



Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Regular Monthly Meeting
March 2, 2020 6:30 PM
City Hall, Staff Bullpen #1029
301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Approved Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Karen Crawford, <i>Chair</i>	Rennison Lalgee	Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez
Krystal Gomez, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Glenn Rosales	Juan Vences-Benitez
Samuel Adair	Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch	
Adrian De La Rosa		

Board Members not in Attendance:

Montserrat Garibay
Nicole Merritt

Staff in Attendance:

Connie H. Gonzales, Staff Liaison/APH

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Krystal moved to suspend Robert's Rule of Order
 - Rennison seconded the motion
 - 9-0 vote with Montserrat and Nicole not present
1. Rebecca Sanchez of Grassroots Leadership said their concern with the municipal ID is how much information will be released to Austin Police Department and what happens to the information. Who would have access to it?
 2. Deborah Trejo shared concerns about lack of faithful implementation of and racism in bilingual education in Austin Independent School District (AISD), lack of bilingual programming in MACC or other camps; request that we form an education committee or have an appointee from AISD.
 3. Lauren Hargraves of Central Texas Office for Refugees extended an invitation to commissioners to Refugee Roundtable, Austin Quarterly Consultation, Welcoming Week. Advised that the underserved population flyer has been distributed regarding asylee benefits.
 4. Ivanna Neri of Austin Family Independence Initiative (FII) noted recommendation at budget forum, invitation to event on Thursday from 12p-4pm

CALL TO ORDER at 6:34pm

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 2020
 - Glenn moved to approve the minutes with amendments
 - Krystal seconded the motion



- Approved on 9-0 vote with Montserrat and Nicole not present.
- 2. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:**
- A. American Gateways, Rebecca Lightsey and Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Justin Estep presentation about services rendered and program needs.**
- Need to maintain the cases they started under prior year grants due to government delays, so if there's no increase in funding, they would only be able to accept 1-2 new cases per week.
 - With an increase in funding of \$100,000 they can double the amount of new cases.
 - Catholic Charities used the \$70,000 in legal services funding from the city for an FTE immigration attorney and hope to get an additional \$130,000 for a full-time attorney to handle removal proceedings for free. They also receive funding for mental health counseling.
- 3. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:**
- A. Budget items - update on budget forums on February 13 and February 22 and discussion and vote on budget proposals**
- Discussed area for recommendations. Delegated to working group to prepare proposals. Plan is to review at next meeting but voted to authorize budget working group to finalize and recommend without further vote.
 - Sam moved to move forward on recommendations
 - Kate seconded the motion
 - Approved on a 9-0 votes with Montserrat and Nicole not present.
- B. Update on Equity Office projects**
- Final interviews on Immigrant Affairs position next week.
- C. Discussion of N-648/Community Care issue**
- Glenn did research on Community Care and presented it to the Commission. Krystal will help follow up by emailing the director.
- 4. STANDING ITEMS: Discussion and Possible Action**
- A. Cities United for Action - None**
- B. Joint Inclusion Committee**
- Social services audit available, new website just rolled out, presented at the JIC meeting
- 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Councilman Flannigan appointed someone to the commission, still needs to be trained and have oath
- 6. TASKS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- Explore different schedule as agenda item
 - Elections on next agenda
 - MAP – how can communities access?
 - Dreamers Day of Action
 - Formation of education working group
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**
- Krystal moved to adjourn meeting at 8:30pm



- Glenn seconded the motion
- Approved on 9-0 vote with Montserrat, and Nicole not present

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