

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

5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

July 10, 2023

Members: Alice Fong, Representing Pierce County Council District 6 – present
 Camila Maturana, Representing Pierce County Council District 5 - present
 Diana Bullen, Representing Pierce County Council District 2 - present
 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 – excused
 Thierry Ruboneka, At Large Member – excused

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

MINUTES

TOPIC/ WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order/Roll Call George Conzuelo	The meeting was called to order by Chair George Conzuelo. Roll was called per above; a quorum was present.	Wel- come, all!
Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes George Conzuelo	Erasmo moved to approve the agenda; Diana seconded. Vote was taken; none opposed. Alice moved to approve the minutes as written. Erasmo seconded. Vote was taken; none opposed.	The July agenda and June meeting minutes were approved.
Welcome, Camila! George Conzuelo	This is Camila Maturana’s first meeting. She told the group a bit about herself. Camila’s originally from Tucson, AZ, and came to WA in 2013. She moved to Tacoma in 2017, where she bought a house and started a family. She’s excited to serve on this Commission to help refugees and immigrants. George welcomed Camila to the Board; he explained that this team is an amalgamation of people who love Pierce County.	Wel- come, Camila!
Public Comment & Good of the Order George Conzuelo	George invited the public to comment. No members of the public were in attendance.	

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Doodle Poll for In-Person Meeting George Conzuelo</p>	<p>August 7 received the most Doodle Poll votes for the next in-person Commission meeting. It's Stefanie's birthday so she can't be there, but she'll have someone from Communications take a group photo.</p> <p>Diana asked if there will be a potluck, like at the last in-person meeting. Everyone agreed that would be a great idea! The meeting will include work on the Commission's Vision and reviewing the Bylaws.</p>	<p>Gloria, Thierry, and Jennifer will be contacted re: August 7.</p>
<p>Recruitment Update George Conzuelo</p>	<p>Camila's now here representing District 5! There's a vacancy for a District 7 representative. We can't have any more members living within the Tacoma city limits.</p>	<p>Please spread the word!</p>
<p>Bylaw Update Alice Fong</p>	<p>Alice thanked Erasmo and George for working on the Bylaws, and Anika, for putting the document into Word. Diana thanked them as well; it looks great! There are some places that need to be tweaked, for example, where it says King instead of Pierce, and where it references the Executive Commission, as we don't have one.</p>	<p>Final edits will be made following feedback from the group.</p>
<p>Election of Vice Chair George Conzuelo</p>	<p>Alice moved to elect Diana Bullen as Vice Chair. George seconded the motion. Vote was taken; none opposed.</p>	<p>Diana was elected Vice Chair; congrats, Diana!</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Outreach Needs & Support from the County Council George Conzuelo</p>	<p>Alice will draft a letter to the County Council and report back. George offered to help with it. George explained that the hope is that the County Council will grant the CRIA a budget to purchase outreach materials. For example, the group hosted a table at an Asian Pacific Cultural Center event and Alice graciously provided treats, but the Commission is in need of a budget for future events. Anika asked that the budget figure please be shared with her once it's calculated, and she will ask the Human Services Director if there's any departmental funding available.</p> <p>It's important to let the community know that this Commission exists. George will be compiling a list of agencies to reach out to. Alice suggested that each Commissioner send George names of agencies from their network, for him to compile. It would be good to organize the list by the Commission's three focus areas: Civic Engagement, Employment, and Education. Those are pressing matters in our community.</p> <p>Do we need to meet in person in order to have agencies provide presentations? In-person meetings are desirable. Erasmo suggested asking presenters their preference. Meetings are recorded, so if Commissioners are unable to attend, they can still view the presentations.</p> <p>Alice noted that Councilmember Mello has requested that the Commission make a recommendation to the Council about E-Verify. Anika suggested that be the first presentation since it was requested by the Council. Following the presentation, the group can put together a recommendation to put forth. The Council E-Verify conversation was based on feedback received from social services providers who don't want to use it due to negative impact on employees/applicants.</p> <p>George said that E-Verify is definitely a fear in the Latino community; some are not able to change jobs because of it. Erasmo suggested speaking with OneAmerica: they're a political organization that builds power in immigrant communities, lobbies state legislature for immigrant rights issues, and does a lot of outreach work with diverse populations. They may have some data on the impact of E-Verify and the barriers it creates around employment for immigrants.</p> <p>Alice thinks it might be advantageous to also have someone speak on E-Verify's "legalese," so everyone's on the same page about how it works. Anika asked Camila if she had any ideas; we could also ask one of our County Deputy Prosecutors about it. Camila said there may be a local employment attorney who can speak to that. Alice feels that the HR world may know why E-Verify was originally established.</p>	<p>Alice will share a draft via email in the next week or so. Anika will ask the Human Services Director about a budget.</p> <p>Please send George names of agencies for the list.</p> <p>Link to the Council meeting recording will be shared.</p> <p>Camila and Alice will investigate.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Good of the Order	George and Alice will meet with Camila to catch her up to speed on Commission work to date. Diana will be invited as well.	
Appreciation Circle & Adjournment	<p>Alice appreciates all Commissioners – congratulations to George on his first meeting as Chair and getting through the agenda early!</p> <p>George appreciates Chair Emeritus Alice, and all the work she did laying the foundation of this Commission. It’s super great to have Camila – thanks to Anika, Stefanie, Erasmo, and Becki.</p> <p>Erasmo appreciates everyone, especially support staff.</p> <p>Camila thanked everyone for welcoming her – she looks forward to meeting the group in person next month. She thanked them for their work thus far.</p> <p>Anika thanked the people who worked on the Bylaws; she appreciates their time and effort, and she welcomed Camila.</p>	Thanks to all – you are appreciated!

The next CRIA meeting is Monday, August 7 at 5:00 via Zoom and in the SV Muckleshoot Conference Room. Please come in person if possible and participate in the potluck!

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant