

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting

Draft of Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Board Members Present: A. Burst, R., Caldera, C. Echeverry, E. Pantoja, J. Silva, J. Montero, T. Jimenez

Absent Board Members (excused): M. Decunto, J. Cuetos

Staff Present: J. Lacayo

Guests: (not recorded and left prior to the end of the meeting)

Welcome: 9:00AM Meeting was called to order by Rafael Caldera. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by J. Montero.

Minutes Approval – T. Jimenez requested the postponing of the approval of the minutes based on his presentation of the bylaws. It was recommended to approve the minutes and amend as necessary. Minutes for July 20th motion A. Burst, second J. Silva. Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal and Executive Updates

There is \$1,014 in the account. (J. Lacayo). A law firm out of Miami contacted board members requesting documentation pertaining to Sunshine Law. The matter is being handled by the office of the general council. MHAAB is an advisory board and has the primary action item to approve meeting minutes. If there is a violation of the Sunshine Law there may be a suspension of MHAAB or board members. The Office of the General Council will give members an update (R. Caldera). Conversations, discussions, text messages, phone records and information was requested by R. Caldera and other board members. Alexis Lambert from the City of Jacksonville's Public Information's office gathered information requested by the law firm based out of Miami (R. Caldera). J. Montero, T. Jimenez and E. Pantoja were not copied on an email requesting information (T. Jimenez). A discussion took place pertaining to the request of obtaining City of Jacksonville emails but was denied by the City of Jacksonville in the past. It was recommended that board members who want to obtain a new email address should do so (T. Jimenez). The City of Jacksonville owns MHAAB and members must comply to requests of the City (R. Caldera). Any information sent to J. Lacayo is public information and all information was sent in (J. Lacayo). This request will affect the community and City of Jacksonville, which will put us a few steps back (R. Caldera).

*Where do we
start with this?*

Committee Reports

Health and Public Safety

Marivi Wright mentioned that she attended Multicultural health and wellness fair on July 29th. As a result of attending the event, many Hispanics are able to apply for health and state insurance. She is also going to be teaching a save sleep class for pregnant moms and moms to be. This class will be held August 31st from 10AM-1PM and participants need a referral to attend the class. After attending, the mothers will receive a pack and play free of charge. Please feel free to contact Marvi (E. Pantoja). Lisandra Alvarez, program director for Univision Jax has graciously requested to interview a MHAAB member to discuss some simple talking points about the upcoming Tax Free shopping weekend for "back to school" shopping (A. Burst). Veronica Brown represented MHAAB on behalf of the request (R. Caldera).

Education

C. Echeverry connected with Yvonne Shaffer (former MHAAB Education Committee Member) and she gave her the contact information of the director with the ESOL Center for Language and Culture (first name is Hind Raquel Cruz with CLC mentioned their department hosts school orientation meetings, streetwise safety, rights and responsibilities, immunizations and children's health, parent and community outreach programs, and Hispanic Family Night. After C. Echeverry meets with Hind an updated report on activities/events regarding MHAAB support will be given to the board (C. Echeverry).

In January, Duval County dual language schools [Beauclerc Elementary, San Jose Elementary (K-5), West Riverside (K-5) and Alfred I DuPont Middle (6-8)] will start hosting open houses, highlighting the dual language programs. C. Echeverry is working on getting an information table for MHAAB so La Guias as well as other City of Jacksonville information that will be helpful for the Hispanic population can be distributed at the event (C. Echeverry).

C. Echeverry displayed MHAAB flyers at the Association for Talent Development and Society of Human Resources Event combined event on August 4th at the Webster University sponsorship table. The topic of the event was coaching (organizational leadership style) and had approximately 200 attendees (C. Echeverry).

The Timucuan/National Park Services will be giving a presentation and Webster University's new student orientation August 14th promoting the Dare to Explore Event scheduled for September 10th (promoted at previous MHAAB meeting) (J. Echeverry).

FSCJ and Volunteers for Medicine are both part of the ESOL Advisory Council that just began meeting quarterly. Just this past spring, FSCJ through the ESOL programming grant, helped bring together organizations with a vested interest in improving the language proficiency of our students and community members (J. Silva).

This includes health and medicine concepts from Volunteers in Medicine's information materials for usage in the classroom to provide familiarity and a reference for students as similar to the

community Open Houses. FSCJ is also helping to launch PEACE (Patient Education, Advocacy and Community Engagement), a community initiative that would also include hiring a full-time paid position (Special Projects Manager) through the Delores Barr Weaver Challenging grant of \$100,000 (J. Silva).

This person would be embedded in the community including schools, emergency rooms, places of worship, public gatherings and community events to educate, identify, and recruit new patients and community partners (J. Silva).

There is discussion about a creating a formal MOU arrangements between the FSCJ and the organization to fluidity is established prior to start and family orientation – a customized approach to patient education and school enrollment (J. Silva).

Currently, through the ESOL programming, FSCU is working with over 1,700 students with the largest representation of students coming from Cuba, Colombia and Venezuela. FSCJ is looking at first touch points through an education and health care related perspective. It is important that students meet their basic needs so FSCJ is looking to include a presence on all campuses especially during student registration times (J. Silva).

The focus is to provide a network of communication and opportunities for students while sharing resources through the ESOL Community Advisory Council providing a culturally and linguistically approach to adequate student understanding (J. Silva).

Current challenges: FSCJ students struggle to find and maintain employment, provide for their families, progress in their studies and obtain childcare and transportation. While there are health literacy grants for students, each in only \$5,000. The ESOL program has state-mandated attendance requirements for progression, and an illness causing absence from class for even 3 days could cause a student to be ineligible to test. The student would then need to repeat his/her course in the next 8-week session. The primary goal to keep students in class is to address their health care needs and accessibility (J. Silva).

ESOL Advisory Council Members include: FSCJ, Volunteers in Medicine, CareerSource Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Florida Coastal School of Law Immigration Law Clinic, the Hispanic Institute of Life and Leadership, Women's Center of Jacksonville, Duval County Public Schools ESOL Program, Catholic Charities Bureau, World Relief, Lutheran Social Services, United Way of Northeast Florida, Mental Health America and Hubbard House. J. Silva asked if any MHAAB members had connections with any organizations mentioned in order to organize efforts (J. Silva).

Economic and Faith Based

July 2nd J. Montero attended the House of Prayer event with Pastor Johnson (acted as a liaison), most famous for its 24 hour worship and prayer. The event was held from 9AM – 1PM. On August 14th there will be a Back to School Blessing at the House of Prayer. The event will be advertised thorough health care providers and will also give away 2,000 backpacks to underprivileged children. It will also be giving free haircuts and hairdos to under privileged students under 18 years of age. Last year it gave away 1,000 backpacks. Wiley. The Pulido brothers from E-med committed 2 staff members to serve in conducting and signing off on the children's health exams. Presented at Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference on August 6th with New Covenant Ministries off of St. Johns bluff Road from 9AM – 12PM with Rodolfo Godines. J. Montero attended mass at San Jose Catholic Church at New Covenant Ministries (J. Monetro).

Attended event launching Hispanic division for September, prayer and worship (Lexington Hotel and Conference Center 1515 Prudential Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32207) (J. Montero).

This Thursday from 7:45AM- 9AM there will be an event and at 5:30PM there will be a candidate forum with the State Attorney regarding a debate. On August 16 – 18th the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute will be partnering with WJXT Channel 4 to host candidate debates, 8PM. On August 16th the State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit Of Florida Candidates that will be participating are The Honorable Angela Corey, Melissa Nelson, and Wes White. On August 17th the U.S. Representative, Fourth Congressional District of Florida will be a televised live debate. Candidates participating are The Honorable Lake Ray, John Rutherford, and Hans Tanzler. On August 17th the U.S. Representative, Fourth Congressional District of Florida debate will be televised live. Candidates participating are The Honorable Lake Ray, John Rutherford, and Hans Tanzler. On August 18th U.S. Representative, Fifth Congressional District of Florida debate will be televised live. Candidates participating are The Honorable Corrine Brown (incumbent), LaShonda "L.J." Holloway, and The Honorable Al Lawson, Jr (T. Jimenez).

Nancy Quinones, president of the Puerto Rican-Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Duval and Clay counties will open up a Chamber in San Juan. We have the vote coming up on August 30th. The Mayor is pushing the ½ cent tax for the pension reform. MHAAB should help with that initiative (T. Jimenez).

On Tuesday, August 16th FSCJ's Student Government Association will be welcoming the public for a Republican Primary Debate for Florida's 4th Congressional District. State Representative Lake Ray and St. Johns County Commissioner Bill McClure will discuss issues facing the district, which includes parts of Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. The debate will take place from 6PM – 7PM at FSCJ's downtown campus (J. Silva). As MHAAB we cannot endorse a candidate but we can encourage the community to vote (R. Caldera).

Hispanic Leadership Awards

The committee will meet after MHAAB meeting to organize HLA (J. Silva, E. Pantoja and A. Burst). The draft of the letter for involvement of the Mayor and/or staff has been created and will be submitted (R. Caldera).

Achieving the Dream

ATD interviews were conducted for 20 applicants between July 22nd and July 26th. The committee members consisted of: Cristina Echeverry, Alicia Burst, Roberto Sanchez, Ida Gropper, Madelene Skinner, Nubia Huertas, Gianinna Cooper, and Maribel Hernandez. Efforts supporting this cause are based on good faith and benefit the Hispanic community. Committee members were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to candidates giving professional background or affiliations at the time the interviews were conducted (A. Burst and C. Echeverry).

The interview rubric consisted of the following measurements: Peer and self-image, goals, plans and strategies, emotional maturity and readiness for college, community/social responsibility, overcoming hardships, decision making, initiative, preparedness and professionalism (C. Echeverry). ATD event is on September 22nd at the Continental Club (A. Burst).

Old Business

Maribel from FCHCC asked for an electronic version of La Guia. It will be posted on the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce website. The publications are being distributed throughout the City of Jacksonville. MHAAB members are encouraged to pick up publications for distribution. The Duval County Health Department will meet in October in order to obtain accurate information to produce in the next publication of La Guia (A. Burst).

New Business

The bylaws review was led by T. Jimenez. Article II, section 2.1 Section A. states "Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Jacksonville". Removal is also appointed by the Mayor. Any attempt to remove a member by board action is ineffective. Section 2.2F states: "An individual member may be recommended for removal from the Board for any reason. Upon a 2/3 vote of the Board membership the Board shall give written notice of the Board's removal recommendation to the Mayor." When you look at board membership language it has to be a 2/3 vote of entire board, not board members present. There are 9 appointees, which requires 6 votes for recommendation of removal to be carried. If looking at plain language of bylaws, vote of last board meeting is null and void. The minutes must strike vote of member removal. 2/3 vote of board membership was discussed by board members. The language would say of the quorum or voting members, if it is 2/3 of voting members in order to be valid (T. Jimenez). This situation at hand pertains to the morality of the board. The vote in discussion was a recommendation of removal of J. Montero (R. Caldera). T. Jimenez mentioned that R. Caldera insinuated that the bylaws is not important (T. Jimenez).

J. Montero would like to make a motion to strike all information pertaining to July's meeting minutes. The rules pertain to missing 3 unexcused consecutive board meetings, not 3 excused board meetings (J. Montero). J. Montero made a motion to strike last month's meeting minutes pertaining to board removal and T. Jimenez seconded. E. Pantoja asked J. Montero if he is truly committed to serving on the board in serving on the board, in which he responded that he was. A. Burst spoke about the importance of board member involvement. J. Montero asked in the past MHAAB board members to become more relevant and was denied request. J. Montero gave a brief background of the situation leading up to his absence from the board which began the meeting after he recommending the removal of the MHAAB Chair. R. Caldera personally recommended J. Montero to meet with the City of Jacksonville regarding his inquiry. R. Caldera tabled motion for next meeting (R. Caldera) due to lack of information/guidance on how to proceed with the matter, T. Jimenez agreed. The vote will be tabled for the next scheduled MHAAB meeting with representation of the Office of the General Council present (R. Caldera).

Regular Meeting time & Location

R. Caldera tabled discussion for next meeting.

Procedures for election of officers was explained by R. Caldera. The new chair will be selected at the next MHAAB meeting. There are usually one or two candidates. Each candidate will have

an opportunity to address MHAAB (R. Caldera). The Chairperson shall be elected at the conclusion of the Board's agenda at the regularly scheduled meeting in September through a simple election where nominations are accepted. The new Chair shall take office immediately upon election and shall appoint a nominating committee of not more than three (3) members, with one member designated to serve as Chairperson. The nominating committee shall meet prior to the Board's regular meeting in October and approve a slate of officers for the positions of Vice Chairperson and Secretary and present such slate to the membership at the regular meeting in October, at which time additional nominees shall be accepted from the floor. The additional officers shall be elected through a simple election process and shall take office immediately upon election. Any vacancy in any officer position occurring by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by nomination and election from the remaining members (R. Caldera).

Public Comments

N/A

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Caldera at: 10:34AM

Meeting Minutes Draft Submitted by: C. Echeverry 8/9/2016. The next meeting will be on September 13th at City Hall, 4th Floor Conference Room.