Cavanaugh and the DHO committee do recognize the excellent rapport, support and partnership experienced with Empleos & Employment and the Latino Leadership Conference committee. OCHLA looks forward to supporting the 2011 conference by encouraging participation and promoting the event through our networks.

A date for the Gala will be determined during the February Board meeting to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month 2011. The sponsorship information package for the 2011 DHO Gala has been approved and will be distributed to potential event sponsors before the end of December 2011.

Emergency Preparedness

Ohio National Preparedness Month

Director Cavanaugh participated in the planning meeting for Ohio's NPM activities for 2011 and will continue to serve in this statewide committee throughout 2011.



Project OPEN

Project OPEN is the economic development strategic initiative of the commission that seeks to provide opportunities for the Latino entrepreneurs and small businesses in Ohio. The plan consists of three components: (1) OPEN for business—to leverage an existing investment by the Ohio Department of Development in a Small Business Development Center for the Latino community in Central Ohio; (2) OPEN for opportunities—to build the capacity of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Columbus to strengthen its capacity to serve Latino entrepreneurs and (3) OPEN for information—an effort to conduct economic impact studies of Hispanic Ohioans and how their presence has a positive effect for the Ohio economy.

The goal of the initiative is to take the lessons from the Central Ohio pilot model and duplicate improved versions of this plan across Ohio so that all chambers of commerce can be strengthened and future Latino SBDC's can be created to result in increased workforce and economic development.

The project was scheduled to conclude in the Fall 2010; however, due to some additional funding secured by the Latino SBDC, they have been able to extend their programming using these additional funding in combination with the Project OPEN grant. The board of the commission considered a petition to extend the grant and approved such petition in the October 2011 meeting.



Attached to this monthly report is the Status Report for Project OPEN including the final report for the Columbus Hispanic Chamber of Commerce project and an update report from the Latino SBDC. The Latino SBDC will continue to provide quarterly activity and financial reports until the end of the grant, which will take place on or before September 2011.

An update meeting on the Latino SBDC is scheduled with Karen Shuri, SBDC State Director, Mike Bowers, Columbus State Community College, Ariana Ulloa, Latino SBDC Director, Michael Florez, OCHLA Commissioner and Lilleana Cavanaugh, OCHLA Executive Director. 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.

Agenda Latina and Legislative Visit Day 2011

Plans are underway to host Agenda Latina and Legislative Visit Day during February. The dates are:

- Legislative Visit Day—Wednesday, February 16
- Agenda Latina—Thursday, February 17

Commissioner Andres Gonzalez will be working with our office team in the organization of both events. More details regarding content and plan to be presented as arrangements are finalized.

Community Outreach (LCN)

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

Advise:

ODMH Minority Mental Health Awareness Panel Discussion

Director Cavanaugh participated in an expert panel regarding the access to mental services and needs of minority communities hosted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health on November 29th. Information presented included feedback and recommendations obtained from the Ohio Latino Mental Health Network regarding approaches to serving Latinos and specific areas of need, including the issue of Latino youth suicide risk.

Bernard Pastor

Responded to inquiries from the Governor's office in the SW District of Ohio [Molly Deneen] regarding the situation of this student. LULAC and other grassroots organizations are actively engaged in advocacy efforts for this individual. OCHLA has been monitoring the situation and continues to provide regular updates to the board and Governor's office as requested.

ODH Advisory Committee for the statewide health assessment

Director Cavanaugh has been asked to form part of the Ohio Department of Health Advisory Committee to review the results of a statewide health assessment. The council will work together during 2011 to create a statewide health assessment and subsequent health improvement plan based on that assessment. The engagement of the Latino Affairs Commission in this effort is sought to bring the input from diverse and New American communities.

Governor's Asian and Pacific Islanders Advisory Board

Met with Dr. Lu, Chair of the PIAB to provide information about commission, discuss common interests and explore possible joint efforts in 2011.



- Continued regular updates on campaigns regarding the Pertussis Campaign directed to the Latino community.
- Issued last campaign regarding Puerto Rican Birth Certificate Validation issue and new validation rules effective as of November 1, 2010.
- Issued a campaign with information from the Ohio Department of Development on PIPP Plus is an extended payment arrangement for gas/electricity.
- Connected Karen Foster from the Ohio State University with Latino networks to promote the Annual Diabetes Education Symposium emphasizing diabetes needs among minority communities.

Networking

- Participated in the Economic Outlook Conference 2011 hosted by the Economics Department at the Ohio Wesleyan University. The program included an expert panel presentation, student, business and community leaders networking opportunity.
- Participated in a reception hosted by the Columbus Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the Consulate of Argentina. The purpose of the event was to introduce these official representatives to the Columbus community and to hear about the investment and economic development interests of Argentina for Ohio and the region.
- Participated in the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce planning meeting on November 5, 2010. At this event, Director Cavanaugh had the opportunity to express our commitment to support the work of the Hispanic Chambers, emphasized the importance of workforce and economic development and the role this will play under the new administration, and extended the offer to consider a partnership with the Chambers for the Legislative Visit Day 2011 with an emphasis on economic and workforce development.

Build:

Education Summit, Washington DC

Director Cavanaugh participated in the 2010 State of Latinos in Education Summit hosted by the NEA and AFT in partnership with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) for the state commissions on Hispanic affairs and/or similar governing bodies (i.e., governors' councils and advisory boards) whose focus is on Latino/Hispanic affairs on Nov. 17-19, 2010 in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the summit was to discuss, share and highlight programs and best practices that will help address the educational challenges faced by many of our Latino children. Early childhood education, K-12 education, higher education, English Language Learners (ELL) and the DREAM Act were among the topics discussed.

The summit also provided an opportunity to network with other state commissions, discuss strategy options in this time of transition for many of our agencies and assess the impact of the November elections, restructuring of agencies, and possible immigration legislation that will affect Latinos across the nation.



Administrative Section

IT Investment Plan

Produced the FY 12-13 IT Plan, a required document delineating IT strategies and investment plans for the future. OCHLA's plan is basic in nature given that the agency does not require complex IT applications for its daily operations. The main uses of IT services are in the area of application operations for port access/ internet, email access and infrastructure operations through the Desktop support services.

It is important to note, as shared during the Board Executive Committee meeting that in 2011, each agency at the Riffe Center will be required to pay a single access point for internet regardless of size. This policy change will result most probably in a \$250/month charge per agency or higher. OIT will issue information regarding the rate in the next few weeks.

FY 2012-2013 Budget

A presentation on the FY12-13 budget forecast was made during the Board's Executive Committee meeting. Some editing and resubmission of information has been completed throughout the month to make sure that all documents meet the technical compliance stage of the budget process.

An overview financial session was also presented by Mr. John Cunningham to the commissioners during the executive committee meeting to outline the outlook for 2011 and answer questions regarding the commission's current budget.

In preparation for the transition to the new administration and General Assembly, the office staff has:

- Sent congratulatory letters to all key elected officials on behalf of agency and board
- Initiated a legislative strategy plan to engage the new General Assembly. This strategy will be implemented in coordination with the board, and with direct support from Commissioner Michael Florez, who has been assigned to work with our staff.
- Started updating the internal legislative database with information for all new and returning state representatives and senators.

End of Year Reporting

Executive Director and staff are working to ensure all reports and end of year requirements are met.

Meetings Attended

- 05 November—OHCC meeting (Delaware)
- 08 November—NPM meeting (Columbus)
- 08 November—Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware)
- 10 November—Consulate of Argentina Reception (Columbus)
- 10 November—Human Trafficking Lobbying Day (Columbus)
- 10 November—Dr. Lu, Asian Council (Columbus)
- 17-19 November— Education Summit (Washington, DC)
- 23 November—Grace Ramos (Dayton)
- 23 November—Magaly Vasquez, LEON Educ. Committee (Columbus)
- 29 November—ODMH Mental Awareness Event (Columbus)

Respectfully submitted.

