



COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Monday, October 4, 2021 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Krystal Gomez, Chair

Karen Crawford

Glenn Rosales

Nicole Merritt, Vice-Chair

Rennison Lalgee

Juan Vences-Benitez

Sara Becker

Board Members not in Attendance:

Adrian De La Rosa

Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch

Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez

Staff in Attendance:

Sinying Chan, Staff Liaison & Health Equity Unit Program Coordinator/Austin Public Health

Sarah F. Williams, Staff Liaison & Administrative Senior/Austin Public Health

CALL TO ORDER

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 6, 2021; August 2, 2021

- Nicole moved to approve July minutes; Juan seconded; all in favor
- Nicole moved to approve August minutes; Rennison seconded; all in favor

2. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

- A. **Dr. Ruth Wasem, LBJ School of Public Affairs, final report on immigrant incorporation in Austin, Texas**
- B. **Lauren Hargraves, Refugee Services of Texas, refugee resettlement in Austin and information on the Afghan situation**
 - Presenter could not make it to the meeting

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Budget updates**



- Budget recommendations from the Commission on Immigrant Affairs (CoIA) were submitted in time, but changes in budget office and Joint Inclusion Committee caused failure in follow through
- Final budget was not specified on report; unsure if items recommended by CoIA were funded; Karen already reached out to ask for an investigation to see the results of the budget recommendations

B. Report back from ISNA and the RST quarterly consultations

- No updates from ISNA
- From RST, a lot of discussions were centered around Afghan refugees; one big issue was on language differences; wish lists are set up but also needed help in managing donations

C. Joint Inclusion Committee meeting update – Karen

- Will try to push up the budget process and not wait for the notification of the budget office
- Will ask all commissions of their big, overarching concerns and see if there're common concerns in order to make bigger budget recommendations

D. Update of Texas Legislative session – Krystal

- Focusing on redistricting and American Rescue Plan funding

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Vote on working groups
- Overarching budget ideas for Joint Inclusion Committee
- Have APD come present quarterly
- Have City of Austin Economic Development Department present on resources for the immigrant community

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADJOURNMENT

- Nicole moved to adjourn; Karen seconded; all in favor



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