

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

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

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

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 February Minutes	Erasmo moved to approve the February minutes, and George seconded. Vote was called for; none opposed. The group voted to approve the February minutes.	The February minutes were approved as written.
Public Comment & Good of the Order Stefanie Love	Jaclyn Kirby, HS intern is once again in attendance and said hi.	Thanks for coming, Jaclyn!

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Lunar New Year Event Alice & George	It was an awesome event; this was the first time Alice and George attended the Lunar New Year Festival, and it was a great way for the Commission to show they care about diversity in the community. Alice was there for ten hours! She set up a table in an amazing spot, handed out flyers and 500 pieces of candy! George joined her in the afternoon. What other cultures have some kind of event with outreach opportunity? Some people really resonated with our Mission statement! Alice obtained Pierce County lanyards for all Commissioners. Alice purchased a beautiful card, and she will add a thank you message to send to the Asian Pacific Cultural Center for hosting.	Great job, Alice & George!!
District Five Applicant Update Stefanie Love	Sabrina, Councilmember Campbell's assistant, said that he should get back to us with candidate recommendations this week. Once that happens, Stefanie will share the information with the Commission to see how they want to conduct interviews.	More to come.
Leadership for the Next Six Months Stefanie Love	Objective: get volunteers for the next Chair and Vice Chair. Volunteers? Erasmo nominated George as the next Chair. Many hands make light work. Alice asked when her term as Chair is officially over. Stefanie will check and get back to her.	Stefanie will email the Commission for volunteers.
Council Presentation Stefanie Love	The Commission's been asked to report to the Human Services Committee, composed of Councilmembers Mello, Campbell, Hitchen, Herrera, and Cruver, on our work plan and activities so far. It needs to be reviewed by Heather by March 14, then submitted to the Council by March 16. Alice offered to do a PowerPoint presentation. Stefanie asked Alice to send it to her and she'll put it on our Human Services template and have Kari review it. It would be great to have a group photo.	Alice will get the PowerPoint to the group on Friday.
Vision Alice Fong	Diana had suggested that our Vision be brief. Each advisory board's Vision feeds into Pierce County's Vision, <i>"Pierce County's a place people are proud to call home."</i> Our Mission statement is: <i>We are community advocates with lived experiences, collaborating with PC leadership, refugees, and immigrants to create a thriving and inclusive society.</i> What is the preferred future we wish to see? What's the core we are charged to do? What do we represent in our community? (in a few words)	Discussion

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Vision continued</p>	<p>Include <i>inclusion</i>. What other words are very important to us? Erasmo suggested being a bit more specific, like include <i>immigrants, politics</i>. Gloria recommended <i>integration</i>: we want people to be fostering and have welcoming attitudes. Stefanie added that <i>belonging</i> is a powerful word. Making it clear that immigrants and refugees aren't this "other" kind of people, but they belong in our communities. Hard to put this sentiment into a few words. <i>We all belong together. We promote belonging. Pierce County will foster a community of belonging for all. Collaborating. Uniting. Uniting Pierce County residents?</i></p> <p>Commissioners discussed how we don't know our neighbors. Insert the word <i>Strive</i>? <i>We strive to build community. Strive to break down siloes. Strive to bring people together. Strive to have neighbors get to know each other.</i> Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Unity is not uniformity." We can lift up our uniqueness, despite being united.</p> <p>We want the Vision to be "way out there,"- hugely aspirational! Is building a community big enough? Do we want more? A Vision should push us to imagine something; let's not limit ourselves. <i>Inclusive, interconnected, equitable.</i></p> <p>Erasmo suggested keeping the language simple enough for all to understand, including those with limited English and/or limited education. Stefanie noted that there's a website called Plain Language. You can type in jargon, and it will convert it to very simple third-grade language.</p> <p>Gloria looked up synonyms: <i>breaking down divisions, breaking down differences. Creating a loving community. Healthy communities.</i></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>The Vision discussion will continue at the April meeting.</p>
<p>By-Laws Alice Fong & George Conzuelo</p>	<p>Alice shared what King County used as their By-Laws. We want to make ours less punitive, and include our Mission, Vision, work plan, meeting norms, and Ordinance language, including responsibilities, membership, and terms of office.</p> <p>Erasmo added that we should include expectations about attendance, including communicating if you can't make a meeting, etc. Erasmo suggested doing all we can to not remove officers, but rather work with individuals, providing training in the area needed, and mentorship. There are a lot of free trainings available.</p> <p>Harassment and all forms of abuse will not be tolerated on the Commission, however, King County's language about that seems unfriendly. It feels like a legal team wrote it. Gloria suggested tweaking the language to make it more "plain speak." One major part of her company's mission is to help participants plant roots in the community. Their team works with them for their first 90 days of resettlement and discusses opportunities with them. They prefer the term "participant," rather than client.</p>	<p>Alice will send the document to the group with action steps.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Three Focus Areas Alice Fong</p>	<p>Alice asked Gloria to please share her three focus areas.</p>	<p>The Three Focus Areas discussion was tabled until the April meeting.</p>
<p>Appreciations & Adjourn</p>	<p>George gave Kudos to Alice on the hard work and the wonderful job at their first tabling event! Alice thanked George for coming.</p> <p>Erasmio expressed appreciation for the wealth of knowledge of all the Commissioners.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 6:30. The next meeting will be in person with food, and a group photo will be taken.</p>	<p>Thanks to all!</p>

The next CRIA meeting is Monday, April 3 at 5:00 via Zoom and in the SV Muckleshoot Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant

Chat from 3/6/23 Commission on Refugee & Immigrant Affairs

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:10 PM

Hi :)

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:10 PM

Hiii

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:11 PM

I don't have the ability to talk during these meetings, so I'm limited to chat.

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:11 PM

Oh okay 👍

From Alice Fong to All Panelists 05:11 PM

Let us know if you want to chat - thank you for joining us, Jacklyn! 😊

From Becki Foutz to Everyone 05:11 PM

Jaclyn, don't want to leave you out. If you'd like to talk you can raise your hand and be able to talk.

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:12 PM

Good to know. Thank you.

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:12 PM

WOW, go Alice!!!!

George, glad you were able to join, too!!

Erasmo Ruiz to Jaclyn Kirby, All Panelists 05:13 PM

Are you related to Steve Kirby?

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 05:13 PM

No, I'm not

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:20 PM

Big shoes to fill, but there's so much ability in the group...!

From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone 05:28 PM

im back

From Anika Moran to Everyone 05:39 PM

Belonging <3

From Becki Foutz to Everyone 05:41 PM

Pierce County will foster a community of belonging for all. ??

From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone 05:49 PM

I like the silo busting language

From Jennifer Li Dotson to All Panelists 05:50 PM



From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 05:53 PM

I think affirmative statements are important-

From Stefanie Love (She/Her) Pierce County to All Panelists 06:04 PM

I was being sarcastic because of my last name.lol. but I do love love!

From Becki Foutz to Everyone 06:09 PM

Creating a loving community is nice!

I'm sorry, Alice, was going to ask about your Dad!

From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone 06:19 PM

what kind of training

i like that idea

I love learning for the sake of learning so the word training appeals to me

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 06:19 PM

It would be training related to the areas they need support in—

From Anika Moran to Everyone 06:26 PM

Agreed!

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 06:28 PM

It's wonderful to hear the work you're all doing!

From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone 06:28 PM

im also in the process of learning Dari!

From Anika Moran to Everyone 06:28 PM

Well put, Erasmo

From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 06:29 PM

Thank you- :)

From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone 06:29 PM

Agreed, Erasmo. I have been learning at each meeting.

From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone 06:29 PM



From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone 06:29 PM

Thank you. :)