



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS MEETING**  
June 16, 2016  
Lucas State Building  
321 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines Iowa 50319

**Commissioners Present**

Alejandro Pino  
Jeannette Martinez  
Juan Rodriguez  
Marlu Abarca  
Michelle Reuss  
Sal Alaniz

**DHR/Office of Latino Affairs Staff**

San Wong, Director and Ex-Officio  
Monica Stone, Deputy Director and Administrator  
Sonia Reyes-Snyder, Executive Officer

**No Members of the Public were Present**

**I. Call to order and roll call**

Call to order and introductions by chair, Sal Alaniz at 9:00 AM

**II. Motion: Approval of minutes from March 3rd, 2016**

Alejandro Pino made motion; Michelle Reuss seconded  
Aye: all  
Nay: None  
Motion carried.

**III. IV. & V. Department of Human Rights (DHR) Reports**

- Monica Stone shared Community Advocacy & Services Division's goals with the commissioners
- The Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning Division held the Equal Justice for Juveniles Conference on 6/15/2016

- DHR's SYAC and IYC Programs were explained to commissioners and they were asked to encourage Latinos to apply to participate
- The Office of Latino Affairs report was provided to commissioners
- DHR has a social media policy and a Facebook page for youth programs
- Commissioners were invited and encouraged to sign up to help with the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs booths at the Latino Festivals in Cedar Rapids and Des Moines

## **VI. Department of Human Rights Board Representative Report, Sal Alaniz**

Sal Alaniz is the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Representative at the DHR Board and he mentioned that he reports about the commission at the meetings and shares information with the Commission of Latino Affairs.

Alaniz was asked by commissioners to only send commission business emails to the commissioners and he agreed to this.

## **VII. Review of commission Strategic Plan, Public Policy Priorities**

Sal Alaniz asked commissioners to review preview strategic plans and public policies

## **VIII. Goal Setting Session (Official Plan is attached to the notes)**

### **Commissioners' Ideas:**

- Create a Spanish language resource center
- Be present at community events as a resource for the community
- Be a trusted resource
- Create visibility in the community as an advocate & a place that can assist
- Do more focused follow through
- Develop an outreach system to share information broadly in rural Iowa
- Create a taskforce to examine resources available and their effectiveness
- Establish a language specific website for the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs where information and resources can be shared in written and video form. This can be linked from the DHR website.
- Create a succinct mission-focused message (elevator speech) about the commission

### **GOALS:**

- 1. The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs (ICLA) will perform legislative advocacy**
  - a) The ICLA will receive training on how to do legislative advocacy.
  - b) The ICLA will identify critical topics and specific legislation on which to engage, beginning with Civic Engagement, Language Access and Youth Empowerment
  - c) The ICLA will establish a pathway for mobilizing the commission on issues during the legislative session
- 2. The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs (ICLA) will create and maintain an online Spanish language Resource Center. (The ICLA will ensure that this resource Center**

***contains trusted information, that ensures advocacy and that it contains a rural advocacy system)***

a) Steps for this goal will be set at the next ICLA meeting

**3. The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs (ICLA) will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commission.**

- a) The Iowa Department of Human Rights will issue a Press Release about July 2016-July 2017 being the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Commission
- b) The Iowa Department of Human Rights will request a proclamation from the Governor
- c) There will be an Event Planning Committee; commissioners who volunteered to be part of this committee are Juan Rodriguez, Jeannette Martinez and Marlu Abarca.
- d) The event planning committee will plan events statewide throughout the year to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commission

**Motion:** Approval of Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Goals

Marlu made motion; Jeannette seconded.

Aye: all

Nay: None

Motion carried

**IX. Iowa Latino Conference-Professional Development**

**X. Commission meeting October 7<sup>th</sup> in Iowa City**

- Sal Alaniz proposed to the commission to be involved in the Professional Development part of the Iowa Latino Conference and to possibly hold the October commission meeting during the conference.
- Alaniz has requested the conference planning committee to hold one of the tracks for the commission of Latino Affairs
- Marlu Abarca and Sonia Reyes-Snyder are part of the planning committee and will follow up regarding the extent of involvement needed from the Commission of Latino Affairs

**Motion:** Approval for the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs to participate in the Iowa Latino Conference-Professional Development.

Marlu made motion; Jeannette seconded.

Aye: all

Nay: None

Motion carried

**XI. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Office of Latino Affairs/Commission of Latino Affairs**

- Sal Alaniz asked commissioners to brainstorm about ways to celebrate the commission's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Monica Stone mentioned that the commission has a established donation account
- Marlu Abarca recommended that the commission holds events that will raise funds
- The commission will hold events around the state
- Marlu Abarca, Jeannette Martinez and Juan Rodriguez will be the Commission's Event Planning Committee and will plan 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events across the state

## **XII. Election of new Commission Officers**

### **CHAIR**

- Sal Alaniz shared that he is willing to serve for one more year as the chair of the commission
- Jeannette Martinez was nominated by Marlu Abarca, she accepted
- Michelle Reuss nominated herself
- Alejandro Pino was nominated by Jeannette Martinez, he declined due to schedule conflicts
- Sal Alaniz pulled his self-nomination
- Commissioners voted between Jeannette Martinez and Michelle Reuss
- Michelle Reuss got the majority of the votes

**Motion:** Approval for Michelle Reuss to be the new Chair of the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

Alejandro Pino made the motion; Juan Rodriguez seconded

Aye: all

Nay: None

Motion carried

### **VICE-CHAIR**

- Marlu Abarca was nominated by Jeannette Martinez, she accepted
- Sal Alaniz was nominated by Michelle Reuss, he accepted
- Commissioners voted between Abarca and Alaniz
- Alaniz got the majority of the votes

**Motion:** Approval for Sal Alaniz to be the new Vice-Chair of the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

Jeanette Martinez made the motion; Alejandro Pino seconded

Aye: all

Nay: None

Motion carried

### **SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS**

- Marlu Abarca was nominated by Jeannette Martinez, she accepted
- No one else was nominated

**Motion:** Approval for Marlu Abarca to be the new Secretary of Communications for the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs.

Michelle Reuss made the motion; Jeannette Martinez seconded

Aye: all

Nay: None

Motion carried

## **XIII. Next Meeting**

The next Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Meeting is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.