



**COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 9th, 2011 6:30PM**

The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 9th, 2011, at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Room 2016, Austin, Texas.

Members in Attendance

Miguel Ancira
Thomas Esparza, Chair
Laura Hernandez, Vice-Chair
Syed Rahman
Christopher Cano

Members Absent

Sunny Ogunro
Donald Krupens

Presenters: Mel Waxler, General

Council, Austin Independent School
District

Claudia Kramer-Santamaria, Supervisor
of Parent Programs

Staff

Natalie Cuccia, HHSD

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Esparza called the Commission meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
2. **CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION:** None
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting of January 12th, 2011 were approved on Commissioner Hernandez's motion, Commissioner Ancira second on a 4-0 vote. Cano, Krupens, Ogunro not present.
4. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Mel Waxler of Austin Independent School District (AISD) presented on state and local policies pertaining to immigrant students. There are very little state and local level policies that specifically address immigrant students. He provided a brief overview of the AISD budget shortfall and noted that AISD serves a high percentage of students in poverty, which gave broader context to the discussion. Mr. Waxler talked about the "Connecting the Dots Initiative" which is a collaboration between the school district, the city and the county aimed at addressing education issues. Currently, the main focus of the initiative is to reduce absences, prevent truancy and increase graduation rates. Claudia Kramer-Santamaria discussed the challenges facing Peer Support Specialists in serving and connecting parents with resources.

5. REPORT: Immigrant Services Network: Commissioner Esparza reported on the activities of the network and the last meeting. Commissioner Esparza noted that the Family Safety Planning Preparedness Toolkit for Enforcements Preparedness is now available on the website at www.isnaustin.org. Elections will be held in May.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The Commission approved the revised bylaws as directed by City Council in action taken on December 9th, 2010 on Commissioner Hernandez's motion, Commissioner Rahman's second on a 5-0 vote. Krupens, Ogunro not present.
- b. The Commission discussed the idea of forming work groups. Commissioner Esparza encouraged involvement in planning of the second Citizenship Event in the fall of 2011. No work groups were appointed at this time.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Progress Report on "Take our Jobs" resolution. Commissioner Ancira stated that he had contacted the Mayor's office and is waiting to hear back. This item will be placed back on the agenda if progress is made on this issue.
- b. Commissioner Hernandez provided a current progress report. The card has been translated in Mandarin Chinese. There was discussion on issues with technical aspects of the card design. Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services has yet to approve and provide their logo.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. without objection. Ogunro, Krupens not present.