

MHAAB Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2017

Location: Mayor's meeting room 4th floor - City Hall

Meeting called to order at 9:08am

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Pantoja, Marivi Wright, Mario Decunto, Jose Cuetos and Alicia Burst

COJ representatives present: Julio Lacayo, stated no change to fiscal report = \$1007

Motion to approve minutes by M. Decunto, seconded by J. Cuetos. Motion approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Health and Public Safety:

M. Decunto reported: Attending Immigration and Refugee Program Panel at Havana Jax Restaurant. Provided Board with brief report on outcome of meeting: Reportedly, many economic hardships which followed Executive Orders in Duval County. Participants on Panel from Catholic Charities, Lutheran Services, World Relief reported job losses of agency employees as well as their inability to continue serving the refugee population. Reportedly, \$257 million is estimated funding which Florida will lose due to recent Exec Orders. Additionally, Florida House Bill 427 was introduced recently to direct Florida from taking part in the Federal Refugee Program, which provides additional barriers to services to refugee programs. M. Decunto also reported on panelist report of retired JSO Chief who informed participants of JSO's role in 287g and working with ICE for police to take part in immigration tasks. Reportedly, sentiment of the event expressed a great fear in the immigrant community, which is focused on the Hispanic undocumented population.

E. Pantoja reported: Attended HOPE Meeting at Jacksonville Baptist Association to inform community about \$1.6 Million PCORI Grant whose objective is to assist Hispanic Churches that want to start a Health Ministry/Diabetes program. The grant has 900 applicants and Mayo Clinic will be notified if they earn the grant by end of March. Service provided will include Lab Tests for A1C for diabetic participants. Grant will be given in June. E. Pantoja reported learning about Mental Health issues that the Hispanic Community is suffering as a result of Exec Orders.

Alicia Burst reported on outcome of Hispanic Health Report on 3/9. Reportedly, Jen Silva, Marivi Wright, Jose Cuetos, and Elizabeth Pantoja were present at the meeting.

Alicia Burst reported attending Mayor's press conference. FSCJ reports plan give away 1200 scholarships to 1st generation attending college. Includes full tuition, books and some expenses for up to AA degree. Scholarship is called "The College Promise."

Education:

M. Wright reported: Taking part in continuous help to Hispanic families to apply for insurance coverage.

M. Wright reported that February she provided Safe Sleep Education and helmet fittings were provided to Spanish speaking families.

- Safe Sleep Education: Feb 6th at the Players Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

- Helmet fittings: Feb 28th " "

C. Echeverry submitted report in advance due to her absence at today's meeting:

C. Echeverry attended the ESOL Partnership meeting at FSCJ with Jen Silva on February 24th. It consisted of various members of our community. The main topic of discussion was Amazon preparing to recruit employees for the new Jacksonville locations beginning this June. This is a great opportunity for our Hispanic community because employees are not required to be fluent in English (only to read numbers and pass the physical requirements of the job, since it requires a lot of standing, walking and lifting).

On March 1st, C. Echeverry represented Webster University and MHAAB at Flagler College's Career Expo. The expo was a career fair/education fair and a wide variety of companies and universities were attended. There was about a 25% that were Hispanic interested in attending colleges catered to diverse student cultural initiatives. Several were also seeking higher education admission requirements that did not require a GMAT or GRE.

C. Echeverry participated in the World of Nations event on March 5th on behalf of MHAAB. All la Guilla booklets were distributed and displayed at the front entrance at the information booths.

ON March 9th, C. Echeverry attended the Beaucler Elementary Open House for the Dual Language Program. Those that attended the open house were able to enroll their child prior to the beginning open enrollment period in April. Those interested in enrolling need to provide a copy of their child's social security card, birth certificate, proof of residency, updated shots/immunization record and school physical records. The school also requires students to wear uniforms (white, navy blue or red poly and khaki pants, jumper or shorts). It is a title 1 school and school breakfast and lunch is free for all students.

Economic and Faith Based Communities:

J. Cuetos reported attending Hispanic Leadership Conference.

J. Cuetos reported holding 1st time home buyer workshops to aid the Hispanic Community learn ways to buy a home. City reportedly has Bond Program \$15,000 program to help pay for closing costs.

J. Cuetos reported attending WONC with MHAAB members. On Saturday Jen Silva, Alicia Burst and Marivi Wright with assistance from Mayor's office Julio Lacayo. Jose Cuetos, Tina Echeverry and Mario Decunto attended Sunday.

Old Business:

Chair Burst reported on HLA: Mayor's office prefers requesting a date for event and city will work around HLA schedule. Chair requested for Julio to check on available dates for John Roberts room for October 9-13.

Julio Lacayo reported plans to check on dates and report to chair.

New Business:

N/A

Guests:

1. Sonya Alvarez Medina – with Latina Women's Association / Asociacion de Mujeres Latinas: Reported history of AML was created 8/2016 through different groups in churches and community groups building alliance to increase strength as one group. Piedras Preciosas project will share individual success stories of trials and tribulations of women in the community. The group focuses on English classes and other services.

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month 6-8pm. Next meeting is 3/21 at Tapas

Board meets 3rd Friday.

Facebook page: Mujeres Latinas

2. Evelyn Colon, Business Development Officer with The ARC Jacksonville and Sarah Mcmillan, VP of Development presented. The ARC started 1965, providing services with Developmental, Intellectual and Mental Health and Adult training for people with Disabilities.
 - a. 5 group homes
 - b. On campus transition program for students finishing High School can transition to UNF.
 - c. Recently opened independent living community on Beach and Hodges for young people.
 - d. Partner with local employers to provide jobs for people with disabilities.

- e. Adult day training for people with disabilities – helps people with different ranges of disabilities. Helps create support network for people who seek places for their adult children to live independently as parents may grow too old to care for them.
3. Evelyn Colon reported having a low number of Hispanic families receiving services from The ARC. Community outreach increased services to Hispanic community to best reach the Hispanic Community.
4. Sara McMillan reported fundraising dinner is 11/2. Senator Aaron Bean is chair. Last year the event raised \$215,000.
5. Sara McMillan reported 5K “Running of the Bulls” in December.
6. Sara McMillan reported welcoming volunteers for companies wanting to connect their employees.
7. Sara McMillan reported having young professionals group.
8. Sara McMillan reported on The ARC’s advocacy group for families and teens.

Chair adjourned meeting 10:15am.