

LA ALIANZA LATINA WORKGROUP MEETING

November 10, 2020 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Workgroup members present: Alicia Ardila, Andrea Nunez, Danielle Duran Baron, Cris Oviedo, David Rodriguez, Elisa Montalvo, Felicita Sola- Carter, Gabriel Moreno, Gabriel Terrasa, Katie DiSalvo-Thronson, Patricia Silva, Sandy Cos, Yvette Oquendo-Berruz, Luzmila Robinson, Maryann Maher

Staff present: David Ruiz, Megan Williams, Janssen Evelyn, Dr. Calvin Ball, Jackie Scott, Lisa DeHernandez

I. Introductions

David Ruiz began the meeting at 6:07pm by introducing himself and County Executive Calvin Ball. Dr. Ball spoke briefly welcoming members, offering thanks for the dedication of the workgroup and excitement regarding what the group is planning to do. David Ruiz then introduced Megan Williams.

II. Adoption of Minutes

Megan asked members to review the minutes from the workgroup's first meeting on September 29, 2020. Gabriel Terrasa requested that we correct an error in the spelling of his last name by removing an extra "S". Danielle Duran Baron additionally requested a correction as her surname was written in as "Silva". With these edits, the workgroup voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

III. Speakers

- a. Jackie Scott, Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS)
 - i. All applications, flyers and resources are available in Spanish
 - ii. Maryland Access Point – best way for Spanish speaking older residents to call in as we have translators who can connect them to resources
 - iii. At most events, DCRS has bilingual staff and volunteers to help families
 - iv. DCRS sponsors a scholar's program for bilingual children
 - v. Where there is need:
 1. Enhanced capacity with more bilingual staff
 2. Community connectors, including members of the faith community, trusted community leaders
 3. More representation on Boards and Commissions that make policy recommendations and help guide DCRS
 - vi. Questions
 1. Cris Oviedo: Where do we find this information that is in Spanish from DCRS?
 - a. Jackie: We can add people to our constant contact list, to get information as we distribute it
 2. Patricia Silva: How about if the agency creates a point of information/contact? Point online also
 - a. Jackie: Community Portal, we are working with community sources of information, let us know and we can have you share those resources with people

- b. Megan: We are in the process of creating a Resource Guide, can also share this input with IT as we develop the website reboot
- 3. David Rodriguez: What about the departments and boards and commissions?
 - a. Jackie Scott: can share that, it's included in the resource guide
- 4. Katie DiSalvo-Thronson: Care line provides information and translation services
 - a. Jackie: we pull together services and organizations, DCRS has lead with the Care Line
 - b. HCLS is currently working on providing food distribution information.
- 5. Alicia Ardila: Lists have different information that's constantly changing, it would be helpful to get a list together and central point with information
 - a. People have just been ready to serve, it's a blessing but also it's difficult to have everyone to work together
 - b. Coordination would be helpful
- 6. Jackie: Our experience is that we tend to see more of our Latinx families on the younger side, and then we trend on the older adult side with Korean/ Chinese individuals. Are we missing our older adults in the Latino community or do we have correct data?
 - a. Elisa Montalvo – It very much is a young community, a lot of very young grandparents. Your data is correct. We have some but not the same amounts you would see in other groups
- 7. Patricia Silva: Older population faces lots of language barriers and trust issues
- 8. Luzmila Robinson: Communication is between younger members, and they communicate for their members. The fear factor and the feeling of being targeted, you won't get a lot of information on their living. We also tend to live in multigenerational houses. Are your services for people who work in the county but don't live in the county?
 - a. Jackie Scott: For the most part they are available, but we have some residency requirements for certain things
- 9. Cris Oviedo: Transportation is also an issue
- 10. Patricia: How are we helping undocumented persons?
 - a. We are working with FIRN
- 11. Andrea: Are these national trends?
 - a. Elisa: growth in Howard County, there has been explosive growth
 - b. Cris: The multi-generational aspect adds to it, there are younger people representing them
- 12. Feli Sola-Carter: Jackie has been incredibly responsive, you are always open to possibilities, understand that she really means it when she says she addresses concerns
 - b. Lisa DeHernandez, Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

- i. The Health Department would like to know where we are failing the community and how we can better help
- ii. When people come to HCHD front facing services, all of our front desk staff are bilingual Spanish speakers
- iii. Majority of our WIC and healthcare programs are mostly serving Latinos
- iv. Utilize FIRN
- v. HCHD doesn't ask for status unless it's a federal program
- vi. Working with community partners, we want to be able to serve in any capacity we can
- vii. Behavioral Health
 - 1. Immigrant Health Services
- viii. Constant contact list and social media
 - 1. Where can we find these groups and pockets to share this information and meet people where they are?
 - 2. Flu vaccine drive with FIRN in Laurel aimed at the Latino community
 - 3. NeighborRide
- ix. Gaps
 - 1. Prenatal services, but there is a reproductive health program
- x. Questions
 - 1. Cris: Can we get information on what programs and services that you all provide? I thought I could just go to the doctor there but that's not the case. It would be helpful to make that distinction.
 - a. Lisa will share that
 - 2. Cris: WhatsApp chat – potential way to reach out to people
 - a. Lisa: we have been looking into that
 - 3. Patricia: Howard County Latino WhatsApp group chat, created a group because she was worried for other families
 - 4. Patricia: Access to medical services in the county – for a Latinx family that doesn't have insurance, it's difficult to gain access. They do a good job with behavioral health services, what has been done for prenatal care? Language barrier is an issue, material in Spanish, community partners
 - a. Health Department used to provide prenatal care services but that funding is not there, they now have to go to Baltimore and Anne Arundel
 - b. At this time, we don't have a solution. Our WIC program does take care of pregnant moms and families. It is not limited by your residency status.
 - c. Timely resources – we are working on that and will keep that going. Other programs have to keep functioning even with COVID-19

IV. Chair Election

Danielle Duran Baron, Cris Oviedo, and Luzmila Robinson were nominated to serve as co-chairs. At the meeting, David Rodriguez and Gabriel Moreno were nominated for the election. Luzmila, David, and Gabriel declined the nomination. Danielle and Cris mentioned an interest in serving co-chairs. Megan motioned a vote, it was seconded, and each member was asked to vote by raise of hands to confirm Cris Oviedo and Danielle Duran Baron as co-chairs of La Alianza Latina.

V. Committees

Megan presented 6 potential options for committees from what the group had named their priorities. A number of group members had concerns that this would mean we have committees on committees, but not get anything done. Most felt it was too early to form committees. Katie, Danielle, David, and Elisa indicated directly the wish to wait. The group delayed forming committees until further meetings.

In addition, the group indicated an interest in holding more frequent meetings as they feel they do not know each other all that well. Elisa mentioned that we were not at full attendance, and this was only the 2nd meeting.

VI. Closing

Megan indicated we will discuss steps moving forward on what can be done now that we have our official co-chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm