

## **TRANSITION BRIEFING from Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA)**

### **Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Uriel Iñiguez – Acting Executive Director

1210 Eastside St., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

MS 40924

Olympia, WA 98504-0924

(360) 753-3159

[www.cha.wa.gov](http://www.cha.wa.gov)

### **Agency Responsibilities**

- *Improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community.*
- *Advise the Governor, state agencies and legislature on the development and implementation of policies, plans and programs that relate to the special needs of the Hispanic Community.*
- *Hold 6 public meetings during the year throughout the state to hear the needs of the Hispanic community.*
- *Establish relationships with state agencies, local governments, and members of the private sector.*

Implementing legislation for the Commission is located at RCW 43.115.010, et seq.

### **Organization Chart and Budget**

- Agency size: 1.8
- Uriel Iñiguez: Acting Executive Director manages all of the Commissions activities and budget.
- Budget: General Fund State: \$413,000 for Biennium 2003-2005.

### **Most Pressing Issues or challenges your agency is facing**

Demographic changes of the Latino population in the state, changes in healthcare programs, changes in the claims process of the Department of Labor, changes in the educational system Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), the current anti-immigrant atmosphere, and the 911 tragedy have put more pressure on the Commission to be more active in the community. In order to adequately address all of these issues and to be the voice of the Latino community, additional FTEs are needed. Increasing the current .8 confidential secretary position to full time will provide support to the Director. The Director spends about 30% of time on administrative work.

The continued growth of the Latino population in Washington State has catalyzed the proliferation of private and public agencies whose mandate necessitates interact with the Commission as the single point of contact in state government. This dynamic presents added workload demands and pressures for the Commission. The Commission's time is apportioned between its interagency and intergovernmental liaison functions, community outreach and Commission administration. At the same time, state and community service providers are unable to meet the growing needs of the Latino community-and are requesting the Commission's involvement on a myriad of concerns requiring a multi-level responses.

The Commission is not able to meet the increased demand, even though the staff is highly flexible, capable and cross-trained. Additionally, federal and state actions, welfare reform, crime, delinquency, education reform, and immigration will continue to increase our workload and demands of our time. With the disparities in Healthcare, Education, and Economic Development for the Latino population, it is imperative that the Commission becomes more active in addressing these issues.

In August 2004, the Commission submitted its Biennial Budget. In the Budget there is a request for funding the .8 confidential secretary to full time, a request for more FTEs and request for increased travel funds. The Commission needs to wait until the legislative session to find out if the request will be granted. The funding of the requested FTEs and the increase in the travel budget have a direct affect on how effective the commission is able to meet the mission, goal, and objectives of the strategic plan. With more staff, the commission will be able to attend more community meetings, advise more legislators about Latino issues, and assist other state agencies in trouble shooting issues dealing with Latinos.

In order to gain some understanding of the urgency in some of the disparities in the Latino community in Washington State, here are some statistics:

- Criteria changes made to Maternity Support Services and Maternity Case Management services that overwhelmingly screened out Latino women from being eligible for these services.
- Injured farmworkers being released from Labor and Industries medical coverage but still requiring additional medical care follow-up and find they have no healthcare coverage and are made ineligible for other benefits.
- Concerns on the impact of implementing Medicaid Premiums.
- Disparities in health - particularly the lack of focus in developing Latino healthcare professionals and access to care.
- Lack of utilization of interpreters during medical visits.

In 2003-2004 Fourth graders taking the WASL test, 50% met the standards required by the State in each of the selected areas.

- 39% met standards for math (9,972 students tested)
- 54% met standards for reading (9,945 students tested)
- 36% met standards for writing (9,868 students tested)
- 36% met standards for listening (9,491 students tested)

In 2003-2004 Tenth graders taking the WASL test, less than 50% met the standards required by the State in each of the tested areas.

- 19.6% met standards for math (6,554 students tested)
- 41.3% met standards for reading (6,517 students tested)
- 42% met standards for writing (6,343 students tested)
- 11% met standards for science (6,311 students tested)

(WASL Trends obtained from OSPI).

Staff Contact: Cindy García

[cgarcia@cha.wa.gov](mailto:cgarcia@cha.wa.gov)

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## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION (GS105)

Agency 118 - Wa State Comm On Hispanic Affairs	Senate Conf. N	Positions: Maximum 011
Authority Governor	Public Disc. N	Minimum 000
Authoriztn. RCW 43.115.030	Term Length 036	Actual 011
Rem. Auth. GC	Meetings/Yr. 10	

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Iniguez, Uriel R. Olympia, WA 98501	A	H	09/02/2003	08/01/2004

Terms Served 01  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Gaeta, Leo R. PO Box 649 Othello, WA 99344	A	H	08/02/2002	08/01/2005

Terms Served 02  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
003	Tamez, Homero 2120 N 14th Ave Pasco, WA 99301	A	H	08/02/2004	08/01/2007

Terms Served 01  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
004	Avalos, Diana 1118 SE 5th Avenue Battle Ground, WA 98604	A	H	09/09/2002	08/01/2005

Terms Served 01  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
005	Padilla-Reyna, Karla 4944 Cheyne Rd. Zillah, WA 98953	A	H	09/02/2003	08/01/2006

Terms Served 01  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
006	Villareal, Rebecca 1523 Arthur Place Bainbridge Island, WA 98110	A	H	10/27/2003	08/01/2006

Terms Served 01  
Position a member  
Comments General Public

## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION (GS105)

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
007	Banfi, Gabriel I. 10900 NE 8th Street Bellevue, WA 98004	A	H	08/02/2002	08/01/2005
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
008	Baca, Ruben 1167 Newton Street Bellingham, WA 98229	A	H	07/12/2004	08/01/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
009	Lopez Morton, Yvonne 12015 S. Player Drive Spokane, WA 99223	A	H	11/05/2002	08/01/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
010	Barbosa, Faviola 2751 2nd St. SE E. Wenatchee, WA 98802	A	H	09/02/2003	08/01/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
011	Portugal, Gabriel 804 Rd. 52 Pasco, WA 99301	A	H	06/18/2003	08/01/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		