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NOVEMBER 2015

To the Honorable Board Members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

During the month of November the team has initiated preparations for end of year reporting. The focus program on our immediate planning includes the preparation for Agenda Latina 2015 and the Education Summit.

Planning for the Interpretation Conference are well underway with committees formed and partnerships in place. The Hispanic Chamber meeting was very productive and priorities have been outlined for their 2016 agenda.

As our team focuses on the annual report preparation, I have also began work to plan our annual strategic retreat in February 2016. There were two holidays this month and much of our regular activities are wrapped up or slowing down for the end of year.

Meetings Attended by Executive Director

Nov 2 - Alejandra Sosa, Welsh University
 Nov 3- Margarita de Leon
 Nov 3 - Allan Catchen, Capital University
 Nov 4- Dr. A. Schiller, Lower Lights, Columbus
 Nov 5- Hispanic Chambers Quarterly meeting
 Nov 6 - Juan Molina, Hispanic Alliance, Cleveland
 Nov 7 - El Centro Annual Gala, Lorain
 Nov 9- Jorge Gonzalez, Columbus
 Nov 9 - Natasha Curtis, Conf. Call



Nov 9 - IT Assessment, DAS
Nov 12-16 - Vacation
Nov 17- Matt Held, IT review
Nov 18- Margarita de Leon
Nov 23- Commissioner Dan Molina, Columbus visit

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Andrea Lewis, Public Policy Officer

Ohio Latino Education Summit

Preparing for the Latino Education Summit continued to be a focus during November. We held another Education Summit Committee planning teleconference and were able to finalize many details, namely the agenda. Minutes and updated documents for the summit have been sent to all committee members. I've sent co-chair invitation letters to Senators Tavares and Lehner for the summit, and created two campaigns promoting the summit that have been distributed amongst thousands of individuals on our listservs. The first campaign carried a "Save the Date" message, while the second campaign included registration links and a "Request for Proposals" link.

Incarcerated Spanish-Speaking Population

In November, OCHLA received a letter from inmates at the Belmont Correctional Institution requesting assistance to learn English. More than 30 inmates signed the petition seeking opportunities to learn English while incarcerated. The inmates underscored the need to be able to communicate effectively in English, as it increases their chances of academic success and employment upon reentry. The inmates have also requested to receive Chaplain Services in Spanish, a Commissary List in Spanish, as well as Spanish T.V. channels. I sent a response letter to the inmates at the correctional facility notifying that we will investigate their requests. Thus far, I've reached out to the prison chaplain, area churches and prison ministry programs, as well as the Governor's Faith Based Initiatives Coordinator about the feasibility of finding individuals who are willing to provide church services in Spanish. As it relates to ESL classes, I've contacted a local university in West Virginia to gauge the feasibility of creating an internship program for students to teach English to inmates. Director Cavanaugh has contacted the Mexican Consulate to learn of the educational services they offer to Mexican inmates.

Legislative Relations:

- Contacted Congressmembers Mario Diaz Balart and Linda Sanchez requesting their presence as a keynote speaker for next year's Hispanic Legislative Visit Day. I also contacted *Voto Latino* CEO Maria Teresa Kumar requesting her presence as keynote speaker for the event as well.
- Presented relevant legislation of interest to the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and will develop legislative priorities.
- Drafted an election summary update campaign, which highlighted the outcomes of Ohio's statewide initiatives and included relevant news articles from Election Day. The campaign was distributed to 400+ individuals on our listserv
- Drafted a legislative update featuring HCR 31, HB 48, HB 50 and HB 294 and included relevant news articles. Upcoming events in the Latino community were also included in the campaign.



- Met with Rep. Barbara Sears and DAS' MBE Division to discuss the feasibility of certifying non-profit organizations for the MBE/EDGE programs. I have also reached out to a professor at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs who is an expert on the topic of non-profit management and contracts, and will soon meet to gather insight and suggestions.
- Met with Rep. Boyce and New American Committee to discuss upcoming summit. Drafted a list of legislative ideas that will be considered at the roundtable.
- It was recently brought to our attention that there is a growing gang presence in Ohio that is seriously affecting Latino youth. I am in the process of working with a number of individuals working for the government to address this issue.
- Drafted testimony for the Sunset Review, which Director Cavanaugh will soon present. She will be testifying on the following criteria:
 1. The agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives
 2. The agency's past and anticipated workload, the number of staff required to complete that workload, and the agency's total number of staff
 3. The agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding
 4. The number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any.

Constituent Outreach

- I have continued to work with a family who alleges that their son was treated unfairly at school because of his ethnicity. The family has filed a formal complaint with the Department of Education's Civil Rights Division, and I have followed-up with the office to discuss the procedure.
- Sent Latino business fact sheet and PowerPoint to constituent.
- Wrote letter of recommendation for contractor.
- Provided information on educator licensure for constituent
- Provided constituent with information on current initiatives the commission is currently involved in.
- Shared bill ideas and strategies with a Latino Executive Director on ways to engage their legislator and earn the support of their elected officials on local projects. Contacted Jennifer Johnson of the ODJFS Refugee Resettlement Program on their behalf to obtain more information about Ohio's refugee population.

Other

— Heavily promoted a professional development workshop that OCHLA is spearheading with the Central Ohio ESC. I have pitched the workshop to educators in various public schools in Central Ohio, including Superintendent Dr. Dan Good's office. They have all acknowledged the need for the workshop and have agreed to promote the workshop and its flyer within their networks.

November 2015 Meetings Attended:

Nov. 2- Alejandra Sosa, Walsh University
Nov. 3- PD Workshop Conference Call
Nov. 4- Rep. Sears and DAS employees
Nov. 5- Hispanic Chambers Meeting
Nov. 6- New American Summit Meeting
Nov. 6- Ecuadorian Consulate
Nov. 6- National Multiple Sclerosis Society



Nov. 9– New American Summit Meeting
Nov. 10– Big Brothers/Big Sisters Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Nov. 12– New Americans Event Planning Meeting
Nov. 16– Human Trafficking Conference
Nov. 17– Meeting with IT
Nov. 19– Latino Connection Meeting
Nov. 23– Education Summit Conference Call

Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lair Marin-Marcum, Community Liaison

The 2015-2016 OLANet Latino Serving Organizations is finished and all have been uploaded to the website.

Below all highlights of projects and meetings for the LCN that also took place during the month of November 2015.

Connecting the Community: Information and Resources

OCHLA Website Events Calendar

Continuous daily postings of all events in the community throughout all of Ohio. The November Website Event Postings: 40.

Connecting through electronic media: Website, Social Media

We continue to work on the community outreach and informing constituents about events, services, trainings, resources and other relevant information by using our Events Calendar and Social Media outlets.

The LCN goal is hoping to reach the 1,000 + by the end of the year. We are at → 959 likes and only 41 likes away from our goal.

Job Opportunities section on OCHLA's home page Promoting through electronic media: Website, Social Media

⇒ The month of October for Job Opportunities Postings on the OCHLA website was also one of the highest of the past year at 40

Constituent Services

During the month November we are back to normal number of constituency calls at 20 Constituent Requests.

Student Intern / Volunteers

In the month of November we've had 3 Interns volunteers. We will start recruiting in December and January since we will have 2 intern volunteers will leave in December (Iliana Vasquez and Jordan Royster) after OSU semester finishes. We will have 1 intern/volunteer return from 2014 Morgan.



Summary Connecting the Community: Information and Resources

OUTLET	DESCRIPTION	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Website Calendar	Community Events	70	72
Facebook	Number of "Likes" to date	930	959
Facebook & Twitter	Postings of news, resources, events	230	188
Website (Job Opportunities Page), Facebook & Twitter	Job Openings Promoted	71	40

November constituent inquiries processed:	20
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November 2015 Meetings Attended:

- 2 November – Mtg. with Battelle to discuss partnership & recommendations in Hispanic community.
- 3 November – Mtg with ex intern/Volunteer a Georgetown Graduate to recruit back to OCHLA
- 6 November – Mtg with Ecuadorian Consulate
- 6 November – Mtg with Nancy Dunn from National MS Society
- 6 November – Mtg with Melony from Ohio BWC
- 9 November - Conference Call 2016 LAS Regional Confereneec Planning Meeting
- 9 November— Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception and welcoming for new Director Ramon Reyes
- 12 November—Mtg Jorge Gonzalez / Updated on his Digital Distribution/Social Media Company
- 24 November - Meeting with Tom Lianez/ Who's Who & Resources
- 29 November— Meet and greet with new Commissioner Daniel Molina

Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Georgina Alvarez— ODC Officer

Grant Announcements—E- Campaigns –

This month I met with USDA, and have put them in contact with Latino organizations, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and grassroots organizations, to discuss funding possibilities. This Department, Federal and State, is a good source for business and community development, therefore is something I will continue working on.

A Latino statistics data base is being prepared, and hope to have ready by the first week in December.



Building rapport with Hispanic grassroots and serving organizations

This month my work was focus on the coordination, invitation, and organization of Agenda Latina 2015, which is going to be focus in creating an strategy plan to work and improve the relationship between OCHLA and the Latino grassroots organizations.

The last meeting of the year 2015 of the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce took place November 5th at the Riffe Building; we had the participation of the regional Chambers, except Toledo. Two guests joined the meeting, Ms. Shanda Harris from the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), and Ms. Karla Garret Harshaw, Regional Director of Development for ABLE (Advocates for Basic Legal Equality).

The meeting with Ohio Latino Connection took place on November 19, as the last meeting for this year. We had the visit of Lynnette Santiago, from National Youth Advocate Program for Ohio. Also her husband Freddy Santiago joined us; he is a Pastor and an Immigration Advocate.

We visited the Hispanic Alliance to renew our relationship with them. Mr. Juan Molina Crespo, Executive Director, invited Mr. Nelson Ramirez to join the meeting. Mr. Ramirez is the Executive Director of UMADAOP.

The meeting with Mrs. Ramona Reyes was to meet and greet her in her new position as Executive Director of the Hispanic Chapter of Catholic Social Services.

Meetings Attended

November 5 - Quarterly meeting among the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

November 8 - Met in Cleveland with Juan Molina, Executive Director of Hispanic Alliance, and Nelson Ramirez, Executive Director of UMADAOP

November 9 - Attended El Centro de Servicios Sociales de Lorain's Gala Event

November 10 - Attended Wright University Business Summit in Dayton

November 12 - Attended the health meeting - DACC

November 13 - Met with Ramona Reyes, new Executive Director for Catholic Social Services, Columbus

November 19 - Attended the Ohio Latino Connection Meeting at Riffe Center

Respectfully submitted,

