

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

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

April 3, 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 – present
 Thierry Ruboneka, At Large Member – absent

Guests: Councilmember Marty Campbell, Councilmember Amy Cruver, PCHS Intern Jaclyn Kirby,

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 at 5:13 p.m. All introduced themselves.	Wel-come, all!
Approval of March Minutes Stefanie Love	Alice moved to approve the March minutes, and Erasmo seconded. Vote was called for; none opposed. The group voted to approve the March minutes.	The March minutes were approved as written.
Public Comment & Good of the Order Alice Fong	Jaclyn Kirby, HS intern is once again in attendance and said hi. Councilmember Campbell thanked the Commission for all the good work they do! Councilmember Cruver thanked the group for letting her attend, and for the great food. She’s looking forward to learning what we do!	Wel-come, all!
March 21 Council Report George Conzuelo	George reported on the annual presentation that he and Alice gave to the Council Human Services Committee on 3/21. Phase 1 – Mission statement and foundational work; Phase 2 – establishing in the community, getting the ball rolling with community sources, attended APCC lunar new year event, got response from community hearing about our commission and being genuinely interested in it. The video can be viewed on the Pierce County Website (link at right.)	March 21 HS Committee Meeting

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>March 21 Council Report continued Alice Fong</p>	<p>The Council was excited about the Commission’s work. It will be working closely with the Ukrainian community. Councilmember Hitchen will be giving .the Commission a project to review the Equity Note data to ensure it correctly represents immigrant and refugees. Councilmember Mello expressed support of our work and has tasked the Commission to make recommendations to Council regarding feedback on E-verify and its effects.</p> <p>Alice and George gave an awesome, amazing presentation, and they’re looking forward to next year’s. Alice thanked George, the whole Commission, and staff on laying the foundational work.</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>
<p>Update on District 5 Candidates</p>	<p>We received three candidate recommendations from Councilmember Campbell’s office to fill the Commission vacancy. Stefanie’s working on scheduling interviews. Councilmember Campbell recalled that one is from Afghanistan, one from Nigeria, and one’s a person who’s done a lot of work on immigrant rights, so there’s a great pool to choose from.</p>	<p>Thank you, Council member Campbell!</p>
<p>Leadership for the Next Six Months Stefanie Love</p>	<p>George is interested in chairing for the next six months. Is anyone interested in serving as Vice Chair? We hope to have a vote at the next meeting. If you’re interested, please send your resume and qualifications to Stefanie. Any questions? There was a lot to get done in the first six months; it shouldn’t be as difficult for the next six months. We’ll be working on community engagement.</p> <p>George, Alice, and Stefanie have a standing meeting a week before the Board meeting to prepare. There will also be outreach planning in the future. George shared that it’s fun! Please consider serving as Chair or Vice Chair!</p> <p>Lara recommended considering the term lengths when electing the next Chair and Vice Chair. Should we consider a year instead of six months? Six-month terms for Chair and Vice Chair were agreed upon earlier and will be included in the By-Laws. George agreed. Chairing is great experience to have for the future and helps us to be more deeply involved in our community. Erasmo’s already co-chairing another group but is open to consider Vice Chair in the future. Lara’s Summer will be busy working on her nursing accreditation. Gloria’s not ready to chair next term due to health issues.</p>	<p>If you’re interested, please send your resume and qualifica-tions to Stefanie. Your work is apprecia-ted!</p> <p>We’ll reach out to Thierry and Diana.</p>

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<p>Vision Statement Alice Fong</p>	<p>Alice asked the group if they had a chance to review the March meeting minutes. The group drafted quite a few Vision ideas, however, nothing quite “stuck.”</p> <p><i>What’s the preferred future we wish to see? What’s the core of what we’re charged to do? What do we represent in our community? (in a few words)</i></p> <p>Pierce County’s a place people are proud to call home. How does the CRIA support the broader community? What would we do to support our immigrant and refugee community to feed into a place people are proud to call home?</p> <p>The group brainstormed their Visions for Pierce County together:</p> <p><i>Pierce County is a place where immigrants and refugees are welcome, valued and integrated into the community, contributing to the fabric, and culture of Pierce County. They’re not just relocating here, but have opportunity to participate, and engage. Create a community in which people are supported, interconnected to their own micro-communities and neighborhoods, as well as the larger community.</i></p> <p><i>Pierce County’s a place where immigrants and refugees are welcomed into the community and valued as neighbors to have interconnectedness and contribute to the fabric of our culture.</i></p> <p>Twenty years from now, we want to see a community. What do we want to see – is it economic thriving?</p> <p>Jennifer would like to see at least 5% of our elected officials be API. We need to get young people more involved. She sees her Ukrainian neighbors feeling unsupported and not confident enough to apply for executive positions or run for office.</p> <p><i>In Pierce County, we want to see that all people of every culture, background are welcome, valued, and interconnected. Every culture should be represented as elected officials. Thriving economically, housing, law-making...</i></p> <p><i>Pierce County will become a community in which immigrants and refugees are not only thriving but have a seat at the table, represented or present in leadership and the decision-making process.</i></p>	<p>Brainstorming</p>

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<p>Vision Statement continued</p>	<p>A place where we unify our collective power to lead and create a thriving community (Identify steps to get there – emphasizing participation, leadership roles)</p> <p>In Pierce County, people of all cultures and backgrounds serve as leaders and agents of change</p> <p>Representation matters, and Pierce County will have diverse representation in all aspects of our community – education, business, sports, government</p> <p>Are we going to create Council mentorship/internship opportunities to help people run for office? There are many barriers.</p>	<p>Brainstorming</p>
<p>By-Laws Alice Fong</p>	<p>By-Laws will be sent to the group.</p>	<p>By-Laws will be emailed to the group.</p>
<p>Three Areas of Focus Alice Fong</p>	<p>Thank you, Gloria, for sharing your focus areas! Lara will re-send hers. Do we want to identify those picked by most folks?</p>	
<p>Appreciation & Adjourn</p>	<p>Stefanie thanked the Councilmembers for being here! Alice thanked the group for sharing.</p> <p>Jennifer asked if anything will be done to commemorate API Heritage Month in May? Suggestions? Can we set up a table at an event – are there events coming up? There’s another tabling opportunity on April 15 at the Veterans Resource Fair. Rebuilding South Sound also has a resource fair coming up – Stefanie’s attending both. Pierce County’s having a Job Fair on 4/14.</p> <p>Is the APCC having an API Heritage Month event? George will research.</p> <p>Jennifer and Alice will be interviewed for an API blog!</p> <p>Gloria will be traveling 4/16 through 4/22 but is otherwise available for tabling events.</p> <p>Alice has name lanyards for the other Commissioners!</p>	<p>George will check with APCC, and an email will go out to everyone.</p>

The next CRIA meeting is Monday, May 1 at 5:00 via Zoom and in the SV Muckleshoot Conference Room. Respectfully submitted,
 Becki Foutz, Administrative Assistant

Chat from 4/3/23 Commission on Refugee & Immigrant Affairs Meeting

17:01:51 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

Hi :)

17:01:59 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Hola 🤝

17:06:06 From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone:

hey all

17:13:04 From Becki Foutz to Hosts and panelists:

Hi!

17:18:00 From Jennifer Li Dotson to Hosts and panelists:

I'm switching devices - please let me back in to the meeting in a moment. thanks!

17:20:34 From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone:

well done!

17:25:09 From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone:

fantastic!

17:31:08 From Gloria Rodriguez to Everyone:

i will perhaps try for a position the next time I just dont think I can in the immediate future

18:00:41 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

participating as leaders/decision makers in the community