



Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018

Present: Commissioners Yarlennys Villaman, Leslie DiTrani, Jennifer Sparks, Marcio Macedo, Roxanna Maldonado-Garcia, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Melanie Torres and Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, and CIRC Staff Crystal Rosa and Tagesech Wabeto. Commissioner Karin Lin, and Executive Director Nancy Schlacter participated via conference call.

Absent: Commissioner Nick Lopez-Cortes, Elena Chopyak

1. Call to order

Co-Chair Macedo called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm with Commission members Torres, Epstein-Santoyo, and Co-Chairs DiTrani.

2. Public comment:

No public comment. Co-Chair DiTrani began recording the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

3. Presentation by CPD Legal Advisor James Mulcahy

A quorum was not present when CPD Legal Advisor James Mulcahy presented. Mr. Mulcahy explained that certifications for U and T Visa are taken on a case by case basis. U visas are for victims of crime and T visas are for trafficking victims. There is no arrest or prosecution needed for certification. The person seeking certification must have cooperated from start to finish as a witness. Mr. Mulcahy will check if the facts of their participation are accurate. The CPD Commissioner signs the certification after Mr. Mulcahy presents due diligence. Mr. Mulcahy that there is no statute of limitations for someone to seek certification. CPD has certified a petition that was from a 13-year-old case. Mr. Mulcahy stated that there has been an uptick in requests for certification. CPD is also cautious that they are not perceived as providing rewards or inducing witnesses to testify. After the presentation, members of the commission suggested that information about the certification be provided at the KYRs for responsible dissemination. Commissioner Sparks moved to have CIRC disseminate the information instead of through KYR, Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo seconded the motion.

4. Review and approval of May Minutes

Commissioners reviewed the edits to the May minutes, Commissioner Sparks moved to approve and Commissioner Villaman seconded.

5. Report from Immigrant Services Liaison

Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto provided a report of her monthly outreach activities. ISL Wabeto went to public housing buildings once this month because materials from her previous visits were still available at most buildings. ISL Wabeto explained that she focused her outreach on attending events. ISL Wabeto attended Story Walk at Fresh Pond apartments and provided information about CIRC at B3 a preschool program. ISL Wabeto described a parent's experience misunderstanding the preschool. ISL Wabeto helped this parent sign up for a scholarship for the child to attend the school. ISL Wabeto was able to do the necessary follow up for the child would be able to continue attending. ISL Wabeto also attended soccer night organized by the Reservoir church. ISL Wabeto was not able to table the event but she talked to people as she walked around handing out flyers. ISL Wabeto attended Congressperson Clark's office hours at the Mayor's office and assisted a man from Peru who is homeless and disabled. He was directed to the Legal Screening Clinic for further assistance. ISL Wabeto stated that 7 people arrived at the Conversation Café at O'Neil Library who were there to learn about credit card management.

6. Executive Directors Report
Legal Screening Clinic

ED Schlacter briefed the commission on data collected by CLSACC of the 7 legal screening clinics. There have been 93 people who have attended the legal clinics. Boston Medical Center has been one of the top referrers.

7. New Business

8. Partnering with AGO on UPIL training/outreach – waiting for CLC for scheduling

AGO is rolling out Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (UPIL) training and outreach throughout the State and is looking to collaborate with CIRC for local trainings. Commissioner Villaman stated that the UPIL trainings are being coordinated with CLC schedule for the fall and possibly the Main Public Library. ED Schlacter offered to help in contacting teachers for the training.

• New Chairs for New Year

Co-chair DiTrani and Macedo encouraged others to run. Both Co-Chairs explained that they appreciated the co-chair model and they will be handing off the positions to interested commission members. Both members anticipate serving on the Commission next year but not as Co-Chairs. The members of the Commission were encouraged to email ED Schlacter if they are interested in serving as co-chair.

• Debrief of Immigrant Welcoming Event

Members of the Commission offered their feedback for the next event such as music as attendees arrive, being mindful of religious holidays, scheduling for the Fall, tables and chairs for food service, signs to guide attendees to the event, and televising on CCTV. Gratitude was expressed for everyone's effort and participation.

• DACA/Financial Aid presentations for CRLS staff – under review by the Law Department

The PowerPoint slides prepared by the working group are in the Law Department under review. Co-Chair DiTrani stated that she would follow up informally with Lin to understand is causing CRLS's hesitation.

• Immigrant Family Preparedness training – Still under review at Law Dept.

With the approval from the Law Department, ISL Wabeto provides copies of materials prepared by the AGO on family preparedness in multiple languages for distribution at the legal screening clinic and other outreach events. These resources provide guidance for immigrants on how to prepare in advance to address children's needs in the event a parent is detained or deported. ED Schlacter is still awaiting approval from the Law Dept. regarding having a Family Law Attorney from the Mass. Law Reform Institute (MLRI) and staff from the PAIR Project provide Family Preparedness train-the-trainer trainings to City staff working with immigrants.

• Commission Members Remember

Commissioners explained what they appreciated from their first year serving on the Commission.

- Co-Chair DiTrani – Legal Screening Clinic
- Commissioner Maldonado-Garcia - Welcoming Event
- Commissioner Sparks – Being able to implement city change
- ISL Wabeto – New experiences in types of outreach
- Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo – Connecting with the group and community.
- Commissioner Torres – Legal Screening Clinic
- Commissioner Sylvain-Williams – Being able to help during a chaotic time.
- Commissioner Villaman – Working toward a better Cambridge.
- Co-Chair Macedo – Legal Screening Clinic, Welcoming Event
- Commissioner Lin – Seeing how the Commission came together as a body.
- ED Schlacter - Legal Screening Clinic, happy how it all turned out. KYR at the mosque.

Co-Chair DiTrani moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Torres.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, September 28, 2018, in the Large Conference Rm on the 2nd Flr at 6 pm.