

**Commission on Hispanic Affairs
1st Quarter Commission Meeting
Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

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Saturday, March 6th

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|------------------|---|
| 10:00-10:15 a.m. | Call to Order
Approve Agenda
Welcome/Icebreaker |
| 10:15-10:30 a.m. | Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote to approve minutes: January and February conference calls |
| 10:30-11:00 a.m. | Legislative Updates
Overtime Legislation
Miller Park Funding
Legislative Watch list |
| 11:00-11:20 a.m. | Executive Director Report |
| 11:20-11:30 a.m. | Break |
| 11:30-11:45 a.m. | Vaccine Update
Commissioner Garza |
| 11:45-11:55 a.m. | Interim Timeline |
| 11:55-12:00 p.m. | Next Steps |
| Noon | Adjourn |



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

CHA Monthly Conference Call
Friday January 8, 2021
10:00AM – 11:00AM

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call:

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Bernal Baca	Chair	CHA	Yes
Lina Alvarez	Vice Chair	CHA	Yes
Brian Moreno	Vice Chair	CHA	Yes
Jessica Hernandez	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Lili Navarrete	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Candice Garza	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Lola Flores	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Randy Nuñez	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
Rodrigo Renteria	Commissioner	CHA	Yes
STAFF			
María Sigüenza	Executive Director	CHA	Yes
Nancy Rocha Aguilar	Communications and External Relations Manager	CHA	Yes
Myra Hernandez	Operations and Special Projects Manager	CHA	Yes
GUESTS			
Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler Alejandro Sanchez, Governor's Office Candice Myrum, Office of the Insurance Commissioner John Noski, Office of the Insurance Commissioner Unannounced Guests: two			

Purpose of Meeting:

- Informational Overview on proposed OIC Legislation, Commissioner Mike Kreidler
- Voting Legislative Priorities
- Update on Commissioner Applications
- Committee Assignment Request

Agenda Approval

Chair Baca moved for any changes on the December notes

- Executive Director made a correction to the December notes: changing the date to Saturday, December 5, 2020

With no further discussion, the notes were amended and approved.

Icebreaker: One word to describe the events in Washington DC

Commissioners shared their thoughts on the events that took place Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

Informational Overview: Banning Credit Scores to Determine Insurance Rates Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Commissioner Mike Kreidler

- Executive Director Sigüenza gave a summary of the legislation
- Commissioner Garza is scheduling a meeting with the Legislative Manager at State Farm and extended the meeting invitation to other commissioners.
- Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler
 - Insurance Commissioner Kreidler is the longest serving insurance commissioner in the country and shared with CHA his family cultural experience.
 - Insurance Commissioner Kreidler spoke about equity: having a fair chance in society. He explained credit scoring does not reflect a personal choice or responsibility and shared examples on how events out of one's control can affect credit such as medical debt decreasing credit scores and increasing interest rates.
 - Credit scores are "generalizations of being told you are not as good based on an assumption that you might file a claim, not that you can't pay your premium."
 - Pandemic highlighted what this will do to people for years to come and especially to essential workers. "It is not fair and not just. Driving record is a personal choice, not a credit score."
 - Insurance Commissioner Kreidler reiterated many companies released their support of the Black Lives Matter movement and that insurance companies will push back but they need to be held accountable.
- Questions from commissioners
 - Dr. Nuñez, Commissioner, shared that credit score use is synonymous to student standardized testing and that credit scores support an addiction to debt and the debt culture. Dr. Nuñez thanked OIC for tackling the issue and for their perspective on removing barriers for essential workers.
 - Dr. Renteria, Commissioner, elaborated on the unfamiliarity with credit score literacy within our communities and many families are focused on making ends meet, often paycheck to paycheck.
 - Chair Baca asked for a bill number and the next steps
 - Insurance Commissioner shared the bill will be sponsored by Senator Mona Das, 47th Legislative District, Kent.
 - John Noski provided the bill number: SB 5010. The bill will be heard on Jan. 14 and will be in the committee chaired by Senator Mullet at 8:00AM.
 - Public is to sign up a day in advance to testify in committee.
 - Will the bill repeal a law? Yes.
- OIC website has information regarding credit scores in English and Spanish. The video has Spanish subtitles as well.

Vote: Legislative Priorities

- Economic and Workforce Development Committee Priorities:
 - o Prohibiting the use of credit scores to determine rates for personal lines of insurance.
 - o Homeownership disparities workgroup
 - Call upon the legislature and request for them to have a pointed task force with individuals across the state to assess disparities to homeowners and barriers to homeownership.
 - o Discussion:
 - Commissioners reiterated the importance of this legislation as credit scores are another mechanism to hurt BIPOC.
 - o Vice Chair Moreno moved to accept the Economic and Workforce Development legislative priorities. Vice Chair Alvarez seconded. Without further discussion, the priorities were approved unanimously.
- Law and Justice Committee Priorities:
 - o Police accountability and reform – establish an office to investigate police using excessive force.
 - o Banning of for-profit detention centers.
 - o Maintenance of WA COVID-19 immigrant relief fund.
 - o Discussion:
 - Heard from Rep. Goodman, work from Commissioner Moreno on the taskforce for police accountability, and Commissioner Navarrete request for relief fund for immigrants.
 - o Commissioner Garza moved to accept the Law and Justice legislative priorities. Commissioner Flores seconded. Without further discussion, the priorities were approved unanimously.

Update: Commissioner Application Review Team

- Executive Director Sigüenza explained that the appointment process is still in motion with the Governor's Office.

Committee Assignment Request

- Commissioner Garza requested to be assigned to the Health Committee and be removed from the Education Committee.
- Chair Baca assigned Commissioner Flores to confirm Commissioner Garza's appointment to the Health Committee by writing. Executive Director Sigüenza offered to assist with writing a confirmation letter.
- Chair Baca suggested we add a process for CHA Committee reassignments in the future.

Announcements:

- DOH released info on the vaccine distribution
 - o You can find information on their social media channels
 - o Online tool will be released on Jan. 18: Phase Finder – this will indicate where you fall in the priority scheme and when you'll get the vaccine
- Spanish panel with Latino doctors addressing questions
- Commissioner Navarrete shared she voluntarily received the vaccine for COVID.

- CCT video was shared via chat box

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at

- Vice Chair Alvarez moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 AM. Commissioner Garza seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

CHAT

From Brian Moreno to Everyone: 09:59 AM

<https://nanoleaf.me/>

From Randy Nuñez to Everyone: 10:21 AM

The use of credit score, to my understanding, serves as a predictive indicators; whether someone will pay a debt. There are similarities to how SAT is used for college admissions, how well a student will do. Though, institutions are finding these predictive indicators as problematic, class and race biased, and ultimately building upon a class oppressive structure. Credit Score supports the addiction to debt, which is an incredible problem in our society at large, and impacts working-class people the most.

From Bernal Baca to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Interesting thank you Randy for the comparison.

From Randy Nuñez to Everyone: 10:29 AM

During this pandemic, consumers with the great credit scores are able to take advantage of the lower mortgage rates, while others are dealing with evictions.

From María Sigüenza | CHA | she/her/ella to Everyone: 10:38 AM

<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5010.pdf?q=20210108101315>

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From María Sigüenza | CHA | she/her/ella to Everyone: 10:38 AM

<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5010.pdf?q=20210108101315>

From Me to Everyone: 11:01 AM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vXlqasnPgw>

CCT video is live :)

From Candice Garza to Everyone: 11:04 AM

Thank you Lili!



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

CHA Monthly Conference Call
Friday, February 12, 2021
10:00AM – 11:00AM

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM.

Roll Call:

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Bernal Baca	Chair	CHA	YES
Brian Moreno	Vice Chair	CHA	YES
Candice Garza	Commissioner	CHA	YES
Jessica Hernandez	Commissioner	CHA	YES
Lili Navarrete	Commissioner	CHA	YES
Lina Alvarez	Vice Chair	CHA	YES
Lola Flores	Commissioner	CHA	YES
Randy Nuñez	Commissioner	CHA	YES
Rodrigo Renteria	Commissioner	CHA	YES
STAFF			
María Sigüenza	Executive Director	CHA	YES
Nancy Rocha Aguilar	Communications and External Relations Manager	CHA	YES
Myra Hernandez	Operations and Special Projects Manager	CHA	YES
GUESTS			
Alejandro Sanchez, Governor's Office			

Purpose of Meeting:

- Legislative Priorities
- Homeownership Disparities Proviso Letter
- Bill Watch List
- Commissioner Application Review Team Update
- Vaccination Plans

Agenda Approval

Chair Baca asked for any changes to the agenda. With no further discussion, the agenda was approved.

Legislative Priorities Update

- Commissioners discussed the restoration of Miller Park in Yakima and making it a legislative priority of CHA.

- Commissioner Nuñez moved to accept Miller Park restoration as a legislative priority. Commissioner Renteria seconded. With no further discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion: Homeownership Disparities Proviso Letter of Support

- The commission discussed the creation of a state group to study the disparities of homeownership in Washington. This proviso was not included in the Governor's budget. Executive Director Sigüenza explained that the commissioners would have to create the letter of support but that they can work directly with Executive Director Sigüenza for assistance.
- Commissioner Renteria shared it is an important step and work to do for the commission and recommended Chair Baca take the lead.
- Commissioner Renteria motioned for support of the letter to be sent out by commissioners and not staff. Seconded by Vice Chair Moreno. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Watch List

- Executive Director Sigüenza asked the commission if they want to take a vote on the adoption of a bill watch list or instead have CHA's internal committees proceed as fit with Chair Baca's guide.
- Chair Baca further explained the purpose of a watch list and recommended CHA post it on the website with a link to bill sign-in.
- Executive Director Sigüenza informed commissioners if they wanted to support a bill as a commission, they need to email Chair Baca and Executive Director Sigüenza.

Update: Commissioner Application Review Team

- Executive Director Sigüenza shared that the applications are still in review, four (4) names were forwarded by the commission out of six (6) interviews. All applications were submitted to the Governor's Office. Executive Director Sigüenza will touch base with the Boards and Commission Director as they are currently prioritizing boards and commissions that are not meeting quorum.

Guest: Alejandro Sanchez – briefly spoke about the counties moving forward to phase 2 and provided brief explanation why some counties haven't moved forward.

Agenda Change

- Commissioners requested a change in the agenda to add an update of the vaccination plans. With no further discussion, the agenda was amended.

Vaccinations plans

CHA will continue to support conversation to ensure safe distribution sites.

- Community has been working closely to get the vaccine into the hands of our community with DOH
- About 1 in 20 vaccinations are going to the Latino community – community is frustrated. Indicated that conversations have changed to demands to make vaccines more accessible

for Latinx community. Mobile testing, online platforms are difficult to navigate for elders.

- Community to start a letter writing campaign and specifically to layout what needs to happen. API & Black community are also suffering, Ethnic commission directors to meet with Dr. Shaw to be a source for help in vaccine BIPOC navigation
- Southwest WA: there is a lack of information or understanding of testing and vaccine costs, locations, etc. There isn't a large agriculture community in southwest but there is a large workforce.
- DOH gets 100k each week from federal government and they have 2 days to decided how the vaccines are going to be distributed by county phases.
- Commissioner Garza provided an update on her experience with Dr. Shaw doing community outreach in Central Washington. DOH is aware of the challenges and weaknesses that exist in the outreach and distribution of the vaccine distribution. Daily efforts are being made to improve efforts.

Adjourn 10:49

Vice Chair Alvarez motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Nuñez. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.



Executive Director's Report

Prepared by María Sigüenza

March 6, 2021

1. Finance

The FY21 budget is \$465,000 with an additional \$13,000 allotted from FY20 from an unused pension fund allotment. CHA is in great financial condition with a projection to underspend. Staff has created budgets—larger than most years— for communications, training, and supplies. This allows us to spend dollars on programs we do not normally have a budget for, like ESRY. The additional funds for training allows staff to participate in trainings that are not normally accessible to us.

The Governor's budget was released mid-December: CHA's funding was not severely impacted: we are funded for three staff and did not see a reduction budget aside from enterprise-wide monthly furloughs for two fiscal years. Our budget liaisons at the Office of Financial Management were cautiously optimistic about CHA not facing any additional cuts, as we were asked to propose by September. I remain optimistic; however, we will not know what our budget will look like FY22 until the end of the legislative session. We are patiently waiting for the Senate and House budgets to gain a better understanding of where our financial situation will lie.

Commissioner Opportunity: Once per fiscal year Commissioners may request CHA to submit a \$150 donation, if funds are available, to an organization of their choice. State rules say we can donate to an organization that aligns with our mission. Past recipients have been WASCLA, El Centro de la Raza, and other community organizations. It is against the law to issue donations to individuals or causes such as GoFundMe accounts or such sites. To start the process of issuing a donation, please email Myra AND myself with a request.

2. Career Connect Washington Grant

The Career Connect Washington Grant work is wrapping up: two pilot communities completed their planning work and submitted their Career Launch Endorsement to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. Just recently, the Pasco team (Columbia Basin College, Pasco School District, and various local industry partners) were granted the endorsement. This school launches September 2021. The King County team (Lake Washington Institute of Technology and IBM) have submitted their CLE application in December, but due to a technical glitch, they will not know their endorsement status until the month of March. The third team, Everett (Everett Community and Technical College and Everett Public Schools) will finish their required deliverables and likely put the project on hold until further notice. Finally, Washington STEM, has successfully completed their contract; Gilda continues to meet with Commissioner Moreno, Myra, and myself to strategize on the creation of future CCT Academies.

ESD conducted a monitoring review on our contract. They looked at our internal controls, financial processes, and overall spend. The review happened in one workday and the outcome was positive: no findings. Financially, CHA has underspent and will be extending the contract through the end of this fiscal year to fully deplete funds. Staff are working to identify potential spending opportunities directly related to the grant.

3. Workgroups and Advisory Committees

As the commission awaits the appointment of new commissioners, I have been participating in the Migrant State Advisory Committee. This council is managed by the Migrant Education Program in OSPI has been a long-standing committee. Fifty-one percent of the members of the Washington State Migrant Education Advisory Committee (SAC) are migrant parents and students. Other members include

a teacher, a principal, a grants manager, a superintendent, a school board director, a representative from the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA), a paraeducator/home visitor or records clerk, and a secondary school counselor. Last month, I presented on the Commission, its duties, priorities, and current commissioners. The presentation was well received and I was warmly welcomed as part of the group.

The [Poverty Reduction Work Group](#) (PRWG) was created by Governor Inslee via [directive 17-13](#) to develop a strategic plan to reduce poverty, improve communities and make needed progress related to housing, health integration, employment, and education. I joined the group in August 2018 after my appointment to the commission, replacing Director van der Lugt. The PRWG finished its plan December 2019; the work group staff have spent the better part of 2020 doing community outreach to make improvements. Though the group has completed its directive in 2019, the group met in March and decided to continue to meet. The group will guide the implementation of the plan and inform the work of the [Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force](#).

4. Latino Civic Alliance COVID Community Calls

The Latino Civic Alliance (LCA) and CHA have been partnering in to create a space for community leaders across the state to These calls were started in in March 2020, at the start of the pandemic. The calls now take place monthly. While LCA is the sole host, CHA continues to liaise with state agencies; use its mass-email capacity to manage invites, informational emails, and calendar invites; and other technical assistance.

5. Staff Highlights

Small Business Liaison Team (SBLT): The last Small Business Training in Spanish took place in January; about 50 individuals signed up, and 25 participated. Due to few registrations in the month of February, the training was cancelled. The SBLT will create new marketing and communications strategies to keep the training live.

Newsletter: Three newsletters have been published. They are put together by staff and commissioners: thank you to all who have contributed!

Planning Session: CHA staff gets together twice a year to plan out projects and timelines. This year has been odd with the changing priorities that COVID has brought. Staff will be meeting mid-March to plan out the rest of 2021. Planning includes big projects (for example, the website redesign was planned in January 2020), informational campaigns, commission meetings, interim work, and staff time off.