

DIXY LEE RAY
Governor



File Issues
MARIANO TORRES
Executive Director

File

WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION
ON
MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

May 25, 1977

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Dixy Lee Ray
Governor State of Washington

FROM: Mexican American Ad Hoc Committee

SUBJECT: Mexican Americans and State Government

Approach by which to include the Mexican American Community into state government.

Goal and Objectives

Involvement of the Mexican American Community in the administrative, state policy making level, by employing Mexican Americans into the agencies and state departments that provide services to the states population.

To develop a simulated experience that would place administrative interns in various state funded departments.

To have the Mexican American Commission in representation of the Mexican American Community select these individuals and to assure their ultimate absorption by the departments after a specified period of time.

To have the Executive Director of the Mexican American Commission included in the Governor's cabinet meetings.

1522 S. Cherry—Olympia, Washington 98504—Tel. (206) 753-3160.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Rudy Cortez, Yakima, Chairperson; Thomas Cerna, Vice-Chairperson, Toppenish; Ray Baca, Tacoma; Keo Capestany, Seattle; Fred Diaz, Toppenish; Eddie Esparza, Olympia; Max Perez, Grandview; Leo Ruiz, Moses Lake; Margaret Zamudio, Lynden; Lupe Zuniga, Walla Walla.

Veterans Affairs

Efforts should be made to include the GI Forum Organization into the newly proposed Veterans Affairs Advisory Council.

Bi-Lingual Education Bill

Support by the Governor's office to the Bi-Lingual Education Bill.

Mexican American Commission

Efforts should be made to appoint commissioners to the Mexican American Commission as soon as possible. Recommended that the following be appointed as commissioners.

Appointment to Washington State Commission on Mexican American Affairs

	<u>Business</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Community Education</u>
La Conner			Cecilia Ramos
Seattle		David Garcia	Francisca Gallegos Jesus Juarez
Mt. Vernon		Ester Salamon	
Tacoma			Ray Baca
Toppenish			Thomas Cerna
Moses Lake			Leo Ruiz
Spokane	Carlos Flores		Omar Arambul
Tri-Cities	Juan Aguilar Eddie Valenzuela		Tony Guerrero
Everett			Ray Venegas
Yakima			Lilly Aguilar
Yakima	Juan Arambul		
Yakima			Eva Brat
Yakima			Robert Chavez

Exempt Appointments

Special consideration should be given to the Spanish Speaking Community due to the gross underrepresentation of the largest ethnic minority in the State of Washington. While every significant minority in the state has achieved affirmative action parity, the Spanish Speaking is still far from reaching this goal. This should be immediately corrected due to the negative effects that the lack of representation in state government has had in the provision of services to the state wide Spanish Speaking Community.

Minimum Appointed Positions Needed-Governors Office, Departments and Agencies

Governor's Assistant
 Personnel Department
 Department of Social and Health Services
 Labor and Industries Department
 Commerce and Economic Development
 Parks and Recreation Department
 Office of Program Planning and Fiscal Management
 Department of Highways
 Department of Revenue
 Utilities and Transportation Department

Board and Commission

Washington Community Colleges Board
 Higher Education and Personnel Board
 Veteran's Affairs Commission
 Department of Social and Health Services
 Prison Terms and Parole Board
 Agriculture Commission
 Women Commission
 Utilities and Transportation Commission

Governor's Office Staff Assistant

Serious consideration for these names should be given in reference to the Governor's staff assistant in conjunction with those names previously submitted by the Washington State Council for Chicano/Latino Organization.

1. Jesus Juarez
2. Ernie Aguilar
3. John Gonzalez
4. Jose Gonzales

General Social Services

Problem Statement:

1. Presently DSHS has no bilingual emergency services and almost no bilingual counselors and case workers. Additionally there is a lack of awareness on the staff, toward the Hispanic culture.
2. Within King County of the 40.6% minority clients on public assistance only .7% are Chicanos, who have the smallest representation of all ethnic groups being served by DSHS. There 392 Chicano families *1 below poverty level in the Seattle-Everett area. The number of Hispanic served by DVR is only 21 (5.4%) although the Chicano population is the second largest minority group in this Metropolitan area. *2
3. Food Stamp eligibility is a problem for migrant workers because it is computed on projected income, which a migrant worker does not have due to the migratory nature of their jobs. The office in Toppenish, under the administration of Ed Keegan, is especially difficult in qualifying applicants for food stamps.

Recommendations

1. In-service training for staff should become a permanent function which includes the direct involvement of representation from the Hispanic community. In addition to creating an awareness of the migrants problems within the staff, there must be a hiring of Chicano counselors and bilingual staff.
2. The Chicano desk should function as an ombudsman to assure the DSHS is providing the needed services to the Spanish Speaking.

*1 DSHS Statistic report from Olympia, WA. 1976-1977
*2 Washington State Affirmative Action Progress Report #66, January 1977.

DSHS Administration

Problem Statement:

1. Within King County 16.2% (389.6) of the DSHS staff is minority. The 31.5 Chicano employment represent the smallest percentage (1.3%) of identified minority groups. Hispanic employees hold positions at the lowest echelon. *1
2. There is a need to recruit Chicanos into the policy making levels of the administration and the client contact positions of service delivery. (Service Employment Redevelopment, a non-profit Man Power agency serving the Spanish speaking has indicated that the last three years there has been little or significant outreach for job placement done by government agencies.)
3. The Chicano Desk within Affirmative Action of DSHS has a tremendous turnover rate of employees. The administration of DSHS has not obtained inputs from the Spanish speaking community as to the effectiveness of services from DSHS.

Recommendations:

1. Promulgate job announcements for bilingual staff.
2. DSHS should seek referrals from such organizations as SER and NRO, Northwest Rural Opportunities (80% of all registered individuals at SER are degreed professionals.)
3. The administrative lines of responsibility and authority need to be reorganised. The Chicano Desk should function as an ombudsman on behalf of the Spanish speaking community in assessing the affectiveness of Social Services to the Hispanic community.

Secondly, the Chicano Desk should meet on a quarterly basis with the Washington State Council of Chicano-Latino Organizations *2 with the objective of obtaining inputs from a state wide perspective on the effectiveness of DSHS on employment and services.

- *1 From Washington State Affirmative Action Program Report #66, January 1977.
- *2 The Washington State Council of Chicano-Latino ORganizations is a body which represents total number of Hispanic community organizations on a statewide basis.

Adult Corrections

Problem Statement:

1. Of the total number of adults admitted to prison (686), placed on parole (266), or on probation (1,431) in Washington State, from September to December 1976, 1.7% (12) of those placed in prison, 2.3% (6) of the total population placed on parole, and 3.8% (54) of those placed on probation were Hispanic. As of July 31, 1976, 2% of the total number of adults in detention were Spanish Speaking. *1

As of July 31, 1976 the total population of adults in correctional facilities in Washington State was 3,668. Out of that number 87 (2%) were Chicanos.

Yet there are no members of the state's correctional administration who are Hispanic. There are no bilingual counselors at Purdy and only one in the entire state, at Walla Walla. There is also no Hispanic representation at the diagnostic center at Sheldon where inmates are tested and recommendations are made to the parole board.

2. The present funding priorities are questionable with too much money being channeled into administrative costs while there is an acute manpower shortage in the areas of prosecutors, social workers, prison guards and parole officers.

Recommendations:

1. Provisions ought to include representation from the Hispanic community within the policy making level of the State as well as administrative boards. Steps must be undertaken to see that bilingual counselors will be hired. This is especially important at the diagnostic center.
2. Some serious thought and appropriate action is long overdue in the area of funding priorities. More monies must be allocated for the community services aspect. Monies to hire Spanish Surname prosecutors, social workers and prison guards. The present administration is over staffed, expensive, and does not contain any representation of the Hispanic community.

*1 Report from the Washington State DSHS Office of Program Analysis on admissions to adult corrections, to parole and to probation in Washington State during September to December 1976.

Juvenile Corrections

Problem Statement:

1. The rate of juvenile detention in Washington State is among the highest in the nation. There were over 18,000 juvenile detentions in Washington State last year. *2 A large percentage of youths in detention in the nation are not delinquent but rather truant or victims of child abuse or neglect. According to 1974 statistics, 2.9% of the total King County Juvenile Court cases were dependents who were victims of neglect or abuse and an additional 21.2% (1,325) were of the rebellious category, which includes truants and runaways.
2. Out of the 22,000 referrals to Juvenile Court in a years time about 400 to 450 are Chicanos. However there are no bilingual counselors on the staff. *1
3. There is an acute shortage of foster care facilities and no special provisions for the Spanish Speaking youth.

Recommendations

1. Alternative systems to detention, especially for the young non-offenders, must be sought.
2. Hispanic Community involvement should be encouraged by the Department of DSHS.
2. Bilingual counselors and staff must be actively recruited.
3. An active recruitment for foster care facilities is in order especially for the Spanish speaking.

*1 Statistic from King County Juvenile Court.

*2 Film, "Children in Trouble," reported by Howard Tames (a national survey)

Nursing Homes and the Elderly

Problem Statement:

1. Within King County there are 74 licensed nursing homes and 52 additional alternative care facilities. There are, however, no nursing homes for the Spanish Speaking and the existing nursing care centers have little or no orientation for the bilingual needs of the Hispanic community.

Recommendations:

1. Two nursing care facilities (one in Western Washington and one in Eastern Washington) should be established for the aged Spanish Speaking persons.

These services for the Hispanic community could be contracted out to existing Chicano-based Organizations.

Mental Health

Problem Statement:

1. The King County Mental Health Board need assessment study of 1976 showed a 57% unmet need for the Spanish speaking compared to 32% for Blacks, 33% for Indians, 43% for Asians and 32% for Whites. The 57% unmet need was estimated by the assumption that the mental health needs are at least equal to the needs of the Whites or that a minimum of 12% of each group total population are mentally impaired. *1

The total number of mental cases in December 1976 at Harborview was 4,461. Of that total only 37 (.8%) were Hispanic patients.

Recommendations:

1. Special efforts should be made to involve bilingual-bicultural persons (Chicano) in decision making posts or Government appointments in panels, boards, etc.
2. Funds should be made available to address the Chicano Latino mental health needs.

*1 State of Washington Packet Data Book, 1976

*2 Report from Department of Social and Health Services, no. CMHS110-05 of February 1977.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Problem Statement:

1. DVR inadequately disseminates information to the public as is evidenced by the fact that minority community organizations, which could be regular referral contacts with DVR, report no knowledge of DVR's programs or eligibility. The Office for Civil Rights of HEW found that although there has been a successful effort by DVR to reach Seattle's Black community since 1969, today the Chicano community remains almost untouched. *1
2. DVR has not made adequate provisions to serve applicants who speak languages other than English. In DVR's District III there is only one employee fluent in Spanish, a clerical employee. None of the counseling staff are bilingual.
3. Members of the Chicano population receive DVR benefits at a disproportionately low rate. For example there are only .3% Chicano ex-offenders out of a .9% potential on DVR's caseload. *1

Recommendations:

1. DVR should direct an outreach program to be coordinated with the community's minority organizations. There are twenty organizations under the umbrella of Concilio for the Spanish Speaking which could be contacted. *2

Informational brochures and posters should be prominently displayed and be made available in other languages.

2. By the inclusion of Spanish Speaking employees at the client-contact level as well as at the policy-making level of DVR, the presently inadequate level of services for the Spanish Speaking by DVR would eventually be corrected.

*1 Report from the Title VI review conducted in 1975 by the Office for Civil Right of HEW.

*2 Refer to the attached list of organizations.

The Problem Areas in Summary are the Following:

1. Lack of inclusion of Hispanic in boards, commissions, committees of policy and/or advisory capacity to various branches of DSHS.
2. Lack of inclusion of Hispanics in the DSHS's labor force. More specifically, the absence of Chicano-Latino in Administrative and/or managerial positions.
3. Lack of any available means for the Hispanic community in the State of Washington to have inputs as to how services have been and should be affecting the Hispanic community. Disregard of the Hispanic community the largest minority in this state.
4. Lack of awareness by staff as to the basic characteristics of the Hispanic community.

Eventhough the following documents narrate in a concise manner problems and recommendations by social services areas, the following recommendations are the essentials necessary to achieve a minimum standard for services to the Hispanic community.

Recommendations-

1. Given the gross lack of representation of hispanic in the DSHS (and the other state departments in general), the Governor of the State of Washington should bring forward and executive order directed at DSHS and other state departments with the purpose of raising the level of Chicano-Latino in the State's work force.
2. Due to the lack of inclusion of Hispanic appointees in the policy and/or advisory boards, commissions and or committees of departments in the state, the Governor of the state of Washington should appoint Chicano-Latinos to these bodies so as to assure inputs from the Hispanic Community.

It is felt by these committee that these initial efforts need to be made by the highest Executive Office in the State of Washington, for example which the Governor would set by her actions in these matters would reflect in the many departments under her administration providing, if not effective services, at least, in many areas, the beginning of services to the largest minority in the State of Washington.

On behalf of the Mexican American Ad Hoc Committee, this paper is respectfully submitted by Mariano Torres Executive Director of the Washington State Commission on Mexican American Affairs.

The following are member of the Mexican American Ad Hoc Committee.

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MT:myc

	<u>Business</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Community Education</u>
Yakima			Alfonso Dabalos
Yakima			Armando Garcia
Yakima			Dick Montoya
Yakima			Sam Martinez
Yakima			Manuel Leon
Yakima			Antonio Santoy
Yakima			Miguel Esquevel
Yakima			Mercedes Resendes
Yakima			Maria Trevino
Yakima			Pedro Riojas
Yakima			Pete Garza

Drought Impact on the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

That the Governor actively pursue any and all resources to insure that the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers receive appropriate assistance from the impending adverse effects of the drought crisis. Appropriate assistance should be provided in a statewide basis so as to relieve those areas that will receive the largest influx of unemployed farmworker. This should encompass relief for the eastern as well as the western sector of the state.