

Minutes
Education Area Team

July 30, 2007

1. Attendees: Al Lopez, Victor Ruiz, Judith De Crane, Ron Berger, Oscar Gumucio, Danei Chavez, Jorge Gatica, Sam Ramirez, Haydeana Gaviria, Lucy Torres, Eli Santiago. Flor Gomez, David Ruiz, and Nati Pagan called to say they would be unable to attend this meeting; and to also state they are committed to serving on the Education Area Team. .
2. Victor gave a report on the meeting with Anne Hill and Bob Ivory, representatives for Governor Strickland in the Cleveland area. Andres Gonzalez and Victor attended the meeting. The meeting addressed the issue of monies to address the Latino high school drop out rate. It was a very positive meeting and all parties agreed to follow up on the issue; and to have future meetings to continue lobbying for monies for Latino students.
3. Discussion was held on inviting Dr. Sanders, of the CMSD, to participate in Convencion 2007. It was suggested that our needs would be best served if the CMSD be involved with the drop out correction effort. The task of determining the best approach was assigned to the Drop Out Rate subcommittee.
4. Nati Pagan requested that a letter be sent to Dr. Sanders requesting the most current drop out rate for Latinos. Al Lopez and Andres Gonzalez will follow up and send out the letter ASAP.
5. The three subcommittees were officially formed and chairs were appointed to provide leadership.
 - **Victor Ruiz and Eli Santiago volunteered to chair the drop out rate sub committee.** The following members agreed to serve on this sub committee: Ron Berger. This sub committee will develop and implement a workshop at Convencion 2007 on Oct 13th. Issues to be worked on: a) inclusion of Dr. Sanders and the CMSD, b) inclusion and comparison of local and national Latino drop out rates c.) Securing a speaker for the workshop, perhaps someone from the Manhattan Institute, CMSD administration, and/or the Bilingual program. d.) Securing monies from the State for a commission on the Latino drop out rate (similar to the African-American state wide initiative) and reviewing initiatives that address the drop out epidemic in Ohio. e) How can the Education Area

Team and the Padres Unidos interface with CMSD to address the drop out rate?

The chairs requested that at least one resolution be developed by this sub committee. A resolution on addressing the Latino drop out rate in the CMSD; and securing state funding for a State -wide-Latino Drop Out Commission was highly suggested.

Victor distributed executive summaries of: a) **” Silent Epidemic- Perspectives of High School Dropouts”**, and b) **Manhattan Institutes Working Paper on “Public High School Graduation Rates and College Readiness Rates in the United States”**.

- **Al Lopez and Nana Gaviria volunteered to chair the universities and colleges sub committee.** The following members agreed to serve on this sub committee: Cristina Bruch, Judith De Crane, Sam Ramirez, Jamie Vega, Roberto Chavez, David Ruiz, and Jorge Gatica. This committee will develop and implement a pre-convention dialog with selected universities and colleges. A suggested title of the dialog is “Dialog on How Universities and Colleges Can Effectively Interface with the Latino Community”.

A list of universities and colleges was developed and area team members expand the list for potential attendees. Included in the suggestions to invite were: Eric Fingerhut, Ohio Board of Regents, Ana R. Badillo from Case, Notre Dame College, Ursuline, NOCHE & SOCHE. It was also suggested that Samuel Betances be invited to attend the dialog and say a few words to the participants.

Issues to be worked on: a) what are colleges and universities presently doing or what are they planning to do with/for the Latino Community. b) is there, or can there be research conducted that would help the Latino Community and the colleges and universities? c) Is there financial aid and internships available for Latino Students?

A resolution on creating a mechanism for the Latino Community to interface more effectively and efficiently with universities and colleges was highly suggested.

- **Oscar Gumucio volunteered to co chair the parents sub committee. Nati Pagan expressed interest in the parents subcommittee, therefore she will be asked to co chair the sub committee.** The following members volunteered to serve on this sub committee: Lucy Torres, Danei Chavez, Veronica Figueroa, and Nelly Gonzalez.

This subcommittee will develop and implement a workshop on Oct 13th at Convencion 2007. The parents will be the major designers of this workshop, which will have a focus of providing parents information and training. Suggested title for the workshop is “How to effectively and efficiently advocate for Latino Students.” Tony Baez has agreed to present on the subject by providing a national focus on what works in general, and that Nati Pagan has agreed do a local focus. Subject areas may include: improving special education services, vocational education for special education students, how do parents and interested persons work together, how to effectively present at school board meetings, OGT prep and how do we increase parent awareness of school programs, policies, resources, and activities.

A resolution to strengthen the Padres Unidos in order to advocate, on a consistent basis, for Latino Students was highly suggested.

6. Updates from Executive Committee meeting on August 1, 2007

The Convencion 2007 Executive Committee is requesting that all resolutions be submitted **in early August instead of September**. There is a concern that resolutions will not be edited and formatted in a timely fashion if the resolutions are submitted in September. Sub committees are to develop their resolutions ASAP.

A brief description of workshop content is also being requested early in order to produce the program book in a timely fashion. Sub committees are to develop their descriptions ASAP.

The date of Thursday, October 11th was given to the Education Area Team to conduct the pre-convencion dialog with the Universities and Colleges. Nana Gaviria will be formally requesting that Tri-C host the event .There is thought to have a pre-convencion reception for sponsors on the same data, either before or after the sub committee’s dialog. .

There will be a reception for all Area team members and volunteers on August 24th. Please mark your calendars. Time (evening) and place to be determined. The reception will be a fun time to recognize and celebrate all the persons working hard on Convencion 2007. You will be receiving an invitation to the reception ASAP.

7. Next steps:

- Sub committees will meet, as much as necessary, to complete the workshop/dialog planning. Resolutions and the brief descriptions of workshop content will be completed ASAP.

- Al Lopez and Andre Gonzalez will meet with Dolly Velez discuss a contract to facilitate the recruitment of parents for Los Padres Unidos (August 15th.)
- At the August 20th meeting, the chairs will ask for a volunteer to help with the coordination between the Education Area Team and the Convencion web master.
- Al Lopez will request three translators, one for each workshop. I realize we have bilingual persons in each group, but just to be covered in case of illness etc., I will make the request ASAP.
- The Education Area team is expected to be involved in all aspects of our presentations (set up, directing people, etc.) The team must transmit its A/V and equipment needs **two weeks before Convencion**. All Area team members are asked to be engaged in Convencion (attend workshops, info booths, etc).
- Al & Victor are members of the CMSD strategic review committee. They received a copy of the CMSD strategic plan. They will review it and follow up with the district. A brief review of the plan revealed that the Bilingual Program was not specifically mentioned.

Next meeting **Monday August 20, 2007, 6:30 PM at Esperanza** (new office at 25th and Clark)

Remaining Meeting Schedule for the Education Area Team as a whole will be:

September 10th
October 1st.

Subcommittees meetings will be called by Subcommittee chairs as needed.