Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Strategic Planning Session (SPS-II) Meeting
Virtual ZOOM
Thursday, February 1, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commission Attendance: Yes

Diana Acosta, Member	**Stephanie Landaverde, Member**
Alicia Altamirano, Member	**Yuliana Macey, Member**
Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Member	**Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member**
Ernesto Chanona, Chair	**Dinorah Olmos, Member**
Lorena De Pombo, Member	**Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member**
Veronica Estrada, Member	**Nitzalis Rivera, Member**
Dr. Felipe Amin Filomeno, Member	**Ana Salmeron, Member**
Jorge Flores, Member	**Katie Simbala, Member**
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member	**Javier Toro, Member**
Lena Hernandez, Member	

GOCI Staff:

Dr. Aitza Haddad Nunez, Administrative Director for the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Lawrence Walker, III, Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)
Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator-Fiscal Admin. for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)

I.   Call to Order:
Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

II.   Opening Remarks:
- ❖ Ernesto Chanona gave welcoming remarks and went over meeting procedures.
- ❖ Lawrence Walker, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Director Walker asked that the commission choice 2 of the 10 Governor priorities to focus on and set up a structure for those two priorities and then setup up a goal for what the commission wants to accomplish in 2024. He announced that Dr. Aitza Haddad Nunez resigned as a commissioner and is now an employee of GOCI as our new Administrator Director for the Hispanic and Caribbean commissions. Her official start date will be February 21, 2024.
- ❖ Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
  COS Yancey reminded the commission of our focus on issues (concerns, potential legislation, etc.), events (opportunities to celebrate culture/history), and infrastructure (what we can build and have in place for future administrations and future generations).

III. **State Ethics**
Gregory Yancey from GOCI went over the Do's and Don'ts of State Ethics, but there will be a representative from State Ethics at one of our upcoming meetings. There is literature in the commissioner binder.

IV. Cheryl Madigan provided brief remarks concerning her position with GOCI. She is the Ethnic Project Coordinator for all seven commissions and Fiscal Administrator for GOCI.

V. Chair Chanoa will be meeting with each commissioner on a one-on-one basis. He did ask if someone would like to serve as Chair of the Health Committee. No one responded, therefore, he will send out a survey.

Sub-Committees - Listed are the commissioners' interests that they chose to serve on.

Health – Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Dr. Maria Ramos Olazgasti, Yuliana Macey

Business/Economic Development – Javier Toro, Lorena De Pombo, Gaby Argoti-Fernandez, Katie Simbala, Veronica Estrada

Education (Workforce Development) – Nitzalis Rivera, Dinorah Olmos, Stephanie Landaverde, Gaby Argoti-Fernandez, Alicia Altamirano

Community (Arts/Culture/Interfaith) – Felipe Amin Filomeno (Chair), Katie Simbala, Lorena De Pombo, Lena Hernandez, Alicia Altamirano, Yuliana Macey, Dinorah Olmos

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	
To create a subcommittee for Housing	Javier Toro	Victoria Gomez Lorenzo	15Y-1N-0A	

Sub-committee Housing – Javier Toro and Veronica Estrada

VI. **Executive Order Discussion**
COS Yancey went over the executive orders. There are three branches of government, which are the Executive branch – which enforces the laws, the Legislative branch – which creates which makes the laws and the Judicial branch – which interprets the laws. The Commission will provide feedback to the Governor to make decisions. There are bylaws under the executive order, which cannot contradict the executive order. The executive orders were created in 2007 and GOCI is working on updating the order and bylaws. The supposed changes will be given to the commission for review before submitting to the Governor.

VII. **Bylaw Discussion**
Tabled the discussion until commissioners have picked up their binders and reviewed the material.

VIII.   **Open Meetings Act Discussion**
COS Yancey provided some brief description of what it consists of. Commissioners need to review the material from their binders.

IX.   **Commission Support, Procurement and Affirmation of Sub-Committees**
Ethnic Project Coordinator Madigan explained sponsorship and in-kind donations. COS Yancey went into more detail about events (Governor representation, non-profits and other state agencies for partnership, citations, venues, talent, etc.) We go through our own communication department for approval of anything made public. If a commissioner would like to have something posted to our website or they have an opportunity to be interviewed, they should reach out to GOCI for approval. The annual report will be composed by GOCI's Administrative Director with input from the commission. The Vice Chair and Secretary will be voted on at the first regular meeting of the commission. Each subcommittee will come up with topics for discussion and set goals. GOCI will provide the commission notice of any legislation bills that would be coming up that would affect the Hispanic communities and if they would want to address it or address it as a private citizen. Commissioners should inquire before addressing.

X.   **Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs 2024 Agenda Discussion**
This discussion will be tabled until the next meeting, which will be part two of the SPS.
Each Commissioner gave a brief introduction of themselves. Commissioner Gaby Argoti-Fernandez and Commissioner Veronica Estrada are returning commissioners. COS Yancey spoke about social media, government email accounts and business cards.

XI.   **Adjournment:**
Chair Chanona ended the meeting at 7:44 p.m., there was no quorum to vote on this.