

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2006 - 10:00am
Indiana Government Center-South
Conference Rm 5**

Commissioners Present:

Manuel Gonzalez – Senate Lay Member, Commission Chair
Claudia Ontiveros – Fuentes – Designee, Indiana Economic Development Corporation,
Commission Treasurer
Representative John Aguilera – House Democrat
Hilda Vázquez – Designee, Indiana Department of Education
Adolfo Solis – House Lay Member
Samuel Ruiz – House Lay Member
Judge Gregory Kellam-Scott – Indiana Civil Rights Commission Director
Christine Cde Baca – Indiana Civil Rights Commission Deputy Director

Staff:

Amy Mendoza, ICHLA Executive Director
Laura Barrett, ICHLA Staff

I. Call to Order

A. Establish Quorum

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05am. He acknowledged that there was not presently a quorum established.

II. Guest Speaker Presentations

**A. Margie Chavez, Indiana Dept. of Administration Division of
Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Margie Chavez.

Margie Chavez expressed that she was pleased to be present again with the Commission. She discussed how the (IDOA) looks at legislative issues, how bills become laws and lobbying; she described it as a “different world” compared to her previous position with Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).

Margie Chavez explained how the Division of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises receives often receives calls about individuals looking for minority businesses that are specialized in a certain area. She also briefly mentioned how the certification process has changed, specifically regarding documentation materials needed. Her division is now certifying with an entrepreneurial focus. The goal is to complete certification within 45 days (not business days). There have been 352 new certified businesses within the last year; this includes 9% being Latino businesses. Margie Chavez explained that certification is free of charge and they are there to assist. The division’s business specialist is Richard Arroyo. He assists many with the Spanish language barrier. Federal regulation states that owners of these businesses certified with the state must be U.S. citizens. The state cannot control this issue.

Margie Chavez gave an overview of the provided power point presentation that includes all of the division’s general information. She described her position as the Deputy Director of Marketing and Compliance. This position is split into two people. The division is currently looking for another individual to take this position, as she will soon become the Deputy Director of Communications. Margie Chavez said that her role is very broad. The scoring of the contracts has come back to the division’s office. She explained that when an RFS (Request for Service), (RFP) Request for Proposal or an (RFI) Request for Information comes through the office, they are scored on certain criteria. She stated being an Indiana economic business, individuals get more points if it is an Indiana company than another state. The prime contracts are reviewed to determine how many goals are being met. Margie Chavez briefly mentioned the division’s

“disparity study” and how it reflects on the needs to be acquired. For example, the division may hold conduct business match-maker events at least twice a year to help with the needs. Margie Chavez also mentioned a match-maker event held called “Power Networking” in February. The division strongly encourages attendance among state agency heads/leaders, prime contractors, casinos and state universities. This event is held during business hours. In July, the “match-maker connection” is held close to the Black Expo business week. This event uses the entire Government Conference Center. Throughout the course of the day (5 day event), the division connects businesses on how to sell projects and how to use them. These are the two largest networking events provided by the division. On July 11, 2006, the division had over 400 individuals registered to attend this event. Margie Chavez explained that the division also makes personal telephone calls to encourage attendance. She said that the division tells their clients, “You have to communicate, be persistent and be proactive...and not just once.”

Margie Chavez provided an overview about what the Division of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises does as whole. The division does everything that they can do to help individuals become certified. She said, “There is a lot of credibility in state certification, because it is a lengthy process.” The benefits of certification can go way beyond simply being a state contract. She mentioned three major things that are needed to become a certified firm: Only control 51% of the business, control the business/possess expertise in the field and be a U.S. citizen. She gave a situational example that is very common. A male-owned company might have someone who has run a business for 25 years, but then might decide to give it to the spouse to have a better opportunity to contact with the state. Margie Chavez mentioned confirmed that a business must be owned and controlled by a woman by 51% or more by qualifying minorities for women. The state will review a business’s board members, passes and etc. to confirm. Margie Chavez also gave an example of an African-American individual who was recently certified with the state for \$3.5 million dollars for the stadium. His first contract was a success. She said that those are the types of ideas that Governor Daniels would like to see certified.

Margie Chavez said that it is always important that you register your business with the State. The In-Take Coordinators get everything together for the next level once the application is completed. The business specialist visits the business onsite and asks different questions to make sure the business qualifies. She said that there is a lot of ways that they make sure a business is ran by a woman or minority. The division encourages those businesses that are newly certified to be proactive; they are encouraged to frequently check the internet for listings. Margie Chavez said that the division often holds training seminars quarterly and will partner with Ivy Tech and other great facilities. These seminars are free. The division also sends out newly created e-newsletters. The last one was released in July. They also release e-bit alerts that are sent out to all certified clients. She explained that the stadium project has increased the percentage points. Most of the minority businesses complete work such as interior, construction, etc. Whatever is spent, 20% and 10% goes into minority hands over the next two years.

Margie Chavez discussed compliance. She mentioned that the division audits every single file. She said that if the state spends \$150,000 or more, it goes into the division’s system. They ask the prime contractor see if there is a big money difference. The division does allow sanctions. If the prime contractor does not pay the minority businesses soon, then the prime contractor will be sanctioned.

Margie Chavez discussed the vision of the program. The division has a whole host of things to be completed. She also mentioned having a better understanding for the “red tape” that must be completed for each process. They are not where they need to be. She gave the fiscal address of the division as: Indiana Department of Administration, Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises Division, IGC-S, Room W 469. She announced that she will be leaving state government very soon and offered to discuss it later. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present and for her representation with the Commission in the past.

Chair Gonzalez asked if there were any questions about Margie Chavez’s presentation.

An audience member asked Margie Chavez if 9% of the registered businesses were Latino and what this number represents in procurement dollars.

Margie Chavez explained that this number by be reflective in the Division's Disparity Study. She offered to provide this information to anyone interested. A total of \$56,000,000 was spent last year on minority and women owned businesses. This dollar amount was not broken down. She said that every agency has to meet the same criteria as the general public. Margie Chavez reiterated that the Division is no where near where they need to be. The Division is only at 2.8% of minority and women owned businesses. They should be at 3% minimum. She explained that those test tubes mentioned at the beginning of the power point are called "emerging communities." These are what the state will need within the next five years. She also mentioned the Major Moves Project.

Margie Chavez also has a power point on disadvantaged things including: water, linens, etc. She said that this is something to think about later down the road.

Commissioner Scott asked Margie Chavez to what extent does the inability of the State and prime contractors to meet the goals deter or impact the available firms in terms of capacity. He stated that if you cannot make a living then you won't stay in that enterprise.

Margie Chavez promised to share the Disparity link with the Commission. She asked everyone to look at the specific areas of interest. She explained how this is a perfect opportunity; these things can be controlled with state tax dollars.

Chair Gonzalez asked how the state is doing on the issues between the Indiana Business Development Corporation (IBDC) and the State's Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (MWBE) program.

Margie Chavez said that the Governor knew that the IBDC has had thousands of individuals pay \$200 for their certification, yet the MWBE's process is free. She said that the MWBE has received 8 contracts from them since the new Executive Order has come into place.

Chair Gonzalez asked Margie Chavez about the process of "receiving 8." He commented on how the IBDC has a stack of Hispanic certifications just sitting there. He said that this is a big complaint. He asked if these businesses are supposed to send their certification to MWBE, and if so, what does the state do with it?

Margie Chavez said that the MWBE honors the IBDC's certifications completely.

Chair Gonzalez asked about MWBE honoring the NAICS codes.

Margie Chavez said that MWBE uses the (UNSPEC code?) instead, as it is more refined. The MWBE takes what the IBDC says.

Chair Gonzalez asked if asked if the IBDC gives the MWBE the codes that are used. He also asked if business owners should submit the application also with the MWBE with the same code that they use.

Margie Chavez said that it starts with the applicant. Each individual must speak with IBDC and tell them to take it to MWBE.

Chair Gonzales said, "It sounds simple but something is wrong."

Margie Chavez said that it is a privacy issue.

Chair Gonzalez asked that the Commission write a letter to Reggie or find out more details on the matter. He mentioned that his company is sending Hispanic businesses to the IBDC to become certified. He acknowledged a big confusion with this subject.

Margie Chavez said that it is a two-way street. She informed Chair Gonzalez to send these individuals to the State because it is free. They have mastered their application.

Chair Gonzalez said that he has been working with minority business for a very long time and is confused with the process. He said that there is obviously confusion with information or a lack of information. He encourages businesses to get certified everywhere, however often gets comments back about the previous concerns.

Margie Chavez said that the process has not been going through PeopleSoft very well. They have to add an 8 at the bottom.

Commissioner Scott asked why the states do not have certifications like the federal government.

Margie Chavez said that the Small Business Administration (SBA) is used a lot. She explained that if someone wants to use state dollars, then they should get certified with the State. She said that a business owner should not be intimidated by questions at the meetings as long as they have their proper paperwork (Articles of Incorporation/Sole Proprietor, LLC and/or etc.). They do not have to hold board meetings or meeting minutes to be certified.

Chair Gonzalez thanked speaker, Margie Chavez, for her presentation.

**B. James A. McCann, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science, Purdue University**

Chair Gonzalez introduced and welcomed the next speaker, James A. McCann from Purdue University.

James McCann discussed his presentation as sort of a progress report from last year's presentation with the Commission. He provided the Commission with a power point presentation of his findings and recent research called, "The Contours of Civil Life for Immigrants from Mexico: Selected Findings from the 2006 Mexican Expatriate Study." James McCann outlined the following research goals: mapping civic engagement, both local and national contexts, transitional connections, and relationship between trans-nationalism and incorporation into U.S. civic life. This study will look at immigration across the United States; this includes the most actual and potential.

James McCann gave an overview of the design of the study. He explained how he has conducted many studies in North Central Indiana, San Diego and Austin, Texas dealing with rather large survey sizes. Approximately 950 immigrants were surveyed in June 2006 in these cities. There were 151 pilot interviews while they conducted a study. The research group went into the field and interviewed individuals in places like the Mexican Consulate, laundry mats, bakeries, soccer fields. These interviews lasted about 20-30 minutes each and involved all Mexican-born adult participants. James McCann said that on average, each participant lived in the U.S. for at least 9 years. There were individuals with more years of residence in the U.S. in California and Texas. Overall the response rate was about 84%. He said that his respondents confirm to the findings that John Clark from the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research provided last month. James McCann was able to look at the attitudes and perspectives of immigrants unlike what John Clark could do. There was more social research involved. He also mentioned the tendency to want to label people in this country. The U.S. Census has gotten into multiple categories. He said that he asked the respondents what words would they used to describe themselves; Most responded

“Mexican,” James McCann referred back to the provided chart where it separated individuals as Mexican, Mexican-American, and American.

James McCann spoke about the overlapping identifications. He said that about 1/3 of the participants were identified as either “Mexican or Mexican-American”, with about half of these individuals claiming “Mexican” heritage. He said that only 20% claimed “Mexican” and only “Mexican.”

James McCann discussed social incorporation. He said that 90% of the respondents did not have formal citizenship and more than half did not have formal papers. He said, “Socially, these are good indications of social incorporation.” He felt that Indiana is doing just fine socially. James McCann also mentioned discrimination and how Indiana’s news is equal. He said, “It’s easy to get alarmed.”...”The good news outweighs the bad.” James McCann commented on discrimination by stating “those vital areas of life highly regulated see more discrimination.” He said that those looking for work and those in the streets experience the highest forms of discrimination.

Commissioner Scott said, “We now have a system to distinguish between national origin.” He commented on how the regulation in respect to housing is stronger than with employment.

James McCann said that many are upfront in terms of bilingual training. He also mentioned that there is a pattern present; differences are significant in a scientific sense. He commented, “As the more public nature as the interaction grows, it’s much less perceived. James McCann felt that this was a good factor. He said that Indiana is seeing interesting patterns.

James McCann spoke about the chart and how grades in Mexico are on a 0-10 scale. The provided chart mimics this scale. He asked the participants, “Where would you rate Americans?” He said that Indiana received a 7.3 rate according to the participants data scores. This is a skewed distribution. James McCann also summarized that the local schools averaged a score of 7.7 from the respondents. James McCann said that the immigrants appear to “like” the schools.

Commissioner Scott commented how the scores do not match up with the progress on grades in the schools. He felt that 7.7 is like a B+ with the schools. He asked James McCann what the specific question was that was asked in reference to schools. Judge Scott felt that it was hard to believe that with 30% of the students graduating in Indiana, how this score could be good. He asked that “we” do not conclude that the schools are good.

Audience member Maria Pimentel-Gannon expressed that she felt that the question focused on the feelings towards the schools, rather than the progress.

James McCann mentioned that the schools as institutions are held in a high regard. He said that general judgments will be given.

Commissioner Scott asked what the conclusion would be that is drawn from this information. For example: Latinos believe the schools are good?

James McCann said that there is reservoir of positive feelings towards a school

Commissioner Ruiz asked how many years the majority of respondents have been in the U.S.

James McCann said that 9 years was average number of years living in the U.S. with a great deal of region to region variation among this number. The appendix at the end of the power point slides provides a detailed profile.

Chair Gonzalez said that his business recently visited the Terra Haute School Corporation. They were interested on how to make Latinos feel more accepted in their school district. Chair Gonzalez said that the Commission has done a lot to reach out. He interprets this as a good thing within a short time. He said that people are beginning to feel accepted into the schools with some success. Chair Gonzalez said that this is symbolic, as it is a merging community.

James McCann said that the good outweighs the bad, as it is very symbolic. His goal was to sort of look at the overall disposition of the immigrants. These are not necessarily just the parents. He is looking at just the general orientation towards the local schools to see if there are any gaps or trouble spots that might impede with social incorporation. He said that there is a social incorporation theme.

Commissioner Solis agreed that the study overlaps with events in his experience as a Latino immigrant. He is now a student in America and can understand the feelings that are attributed with the transition. He said, "It makes sense." Adolfo Solis also wanted to set the foundations to life in Indiana.

James McCann also summarized how Indiana's police in general were given a score of 7.0. He discussed the "actual incorporation." There was an unexpected outpouring of the immigrant bills in Congress and other venues. He stated a question taken from the June survey that asked the respondents, "Did you participate in marches or demonstrations?" James McCann said that half of the immigrants reported personal involvement, whereas, there was very little region to region engagement. They were organized marches. Those not participating in the marches did acknowledge having a close family member or friend take part in one. James McCann said that roughly, 75% of the Mexican immigrant population was either closely involved or indirectly involved with the marches. Approximately 90% of those involved lacked papers or some sort of documentation. He concluded by saying, "This is a group that has a voice.

Mr. McCann discussed civic aspirations within the Mexican community. He said that approximately 80% of those immigrants are "thinking of becoming a citizen." These immigrants also acknowledged a desire to vote, but cannot do so because of their citizenship status. James McCann said that the vast majority of those immigrants surveyed were totally sure or highly likely to vote. He said, "There is a lot of untapped potential." When asked how many Mexican immigrants had volunteered in community organizations to solve a local problem, approximately 40%-60% Americans said yes, whereas, only 14% of Indiana Latinos volunteered. He agreed that "we" do not see a lot. James McCann acknowledged that the lack of legal citizenship and papers is a barrier to the new immigrant population. He also commented on how they have seen pockets of engagement, but slightly lower. James McCann said that there is also less engagement with congressional campaigns. Regarding civic knowledge, only 1/8 of the surveyed population knew that the congressional elections were held in November. These individuals were asked these questions in June. Only 16% of those participants knew that the Republican Party was currently in power.

James McCann reviewed over the final slide of his presentation. The study asked "Will the campaign environment this fall draw immigrants into deeper civil incorporation?" James McCann felt that the campaign environment can foster good representation at its best. The organizers from the marches said "on to the fall." James McCann felt also felt that this provides more opportunities for the immigrants bitten by the civic bug. He plans to continue the research for the fall. This research will include the following research: What is the long-term impact of involvement in the immigrant rights movement last spring? Will it work towards like the religious movement or civil rights? How do connections to Mexico shape civic engagement in the United States over the long run?

James McCann said that a campaign can definitely be therapeutic in a democracy. It can make politics far more approachable and help simplify issues that can help foster engagement with representation. Campaigns can also become a dimension for immigrant incorporation.

Audience member Maria Pimentel-Gannon asked if an education level break down was included in the study.

Mr. McCann said that there were different levels of education included in the survey. He extended an invitation for the Commission to attend the conference with the West Lafayette Latino Cultural Center. He said that they have big ambitions.

James McCann discussed those that sponsored the study. He acknowledged the funding assistance that came from Purdue University-Liberal Arts, the Public Policy Institute of Texas and the Carnegie Foundation of New York. He assured the Commission that the survey details will be available to the public by next summer (2007). He promised to email the Commission the entire questionnaire.

Chair Gonzalez was interested in how the survey questions were asked in Spanish. He asked for James McCann to email the questionnaire to Amy Mendoza. Chair Gonzalez asked for any comments from the Commission. He expressed his enthusiasm on future survey updates.

James McCann said that the survey will be given this year to see what difference the campaign makes. He concluded that the study will benchmark from June through November/December to see what difference the campaign makes.

Chair Gonzalez thanked speaker, James McCann, for his presentation and invited him to return at a later date with updates.

III. Commission Business

A. Adoption of Minutes

Chair Gonzalez said that the Commission cannot vote on the minutes without a quorum. He asked Commissioners to also review the minutes from June and August 2006. He asked that the Commission members attend next month's meeting so that the minutes are improved.

B. New Census Report

Chair Gonzalez brought the discussion to the New Census Report. He said, "This is really an addendum to our annual report." Amy Mendoza would like permission to release this report without a vote. It includes updated demographic information. He asked the Commission "Does everyone agree that this as an addendum to our annual report?" Chair Gonzalez also asked for the viewpoint from Commissioner Aguilera.

Commissioner Aguilera agreed that releasing this information without a vote would be acceptable. He concluded that there would not be any reason to not do so. He asked if there was a timing issue with the report.

Director Mendoza said that this report was presented at the last Commission meeting where only ten commissioners were present. She explained how it is an update on the U.S. Census data and the Pew Hispanic report. She commented how those present at the previous Commission meeting felt that this updated report was excellent and should be released as soon as possible. Director Mendoza also mentioned how the reports highlights data in bullet points at the end of the report and reinforces the Commission's first reports of recommendations. She stated that the information is new, simply additional information to the Commission's already published report.

Chair Gonzalez asked for the Commission's permission to release this report addendum.

He acknowledged the report as an addendum to the Commission's already published report. He did not ask for a vote, however, a general agreement to release this report. Chair Gonzalez received nods of approval and agreed to release this report immediately.

Director Mendoza said that the staff will have this report edited by DWD and release to the public, including the Governor and Legislature as soon as possible.

C. 2007 State-wide Conference on Hispanic/Latino Issues: Date & Committee

Director Mendoza confirmed that a meeting was held in June 2006 and included an attendance of approximately 30-35 individuals. Unfortunately, the meeting that was held yesterday, on September 26, 2006 had only three individuals in attendance. Director Mendoza briefly outlined the conference themes/workshops that were discussed at the two meetings:

- Race Relations – Participation from the Minority Health Coalition and the Black Expo
- Discussion about the hot issues affecting Indiana Hispanics/Latinos
- Include other communities in this conference
- Bring the conference out of Hispanic Heritage Month (Should the Commission host the conference in the spring? The majority of related conferences are currently being held in the fall. Director Mendoza asked if the Commission should discuss this issue or if it should be determined through the Conference Committee alone.)

Commissioner Aguilera asked if there was any intent to go back to an annual conference.

Director Mendoza felt that the conference could be held annually if there was more staff or major fundraising. She suggested that in the future, the Commission could possibly hold an annual conference once again.

Commissioner Aguilera expressed the importance of keeping a pattern and being consistent.

Chair Gonzalez agreed with these remarks of consistency. Chair Gonzalez felt that hosting the conference during Hispanic Heritage Month is a good idea since it is a statewide conference. He said, "We should be the premiere event for the whole state." He also mentioned how the Commission has not yet received that sort of recognition. Chair Gonzalez said, "I am more focused on trying to create a venue that Indiana cities will send their people." He said that it must be worthwhile to be there, must have rich content and makes sense, without experiencing competition from anybody else. Bi-annual conferences will help create enough of a budget to generate good speakers outside of Indiana with fresh ideas. He would like to invite the public to attend these conference committee meetings.

Director Mendoza said that participating with the conference committee as this time is most important, as the committee is focusing on the content and the speakers. She welcomed public participation.

Chair Gonzalez said that the Indianapolis Convention Bureau is helping to market this conference and assist with the details.

IV. Committee Reports

Director Mendoza volunteered to share the verbal committee reports with the Commission. She explained the purpose of these reports. The Commission's Strategic Plan outlines that the committee's are to present a verbal report to the Commission in September.

A. Civil Rights/Housing Committee

Director Mendoza explained that the Civil Rights/Housing Committee is covering the area of Hispanic/Latino gangs within the State of Indiana. This issue has become something surprisingly increasingly within rural counties. There are about 15 diverse members serving on this

committee that include some from the National Major Gang Task Force, local police officers, community leaders and a few educators as well. She said that this committee has currently held two meetings. The members have actively participated and provided necessary gang-related updates/information. The members were given assignments to share with the Commission. Director Mendoza described the smaller gangs that are forming in rural places, branching off from larger gangs from Chicago, New York, and etc. states. She said that this committee is looking at anti-gang laws from California, gang prevention, programs from Chicago/New York and comparing them in terms of Indiana demographics. She acknowledged that the committee will decide whether or not to recommend a certain program this year or simply increase an awareness of the gang issues. The committee hopes to present a report in November on Latino gangs in Indiana, including the collected research. Director Mendoza said that a recommendation for the 2007 committee is to bring this special “gang initiative” out from the Civil Rights/Housing Committee and establish a special committee that will continue to research these issues since it is so complex. She also said that the committee is focused on the changing roles of girls in gangs and how they used to be utilized as forms of “sexual entry.” Many of the young Latino girls are increasingly becoming leaders of these gangs.

B. Education Committee

Director Mendoza said that the area of this committee is looking at ESL programs and their impacts on Indiana. This committee includes a good panel of ESL Coordinators throughout the State. These committee members have discussed what programs their communities have and the impacts of these programs. There are approximately 8 committee members that are active. Director Mendoza said that this committee has met regularly on four separate occasions and have not encountered any specific obstacles. She said that the Chair recommends this committee continue into 2007 and encompass wider concerns besides ESL standards and the needs of LEP students. Director Mendoza said that the main issue is the funding requirement towards LEP programs towards school districts.

Commissioner Aguilera agreed that the funding allocation should be continually highlighted. He felt that the committee should create some strategy to show data on this issue, so that this recommendation can be moved forward. He reminded everyone that 2007 is a budget year and this issue must be on the agenda early on.

Director Mendoza said that Indiana ranks as the fifth highest state with the most international immigration. In terms of internal migration, Indiana has a negative number, meaning there are a lot less of individuals moving from other states into Indiana. Most of the international immigration is coming from Latino America and Mexico.

C. Tax Committee

Director Mendoza asked Treasurer Fuentes to comment on the Tax Committee.

Treasurer Fuentes (Tax Committee Chair) said that the Tax Committee is primarily for immigrants who experience documentation issues when filing their taxes. Treasurer Fuentes said that the Deputy Commissioner from the Department of Revenue is a key member on the committee. This committee also has the participation from a local business owner who assists with community tax questions, including an individual from Liberty Tax Service. She announced that the next meeting will be held on Friday, September 29, 2006 at 2:30pm. Treasurer Fuentes discussed a few of the committee barriers. The committee strayed from what the original plan had intended. The committee should have began by researching most of the information and disseminating this information, rather than going straight to programming and campaigning. She felt that the committee might have to regroup and get started off again with the original focus. Treasurer Fuentes hopes that the 2007 committee will provide ideas and direction.

D. Health Committee

Director Mendoza said that the Health Committee is covering three major areas this year. Committee Chair, Carolin Requiz, and Carmen Quintana sent Director Mendoza their committee reports. The three major areas covered include: tobacco, alcoholism in the Latino community and promoting minority health professionals. The committee is reviewing programs across the State that are already addressing these issues and determining what areas are lacking by recent data and research. Director Mendoza said that there are so many programs in terms of tobacco, including a majority of these programs provided by the Indiana Latino Institute. This organization addresses tobacco programs statewide through preventative programs. The committee is relating cultural ties in terms of alcoholism. They are attempting to collect data from DUI cases and etc. This information has been hard to recover. The committee is looking into programs to address alcoholism and participation rates on alcohol courses. Director Mendoza also mentioned that the committee is looking at health professional programs through IUPUI and IU Bloomington. She said that there is always a large lack of minority professionals and how it does not correlate to the population that is served. The committee is looking at programs that are trying to address this issue. Unfortunately, the committee found that there are not many programs that are trying to already address this initiative. Director Mendoza said that they are conversing with

Universities for the need to address this issue. The committee will provide the Commission with a progress report at the end of the year. Director said that the Health Committee includes two doctors, an Indiana Minority Health Coalition representative, the Indiana Latino Institute and the Indiana Department of Health.

Director Mendoza also mentioned that a lack of health statistics has become a large barrier for the health committee. Director Mendoza also mentioned a recent contact from the AA that was invited to attend the next committee meeting. She asked that individuals inform the Commission about already existing model programs that could be used as a statewide recommendation to utilize.

Commissioner Solis volunteered to become more involved with the health needs. He mentioned a need for health issues in Jay County and how those individuals are not aware of what already exists.

V. Reports

A. Report on 2nd State-wide Opening Ceremony for Hispanic/Latino Heritage month

Director Mendoza said that there were approximately 40-45 people in attendance at the Commission's Opening Ceremony for Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month. Unfortunately, there was a lot less in attendance than what was confirmed. She said that the ceremony began with a historical slideshow, including images provided by Juanita Vazquez from "La Señas de Yesteryear." Juanita Vazquez was one of the founders of this group. She gave the Commission temporary permission to use the images provided in the slideshow. Director Mendoza explained that the slideshow had original pictures from the 1900's, including families, weddings, activities, war heroes/events, the recent march and the documented historical achievements. This slideshow documentary received a lot of positive feedback to the Commission. The ceremony was kicked off as a sense of celebration. The first Distinguished Hispanic/Latino Hoosier Award was also presented to the V.F. Garza family. Commissioner Claudia Fuentes recommended that this individual be acknowledged. V.F. Garza was recognized as being the first Latino business owner, beginning in 1925. The V.F. Garza family was given a plaque and flag flown that day at the State House in remembrance/recognition. A salsa couple provided the entertainment and the ceremony concluded with refreshments. Director Mendoza felt that the overall ceremony went well regarding attendance. The Proclamation was also read from Juana Watson, Office of the Governor. Director Mendoza would like to give a copy of the video to the Indiana Legislators.

Chair Gonzalez agreed that the opening ceremony was successful and nicely presented. He said that this ceremony made those in attendance proud of their heritage. He congratulated the staff for an excellent ceremony. Chair Gonzalez also mentioned that the V.F. Garza family appeared

very sincere in accepting the award. The V.F.Garza business makes “El Popular” food products and is beginning distribution with Walmart.

B. Report on the 2006 United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Conference

Chair Gonzalez said that the Commission decided to send commissioners each year. He acknowledged how commissioners attend national events to look and see what other states are doing. Chair Gonzalez said that there are approximately two million Hispanic businesses in the U. S. Only 30,000 of these businesses might have revenues over \$1 million. He concluded that Latino businesses are actively growing. Chair Gonzalez said that all of the businesses who attended the event were varied in sizes. They represented what immigrant businesses can do. Latino women-owned businesses are growing six times the rate of simply women-owned businesses. This conference now plans on having a luncheon for specifically women-owned businesses.

Chair Gonzalez wanted to bring back access to the capital. He mentioned how there are 10 Latino funds trying to come to the Midwest. These organizations are willing to come and set up a workshop; all of these are \$1 million+. Chair Gonzalez said that the capacity of building is important to talk about. He said that of the obstacles is always capital. Chair Gonzalez would like to introduce a similar program into the Commission’s economic development issues.

C. Executive Director Report

Director Mendoza reviewed over the staff events handout. She asked Commissioner Solis to comment on the opening ceremony in Jay County.

Commissioner Solis explained the growing community in Jay County. He said that the opening ceremony had good attendance and helped increase awareness in the growing community. He felt that the government must be aware that rural areas need attention.

Director Mendoza mentioned that those communities out of Indianapolis appreciated it when a state agency visits them. She suggested that the Commission send letters to all of the Indiana mayors to identify where to start a ceremony in their area.

Director Mendoza discussed how the Commission staff had worked a lot on the ceremony. She also mentioned a review that was made on the Commission’s effectiveness. She has spent a lot of time on the budget, including a narrative’s report. She referred to the PROBE results report that was sent to her, and that she felt that the results of the report, rating the commission ineffective, were not accurate. The review asked questions about how the Commission used the funding, programs available, committee effectiveness and regulating success. The assessment was conducted by the Office of Management and Budget.

Director Mendoza briefly mentioned another survey that was completed to justify the existence/effectiveness of the Commission. She briefly reviewed the Commission’s work again, which included mention of Commission research projects, Opening Ceremony, Conference, Student Latino Day committee work, Commission justifications and provided answers to questions regarding the continuance of the board and why it should continue to receive funding.

Director Mendoza said that she plans to speak at the National Human Rights Day Conference to be held in November. She will also be speaking at Purdue Calumet on Friday, September 29, 2006.

Director Mendoza asked Chair Gonzalez to encourage commissioners who are not involved with committees to participate with the editing of committee reports, as part of the Committee Research Committee. She requested commissioner help in the preparing and editing of the final reports.

Chair Gonzalez asked that those appointing authorities encourage commissioners to become more active or send someone else on their behalf.

Chair Gonzalez discussed the “Upcoming Hispanic/Latino Events Calendar” and its importance. He suggested that the Commission tie this calendar to the Commission website. He would like to see the Commission’s logos on the calendar as well. Chair Gonzalez recommended that the Commission offer an events registry for the year 2007. He said that this is not a calendar for just any organization. He would like the format to be consistent and related to Hispanic/Latino topics. Chair Gonzalez said that if the calendar is getting quite the acceptance.

Director Mendoza agreed that this sort of registry is very necessary. Staff member, Laura Barrett is in charge of this calendar.

Commissioner Aguilera said, “I would like to say what a fine job that Amy and the staff are doing.” He suggested that Director Mendoza receive a raise.

Chair Gonzalez agreed and thanked the Commission staff for their work.

Chair Gonzalez welcomed audience commentary.

VI. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:06pm.