



**ICLA**

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

## Virtual Meeting Minutes

01/29/2021 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

### Commissioners Present:

- Caleb Knutson
- Dalila Avila Sajadian
- Marlu Abarca
- Louis Moreno
- Lorena Gingerich

### Commissioners Absent:

Gilbert Nunez

### DHR Staff:

Sonia Reyes  
Tina Shaw  
Karen Ruiz

### Public Members:

- Kassidy Arena

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#### I. Call to order and Introductions Caleb Knutson

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#### II. Public Comment

Community members are saying that they need more COVID-19 Vaccine information. Kassidy is partnering with the commission on an awareness campaign.

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#### III. Tina Shaw, Data & Government Access Officer

Tina is focusing on data, focusing on CAS and the Commissions' needs. DHR will have an internal data team that will look at the needs for data.

Confidentiality will be a priority when DHR is ready to share data.

Tina would like commissions to share what data priorities are. What do we know? And What do we need to know?

Abarca - We should ask the community what data they need. There are many data needs that nonprofits need.

Knutson - Any data that can be collected about the Latino community would be helpful.

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#### IV. Office of Latino Affairs Report

Reyes submitted the Office of Latino Affairs Report. There were no questions.

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#### V. Approval of 10/09/2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Abarca

Second: Avila Sajadian

Passed unanimously

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**VI. Approval of 2020 Commission Report**

Motion: Avila Sajadian

Secon: Knutson

Passed unanimously

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**VII. Vote of new Commission representative at the DHR board**

Knutson shared that Gilbert Nunez was the commission representative, but he hasn't shown up to any of the meetings. It is imperative that there is representation. Knutson will attend the February Meeting

Motion by Abarca : Caleb Knutson will be the Commission's DHR Representative

Second: Avila Sajadian

Passed unanimously

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**VIII. Approval of 2021 Commission Policy Recommendations**

Knutson - The community needs information in their own language. Law enforcement support for all lowans to have driver's licenses regardless of their immigration status.

We have had the needed data for over ten years, but if decision-makers are not on board, the policies don't move.

It is a safety issue.

The community feels that the Latino population is not valued in Iowa

Motion: Knuston

Second: Avila Sajadian

Passed unanimously

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**IX. Commission Initiatives/Community Involvement Updates:**

**A. Hall of Fame:**

Nunez was the chair of this committee, but he has not been participating. A new committee chair from the commission is needed.

Committee chair campaign to get a new chair? Of for the planning committee.

Abarca will be the new chair.

**1. 2021 Selections Committee Members**

a) Marlu: Chair

b) Dalila Avila Sajadian

2. Date: October 16, 2021

3. Location: Des Moines Art Center

**B. Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition**

- IQCC participated in the BLM Unity March and Rally
- There is not a lot of representation of Queer people of color in the state
- It's inspirational to see different people and from different ethnicities come together.

- There was a campaign that featured member's coming out stories.
- Virtual social events are in the process of being planned in an effort to help the community
- Mental health resources for queer people of color will be created

**C. Latinos You Should Know Project**

- This was pushed to October of 2021 to ensure Iowa geographic information and from many Latin American countries.
- We are still taking applications
- Let's ensure that this is not Des Moines Metro focused

**D. Línea de Ayuda/Spanish Helpline**

**E. PILA Webinars for 2021**

**F. 2021 Latino Day in the Hill**

The commission will partner with other agencies and will keep the Latino Day on the Hill also.

Moreno - Let's support Latinos who want to run for office. How can we do that?

**X. Other Business:**

**A. YNPN & PILA Collaboration**

**Marlu Abarca**

- The Young Nonprofit Professionals. Abarca would like to create more collaboration opportunities.
- Knutson - the PILA committee chair is on board with a meeting with the YNPN board.
- Let's provide education on how to serve on boards.
- DHR has a talent bank for state and local boards and commissions.

**B. Sharet Garcia - Undocuprofessionals**

- Training for undocumented professionals
- Iowa's undocumented professional have added layers
- Abarca - talked to a California firm that provides training. They have agreed to bring their training to Iowa.
  - The Commission can provide sponsorships so it's free to the community
  - PILA can find sponsors

**XI. Meeting Adjourned**