

COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS
QUARTERLY MEETING
August 31, 2024
8:00 AM

In-Person
Empowering Families
615 S Beltline Hwy W, Suite 2
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Maria Whitmore called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Commissioners went around the table and introduced themselves. Chair Whitmore took a moment to give a special introduction and welcome to our new commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

III. ROLL CALL/RECORD ABSENTEES

Present: Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Aida Evans, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht, Commissioner Jaime Suarez.

Absent: Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Governor's Representative and Secretary of the Commission Lali Sage, Vice-Chair Leticia Rodriguez.

Staff present: Executive Director Maria Arriaga, Office Specialist Dora Lima, Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala.

Quorum is met.

Motion 1 to approve the rollcall and the absences of Commissioners Rodriguez and Sage but not Commissioner Lopez was presented by Commissioner Adi Dobbins

Seconded by Commissioner Jaime Suarez

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

Motion 2 to excuse the absences of Commissioners Rodriguez and Sage but not Commissioner Lopez, no valid excuse was given by Commissioner Lopez, was presented by Commissioner Aida Evans.

Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

Vote No: None. ***Motion Passed.***

iv. PUBLIC COMMENTS 20-30 min

No members from the public were in attendance.

v. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING

The Commission on Latino-Americans will host its Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, August 31, 2024. The meeting will take place at the office of *Empowering Families*, located at 615 S Beltline Hwy W, Suite 2, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. We will begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at no later than 1 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.

Public Notice of this meeting was placed in Mundo Latino Publications on August 16, 2024; The Hastings Tribune, The Grand Island Independent, Kearney Hub, Lexington Clipper-, The North Platte Telegraph, The Columbus Telegram, The Lincoln Journal Star on August 17, 2024; Herald, Gering Courier on August 22, 2024, and it was e-mailed to the NCLA mail list and posted in Social Media channels.

v. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion 3 to approve the agenda was presented by Chair Maria Whitmore.

Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

vi. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** □ Approve minutes of the April 20, 2024, meeting.

Motion 4 to approve the minutes as well as the agenda from the April 20th, 2024 Quarterly Meeting was presented by Chair Maria Whitmore.

Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore.

Abstain: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

viii. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS 9:00 am**

1) Nebraska Latino Youth Summit

Executive Director Maria Arriaga gave the commissioners a brief overview of what the staff has been working on regarding the 2024 NELYS since the last quarterly meeting. She also gave the commissioners in attendance a recap of the different speakers and presenters that will be participating in the event. Maru added that a way all the commissioners can help with NELYS is their attendance at the event on October 30th. The Commissioners suggest we open the registrations up for sophomore level students.

2) Website updates

Executive Director Arriaga reiterates to the commissioners that our new website has officially launched, in addition she shares that we have been receiving very positive feedback on the new look and format. The commissioners suggest adding

a section highlighting the business's that support us in which we charge business' and highlight them on our website.

3) "Evaluation: Nebraska Latino Health Outcomes and Disparities"

Executive Director Arriaga told the commissioners about the new report that we had received covering the health statistics of the Latino population in Nebraska. Several of the commissioners voiced their praise for the information presented in the report.

4) Unidos US Conference

Executive Director Arriaga gave the commissioners a brief overview of the 2024 Unidos Conference that herself and Ricardo Alcala attended on behalf of the commission.

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

Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez is the organizer for this committee but she has not called a meeting, therefore no reports were given.

ix. NEW BUSINESS 9:30 am

1) New Commissioner Presentation – Marilyn Schacht

Commissioner Marilyn Schacht introduced herself to the rest of the commissioners and shared some of her story as well as what she does in her Crete community. She specifically highlights her work with Welcoming America which is an initiative to welcome immigrants and in addition they are in the process of being certified as a welcoming city.

2) Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation invitation

Executive Director Arriaga invited the commissioners to attend the proclamation signing at the capital on September 25, for Hispanic Heritage Month.

3) Qualtrics presentation

A representative of Qualtrics gave a presentation of their services to the commissioners for their consideration.

4) Deizero presentation

A representative of Deizero gave a presentation of their services to the commissioners for their consideration.

5) Western Nebraska Pioneers Baseball Club sponsorship

The Western Nebraska Pioneers Baseball Club is asking for the commission to sponsor them with \$15,000. Commissioners believe they are asking for too much and do not believe that the event aligns with the Commissions goals.

Motion 6 to deny the request to sponsor the Western Nebraska Pioneer Baseball Club was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.

Seconded by Chair Maria Whitmore.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

6) Elevate Conference/Central Community college sponsorship

Chair Whitmore introduces this event and gives a brief description of the purpose that it serves. Upon reviewing the website and the goal of the conference the commissioners decide to support the event with \$1,000.

Motion 7 to approve the sponsorship of the Elevate Conference with \$1,000 was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.

Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

7) Celebrando Siouxsland/Latino Heritage sponsorship

Motion 5 to approve the sponsorship of Celebrando Siouxsland with \$1,000 was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.

Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

x. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioners took time to review the financial statements. No questions or concerns were voiced.

***Motion 8** to approve the financial reports was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.*

Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

- 1) Review Budget Status Reports for April, May, June, July
- 2) Review General Ledger Reports for April, May, June, July

xi. DIRECTOR REPORT (MOTION) 10:20 am

Executive Director Maria Arriaga began her report by reading the primary function of the role of Executive Director. She then began to recap the events that she has attended and the work that she has completed in pursuit of the Commissions primary mission.

The commissioners thanked Maria for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the Latino community

***Motion 9** to approve the directors report was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins.*

Seconded by Chair Maria Whitmore.

Vote Yes: Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Adi Dobbins, Commissioner Aida Evans, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Vote No: None. **Motion Passed.***

xii. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive Session was held.

xiii. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Maria Whitmore: Reported how she has been working with the commission staff on the planning of the 2024 Nebraska Latino Youth Summit. She also reported how she has been helping a migrant family with medical issues they have recently been faced with.

Adi Nancy Dobbins: Reported that her organization has secured a partnership with Parkview Community in North Platte. She has created a program where migrants are able to use a licensed kitchen for their food service businesses to ensure they are following legal guidelines.

Aida Evans: Gave a brief report of the work she has been doing to help the Latino community in her area. She talked about a recent influx they have seen in migrant workers, and the opening of a new dental clinic in the heartland center.

Jaime Suarez: Reported that he and his brother submitted for grants to create an incubator in South Omaha where small businesses could get some help in getting their businesses off the ground but unfortunately, they were denied the grants, they are looking into other ways to get the incubator started.

Marilyn Schacht: Gave a brief report on how the City of Crete is in the process of becoming a welcoming city for migrants through the welcoming America program.

xiv. NEXT MEETING

Nov. 16th in Crete 9-2

xv. ADJOURN 1:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM

**Acting Secretary: Commissioner Jaime Suarez
Transcribed by Communications and Marketing Specialist Ricardo Alcala**