

**COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
April 20, 2024  
9:00 AM**

In-Person  
Las Mañanitas Community Advocates  
Lutheran Family Services Bldg.  
120 East 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
North Platte, NE 69101

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 A.M.**

Chair Maria Whitmore called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

No members from the public were present at the beginning of the meeting.

**III. ROLL CALL/RECORD ABSENTEES**

**Present:** Commission Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governors Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commission Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins.

**Absent:** Commissioner Jaime Suarez.

***Motion 1:*** to excuse Jaime's absence was made by Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, it was seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.

*Vote Yes:* Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins.

*Vote No:* None

***Motion Passed***

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A representative of Banisters Leadership Academy came late and told the commissioners about the organization and some of the programs that they have going on.

Delicia Mata from families first partnership came before the meeting to drop off information about her organization for the commissioners. No other public comments or materials were given.

#### **v. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING**

##### **NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING**

The Commission on Latino-Americans will host its Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The meeting will take place at the offices of Las Mañanitas Community Advocates, Located at the Lutheran Family Services Bldg., 120 East 12<sup>th</sup> St., North Platte, NE 69101. We will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at no later than 2 p.m.

The Quarterly Meeting is open to the public and all interested individuals are invited to attend. Time will be allocated for public comments within the first hour of the meeting. We encourage those wishing to speak to call our office ahead of time, in an effort to provide better accommodations.

The agenda for the Quarterly Meeting will be kept current and made available for public inspection at the Commission's office. For further information, please contact us at (402) 471-2791.

#### **v. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*No Motion was held*

#### **vi. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY**

Governor's Representative Lali Sage proposes one correction that needs to be made on the minutes from February, Chair Whitmore catches a typo that she would also like fixed.

***Motion 2:*** *to approve the Minutes from February with the corrections suggest was made by Chair Maria Whitmore, it was seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.*

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins.*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

## **viii. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1) Nebraska Latino Youth Summit**

E.D. Maria Arriaga gave the Commissioners a brief update of the Latino Youth Summit. She covers our partnership with Bellevue University and told them a bit about the location that the summit will be held at.

### **2) Marketing update and report**

Marketing Specialist Ricardo Alcala gave the Commissioners an overview of the projects and events that he has been working on.

### **3) Website updates**

E.D. Maria Arriaga reports that we are in the final stage of content migration. She claimed that the website should be ready by the middle of the year. Maru suggests acquiring a volunteer to help with content migration to get the website ready sooner. Website should be up by June according to E.D. Arriaga

### **4) Honor Commissioner Castro-Matukewicz**

The award has been made and we are in possession of it but Commissioner Castro-Matukewicz was unable to attend this quarterly meeting to receive this award. The Commissioners suggest presenting her with the award at the Bellevue satellite office.

### **5) “Evaluation: Nebraska Latino Health Outcomes and Disparities”**

E.D. Maria Arriaga reports on her meeting with Juan Pablo in which she gave him the Commissioners feedback and concerns. He was very receptive to the feedback and the name of the report has been changed to better reflect the information in the report. She has rolled out a volunteer initiative to find a volunteer to help the Commission in the creation of this report. Chair Whitmore would like to include a section about the quality of water available to the Latino communities.

### **6) Unidos US Conference**

Maria Arriaga gave a brief update on the Unidos Conference. The plane tickets, event tickets, and hotel rooms for Maria Arriaga, Ricardo Alcala, and Lali Sage have been paid.

## **ix. NEW BUSINESS 11:00 am**

### 1) Just Serve Proposal Service

Maria Arriaga introduces the Just Serve project to the Commissioners. The Just Serve Proposal Service is a program that is completely free of charge in which organizations can promote volunteer services for upcoming events. The program does not collect or sell data and they do not promote or recruit for their faith.

### 2) Planting Seeds Conference Support Request

Maria Arriaga presented a request that our office received for support from the Commission. The request is asking us to sponsor some of their keynote speakers. The total financial sum they are seeking is \$500

***Motion 3:*** *to sponsor the Planting Seeds Conference and provide them with \$500 was made by Chair Maria Whitmore, it was seconded by Governor's Representative Lali Sage.*

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins.*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

### 3) Las Mañanitas /Viva North Platte Sponsorship

Adi Nancy Dobbins requested financial support for the Commission to sponsor Las Mananitas for their upcoming Viva North Platte event. She is asking for \$1,500.

***Motion 4:*** *to sponsor the Las Mañanitas Viva North Platte event and provide them with \$1,500 was made by Governor's Representative Lali Sage, it was seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.*

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore*

*Abstained: Commissioner Adi Dobbins*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

### 4) Discretion and Confidentiality Clause

Maria Arriaga reiterates that the confidentiality clause is in our bylaws and that these meetings cannot be discussed with outside parties prior to the publication of

the meetings minutes. And asks the commissioners to sign the confidentiality clause after they have re-read these bylaws to show that they understand the rules.

5) Ad Hoc committee to review the policies and procedures for Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez wants to update the policies and procedures for the commissioners and send the revisions to the legal department to bring these policies and procedures up to current day standards.

***Motion 5: to establish an Ad hoc committee to review the policies and procedures for commissioners was made by Chair Maria Whitmore, it was seconded by Commissioner Adi Dobbins.***

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

***Committee members: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Executive Director Maria Arriaga.***

6) Empowering families Sponsorship.

Empowering families is asking the Commission for \$3,500 to sponsor their event. The commissioners believe this sum to be too high and suggest sponsoring them with \$1,000.

***Motion 6: to sponsor Empowering Families with \$1,000 was made by Governor's Representative Lali Sage, it was seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.***

*Vote yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

## **x. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

1) Review Budget Status Reports for February and March

*No questions raised.*

## 2) Review General Ledger Reports for February and March

*No questions raised.*

***Motion 7:*** *to approve the financial reports was made by Chair Maria Whitmore, it was seconded by Governor's Representative Lali Sage.*

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins.*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

## **XI. DIRECTOR REPORT**

Maria Arriaga gave her report to the commissioners. She covered the events and meetings that she has attended to further the mission of the Commission and how she has been working to benefit the Latino Community. At the end of her report she was thanked by the Commissioners

***Motion 8:*** *to approve the Director's report was made by Governor's Representative Lali Sage, it was seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.*

*Vote Yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Motion 9:*** *To open and close the Executive Session was made by Chair Maria Whitmore, it was seconded by Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote yes: Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Adi Dobbins*

*Vote No: None*

***Motion Passed***

## **XIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Sandra Lopez: has been busy working on a grant for small business as well as helping them create a business plan. Has also kept giving loans with her employer.

Leticia Rodriguez: has been helping students with graduation requirements. She has also been translating funerals for non-English speaking families. In addition she has been directing business owners to Sandra for the small business grants.

Adi Dobbins: Las Mañanitas received a grant for their threads boutique. At risk youth can earn points through going to class or passing drug tests they can then trade these points in for money to buy new clothes.

Aida Evans: she has been receiving more immigrant families and has been helping them get set up in Hastings.

Lali Sage: provided reports on different departments in the Nebraska Department of Labor.

Maria Whitmore: has been working with Maria Arriaga and Lali sage on the Latino Youth Summit. She has been trying to return a Nicaraguan citizen's remains back to Nicaragua so he may be put to rest on his home soil.

#### **xiv. NEXT MEETING**

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
August 2-3  
Scottsbluff

#### **xv. ADJOURN**

12:00 PM