

**PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION ON REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS MEETING**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

January 9, 2023

Members: Alice Fong, Representing Pierce County Council District 6 - present
 Diana Bullen, Representing Pierce County Council District 2 - excused
 Erasmo Ruiz, Representing Pierce County Council District 3 - present
 George Conzuelo, Pierce County Council Representing Youth - present
 Gloria Rodriguez, Pierce County Council Representing District 1 – present
 Jennifer Li Dotson, Pierce County Council Representing District 4 – absent
 Lara Cooper, Representing Pierce County Council District 7 - present
 Thierry Ruboneka, At Large Member – present

Staff: Stefanie Love, Human Services Coordinator
 Anika Moran, Special Advisor to the Director, Pierce County Human Services
 Becki Foutz, Administrative Assistant, Pierce County Human Services

MINUTES

TOPIC/ WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Roll Call & Introductions- Stefanie Love	Stefanie called the meeting to order, and called roll.	Wel- come, all!
Approval of December Minutes Alice Fong	Minutes are posted on the CRIA’s website and Alice shared them with members in advance of the meeting. Erasmo moved and George seconded to approve the minutes. The group voted to approve the December minutes.	The De- cember minutes were ap- proved as written.
Public Comment & Good of the Order Stefanie Love	Alice invited members of the public to comment.	None.
Discuss Workplan and Guest Speakers Stefanie Love	Stefanie shared and reviewed the CRIA work plan and requested input. Strategic Priority 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission not finalized. • By-laws haven’t been started yet. 	Mission will be finalized when Jen- nifer’s present.

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Discuss Workplan and Guest Speakers Stefanie Love, continued</p>	<p>Strategic Priority 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will be first guest speaker? Erasmo suggested Melissa Rubio, his mentor from OneAmerica and OneAmerica Votes. Gloria suggested the Tacoma Refugee Choir. The choir's a great way for refugees to make friends and express themselves. Once technology bugs are worked out, Alice would like to invite people to join the group. • George suggested translating meeting minutes into other languages. • Stefanie and Anika are working on adding a link to for people to request an interpreter for the meeting The County contracts with multiple interpreter organizations. Erasmo knows two great interpreter providers, Cross-Cultural Communications and Universal. Gloria's had positive experiences with Dynamic Language and Tarjimly; Dynamic has interpreters available in the afternoon and evening. • Community Events – Gloria would like to participate on tables at outreach events. • Asia Pacific Cultural Center's having a big event for Lunar New Year; it would be nice to have a table and flyers there. • Gloria offered to market the advisory board meetings via Facebook and Instagram. Stefanie's working with Communications to see if we may do that. Gloria asked about using WhatsApp. Anika believes that we can communicate via WhatsApp; communications would be subject to public records requests. Community comments are usually collected via County website forums. Gloria suggested a text message line, Google voice mail or a bot with scripted responses. She expressed that in her experience websites are not the optimal way to communicate with this population. • Erasmo suggested getting a Post Office Box where people can write, if we can't get a social media page. • Gloria suggested outreach via radio • Setting up forums for CRIA will give Pierce County credit for being innovating, proactive, cohesive and credible. <p>Strategic Priority 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory letters to Council - Erasmo likes the option of being able to write letters of dissent as well as support • Thierry asked about using subcommittees as the Commission works on different projects 	<p>A list of organizations and groups will be compiled to pull from.</p> <p>Stefanie will advocate for the Commission to have its own social media presence.</p> <p>Anika & Stefanie will check with Kari about advertising on WhatsApp.</p> <p>The work plan is due in April; please send Stefanie input.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Creation of Work Groups George Conzuelo</p>	<p>There will be two types of workgroups: ongoing committees for tasks, for example, outreach or networking, and temporary task forces for more short-term projects, for example, creating By-Laws. Committees could be established for each topic on the list included in the Ordinance’s Purpose of the Commission: economic development, public health, student achievement, citizenship, public safety, criminal justice, civic engagement, language access and protection of civil rights.</p> <p>Alice would like to reach out to the community to help prioritize the list. George suggested conducting a survey. Lara added that the topics are broad and interconnected. She suggested setting up two or three workgroups over the next few months to create basic strategies and build upon those, keeping the groups small, achievable and manageable.</p> <p>Erasmo recommended prioritizing citizenship and voter registration; many individuals are eligible, however there are barriers to achieving them.</p>	<p>Pick the top three areas you’d like to work on and bring your ideas to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Topics for Next Meeting</p>	<p>Vision – Alice would like to meet in person to develop the group’s Vision. Would the group prefer to do this at the February or March meeting? One meeting could focus on the Vision, and one on creating work groups.</p> <p>Would anyone like to work on the By-Laws Task Force? Anika suggested using OneDrive or SharePoint.</p>	
<p>Closing Circle</p>	<p>Appreciation – Alice appreciates all group members. Erasmo appreciates how everyone’s collaborative and works within the team structure. Gloria appreciates the patience everyone’s shown towards each other. Thierry appreciates that he could be here; he likes everything that was discussed.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting ended at 6:37.</p>	<p>Closure</p>

The next CRIA meeting is Monday, February 6 at 5:00 via Zoom and in the SV Muckleshoot Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant