

# CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

## Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board (MHAAB)

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Jennifer Silva  
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Jose Cuetos  
Vice Chair

Meredith Moore  
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Dr. Cristina Echeverry

Tomas A. Jimenez, Jr.

Jorge Lopez

Jose Morales

Elizabeth M. Pantoja

Angel Santiago

Marivi Wright

### Staff

Kevin McDaniel  
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### MINUTES

#### Meet & Greet Event – March 21, 2019, 4:00pm – 6:00pm

**Board Members:** Jennifer Silva, Jose Cuetos, Meredith Moore, Dr. Cristina Echeverry, Jorge Lopez, Jose Morales, Elizabeth Pantoja, Angel Santiago, and Marivi Wright

#### **Attendees:**

**Staff:** Kevin McDaniel, Kara Tucker and Laura Davis

Chair Silva brought the meeting to order at 4:05pm. Introductions were made around the room and individuals divided into groups. The groups were Education, Housing, Public Relations, Public Safety and Veterans and Health and Faith Based

#### Education

Patricia DeWitt, Linda Williams, Kara Tucker, and Kathy Swafford

Group introduced themselves, spoke about the boards they were on and current activities within the boards.

Education Notes: It was stated that Asian citizens are not interested in social services and programs for domestic violence. There need to be more translators. Social Services Prestation with Advisor's processing. Cure the Violence and the Mayor needs to visit the Boards. Topics Discussed: Night of Asia, HIV Awareness, and Higher Ed Awareness. Events: April 2<sup>nd</sup> Unhappy Hour, wear red at Moxie Kitchen, 4972 Big Island Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32246 from 4:30pm – 7:30pm. April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 7:00pm in the Lynwood Roberts, Par for Woman.

#### Public Safety and Veterans

Angel Santiago, Jose Morales and Kevin McDaniel

Review of Strategic Goals –

Primary issue is persons being afraid of communicating with law enforcement. Sheriff's office has established International Affairs Unit but if uniform officers pull up people shut down and do not communicate.

## Public Safety and Veterans continued

Using influence to provide education about services to build community services was discussed as well as education and campaigning for awareness. The process for reporting hate crimes was discussed. The group discussed the dangers of sex trafficking – and the possibility of education campaigns to promote awareness. Potential campaign to improve access to services for citizens that are Hispanic and may have disabilities.

## Health and Faith Based

Marivi Wright, Elizabeth Pantoja, Denise Torres, Demika Jackson, Johnnetta Moore Shanna Grant and Dan Merkan

Group discussed strategic plan and upcoming events with Mayo and workshop for community as well as possibly partnering with Volunteers in Medicine. Next event is Volunteer Appreciation working with JSO men's programming June 29<sup>th</sup> at FSCJ (register on Eventbrite). There is also a JASMYN event in June with vendors and location to be determined. Volunteer in Medicine event for Hispanics at Cuba Hunter is in the works.

Also discussed the need for more Aids advocacy and education in schools. Denise Torres spoke about Connecting the Dots and vendor table availability. Dan Merkan suggested if interested, the group should send application for to be on the Planning Council.

## Housing – No Report

## Public Relations

Jen Silva, Jorge Lopez, Manzie Hague, Colen Edwards, Donna Kuldán

Group discussion on strategic plan for Public Relations, Media and Outreach. Issues most prominent among Boards, Councils and Commissions represented are the language barriers and how to increase outreach to our constituencies. Challenges include that the public is not aware of everything we are doing or available as resources to them. Solutions included working closely with the Public Information Officer (PIO) at the City, establishing a media spot with iheartmedia and finding the right representative.

Also discussed was a cross council delegation to another major city in Jax, most likely Miami in order to share best practices with their City boards. Other outreach and minority opportunities include working with UNF on their SBA program for small business development and entrepreneurship which is currently working with the Chamber on a certification program and workshops on how to open a business in the City.

In addition, continuing to push the ESOL program and business education at FSCJ for those where English is the second language. The Chair of Asian Board, Manzie Hague would accompany Jen Silva and Jorge Lopez to the meeting with the PIO. Overall, the group felt inspired about coming together and sharing in challenges to create solutions for increased assistance to the community.

Summaries were made around the room by the individual groups.

Public Relations – Jen Silva - Outreach, find ways to improve access – discuss ways to improve access by engaging media. Determine how we get in front of PIO to improve access to services. Hispanic business forum to be held next month.

Public Safety – Angel Santiago – How do you we get the information out when there is no trust in the community and discussed finding a spokesperson to get the information out.

Health and Faith Based – Elizabeth Pantoja – We Interconnection the agencies, there is a definite need for diverse backgrounds in the community and discussed how MHAAB can help citizens with disability access services.

Education – Meredith Moore – Discussion was made about potential partnerships, HIV, and other community needs.

Joseph Peppers, Director of Kids of Hope Alliance, provided an overview of Kids of Hope Alliance.

Question was raised on what other cities in Florida are doing to address poverty. Chair from the Council on the Status of Women invited everyone to events - information can be obtained through the Council on the Status of Woman. Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.