

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

### June 14, 2017

### Time: 1:30 p.m.

Vern Riffe Center, 31st Floor, South A  
77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

#### Attendance

##### Commissioners - Present

Tony Ortiz—Chairman  
Jose Feliciano, Jr.—Secretary  
Michael Florez  
Gregory Guzmán, PhD.  
Dan Molina  
Rev. Juan Rivera  
Mary Santiago  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Emanuel Torres

##### Legislative Members - Present

Senator Gayle Manning  
Senator Charleta Tavares  
Representative Rick Perales

##### Commissioners - Absent

None

##### Staff - Present

Lair Marin—Community Liaison  
Andrea Lewis—Public Policy Officer  
Briana Black—Administrative Clerk  
Jesse Dotson—VISTA Volunteer  
Latisha Jeffrey—VISTA Volunteer

#### Call to Order

Chair Ortiz calls meeting to order at 1:30p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag is recited.

#### Call of the Roll

There are 9 Commissioners present, thus constituting quorum.

#### Chair's Report

First, Chair Ortiz reveals that the Commission is still awaiting the House of Representatives response in regards to Beth Guzman-Bowman's reappointment. Chair Ortiz informs the Board that he would like to wait until the House makes their final decision before electing a new Vice Chair. He has already asked the Attorney General's Office for affirmation on this pending position and legally it is acceptable.

Commissioner Molina asks if there is any work not being completed with that role being currently unfulfilled. Chair Ortiz states that per bylaws, the only mandated work for the Vice Chair is that he/she manage meetings when the Chair is not present.

**Luis "Tony" Ortiz**  
Chair  
Dayton

**Jose Feliciano Jr.**  
Secretary  
Aurora

**Michael Florez**, Vice Chair  
Cincinnati

**Mary Santiago**  
Lorain

**V. Anthony Simms-Howell**  
Cincinnati

**Emanuel Torres**  
Columbus

**Gregory Guzmán, PhD**  
Maumee

**Rev. Juan Rivera**  
Campbell

**Dan Molina**  
Loveland

**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



Second, Chair Ortiz provides a brief report for the Education Committee; he informs the Board that the committee will be meeting with Senator Lehner, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education the following day for discussions regarding teacher preparation programs in Ohio.

Finally, Chair Ortiz informs the Board that Executive Director Cavanaugh is away from the office and is excused. Following protocol, Ms. Andrea Lewis is the Officer in Charge during Ms. Cavanaugh's absence.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

**Motion #1 - 6 - 2017** - To approve the April 4, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Florez. Motion carries.

### **Agency Report**

Chair Ortiz hands the floor to Ms. Lewis to provide the April and May Agency Report, including updates on the Public Policy Center and Organizations Development Center. Ms. Lewis highlights six items of interest.

First, Ms. Lewis introduces to the Board the Commission's newest intern volunteers, Rebecca Uhlin and Hannah Kesig. She also reveals that Ms. Latisha Jeffrey, an AmeriCorps VISTA member of OCHLA's team, will be completing her contract with the Commission at the end of July. Mr. Jesse Dotson has renewed his contract with OCHLA and will continue to work with us for the 2017-2018 term.

Second, she briefly mentions the morning's event with LIBRE and LULAC, Rising Above Partisanship: Latino Coalition Building Strategies. She invites Commissioners who were in attendance to share their thoughts on the workshop, and Commissioner Molina comments that the dialog throughout the event was engaging, productive, and extremely worthwhile.

Third, Ms. Lewis updates the Board in regards to the Commission's biennial budget proposal and approval as it moves through the 132nd General Assembly. She recognizes Senators Tavares and Senator Manning for their support of OCHLA's budget proposal as it moved through the Ohio Senate.

Commissioner Simms-Howell requests that Ms. Lewis update him via email if there are any changes in regards to the Commission's budget as the process continues.

Fourth, she highlights the 2017 New American Forum, as she is a member of the New American Advisory Council and OCHLA supported this event. She also mentions her attendance to a smaller-scale event, the Coffee and Conversation with Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, and OCHLA's desire to connect with local elected officials.



Fifth, Ms. Lewis updates the Board in regards to OCHLA's work with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, who are closely following a couple of bills that will affect the Latino workforce, and the successful meetings they have held with representatives and senators regarding the legislation.

Finally, she and Ms. Cavanaugh travelled to Fremont, Ohio to meet with Mayor Sanchez and learn about his initiatives in that region. Ms. Lewis emphasizes OCHLA's interest in actively establishing connections with Latino elected officials across the state.

For more detail on the Public Policy Center and Organizations Development Center updates, please see the April and May Monthly Reports on OCHLA's website.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to the Public Policy Center and the Organizations Development Center. No questions are asked and Community Liaison Lair Marin provides the April and May report for the Latino Community Network. Ms. Marin has five key points of interest.

First, Ms. Marin informs the Board that the annual update of the OLANet Directory has been completed, she is simply awaiting the Commissioners' review and approval of changes made before publishing the newest version. She provides a hard copy of the directory to be passed around for review.

Second, she reports on monthly statistics for the Latino Community Network, such as job opportunities posted, events promoted, constituent inquiries answered, etc.

Third, she provides an update in regards to the Latino Leaders Collaborative in Cincinnati, and informs the Board that the first meeting for the Latino Leaders Collaborative in Toledo is scheduled for July 12th. Commissioner Molina states that the initiative is becoming more well-known and desired in other regions of the state.

Fourth, Ms. Marin reveals to the Board that nomination forms for the DHO awards will be available online this year, thanks to the work of Mr. Dotson, as well as in PDF versions to be printed for those who prefer to mail in the hard copies. She briefly reviews where the forms can be accessed as well as the process and deadline for the nominations.

Finally, she provides an update for the Health and Wellness Committee in which she reviews details for the upcoming Ohio Latino Health Summit. The summit will take place at the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine on July 28th, 2017, and will be in partnership with LULAC Ohio, the University of Cincinnati, Mercy Hospital, as well as through a grant received from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Ms. Marin recognizes VISTA member Latisha Jeffrey on her success in procuring and managing this grant.

For more detail on the Latino Community Network update, please see April and May Monthly Reports on OCHLA's website.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor for questions about the Latino Community Network update. There are three.



First, Commissioner Guzman inquires if Commissioners can nominate organizations to receive the DHO award. Ms. Marin and Commissioner Santiago state only individuals can be nominated to receive the DHO, but organizations or individuals can be candidates for the Nuestra Familia awards.

Second, Commissioner Guzman continues by asking if the language on the award descriptions and/or nomination forms could be changed to reflect this distinction. Commissioner Santiago consents that this change can be made.

Third, Chair Ortiz requests that Representative Perales assist the Commissioners in nominating Latinos for the Military Service of Distinction award. Rep Perales agrees to help provide suggestions.

Chair Ortiz asks if there are any further questions on the Agency Report. Seeing none, he then presents the April and May Agency Report to the Board for approval and acceptance.

**Motion #2 - 6 - 2017** - To approve the April and May Monthly Reports as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Molina. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carries.

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

### **Committee Reports**

Chair Ortiz reminds the Board that he provided the Education Committee update during his Report.

Chair Ortiz then invites Ms. Marin to provide an update for the Health and Wellness Committee. She states that other than the information provided earlier, there is no further business to report.

Chair Ortiz invites Commissioner Santiago to provide an update for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Commissioner Santiago updates the Board in regards to the Latino Student Scholarship that is being established as OSU via revenue generated from the DHO Awards Gala. She also reminds the Board that the DHO Awards Gala will take place on Saturday, October 14th at the OSU Ohio Union.

Chair Ortiz asks if a meeting between OCHLA and OSU ODI should be held in order to discuss the terms/timeline of the scholarship. Commissioner Santiago states that meetings are being held with Yolanda Zepeda, Assistant Vice Provost at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She also suggests that perhaps Ms. Zepeda attend the next Board Meeting in order to field any questions Commissioners may have in regards to the scholarship.

Commissioner Santiago also shows the Save the Date that will be disseminated within the next month. Ms. Marin states the while elected officials are not invited to be speakers at the event, they are certainly invited to attend or provide a video salutation to the awardees.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to Commissioner Torres to provide an update for the Workforce and Economic Development Committee. He states that the committee currently



has no business to report.

Chair Ortiz he invites Commissioner Feliciano to provide an update for the Civic Engagement Committee. He states that he has no business to report at this time.

Chair Ortiz proceeds to the next item on the agenda, which is Old Business.

### **Old Business**

There is no Old Business. Chair Ortiz proceeds to New Business.

### **New Business**

There is no New Business on the agenda, however Chair Ortiz invites Commissioners to share any community updates or upcoming events for their prospective regions. There are six items of interest.

Commissioner Guzman requests that staff members and Commissioners update his information in their contacts to reflect his new email address. He also reminds the Board that the first meeting for the Toledo LLC will be July 12th.

Commissioner Molina informs the Board that July 13th is the date for the Executive Perspective in Cincinnati and briefly describes the event.

Commissioner Simms-Howell brings to the Board attention the importance of head-start programs for Latinos and the example of their success in Cincinnati.

Commissioner Santiago reminds the Board that the Lorain International Festival will take place June 23rd-25th and the Sacred Heart Chapel will have theirs July 14th-16th.

Commissioner Torres highlights the upcoming Festival Latino in Columbus which will take place August 12th & 13th. Ms. Marin states that Diana Pagan of CAPA has provided fliers for the festival to be disseminated by the Commissioners to their communities. Additionally, Commissioner Torres informs the Board that COWIC has been discontinued and a new, national Board will take its place. He is looking to recommend Latino leaders in workforce development to sit on this Board.

Legislative Aide to Senator Manning states that her team looks forward to the upcoming International Festival in Lorain County.

Chair Ortiz opens the floor to questions in regards to the Board's updates. Seeing none, he proceeds to Public Commentary.

### **Public present:**

- Latisha Jeffrey, OCHLA/AmeriCorps VISTA
- Jesse Dotson, OCHLA/AmeriCorps VISTA
- Rebecca Uhlin, OCHLA Intern-Volunteer
- Hannah Kesig, OCHLA Intern-Volunteer
- Ophelia Osorio
- Emily Bibyk, LULAC Ohio
- Maddie Meyer, Office of Rep. Rick Perales



**Motion #3 - 6 - 2017** - To open the floor to public commentary. Moved by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Florez. Motion carries.

There is no commentary.

Commissioner Simms-Howell states that he would like AmeriCorps VISTA members and volunteers to receive certificates of recognition for their time with the Commission to commend them for their dedication to serving the State of Ohio. Chair Ortiz and the Commission staff agree.

**Motion #4 - 6 - 2017** - To adjourn meeting. Moved by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Florez. Motion carries.

Board meeting adjourned by Chair Ortiz at 4:20 p.m.

Luis “Tony” Ortiz, Chair

Jose Feliciano Jr. , Secretary

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**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES  
June 14, 2017  
Motions Carried**

<b><u>Motion #1 -6- 2017</u></b>	To approve the April 4, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #2 -6- 2017</u></b>	To approve the April and May Monthly Reports as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #3 -6- 2017</u></b>	To open the floor to public commentary.
<b><u>Motion #4 -6- 2017</u></b>	To adjourn meeting.



**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES  
June 14, 2017**

**ATTACHMENTS**

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
April and May 2017 Monthly Reports	Executive Director Cavanaugh

