

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

5:00 – 6:35 p.m.

February 6, 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 – excused
 Jennifer Li Dotson, Pierce County Council Representing District 4 – excused
 Lara Cooper, Representing Pierce County Council District 7 - excused
 Thierry Ruboneka, At Large Member – present

Guest: Jaclyn Kirby, Human Services Intern

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; a quorum was present as above.	Wel-come, all!
Approval of January Minutes	George moved and Erasmo seconded to approve the minutes. Alice asked for any discussion. Vote was called for; none opposed. The group voted to approve the January minutes.	The January minutes were approved as written.
Public Comment & Good of the Order Stefanie Love	Public comment: no public in attendance. Three applicants’ names and applications were shared with Councilmember Campbell as potential new District 5 member representative. There’s now information on our website for people to request interpreters when attending Commission meetings. Stefanie’s asking the Communications Manager if What’s App may be used. Stefanie’s awaiting response on having a Commission email, regarding who would be in charge of the email account.	More to come about future applicant interviews.

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Public Comment & Good of the Order continued</p>	<p>Alice invited other members to share Good of the Order items.</p> <p>George brought up the NW Detention Center issue. Detainees have been on a hunger strike and the staff has been using pepper spray on them and otherwise treating them badly. He’s hoping we can do something about it. Erasmo said he’d like to communicate with the head of the detention center and check on detainees to ensure they’re being treated with dignity. George said they’re quite strict about admitting people. They reluctantly let the Tacoma City Council enter in the past. It would be difficult to get in, and even then, it would not illustrate business as usual at the center. We can’t just show up unannounced, but maybe we could make a statement that the issue’s on our radar. George suggested that the Commission go as a group within the next couple of weeks. Stefanie added that the Council wants a report on the state of affairs in the community from the Commission, and we can definitely include our thoughts on the detention center in that report.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>Old Business Alice Fong</p>	<p>Vote to approve work plan – Alice asked if this should be done during the meeting or via email so all members may vote? Everyone’s seen the work plan. Stefanie said that those who are not present tonight have informally approved the work plan. As discussed, it will be a dynamic plan that can be changed as agreed upon by the group. George moved to approve the work plan. Erasmo seconded the motion. Alice invited discussion. None. Vote called for; none opposed.</p> <p>Vote to approve mission statement – Alice spoke with Jennifer who was the only one not present when the mission statement was finalized. Alice appreciated the inclusiveness of the group in putting together the mission statement. Erasmo moved to approve the mission statement. Thierry seconded the motion. Alice invited discussion. None. Vote called for; none opposed.</p> <p><i>We are community advocates with lived experiences, collaborating with PC leadership, refugees, and immigrants to create a thriving and inclusive society.</i></p> <p>By-laws creation workgroup check-in – deadline update. Alice hasn’t had a chance to share King County’s By-Laws with the group. Erasmo and George agreed to be on the By-Laws creation workgroup. They’ll plan on bringing an outline to the March meeting.</p>	<p>The work plan was approved!</p> <p>The mission statement was approved!</p> <p>The By-Laws work-group will work on a draft to bring to the March meeting.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>New Business George Conzuelo</p>	<p>Council presentation – The Ordinance states that this Commission must present a work plan and report to the Council annually each April, so we’re anticipating a request. The Commission can also make a request to report to the Council. Alice feels if they would like a report by April, we can be ready to share what we’ve done thus far and what we plan to do. We can also ask Councilmembers what they’d like to hear from us. George would like to use this as an opportunity to put together a road map for future activity. He’s not sure what more we could add to it if we postpone it, so he’d like to maintain the April deliverable date. Thierry agreed, and it would be a great time to share our mission statement. Alice said it would be good to stay on the Council’s radar, and make our suggestions about what would make things better. What format should it be in? There’s no precedent for sharing; it’s up to the group. PowerPoint, video? We can also share it on our website, including translations in various languages. Stefanie asked if the group feels that the timeline of April is feasible to produce a video? Perhaps this time keep it a simple PowerPoint, and aim for a video next year? Perhaps the group can meet in person next month to put together the vision statement and take a new group photo.</p> <p>There will be a Lunar New Year event on Saturday, February 25 at the Tacoma Dome. Do we want to try to host a table at the event? Alice said that the official window’s closed to book a table, but we can try, and bring some flyers and candy. Tomorrow and the next day are legislative days for APCC.</p> <p>Priorities of focus – Erasmo said his priorities are citizenship, criminal justice and protection of civil rights. George’s are protection of civil rights, civic engagement, and achievement. Thierry’s are citizenship, welcoming kids of newly arrived families (orientation), and mental health issues. There’s a shortage of MH coverage for immigrants – some have long-term issues and can’t afford to pay for services. Alice reached out to members of the community and asked them to provide their three priorities. Some she received were engagement, achievement, and employment. Another community member said housing, security, stability, protection of civil rights, and safe employment. Another member conducted a listening session with elders and young people and their number one priority was protection of civil rights, followed by public health, civic engagement, and economic development. We’ll have more priorities from other Commission members. Alice asked if we want to look at personal work that we want to do, as well as group work? There’s not enough time in the year to work on all of the priorities. It seems that most agree on prioritizing protection of civil rights. Alice noted that citizenship and civic engagement repeat as well. George feels that citizenship falls under the umbrella of civic engagement. Alice will reach out to Jennifer; Thierry will reach out to Gloria, and George will reach out to Diana and Lara, to get their priorities.</p>	<p>Anika offered to reach out to Leigh-Beth Merrick at the Council re: the report.</p> <p>Alice offered to ask APCC about a table/ partial table.</p> <p>Each member will reach out to a teammate to get their three priorities, and share them with Stefanie.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>New Business Continued</p>	<p>Speaker calendar – The work plan said to generally engage the community on various topics. Thierry suggested maintaining a calendar of potential guest speakers and Commissioners would follow up with them to see who’s willing to come speak, and when. Do we want to reserve March for the vision discussion and begin with speakers in April? Even if we can’t do the vision exercise next month, we can spend time on the report for Council.</p> <p>Erasmus asked if we have a speaker in mind for April? Stefanie said it would be good to get feedback from the other members on their top three priorities before scheduling speakers. Should we use Google docs? Anika said that she had some difficulty using the County’s Google docs account; Sharepoint might be easier.</p>	<p>Stefanie will put together a simple spreadsheet and running list of dates.</p>
<p>Closing Circle</p>	<p>Alice invited group members to share. Anika said that Pierce County currently contracts with two providers who are helping with Ukrainian stabilization efforts, and they might be a good choice for future guest speakers. Early to mid-Summer is when departments submit budget requests so it would be helpful to shape the speaker series with that in mind.</p> <p>Erasmus said he’d like to talk about fundraising since this Commission doesn’t have a budget. The focus is on the Commission’s purpose, which is to advise County leadership. If we do find the need for funding, we’re to let them know and they’ll see what they can do. When we do listening sessions (which are included in the work plan) we’ll want to provide child care and food; that’s when Alice sees us needing funds.</p> <p>Thierry added that we’ll also need funds when we hold welcoming orientations for immigrant families. Would dollars be available for community engagement? Anika explained that the Commission would need to come up with a Statement of Need that Anika and Stefanie will bring to the Department Director. If we make a more formal request, we would need to develop a full budget. Alice loves developing budgets! Are we on a Fiscal or calendar budget year? The County budget runs on calendar year. Exciting! Alice also offered to draft a Statement of Need, including why the funds are important, and kick it out to the rest of the Commission.</p> <p>Stefanie suggested coming up with locations for Commission events; she suggested Tacoma Community House or the APCC. We’ll look at the calendar to determine how many events we can squeeze in.</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Stefanie will work with the Commission on a Statement of Need.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Closing Circle continued</p>	<p>George is concerned about detainees at the NW Detention Center. Should we run the issue by the other Commission members for ideas, or set up a date to visit? Erasmo's down to go. He also thinks it would be a good idea to wordsmith a statement for County leadership. Alice would like to include it in our report to Council as well. We do need to do something more timely though, due to the current hunger strike. Anika reminded the group that emails about the work of the Commission are subject to public records requests. The detention center is not County-run so please keep that in mind. Anika's unsure whether the County has a role in the Center. The Geo group is a private company that runs the center, via contract with the Federal government.</p>	<p>George will kick off the email thread about NW Detention Center.</p> <p>Becki will check with the County atty to see if a visit would need to be posted as a public meeting.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Alice thanked the group for their dedication and advocacy and expressed her appreciation for each of them. The meeting ended at 6:37.</p>	<p>Closure</p>

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

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant

Chat from 2/6/23 Commission on Refugee & Immigrant Affairs Meeting

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:04 PM

Hello Anika! Not sure if you heard me when I said hello.

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to All Panelists 05:04 PM

becki please make the Muckleshoot room a panelist

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:04 PM

Also hello to you to Becki... you might have missed my hello too. 😊

I probably didn't hear you... sorry Anika!

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:05 PM

Oh but you did hear me later, that's right. All good :)

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:06 PM

😊 Thanks Anika

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to All Panelists 05:07 PM

I can see the Panelist invite on the TV screen but can't accept it.

No one is here in Muckleshoot so I'm closing it down.

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:09 PM

Hi Team! Sorry for the delay, I had to come down to the common area where the wifi isn't as spotty haha

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:09 PM

No problem! Glad you are here, George!! 😊

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to All Panelists 05:10 PM

Just texted Thierry. Advised him to use the link from my recent email.

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:10 PM

Thank you Alice! And for some reason it says my audio isn't connected so im troubleshooting that agh

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:11 PM

I texted Diana.

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to All Panelists 05:11 PM

Thierry is planning to join us

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:12 PM

Cool!

We can hear you George!

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:12 PM

Yay awesome!

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:12 PM

Sorry all... daddy's dinner came so had to take care of that. 😊

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:12 PM

No worries Alice :)

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:18 PM

Hi everyone :)

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:18 PM

Hello Jaclyn! Welcome!!

Becki to Jaclyn Kirby, All Panelists 05:18 PM



From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:18 PM



From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:19 PM

Thank you! I don't have the ability to talk on here, so I'll just comment in the chat. I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:19 PM

Sounds good, thank you Jaclyn! 😊

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:20 PM

That's so exciting!

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:20 PM

Gotcha, thank you Jaclyn!

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:20 PM

As far as I know, you are the only Board/Commission to have the interpretation ability. Congrats on trailblazing!

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:20 PM

Woo-hoo! :)

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:21 PM

Yay! Great job, team! 😊

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:31 PM

Woo!!! Good work ahead of you!

It's a beautiful mission statement :)

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:32 PM

Thanks Anika! :3

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:32 PM

Can someone share the mission statement in the chat?

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:33 PM

Yup looking for it rn

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:33 PM

Thank you

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:41 PM

Finally found it haha: We are community advocates with lived experiences, collaborating with PC leadership, refugees and immigrants to create a thriving and inclusive society.

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:42 PM

Wonderful! Thank you, George.

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to Everyone 05:43 PM

Good point George!

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:48 PM

Our Public Information Specialist makes a gorgeous powerpoint

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:49 PM

Oooo! Love a great power point

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to Everyone 05:51 PM

I'll share the APICC flyer via email.

I will be there as a patron.lol. I'm going for the food!

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:59 PM

vhrfnujmxkswidf

sorry my keyboard is acting up

From George Conzuelo to Everyone 05:59 PM

Putting in the work! *claps*

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:59 PM

Haha--

From Anika Moran to Everyone 06:15 PM

Ha!!!

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to Everyone 06:33 PM

Thank you all!

From Anika Moran to Everyone 06:33 PM

I need to go - thank you, everyone! Always impressive to watch you all do this work so conscientiously.

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 06:34 PM

Great work all of you! Take care :)

From Thierry Ruboneka to All Panelists 06:34 PM

Thank you everybody, Good night