King County Immigrant & Commission Meeting 4/17/2019

Date: Wed, April 17, 2019

Location: Renton Library, 100 Mill Ave S, Renton, WA 98057

Participants: Immigrant & Refugee Commissioners; Bookda Gheisar, King County Immigrant and Refugee Policy Analyst, Brent Butler from Age Friendly Seattle and Saia and Ryan from the Tondo foundation.

Agenda

5:00PM | Introductions & Public Comment
5:30PM | Accept meeting minutes from January and March Meetings
5:45PM | Updates
6:00PM | Work plan subcommittees

Action Items:
- Accept meeting minutes from January and March Meeting notes

Attendance & Introductions 5:00PM-5:30PM

Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners in Attendance:
Senayet Negusse, Fo-Ching Lu, Nimco Bulale, Monserrat Padilla, Issa Ndiaye
Minal Kode Ghassemieh, Medard Ngueita, Hamdi Mohamed, Lalita Uppala, Mohammad Bakr

By phone: Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo,

Absent Commissioners: Andrew Kritovich, Mohammad Jan Ofuq

Other Attendees:
- Bookda Gheisar, King County Immigrant and Refugee Policy Analyst
- Brent Butler, Age Friendly Seattle, City of Seattle
- Saia & Ryan, The Tondo Foundation

Public Comment 5:30PM-5:45PM

Brent Butler rom Age Friendly Seattle: “Age Friendly Seattle is responsible for coordinating programs for low-income adults. We want to make sure our program reaches low income individuals, refugees,
immigrants and people of color.” The program is county wide. Age Friendly Seattle has received input and they have an area plan that is in the process of being developed. Brent is requesting that The King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission submit public comments between July 22nd and August 5th. This is the public comment period prior to the plan being finalized. Brent Butler also requests opportunities for community engagement around health issues.

General information: Aging and Disability Services does not provide direct services. They work in partnership and contract out to community-based organizations to provide culturally responsive services. They are seeking the commission’s guidance to identify gaps.

Tondo Foundation: The foundation works in Social Welfare (health care/education) in the Philippines, Cambodia, South Asia. The foundation does a lot of community work directly in the communities. Saia and Ryan are here to listen.

Kimberly, King county TV: Here to record and take biographies about different people on the commission.

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**Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

**Approved:** Fo-Ching stated, “I motion to approve the meeting notes from January 17, 2019” Monserrat seconded the vote. Medrad, Lalita, Miguel, Minal, Mohammed Jan Ofuq, Issa and Nimco are in agreement. No oppositions.

Hamdi Mohamed and Andrew Kritovich Abstain.

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

**Approved:** Minal Ghassemieh stated, “I motion to approve the meeting notes from March 20, 2019” Hamdi Mohamed seconded the vote. Senayet, Fo-Ching, Nimco, Monserrat, Andrew, Miguel, Lalita are in agreement.

Mohamed Jan Ofuq, Medrad Ngueita, Issa Ndiaye abstain.

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**Updates**

Employers are being audited specifically by Homeland Security, which can result to a lot of firing of community members, in the best-case scenario. At least 5 businesses throughout King County have been questioned. There will be an organizing meeting on April 22nd with Labor Partners, holistically across the region and state. City of Seattle, Office of Economic Development and Office of Labor Standards will hold a convening soon. Advisory of no match letters to employer. No match letter can be used for ICE to open up investigations.

Central and Eastern Washington, have had a significant ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) presence in the courts and with Custom Border Control which is out of their jurisdiction. Grant County has seen an increase. This makes the courts inaccessible for individuals who need to do simple things like pay a parking ticket.
White Center: there are rumors that there was a large raid operation. However, there were only two individual pickups in that area. White Center support teams are going to get connected with the two individuals. In Bellevue, there was an individual pick up. They are still trying to figure out more information. Monserrat made suggestions to prepare a rapid response in the Eastside for large scale operations by ICE.

The Legal Defense has been sent out. Panel has been reading and scoring.

Seattle School District had an announcement on Ramadan requesting that people break their fast. Whereas, Bellevue SD took another approach and asked how they can be more equitable and culturally sensitive, for example: (changing test times). Hamdi Mohammed suggested that the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners advocate/comment on these issues.

The Charter Review commission also is requesting input and would like to attend a meeting.

Congressman Smith would like to attend the meeting to meet Commissioners. Kim Schrier may also be attending.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Groups</th>
<th>6:10PM-6:3PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revisiting the subcommittees options</strong>: Discussion around whether or not to scale down to two groups (phase in other issues later), merge two groups or keep four groups as is happened among commissioners and guests. Commissioners voted.</td>
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<td>• 1 vote: Scale down (phase – two subcommittees with a group working on one issue each. Over time, issues can be added.)</td>
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<td>• 7 votes: Merge two groups (Each team will focus on two subcommittee groups)</td>
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<td>• 4 votes: Keep as is (four subcommittees)</td>
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<td>Merging the two groups won the popular vote. Senayet motioned to reduce the four subcommittees to two subcommittees. Monserrat seconded the motion. Hamdi Mohamed, Minal Ghassemieh, Medard Ngueita, Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo, Issa Ndiaye,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opposes: Fo-Ching opposes, Lalita Uppala, Nimco Bulale, Mohamed Bakr</td>
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<td>Abstains: Andrew Kritovich, Mohammad Jan Ofuq</td>
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**Subcommittee Group #1**

“Equitable policy development and access to services”

**Fo-Ching**

Health care county wide for immigrant adults - health care access for those who are uninsured. King County is looking into county wide health care. Somali Health board also lobbied around this issue. A legislation passed to help integrate international health professionals. Some organizations to consider inviting for input: International Community Health Services and Vietnamese Friendship Association.
**Monserrat**
Work place safety around ICE Immigrants pay taxes and are payroll. Monserrat stated, “If working more than 2 decades, they should be offered unemployment benefits. Washington DC already offers this. Commissioners will look into this.

**Senayet**
Noncitizen voting rights in King County. Six towns in Maryland including Takoma passed non-citizen voting rights bills. The subcommittee and task force will research integration strategies and review research studies and reports. This is a long term project. Commission will continue to think about how this can be applied in our region.

**Medrad**
Focus on housing, access to housing. Interested in ways we can make housing more access to refugee and immigrants. Currently, individuals and families can apply for housing programs that are available. However, not having credit and having to prove homelessness is a barrier to housing. How can we mitigate or eliminate the issues when it comes to accessing housing services?

**Hamdi**
Policy around Business displacement and Workplace development

Commissioners on Subcommittee #1 will meet prior to the next commission meeting to create a workplan/campaign plan for each of the topics discussed above. Sound Transit and Age Friendly Seattle have requested input from the Commission. There will be some sensitive issues which will require commission to prioritize the most critical and time sensitive issues. Meetings with community members may be structured by issues (1-2 issues per meeting). Questions will be prepared.

**Subcommittee Group #2:**
“Advancing immigrant rights through capacity building, policy and advocacy Work Group”

Minal stated that the group would like to gather community engagement before selecting focus areas. Commission members will identify folks who could provide feedback to the group.

Subcommittee Group #2 will plan a call for some of the priorities that have been identified. Minal will recreate the google doc now that subcommittee structure has changed. Individuals from the list may be invited to the next meeting, May 17th.
### Work Plan Subcommittees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subcommittee Group #1</th>
<th>Subcommittee Group #2: “Advancing immigrant rights through capacity building, policy and advocacy Work Group”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Equitable policy development and access to services”</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area of focus 1:</strong> Economic Community Development</td>
<td><strong>Area of focus 1:</strong> Immigrant Rights and Social Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Area of focus 2:</strong> Priority population services and opportunities- leverage and support and inform existing strategies</td>
<td><strong>Area of focus 2:</strong> Capacity Building: Building a regional resource hub for IR communities to be a critical and unified force</td>
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| Senayet Negusse, Fo-Ching Lu, Hamdi Mohamed, Monserrat Padilla, Medard Ngueita, | Minal Ghassemieh, Nimco Bulale, Issa Ndiaye, Lalita Uppala, Mohammad Bakr, Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo, |

**Absent Commissioners:** Andrew Kritovich, Mohammad Jan Ofuq will self-select onto a subcommittee.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.**