



# ICLA

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

## **IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Young Parents Network Inc.

420 6th Street SE #260, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

### **Commissioners Present**

Alejandro Pino

Jeannette Martinez

Juan Rodriguez by phone

Lorena Gingerich

Marlu Abarca

### **Commissioners Absent**

Michelle Reuss

### **Department of Human Rights Staff**

Sonia Reyes-Snyder, Office of Latino Affairs

### **Public Members**

1. Monica Vallejo, Young Parents Network
2. Diogenes Ayala, Iowa Commission of the Homeless

## **I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

Roll call at 10:32 AM

## **II. Public Comment**

- Monica Vallejo from YPN shared with the commission what YPN does and also the concerns of Latinos in Cedar Rapids.

### Concerns:

ICE is targeting latino neighborhoods

Children are scared and nervous, they refuse to go to school

Families and children are traumatized due to the fear of deportation and racial profiling

ICE has issued I-9 audits to Latino owned businesses and other businesses with high number of Latino employees

There is only one bilingual Mental Health Therapist in Cedar Rapids, Maria Isabel Ramos.

### Needs:

Mental Health Services

Information about immigration and rights for employers and the community

The commission and office offered to have a resource fair in Cedar Rapids where professionals can be invited to provide education and legal advice. Monica will set up the date, time and location and will let the commission know.

- Diogenes Ayala from the Iowa Commission of Homeless shared with the commission what the ICH is doing and some barriers.  
There is a lack of diversity in the ICH  
Diogenes would like to work on providing haircuts to homeless individuals
- Jeannette Brown shared that she will work with Proteus to do a Latino food drive.

### III. Approval of minutes:

- November 14, 2017
- January 9, 2018

Marlu moved to approve the meetings from 11/14/2017 and 1/9/2018

Lorena seconded

All in favor

### IV. Legislative Committee Chair Report

#### ❖ ICLA's Latino Day on the Hill Recap

- Marlu Abarca, Legislative Committee Chair shared that she and the committee were pleased with the turnout of the Latino Day on the Hill.
- There were over 300 people present.
- Jeannette and Lorena shared that they have received a lot positive feedback from community partners and constituents.
- Alejandro mentioned shared that it was a great opportunity to connect Latinos to the capitol
- Monica Vallejo congratulated the commission for the Latino Day on the Hill, she said that it was the right length and productive.

#### ❖ Next steps

- Marlu shared that the commission is planning on having the Latino Day on the Hill be an annual event.
- The legislative committee is already working on the logistics for next year, they would like to have a bills watch and trainings facilitated by LPN.
- Marlu will work with the commission on next year's Policy Recommendations

### V. Approval of ICLA Report May 2017-April 2018

Marlu moved to approve the ICLA Report for May 2017-April 2018

Alejandro Seconded

All in favor

### VI. DHR Representative Report

Marlu was not able to attend the last meeting.

### VII. New ICLA Representative at DHR Board

Jeannette shared that Marlu Abarca won't be able to be the ICLA representative at the DHR Board, Jeannette will fill in until the commission votes to have a new representative at the next commission meeting when the new commissioners are present.

## **VIII. Office of Latino Affairs & Department of Human Rights Report**

- Sonia Reyes-Snyder shared the office report and highlighted some of the presentations done.
- Marlu and Sonia shared about a meeting they both attended at Valley High School where a Latino student was being unfairly treated.
- Sonia shared about her recruitment effort for Iowa Human Rights Youth Chapters

## **IX. 2018 Hall of Fame:**

- Selections Committee
  1. Lorena Gingerich, Committee Chair
  2. Marlu Abarca, commissioner
  3. Michelle Reuss, commissioner
  4. Marta Codina, public member
  5. Nick Salazar, public member
- Addition and approval of:

Alejandro Pino moved to add a Latino Youth/Young Adult Award, a Latino Ambassador Award for Equity and Justice and to induct up to three Latino to the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

Lorena Seconded

All in favor

## **X. Alejandro's Last Meeting**

This is Alejandro's last commission meeting, as his term is over. Everyone thanked him for eight years of service in the commission.

## **XI. Next Meeting (date and location)**

June 19, 2018 in Council Bluffs. 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

## **XII. Adjourn**