

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

5:00 – p.m.
June 5, 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 – absent
 Jennifer Li Dotson, Pierce County Council Representing District 4 – present
 Lara Cooper, Representing Pierce County Council District 7 – present
 Thierry Ruboneka, At Large Member – excused

Guests: Jaclyn Kirby, PCHS 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
Thanks to Lara & Odette Stefanie Love	Tonight’s Lara’s last meeting. Stefanie will send Lara and Odette Thank You notes from the group. Lara has such a comforting communication style, and passion and that makes such a difference.	Stefanie will collect email thanks blurbs to share with Lara and Odette.
Call to Order/Roll Call Anika Moran	The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. Roll was called per above; a quorum was present.	Wel- come, all!
Approval of April & May Minutes Anika Moran	Erasmo moved and Lara seconded to approve April and May meeting minutes. A vote was taken; none opposed.	The April and May meeting minutes were approved.

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Public Comment & Good of the Order Alice Fong</p>	<p>This is the last week of Jaclyn Kirby’s internship! Jaclyn expressed that she’s gained lots of valuable insight and expressed that she appreciated the work of this group!</p>	<p>Con-grats, Jaclyn!</p>
<p>In-Person Meeting Stefanie Love</p>	<p>A few people have responded to the Doodle Poll that August 7 would work for them to meet in person. That’s Stefanie’s birthday, so she probably will not be in attendance. She’ll see if Communications can come to take a group photo. The group would like Stefanie to attend; the other dates provided in the poll were 8/14, 8/21, 8/28 and 9/11.</p>	<p>Date of in-person meeting to be determined.</p>
<p>Recruitment Stefanie Love</p>	<p>The appointment for the Commission’s new District 5 representative was a bit delayed. We learned that, per establishing Ordinance, the Commission can have a maximum of four commission members who live in any one jurisdiction, and we already had four in the City of Tacoma, so Camila Maturana, new District 5 Commissioner can start when Lara’s term is complete.</p>	<p>Stefanie will share the recruitment flyer for Lara’s replacement for all to share.</p>
<p>By-Laws Update Alice Fong</p>	<p>Alice and George will meet prior to the next meeting to work on the By-Laws and the updated version will be shared with the group when it’s ready.</p>	<p>Updated By-Laws will be shared with the Commission when they’re ready.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Vote on Chair & Vice Chair Stefanie Love</p>	<p>This is Alice’s last meeting as Chair! George is willing to serve as Chair, and Diana as Vice Chair. Diana couldn’t make it tonight, but she shared her bio with Stefanie earlier today. George provided his bio when he offered to serve as Vice Chair; not much has changed; he’s been serving in the City of Tacoma since high school. Some major growth for him has been Chairing another Commission, however, he will find Alice a hard act to follow!! She always has ideas and is the first one here and the last one to leave, which is important for leadership.</p> <p>George plans to provide Commission members with tools beforehand so they can get down to business during meeting times. He opened for questions.</p> <p>Alice said George will be a great Chair! She thanked him for his willingness to step up. Alice asked the group if they would like to vote now or via email. Lara suggested voting for George now since the Summer’s a busy time and we have a quorum.</p> <p>Erasmus moved to appoint George as the next Commission Chair. Lara seconded the motion. Vote was taken; none opposed.</p>	<p>George was elected Chair!</p> <p>Con-grats, George!</p> <p>Thank you for serving, Alice!</p>
<p>Outreach Needs & Support from the Council Alice Fong</p>	<p>Commission members are in need of some tools to conduct successful outreach. Another Commission that Alice served on had business cards, Commission emails, etc. If the Commission writes a letter to the Council, there might be some movement. Alice offered to draft a letter to seek funding, permission for a Facebook page, some sort of collateral for outreach. Multiple Commission members had indicated that their communities respond well to Facebook and other social media platforms. Erasmus agreed that this is a great idea. Business cards are needed, and printing is expensive. George offered to help.</p> <p>Lara added that at her work they conduct a lot of surveys and they’ve been using QR codes to scan to help people quickly navigate to them. She’s wondering if using QR codes might be helpful for the Commission to connect with people for outreach. They could help us begin to collect data while awaiting the business cards, etc.</p>	<p>Alice will draft a letter and share it with the group in about a week and a half.</p>
<p>Three Areas of Focus Alice Fong</p>	<p>At the last meeting, the group agreed on three focus areas: Education, Employment, and Promoting Civic Engagement. Homework for those who attended was to ask those who weren’t in attendance if they also approved of them. Jennifer thinks this is a great idea and she hopes it gets off the ground sooner than later.</p>	<p>Discus-sion</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Calendar & Collaboration with Community Agencies Alice Fong</p>	<p>Part of the Commission’s work plan is to have a calendar for inviting speakers to share on various topics related to focus areas. Lara Cooper offered to help with Education, even though her term on the Commission is up. She’s currently Director of Nursing at Bates Technical College and can have the Commission meet at Bates and line up speakers for us related to outreach, projects, financial aid, and scholarships.</p> <p>Stefanie attended a job fair at Tacoma Community House, and she’d like to have someone from there come speak; they do a lot of different things including help people apply for citizenship status, teach English and provide employment support. They can help spread the word about the Commission as well.</p> <p>Stefanie added that Human Services contracts with Trac Associates and Lutheran Community Services NW to help resettle people who immigrated here recently from the Ukraine and Russia. They help others from all over the world. She’d like to have them come speak as well.</p> <p>E-Verify was brought up at Tacoma Community House; it’s a huge barrier and they’re willing to come talk about it and/or write a letter of support. They suggested that we conduct a survey for staff/participants. George suggested it might be beneficial to have Tacoma Community House speak and hold a summit. He’s familiar with the impacts of E-Verify as his parents work in the food industry. Alexander, a candidate for the District 5 position, is a recent immigrant and asylum seeker from the Ukraine. Alice agreed that hearing about E-Verify from multiple perspectives would be highly beneficial.</p> <p>Alice suggested using a shared document to list contacts and plan a summit panel.</p> <p>One of the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee members works at the Auditor’s Office; Stefanie will reach out to them regarding whether they currently conduct any outreach to increase voting engagement, or whether we should work on that. Some organizations that may do this include OneAmerica, the NAACP, and APCC.</p> <p>George said it would be nice for the Commission to host a website listing resources to help people navigate to helpful community organizations. If anyone has connections to specific agencies, please share.</p> <p>The speaker calendar will be populated. Will July be the first month for speakers? Another month to plan would be helpful. Will meetings with speakers be in person or virtual? Erasmo suggested asking speakers what format they would prefer.</p>	<p>Thank you, Lara! Alice and Lara will chat offline.</p> <p>George will prepare a shared document and Stefanie will share it with the group.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Calendar & Collaboration with Community Agencies continued</p>	<p>Lara suggested giving speakers adequate time to plan, to provide the Commission with meaningful information. She added that, in addition to voter registration, it's important for people to understand the societal structure of our country, and how we elect local leaders.</p> <p>Alice noted that since it's Summer and many have travel plans; we may want to start speakers in the Fall.</p> <p>George asked if we want agency meetings to be held seminar-style with multiple agencies, or just one organization at a time? Alice said this should probably be left open, some may be multiple and others just one.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>Appreciation & Adjournment</p>	<p>Alice thanked Lara for serving, and continuing to help with Education. She also expressed appreciation for staff.</p> <p>Lara said it was so nice to work with the Commission and she's happy to help with whatever they may want or need.</p> <p>George said it was fantastic to meet and work with Lara. He thanked Alice for being an amazing Chair. He's very excited about serving as Chair; He thanked staff and members for being here.</p> <p>Erasmus expressed appreciation for all, especially Lara; he looks forward to continued collaboration with her.</p>	<p>Thanks to all!</p>

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

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant

Chat from 6/5/23 Commission on Refugee & Immigrant Affairs Meeting

16:57:26 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

¡Hola!

16:58:24 From Becki to Erasmo Ruiz(Direct Message):

Hi Erasmo!

17:01:11 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

Hello Becki, Erasmo, Anika!

17:01:23 From Becki to Everyone:

Hello!

17:04:16 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

Hello Jennifer!

17:04:20 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

Not sure if you heard me. 😊

17:05:49 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

BRB

17:06:31 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

I am back.... needed to get my agenda. 😊

17:14:27 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

Jaclyn is graduating from her MPA program!!!

17:14:36 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

Congrats again, Jaclyn!

17:14:44 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

Congrats!!!

17:14:46 From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone:

Thank you for everything! Stay in touch. :)

17:14:57 From Lara Cooper to Everyone:

Congratulations!

17:15:01 From George Conzuelo to Everyone:

OMG congrats Jaclyn on the amazing accomplishment!!

17:15:12 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

Thank you! I would love that!~

17:15:22 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

Thank you all!!

17:16:43 From Lara Cooper to Everyone:

Happy Birthday!

17:18:24 From Erasmo Ruiz to Everyone:

Thank you, Lara! Stay in touch! :)

17:18:48 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

But no more members can be from Tacoma, per the originating resolution :)

17:18:57 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

Yeah Lara!!!!!!!!!!!!

17:19:23 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Drop your LinkedIn so we can connect. :)

17:19:39 From Becki to Everyone:

Dates in poll were 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28 and 9/11

17:19:44 From George Conzuelo to Everyone:

Yes thank you Lara for your time with us! You're great and it was amazing to get to know you. We are excited to keep seeing you in the future :D

17:20:20 From Lara Cooper to Everyone:

Thank you all of you! You are all so kind:)

17:23:12 From Becki to Jaclyn Kirby and all panelists:

Hi Jaclyn did you want to say something or is your hand up from before?

17:26:53 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:

You'll be awesome, George!!! 😊

17:26:58 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

brb

17:28:18 From George Conzuelo to Everyone:

Thank you Alice!!

17:30:22 From Becki to Everyone:

Is that part of the By-Laws?

17:32:41 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Congrats 🎉

17:32:46 From Lara Cooper to Everyone:

Congratulations!

17:32:47 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

Congratulations George!!

17:33:02 From George Conzuelo to Everyone:

Thank you everyone!! :3

17:33:05 From Stefanie Love to Everyone:

Heads up, I have to leave the meeting at 6:00pm today to get to an appointment.

17:37:24 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Let me know if you need any support with that letter, Alice.

17:41:44 From Jennifer Dotson to Hosts and panelists:

Aloha - I also need to be excused early at 545pm. Last week of school so my daughter has her musical performance tonight in a few minutes. Congrats to our incoming chair and thank you everyone.

17:51:07 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

Who would be good community/agency speakers on E-Verify, so you can work on fulfilling the charge to provide your perspective to Council on the County's use of E-Verify for all providers?

17:54:08 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:

And specifically how it affects the provider community that is interested in contracting with the County

17:54:37 From Stefanie Love to Everyone:

Good point Anika

17:56:58 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Yes great idea –

18:00:54 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

One America

18:01:10 From Stefanie Love to Everyone:

I have to excuse myself, thank you all. see you next month.

18:01:22 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Bye

18:04:39 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Yes 🙌

18:04:43 From Erasmo Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:

Love it

18:19:19 From Anika Moran to Hosts and panelists:



18:20:36 From Alice Fong to Hosts and panelists:



18:21:58 From Jaclyn Kirby to Everyone:

Bye! Take care!