

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting  
Minutes-Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, May 21, 2019

Board Present: Jen Silva, Jose Morales, Cristina Echeverry, Elizabeth Pantoja, Marivi Wright, Meredith Moore, Jose Cuetos by phone,

Ad Hoc Members: Demika Jackson, Dan Merkan

Board Absent: Angel Santiago, Jorge Lopez

Staff: Kevin McDaniel, Lois Smokes

Attendees: Danielle Carlino, Anantya Singh, Johnny Gaffney

Chair Silva brought the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence in which we remembered the safety of our officers. Quorum was met and minutes from April meeting were approved.

Chair Silva announced that the meeting with Nicky Kimble had been postponed.

Marivi Wright introduced her guests Danielle Carlino and Anantya Singh, who are UNF interns at The Players Center studying Public Health.

Research: Chair Silva posed the question, "What are we taking to the Mayor?" The Florida Hispanic Women's grant report data reviewed different populations of women in the Jacksonville regional area. Education is low and the gaps are huge according to the data. It would be very informative to see a male version of this. The data for retirement was especially disturbing. This information should go to the Mayor and AAUW, and MHAAB members should send feedback (1 paragraph per subcommittee, due May 28, cc Kevin) in reaction to the study. We'll include the policy recommendations and send thoughts on action items as well. This study relates to all of our areas of expertise. This is in step with our mission to inform the Mayor. Marivi shared her concern that education wasn't emphasized more in the Policy Recommendations. Chair Silva asked that we consider the "how", i.e. How do we provide paid leave to all FL workers? Add some solutions/action items to Policy Recommendations. We will compile and discuss at the June MHAAB meeting. Elizabeth Pantoja praised the work involved in this report and challenges the group to consider what can we do about it. Jose Morales asked if there was a way to check if any groups were already addressing these issues? Chair Silva wants to send our feedback, and then set up a meeting with Public Affairs, and then meet and see what kind of efforts would be feasible. In addition, she would like to identify a Council member who is familiar with these issues. Dr. Gaffney shared that when state-level cabinet members are involved this affects the entire state. We should attend the State Delegation Meeting in the fall and encourage legislation towards these initiatives-starting with the state senators. We fight for the rights of minorities, and we need to truly represent Hispanics.

First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's new president, Monica Hernandez, has reached out for Achieving the Dream. There's an event at FL Blue this month. Join their Facebook, like them and support their HLA initiative as well. We need to interact more with this group-all members are encourage to attend. The Achieving the Dream Gala is Friday, OCT 11, at TIAA Bank Field. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marivi Wright shared the 2013-2017 Health Department zip code map of Hispanic concentrations in the city. Marivi has made repeated attempts to meet with Maria Machin, but travel and schedule has prevented a face to face thus far. The Health Zones depicted on the map show different health outcomes and the colored areas correspond to a variety of issues, so this information should be used for general numbers. Marivi shared that some areas seem more greatly populated by Hispanics because more services exist there, like close to the Center for Language and Culture. Dan Merkan encouraged assembling county-wide information about those who identify as Hispanic. This map will help us prioritize our direction with legislators. Marivi shared that it's a challenge to find this kind of data. Chair Silva encouraged the board to have this information by next month in order to present to legislators in early fall, possibly in Hispanic Heritage Month.

Dr. Gaffney suggested that we pursue information about what percentage of Hispanics are voters from the Supervisor of Elections to really harness some power behind these numbers. It's important to show where the voters are. Dr. Gaffney suggests meeting with State legislators.

Committee and Strategic Plan Updates: Jose Morales, Jose Cuetos, and Dina Boscio will meet next month for HLA. Chair Silva suggested that all members support the HLA process. She referred to the HLA program from 6-8 PM on Sept 19, 2019. Kevin will check the room reservation and the police security presence required, as well as arrange to pay for this. Elements of the Immediate Press Release document and the Application document were discussed and highlights included the Business Partner Award as a business that supports Hispanics, as well as the criteria for nomination. The Internal Board review date will be Friday, July 19 from 12-1. The selection date will be Friday, July 26, from 12-1, followed by a public announcement and invitation to guests and family. Cristina Echeverry will be out July 19. Alicia Burst has donated \$100. Chair Silva is holding Bryan Hughes and Jordan their promise of \$1500 for the event. Tina will print the awards. Marivi will handle decorations. Elizabeth will handle food. All recommendations should be submitted through the MHAAB email to Kevin. The team should hold everyone accountable. The Mayor (Kevin will share the date with the Mayor) and State officials will be invited along with those at the Meet and Greet. Marivi brought up the process from last year, and Chair Silva encouraged the use of a rubric. The board discussed updating the language on the HLA PSA and application in criteria number two to include Hispanic heritage and agency representation. Kevin McDaniel to schedule selection committees on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Conference Room C for HLA award selection.

Subcommittee Updates:

Projects like tiny homes for veterans were discussed. Chair Silva suggested that the team bring more information about housing education.

Dan Merkan reported on targeting HIV education towards Hispanics. Dan will submit more information to add to the data summary.

Volunteers in Medicine will be hosting an event at Cuba Hunter; more information to come soon.

Summer programs were recommended and included: KHA, Jax for Kids, Week-Long Camp, One Hundred Black Men – which is a summer camp to teach children to code. Resistance Jax was also recommended.

Chair Jen Silva recommended everyone attend Leader Cast Jax.

Lending Ear, an organization from Ponte Vedra, has a goal of fitting 350 children with hearing aids. They plan to begin in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM.

Minutes submitted by Meredith Moore on 6/2/19.