



Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs
1st Quarterly Commission Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

Alicia Altamirano, Member
Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Vice Chair
Ernesto Chanona, Chair
Lorena De Pombo, Member
Lena Hernandez, Member
Stephanie Landaverde, Member
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member
Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member
Jennifer Rios
Katie Simbala, Member
Javier Toro

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Diana Acosta, Member
Veronica Estrada, Member
Yuliana Macey, Member
Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member
Nitzalis Rivera, Member
Ana Salmeron, Member

GOCI Staff:

Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Ernesto Chanona provided welcoming remarks from Seoul, South Korea. He was invited there by the South Korean government to speak on the impact of federal policy concerning the healthcare innovation sector.
- ❖ Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff of GOCI provided an update on the status on many items.
 - The hiring of the new administrative director for the commission.
 - He will follow-up this Chair Chanona concerning his trip at South Korea. He would like information from him to provide to the African Affairs commission for their upcoming September health fair event.



- GOCI's Immigrant Affairs unit will be expanding, and there will be new positions opening. One of the positions will be for a pilot program on language access, which our office will be working with the Department of Disabilities.
- Upcoming meeting with Maryland State Department of Education concerning their policies and practices on immigration.
- There will be an upcoming training on immigration for attorneys, paralegals, and representatives that work with immigrant issues on June 27th at Prince George's Community College.
- Spoke on forums concerning the town hall/round table discussions and it has been approved by legal and communications.
- The MOU and flyer has been edited for Faith in Blue project. He will be joining Vice Chair Argoti-Fernandez tomorrow to meet with this organization. Vice Chair Argoti-Fernandez mentioned that the organization supports the community with medical equipment. They will be loading up a trailer with equipment at 9:00 a.m. The information has already been provided to the commissioners.
- May 7th is the last day to be able to fly without REAL ID. See link for flying requirement for ID. <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

III. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of 03-04-25 SPS II – Meeting	Victoria Gomez Lozano	Gaby Argoti-Fernandez	10Y-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. The chair had stepped down and the vice chair was not present. Chair Chanona stated that the vice chair (Commissioner Veronica Estrada) will be taking over the chairs position and they need a vice chair, and he wants the committee to regroup and send a meeting schedule.

❖ Community (Arts/Culture/Faith):

Commissioner Lena Hernandez led the discussion. They are working on the planning of the roundtable discussions and would like to put the planning of the heritage celebration on hold for the moment.

❖ Education (Workforce Development):

Commissioner Stephanie Landaverde had nothing to report, since they do not have a chair for this committee. Vice Chair Argoti-Fernandez mentioned that this committee's work is being done through the Round Table Discussions, as well as all the other subcommittees being utilized through this project.



❖ **Health:**

Chair Commissioner Yuliana Macey and Vice Chair Commissioner Maria Ramos Olazagosti was absent from this meeting to report, but Commissioner Victoria Gomez Lozano reported that their last subcommittee meeting was held on March 28th. They met with CEO Rufus Phillips from the Virginia Association on free charitable clinics. The committee wanted to learn their model, since they serve the underserved population.

❖ **Housing:**

Chair Commissioner Javier Toro led this discussion. He stated that they haven't had a recent meeting due to him being out for personal reasons. They are still collecting data from all the counties' housing offices. He has only received information from Vice Chair Argoti-Fernandez and Commissioner Gabriel Moreno. He will need to reach out to the rest of the members of this committee to come up with meeting dates.

V. **Working Groups:**

- ❖ Chair Javier Toro asked about an event that he could attend and about a presentation to be used for the Carroll County Round Table Discussion. COS Greg Yancey provided approval on these with the help from GOCI. The question came up concerning the proper procedure for a commissioner to attend an event. Please refer to the [Event Request Form](#). The link to request a [Letter/Citation](#). The link to request the Governor/Lt. Governor/First Lady attend a [Meeting/Event](#).

❖ **Round Table Discussions:**

Commissioner Lena Hernandez led the discussion. She stated that all commissioners should familiarize themselves with the Tracker document of this project. [Document Link](#). Chair Chanona wants the commissioner to make this a priority to fill it out. It was decided to have all questions for the discussion sent to COS Greg Yancey for review. We need to keep in mind the Open Meeting Act guidelines. Commissioner Hernandez confirmed that these discussions are for them to listen to the attendees and to bring back the information to the commission. There will be a meeting every Friday at noon, for the next month to discuss the planning. It was determined that a commissioner could be a translator for the meetings. Invitations will be sent out by Cheryl Madigan from GOCI.

❖ **Maryland 250 Commission:**

COS Greg Yancey had no updates.

VI. **Updates:**

- ❖ Baltimore Community Foundation – Commissioner Hernandez brought up on how to address concerns from the community and from the commission. COS Yancey said that the concerns will need to be forwarded to GOCI to evaluate and then decided to see if it goes to the Governor's Office.
- ❖ Bylaws – COS Yancey asked the commission to process whatever changes they want to make to the bylaws.
- ❖ Annual Report - COS Yancey will be sending the commission a template with ideas for their annual report and it will be discussed on June 1st.

X. **Adjournment:**

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.	Jennifer Rios	Victoria Gomez Lozano	10Y-0N-0A