



***Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs
Strategic Planning Session (SPS-II) Meeting
In-Person at the Wild Kid Acres, LLC***

*Thursday, March 4, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes

Commission in Attendance:

Alicia Altamirano, Member
Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Vice Chair
Ernesto Chanona, Chair
Lorena De Pombo, Member
Veronica Estrada, Member
Lena Hernandez, Member
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member
Yuliana Macey, Member
Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member
Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member
Jennifer Rios
Katie Simbala, Member

Commissioner not in Attendance:

Diana Acosta, Member
Stephanie Landaverde, Member
Dinorah Olmos (Resigned)
Nitzalis Rivera, Member
Ana Salmeron, Member
Javier Toro

GOCI Staff:

Larry Walker, Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)
Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff (GOCI)
Cherie Warehime, Executive Assistant (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Ernesto Chanona provided welcoming remarks. He informed the commission that we're here to serve as advisors and to better understand how to brainstorm effective and cost-effective solutions for our community and how we can deliver those recommendations to the eyes and to the ears of the Governor of Maryland.



- ❖ Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff of GOCI spoke about the list of resources he provided a few weeks ago. This listing will be an ongoing dialogue. He let them know the GOCI is behind them 100% on the town hall discussions. He will be sending out more information concerning a meeting with the Department of Education and with the superintendent's office.

III. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of 02-04-25 SPS I - Meeting	Ernest Chanona	Lorena De Pombo	11Y-0N-0A

IV. Sub-Committees: (The chair of each subcommittee to provide a written report of updates and discussions concerning their committee's progress since the last public commission meeting.)

- ❖ **Business/Economic Development:**
Commissioner Lorena De Pombo had nothing to report, but they are still working on compiling data. They need to find another chair for this committee, since the other member has stepped down.
- ❖ **Community (Arts/Culture/Faith):**
Commissioner Lena Hernandez led the discussion. They are discussing hosting virtual roundtables and town halls across Maryland to gather information from Hispanic community leaders and develop strategies and action items. Executive Director Larry Walker spoke about the listening session, which GOCI can provide templates, but this commission would need to make it fit their own ideas. When they receive the information back from their communities, what action would be needed? What can the Commission do? What resources are available in the State government to assist their needs? This is a listening session to listen and then talk about how they can work out strategies to address some of the concerns and work with our state partners and private partners to address the needs.

Chair Chanona stated that the listening sessions would come first, and then an analysis would come next, then taking that information and asking how we can leverage some of the state resources. He stated that they are the voice that brings the community together as a commission. They will need to know who to invite to the table. That will help them execute the actions. Who are the advocacy groups, who are the movers and shakers that have the resources and the manpower. They asked for a motion on this.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To create a working group to establish Town Hall meetings – Roundtable Discussions.	Alicia Altamirano	Lena Hernandez	12Y-0N-0A



❖ **Education (Workforce Development):**

Vice Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez led this discussion. She informed everyone about Commissioner Dinorah Olmos's resignation. To follow up on the letter regarding GED testing in Spanish. They are to connect with the superintendent for insights into school issues and student protection.

❖ **Health:**

Commissioner Yuliana Macey and Vice Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez led this discussion. To continue meeting with organizations to collect data on Latino community health needs. They will distribute flyers and support the Alzheimer's organization. They will need to schedule a meeting and recruit more members.

❖ **Housing:**

Commissioner Gabriel Moreno led this discussion. There were no updates, but the committee are still trying to schedule a meeting and are seeking more members.

V. Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs 2025 Strategic Planning Discussion:

Chair Chanona discussed the importance of setting specific goals and establishing virtual town halls to gather data and formulate strategies. He emphasized the role of the commission as a liaison between the Governor's office and the community, and the need for accountability in executing these strategies. The team agreed on a workflow for organizing town halls, collecting data, formulating strategies, and following up with community partners. All commissioners to submit headshot pics and bios.

X. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.	Ernesto Chanona	Gabriel Moreno	12Y-0N-0A