



MAYOR'S HISPANIC AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD

City Hall, 117 West Duval Street, Conference Room 2B
Jacksonville, FL 32202

MHAAB Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2017

Location: Mayor's meeting room 4th floor - City Hall

Meeting called to order at 9:21am

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Pantoja, Marivi Wright, Jose Cuetos, Jen Silva, Tomas Jimenez, Cristina Echeverry, and Alicia Burst

Excused Absence: Elizabeth Pantoja, Mario Decunto

Guest: Augustine Vautier with Wells Fargo and Guardian Litem Foundation, Dr. Jonny Gafnie,

Liaison to Mayor and to 60 boards (prior councilmen)

COJ representatives present: Rosario Lacayo

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Burst

- a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance by Jen Silva

II. ACTION ITEMS – Chair Burst

- a. Approval of the May 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes C. Echeverry motion, J. Silva second.
Minutes approved.

III. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS – Chair Burst

- a. Fiscal and Executive Updates:
 - i. MHAAB has \$1,024.68 in the funds.
- b. Committee Reports

i. Health & Public Safety – M. Decunto, E. Pantoja

M. Wright facilitated a safe sleep class at The Players Center for Child Health in Spanish. The presentation was well attended and all the attendees were Spanish speakers only. Presented at Univision the topic of access to care, Florida Kid-Care and health literacy.

On April 22nd, E. Pantoja assisted with Wellness RX project at EWC. This project is geared to help minority communities learn about various Health topics. This session included a Nutrition class followed by grocery give- away to those who attended the class. Since the inception of this Project, we have seen more Hispanics come out to reap the rewards of these various classes and special offers such as free groceries.

The HOPE (Hispanic Outreach Project en Español) team met on May 5th with a core of Hispanic Pastors to discuss the possibility of offering Mental Health Aid training classes to Hispanic Pastors that are interested in learning more about this important health topic. The plan is to offer an 8- hour class on Mental Health by a trained facilitator. This class would help the Pastors identify certain behaviors and would equip them with the information (Resource guide) to share with their respective congregations. The planning will take place over the summer. We hope to offer these classes in the fall. We are also collaborating with Ed Perez as we continue to explore other ways to disseminate these valuable resources to our Hispanic community (E. Pantoja).

E. Pantoja coordinated an Alzheimer's Talk to Centro Cristiano Por La Family (Pastors are Jose Paredes and Nuri Rivera). The talk was given by a Mayo Clinic Neurology Resident, who is very interested in working with the Hispanic community.

On May 6th, E. Pantoja led a second Genetics Focus Group at Centro Cristiano Por La Family. This project is geared to help minority communities learn more about the area of basic Genetics as well as to give them an opportunity to share their opinions and concerns about genetic investigations. The project would like to further explore and understand the cultural sensitivities of these minority communities. Ultimately, we would like to find better ways to communicate with diverse populations, especially in the growing area of Genetic testing.

ii. Education – C. Echeverry, J. Silva

J. Silva spent most of the month in Tallahassee fighting against state budget cuts and equitable funding for higher education. She proposed increases to state university funding include \$263 million with over \$140 million for charter schools/K-12. To offset these increases, the Florida College System is set to receive a \$30.2 million cut to state colleges (formerly community colleges). Florida State College at Jacksonville will see a budget cut of approximately \$3 million.

The education fundraising for universities and colleges will see a change in 2022 with open disclosure of donor information and prevention of state funds transfer to Foundations for salary or travel costs (J. Silva).

J. Silva attended the Constitution Revision Commission with the 37 Commissioners appointed by the Governor, State Senate President, State House Speaker and the State Supreme Court Justice. The hearing was one of a series of public comment hearings across the state to encourage the general public to participate in the revision of the Constitution which occurs every 20 years.

This process allows the public to state an issue in any particular area (health care, education, immigration, voting rights, gay rights, property rights etc.) that needs to be improved by way of amending the Constitution. Each member of the public provides two minutes of testimony in opposition or support of creating an amendment. Depending on issues or majority sentiments the Commissions takes up, amendments will be placed on the 2018 voting ballot so Floridians may vote on each. The last Commission placed 8 additional amendments using this process (J. Silva).

J. Silva spoke on the need for increases to education and higher education programs as well as a statewide college promise as similar to other states and the recently launched FSCJ Promise to fully fund the first two years of college or associate degree.

C. Echeverry attended an Education Fair at Mayport promoting the Cybersecurity field. She hosted the Diversity Council of Jacksonville at Webster University on March 28th. The organization enhances the appreciation for and understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion. It strives to achieve success through efforts and activities that aim to: Promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace and community; Develop leaders who are educated and aware of all aspects of diversity and inclusion; Develop programs that support diversity education and awareness.

C. Echeverry conducted mock interviews for high school students in the Jacksonville area to prepare them for summer internship programs in the STEM fields. She also attended several education fairs at Baptist Health locations. The biggest need remains to be in the nursing fields and certification offerings at the undergraduate level.

iii. Economic & Faith Based Committees – T. Jimenez Jr., J. Cuetos

J. Cuetos facilitated first home buying seminars in Spanish for the Hispanic community. He held one at FSCJ and was invited to talk to Univision to promote the events.

T. Jimenez attended the Hispanic Chamber meeting and will be meeting with Congressmen John Rutherford to talk about MHAAB initiatives.

c. Hispanic Leadership Award – A. Burst, E. Pantoja, J. Silva

October 10, 2017 is when the HLA will be taking place due to security availability. We will also update Facebook page.

Achieving the Dream awards deadline to apply May 31st and event is in September.

Activity and time log due next meeting (A. Burst).

Separate meeting will be held to plan HLA. C. Echeverry will send doodle poll. Meeting will take place prior to next board meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – Chair Burst

N/A

V. NEW BUSINESS – Chair Burst

N/A

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Jonny Gafnie offered his assistance to the board and gave an overview of his duties and responsibilities with the City of Jacksonville.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 10:07AM

Next Meeting – June 13, 2017 – 9AM - 10:30AM - City Hall, 4th Floor Conference Room