

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING March 10, 2016 Time: 1:30 p.m.

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Franciscan Center, Lourdes University  
Conference Rooms A & B  
6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, OH 43560

**Luis "Tony" Ortiz**, Chair  
Dayton

**Michael Florez**, Vice Chair  
Cincinnati

**Jose Feliciano Jr.**, Secretary  
Aurora

**Mary Santiago**  
Lorain

**V. Anthony Simms-Howell**  
Cincinnati

**Elizabeth Guzman-  
Bowman**  
Columbus

**Emanuel Torres**  
Columbus

**Gregory Guzmán, PhD**  
Maumee

**Rev. Juan Rivera**  
Campbell

**Dan Molina**  
Loveland

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**Rick Perales**  
**State Representative**  
District 73 ~ Greene County

**Dan Ramos**  
**State Representative**  
District 56 ~ Lorain County

**Gayle Manning**  
**Senator**  
District 13 ~ Huron & Lorain  
Counties

**Charleta Tavares**  
**Senator**  
District 15 ~ Franklin County

### Attendance

#### Commissioners - Present

Tony Ortiz - Chairman  
Michael Florez - Vice Chair  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Beth Guzman-Bowman  
Emanuel Torres  
Dan Molina

#### Legislative Members - Present

None

#### Commissioners - Absent

José Feliciano, Jr. - Secretary  
Rev. Juan Rivera  
Mary Santiago  
Gregory Guzmán, PhD.

#### Staff - Present

Lilleana Cavanaugh - Executive Director  
Lair Marin- Community Liaison  
Andrea Lewis- Public Policy Officer  
Georgina Alvarez - Organizations Development Officer  
Briana Black - Administrative Clerk

### Call to Order

Chair Ortiz calls meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag is recited.

### Call of the Roll

There are 6 Commissioners present, thus constituting quorum.

### Chair's Report

Chair Ortiz state that he will be providing a brief report during the New Business section of the agenda.



## Approval of Minutes

Chair Ortiz presents previous meeting's Minutes to the board for review and approval.

**Motion #1 - 3 - 2016** - To approve the February 2, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Torres. Motion carries.

## Agency Report

Chair Ortiz then hands the floor to Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh, she highlights five key items of business.

First, Ms. Cavanaugh informs the Board that the office's main focus for the month of February was preparation for the 2016 Ohio Latino Education Summit. There is an expected participation of over 200 attendees for the following day's event.

Second, she reports on the most recent quarterly meeting for the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, which resulted in a defined list of top priorities. The chambers will be elaborating their and legislative agenda next.

Third, Ms. Cavanaugh informs the Board that the Commission is currently working on securing Vista volunteers to assist the five organizations that make up the Ohio Latino Connection, whose mission is to collaboratively explore and achieve grant opportunities in the area of health.

Fourth, she notes that the location for the 2017 Ohio Latino Education Summit has been determined and will be revealed during the Education Committee update.

Finally, Ms. Cavanaugh provides a brief report on her and Ms. Lewis' participation in the 2016 USHLI National Conference, in which they were exposed to the priorities that national organizations and leaders are considering moving towards for next year.

Ms. Cavanaugh invites Public Policy Officer Andrea Lewis to provide the February report for the Public Policy Center. Ms. Lewis has two key items of business.

First, Ms. Lewis states that the majority of her work for the month of February involved preparing for the 2016 Ohio Latino Education Summit, which is taking place March 11th from 9:30a.m. to 3:30p.m. at The University of Toledo.

Second, she reports on the legislative activity and informs the board about potential bills language that is being drafted by the New American Workgroup, where she represents the commission.



Among the possible bills is the proposal to establish an Office of New Americans in Ohio, as well as a bill to provide VAWA applicants with access to public benefits without a five-year waiting period. Also, she briefly details SB 280 introduced by Senator Tavares that was originally Resolution 2016-01 drafted by OCHLA, as well as SB 268 introduced by Senator Bill Seitz that would reduce the period in which an employment discrimination claim can be filed from six years to one year.

For more detail on the Public Policy Center update, please see the February Monthly Report on OCHLA's website.

Chair Ortiz then opens the floor to questions in regards to the Public Policy Center update. There are two.

First, Chair Ortiz inquires whether or not SB 268 has had a committee hearing, Ms. Lewis replies that it has not. Ortiz asks if Senator Seitz has a co-sponsor for the bill, and Ms. Lewis informs the Board that there are a few other Republican sponsors on the bill.

Commissioner Florez offers a point of information in regards to the bill for VAWA applicants. Florez states that when it comes to obtaining U-Visas, in addition to those who are injured, the parents of minors who are victims are also typically eligible for U-Visa applications, as they are the ones testifying on the minors' behalf and they themselves may not be documented. Ms. Lewis thanks Commissioner Florez for his input.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to the PPO update, and he invites Community Liaison Lair Marin to provide an update for the Latino Community Network. Ms. Marin has two main items of business:

First, Ms. Marin mentions the Center's work in regards to the resources that are annually updated and made available via the Commission's website. She also briefly touches on updates provided via social media, and mentions that 7,768 impressions have been made through OCHLA's social media outlets in the month of February.

Second, Ms. Marin also accounts the LCN's continued work in disseminating information about bilingual job opportunities via the website and social media platforms.

For more detail on the Latino Community Network update, please see the February Monthly Report on OCHLA's website.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor for questions about the Latino Community Network update. There is one.



Chair Ortiz inquires whether or not the Commission is charging agencies/organizations to post their employment opportunities. Ms. Marin replies that the promotions are currently a free public service, but that she has been working on creating a list of the entities who are requesting opportunities to be posted. She states that this project would be beneficial in order to have a better understanding of the amount/types of employers who are utilizing OCHLA's job opportunities service and what types of positions are typically being promoted. Chair Ortiz also asks if the service of interpreting is something that the Commission can charge for, to which AG Representative McNamara states that he could look into and report back on.

As a few quick additional items, Ms. Marin mentions her recent success in creating a relationship between the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Ohio Hispanic Coalition to host their construction health and safety training in Spanish, and also provides a brief update on her work with Commissioner Molina in regards to the Latino Leaders Collaborative Pods. Additionally, she states that the Health Committee has already drafted the tentative themes for the 2016 and 2017 Ohio Latino Health Summits.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to the Latino Community Report. Seeing none, he invites Executive Director Cavanaugh to provide an update for the Organizations Development Center. Ms. Cavanaugh highlights two key items of business:

First, she states that the ODC has been doing general research in regards to workforce development endeavors, such as looking into programs within the Office of Workforce Transformation as well as completing an analysis of all existing State programs for workforce and economic development.

Second, Ms. Cavanaugh informs the Board that the ODC will soon be meeting with Chair Ortiz and the Workforce and Economic Development Committee to draft a workforce and economic development strategy for the commission.

For more detail on the Organizations Development Center update, please see the February Monthly Report on OCHLA's website.

Chair Ortiz opens floor for questions on the Organizations Development Center update. Seeing none, he then presents the February Agency Report to the Board for approval and acceptance.



**Motion #2 - 2 - 2016** - To approve the February Monthly Report as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Molina. Seconded by Commissioner Guzman-Bowman. Motion carries.

Chair Ortiz then proceeds to the next item of business, the Committee Reports.

### **Committee Reports**

In regards to an update for the Education Committee, Chair Ortiz provides an overview of the plans for the summit and highlights the contributions made by the Department of Education. Additionally, he states that for the next year's summit, he would like the commission to reach out to Ohio Department of Higher Education as well.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to the Education Committee update, and seeing none he then invites Commissioner Guzman-Bowman to provide an update for the Health and Wellness Committee. She highlights one item of business.

Ms. Guzman-Bowman briefly updates the Board in regards to the 2016 Ohio Latino Health Summit. She reiterates that the call for proposals for a host has been sent out. Interested potential hosts are Cincinnati Children's Hospital, MetroHealth in Cleveland, and OSU Wexner Medical Center in Columbus. The deadline to determine the location/site for the event is the end of March. Additionally the Health and Wellness Committee is interested in establishing an annual award to present at the Ohio Latino Health Summit to either an individual or organization.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to the Health and Wellness Committee update by inquiring whether or not a date has been chosen for the Health Summit. Ms. Marin replies that few dates have been outlined, but the official date is tentative based on the selection of the entity who will be hosting the event.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to the Health and Wellness Committee update. Seeing none, he invites Executive Director Cavanaugh to provide an update for the Civic Engagement Committee. She highlights one item of business: the Commission is currently working on creating a voter registration campaign for the state of Ohio in order to engage the Latino community and encourage Latino voters' participation in this year's election.

Chair Ortiz has one question in regards to the Civic Engagement Committee update. He inquires whether or not the data that the Commission has on Latino voter eligibility has been disseminated to all Commissioners, and Ms. Cavanaugh confirms that she will surely share this information with the entire Board.



Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to the Civic Engagement Committee update, seeing none he then proceeds to the next item on the agenda, which is Old Business.

### Old Business

There are two items of business.

First, Executive Director Cavanaugh presents for Board discussion the current format of the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards. Ms. Cavanaugh requests that the Board discuss how this event should be formatted, where the event should take place, and what type of community involvement should be anticipated considering the constraints the commission has in regards to fundraising and the ability to secure a co-host for the event.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to the DHO format. There are eight.

First, Commissioner Emanuel Torres inquires whether or not it is acceptable for the Commission to fundraise in order to help cover the cost of a gala or formal event. AG Representative McNamara states that the Commission does not currently have approval to fundraiser per its mandates, and that the ability to do so would require a statutory change.

Second, Commissioner Torres responds with an inquiry as to whether or not the Commission is able to receive event-specific sponsorship, to which McNamara claims that the Commission could possibly look into operating this event through grant funds.

Third, Chair Ortiz states that the Commission has partnered recently with for LEON (Latino Empowerment Outreach Network) for the Gala and asks if the partnership can continue. Ms. Marin reports that LEON's executive committee has yet to meet this year and no decisions have been made in regards to the 2016 DHO Awards Gala.

Fourth, Chair Ortiz inquires whether or not the Commission could model after the Civil Rights Commissions' format for their Civil Rights Hall of Fame event, to which AG McNamara responds that that particular entity's mandate may differ from OCHLA's.

Fifth, Commissioner Torres states that if the act of event-specific sponsorship is indeed distinct from fundraising then this would be an avenue that the Commission should considering exploring in order to help cover the cost of specific events. AG McNamara states that the ability to obtain funds will hinge on the individual agreement between the Commission and each entity, in regards to what the money should



be put toward and a variety of other factors. McNamara offers to research the legal implications of sponsorships but recommends that current measures should be to apply for grants wherever possible.

Sixth, Commissioner Molina states that through the Latino leader collaborative, this would be a great source by which the Commission could identify Latino candidates for these awards as well as receive strategy, meaning that the organization/group nominating a particular candidate could have an approach to how the event accompanying the awards could look for that given year. Ms. Marin reports that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has considered hosting the event regionally, which would involve a host organization from a given region carrying out logistics for the event while the Commission supplies the recipients, awards, and recognitions. This event format could be a simple ceremony with a short reception afterward, press releases and media exposure that would still provide recognition and involve the community.

Seventh, Commissioner Torres supports the idea of a regional recognition, especially since many organizations in different areas of the state already host awards ceremonies that the Commission could simply attend and present these additional recognitions. Commissioner Guzman-Bowman attests that currently the DHO Awards Gala is comprised mostly of Columbus residents, but a regional event could be more ideal because those individuals receiving awards can be recognized within communities they are influencing.

Finally, Commissioner Molina states that this recently described design is not only inclusive of the organizations and leaders within the particular regions, but would also encourage involvement of the local state and federal legislators of these areas. Commissioner Florez states that this topic of format should be discussed within the committee's meeting in order to produce one or two final options to be presented to the Board and voted on for approval.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to the DHO format. Seeing none, he proceeds to the next item of business. He invites AG Representative Walter McNamara and Executive Director Cavanaugh to propose a stance on OCHLA's branding.

Mr. McNamara provides a brief review of the legality of OCHLA's current branding. The official name of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is detailed in the statutory mandate but it is permissible for the agency to refer to itself as the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission as long as the official name is detailed on all official correspondence and documentation. McNamara recommends that if the Board is interested



in maintaining its current use of the latter title, that the Commission consider if this title accurately describes the entity.

Ms. Cavanaugh reminds the Board Members that the use of the Latino Affairs Commission was adopted during the Strickland administration in order to formalize the branding of all state agencies. Ms. Cavanaugh affirms that the only disadvantage to using only the official name of Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is that it is fairly long and can sometimes be difficult to use in promotional branding. However, the office staff are interested in proceeding with whichever option that the Board sees best fit.

Commissioner Florez offers a recommendation in which the Board should officially vote on this matter during the April 26th Board Meeting when most Members of the Board are present. Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to Old Business, and seeing none he proceeds to the New Business.

### **New Business**

There are two items of new business.

First, Ms. Cavanaugh presents for consideration a letter received from HOLA, Hispanic serving organization in Painesville requesting a \$2,500 grant from the commission for the project to build a Latino Resource Center in Painesville that will include a Community Kitchen project.

Discussion among Commissioners to review the request unfolds including questions regarding HOLA's tax status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. There are additional requests for more information regarding who will be the fiscal agent, what are the other sources of funding for the project, and how will the organization report back to ensure accountability. Further discussion ensues on the project and the information provided on the letter.

**Motion #3 - 3 - 2016** - To approve the request of \$2,500.00 to HOLA upon the confirmation that a 501(c)(3) status exists. Moved by Commissioner Florez. No second provided, and therefore motion dies.

Director Cavanaugh is instructed to obtain more information on the grant request and resubmit the information to the board at the next meeting for review and consideration.

Second, Chair Ortiz invites Executive Director Cavanaugh to provide feedback in regards to the 2016 Board Retreat. She briefly informs the Board that the Report will be



provided by Charles Hauser at the April 26th Board Meeting.

Chair Ortiz ask sif there are any more questions in regards to New Business, and seeing none he proceeds to offer the Chair Report. In his report, Chair Ortiz details that the 2017 Ohio Latino Education Summit will take place at the University of Cincinnati and that Commissioner Dan Molina will be working closely with the President of the University to coordinate the project with Commission. Chair Ortiz also briefly shares a PowerPoint presentation on Latino education data for the state of Ohio. Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to his Report, and seeing none he moves to the next item on the agenda.

**Public present:**

- Baldemar Velásquez and Monica Morales – FLOC Toledo
- Mary Arquette – Lourdes University
- Victor Petzall – Lourdes University

**Motion #4 - 3 - 2016** - To open the floor to public commentary. Moved by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Florez. Motion carries.

Chair Ortiz hands the floor to Baldemar Velásquez of FLOC Toledo. He gives a brief introduction that details where FLOC is located, the services that it provides, and the needs that they have identified while providing these services. First, Ms. Morales briefly describes the identification program that FLOC has for their migrant workers, as well as the photo identification cards that each member possesses. Second, Mr. Velásquez provides an account on the creation of the program and provides more detailed information including fees and membership.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor for questions in regards to Mr. Velásquez comments. There are four.

First, Chair Ortiz inquires if FLOC is the entity issuing the identification cards and if these identification cards are recognized by the city, the county, the sheriff and police department in the Toledo area. Mr. Velásquez affirms that FLOC issues the cards and that they are recognized as valid photo identification by all entities mentioned. He affirms that this is currently the only region and organization with this type of consensus.

Second, Commissioner Tony Simms-Howell simply provides a point of interest, thanking Mr. Velásquez and FLOC for their hard work and innovation. Mr. Velásquez in turn thanks Commissioner Simms-Howell for the appreciation.



Third, Commissioner Emanuel Torres inquires if there are specific requirements for Hispanics wanting to obtain the FLOC identification card. Mr. Velásquez replies that FLOC members can include any Hispanic individual residing in the Toledo area who become a part of the organization.

Finally, Commissioner Molina requests that more details regarding the FLOC organization. Mr. Velásquez briefly describes the general background of FLOC's staff members, community leaders, and Board of Directors.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any more questions in regards to Public Commentary. There are none.

**Motion #5 - 3 - 2016** - To adjourn meeting. Moved by Commissioner Guzman-Bowman. Seconded by Commissioner Molina. Motion carries.

Board meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Ortiz at 3:40 p.m.

Luis "Tony" Ortiz, Chair

Jose Feliciano Jr. , Secretary

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**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES  
March 10, 2016**

<b><u>Motion #1 - 3 - 2016</u></b>	To approve the February 2nd, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #2 - 3 - 2016</u></b>	To approve the February Monthly Report as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #3 - 3 - 2016</u></b>	To approve the request of \$2,500.00 to HOLA upon the confirmation that a 501(c)(3) status is achieved. Motion died.
<b><u>Motion #4 - 3 - 2016</u></b>	To open the floor to public commentary.
<b><u>Motion #5 - 3 - 2016</u></b>	To adjourn meeting.



**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES**

**March 10, 2016**

***ATTACHMENTS***

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
February 2016 Monthly Report	Executive Director Cavanaugh

