



VIRGINIA LATINO ADVISORY BOARD

2021-2022 Annual Report

APPENDIX A

Meeting Agendas & Minutes

August 2022



Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, April 1, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Board Leadership -
Strategic Planning Workshop

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fgr-kgbk-tpa>

Or dial: (US) +1 601-840-3074 PIN: 839 168 215#

Agenda

2:00pm	Welcome/Meeting Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
2:05pm	Committee Reports	Manuel Leiva <i>Business & Workforce, Chair</i> Rodrigo Soto <i>Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Chair</i> Diana Brown <i>Education & Career Training, Chair</i> Sergio Rimola <i>Health, Chair</i> Carmen Romero <i>Housing, Chair</i>
2:20pm	Strategic Planning <i>Overview of the Process</i>	Suzanne Holland <i>Director of Advisory Board Administration</i>
2:30pm	Board Discussion Impact/Effort Matrix Transformation Map/1 year and 4 year Goals	
2:55pm	Next Steps/Closing	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>

Announcements:

- **Next Board Meeting:**
 - May 13th – TBD location in Northern VA
- **Next Committee Meetings:**
 - TBD virtual or in person; coordinated by Committee Chairs
- **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - March-June: Drafting committee report sections; gathering data to support recs; meeting with agency/expert informers; getting ready to compile recs into report document
- **Board Website:** VLAB.Virginia.Gov
- **Board Email:** VLAB@Governor.Virginia.Gov



<https://covaconf.webex.com/covaconf/j.php?MTID=mda75e0eda88c4d8a3bff843403dda76e>

Friday, Apr 1, 2022 3:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2439 812 2414

Password: Youngkin22

+1-866-692-4530 US Toll Free

Access code: 243 981 22414

Agenda

3:00pm	Welcome/Meeting Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
3:10pm	Board Member Introductions	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
3:15pm	Cabinet Member Introductions Overview of Secretariat/Administration Goals	
3:45pm	Q/A from Board Members	
4:00pm	Next Steps/Closing	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>

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Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, April 1st, 2022

2:00-4:00pm

Held Virtually via:

[Google Hangout](#) & [WebEx](#)



VIRGINIA
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Meeting Minutes

Strategic Planning Section - 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Aranda	Edgar		Leiva	Manuel		Rimola	Sergio
Berry	Paul		Luna-Jimenez	Max		Romero	Carmen
Brown	Diana		Medina	Yahusef		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator

2:00 p.m. Welcome New Members - Lourdes Morales and Yahusef Medina

Introductions (backgrounds, expertise, regions, etc.)

2:10 p.m. Welcome and Call to Order - Lyons Sanchezconcha, Chair

Nonvoting, planning and meet & greet nature of today's meeting(s)

Greetings from Governor Youngkin who held a Latino Business Forum earlier

2:15 p.m. Committee Reports - Committee Chairs

Business & Workforce - Diana Patterson

Committee has not had a chance to meet

Brief outline of priorities including:

Licenses, bonds, and SWaM certification

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - Rodrigo Soto

Committee has not had a chance to meet

Brief outline of priorities including:

Legislation support for items reflected in our report

Language access (and budget allocations for it)
Education & Career Training - Diana Brown
Committee met on Friday, March 25th
Brief outline of priorities including:
ELL graduation rates, teacher licensing, and Spanish-immersion
Health - Sergio Rimola
Committee met on Wednesday, March 16th
Brief outline of priorities including:
Representation, mental health, and access to healthcare
Housing - Carmen Romero
Committee has not had a chance to meet
Brief outline of priorities including:
Access to programs and resources and landlord tenant laws

2:35 p.m. Strategic Planning - Suzanne Holland

Overview of what Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB)'s role is
Constituency boards and beyond the report
Stay up to date with administration updates and priorities
[Press Releases](#) sign-up
Effort vs. Impact matrix
Analyzing board initiatives and maximizing efforts
Identifying areas of opportunity
Transformation Map / 1 year & 4 year goal
Tool to breakdown one initiative or board goal
Administrative Reminders
Updates to logistics of meeting virtually
6/30 as end of virtual meetings and likely to restart in September
Annual report timeline (and purpose)

2:45 p.m. Board Discussion - Suzanne Holland

Why do we serve on VLAB? (from chat tool)
D. Brown - contribute
L. Sanchezconcha - amplifying the voices of our community
L. Morales - impact
D. Patterson - to represent those that feel like they don't have a voice
Y. Medina - yes ^^
S. Rimola - improve the well being of the Latino community
M. Luna - learn from broader experience, provide focused advice, return knowledge to our area / communities we we work
A. Guzmán - elevating the issues affecting our diverse communities
Applying VLAB to strategic planning model
Community listening sessions: as medium/low effort, high impact
Attending in events as VLAB members: low effort, medium/high impact

Carmen: 30 minute sessions at conferences on behalf of VLAB
Max: Cross-committee collaboration (health & housing)
Continuing the conversation at next meeting
Specifying quality areas

2:55 p.m. Next Steps / Closing - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Strategic planning is ongoing, and this is a good start

We especially want to look at VLAB's "effort v. impact" analysis

We will now move to the WebEx call for the second part of the meeting

Meet & Greet with members of our new administration

Meet and Greet with Administration - 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Aranda	Edgar		Leiva	Manuel		Rimola	Sergio
Berry	Paul		Luna-Jimenez	Max		Romero	Carmen
Brown	Diana		Medina	Yahusef		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

*Administration's staff present: **Sheppard Miller III**, Secretary of Transportation; **Aimee Rogstad Guidera**, Secretary of Education; **Garrison Coward**, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade; **Harold Pyon**, Deputy Director of Diversity, Opportunity, & Inclusion; **CJ Sailor**, Deputy Director of Constituent Services; **Fernando Espinoza**, Policy Advisor for Secretary of Labor & Latino Outreach Liaison; **Suzanne Holland**, Board Administrator; and **Michael Perez**, Special Assistant to DOI Office*

3:00 p.m. Welcome - Lyons Sanchezconcha

What is VLAB?

This board as a resource to the administration

Purpose of this "meet & greet" meeting

Secretariats (and staff) as ex-officio members of VLAB

Suzanne mentions folks may be coming in and out throughout the hour

3:10 p.m. Board Member Introductions - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Name, region, profession, etc.

All board members present introduce themselves

3:20 p.m. Cabinet Member Introductions - Suzanne Holland

Overview of Secretariats/Administration Goals

Transportation

Commerce & Trade

State enterprise zone program

Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion

Importance of representation

Commonwealth

Education

3:30 p.m. Committee Priorities Recap

Business & Workforce

Civic Engagement & Social Justice

Education & Career Training

Health

Housing

3:35 p.m. Q & A From Board Members

Carmen Romero

Governor at Community Events

Paul Berry

Transparency & Communication

Walewska Watkins

Special Guest: Aire, LCPS student

Lyons Sanchezconcha

Aligning with Governor Youngkin's vision for meeting people where they are and holding community listening sessions

3:55 p.m. Closing Remarks - Next Steps - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Next meeting -in person- May 13th in Northern Virginia 12-4pm

Calendar hold in place, keep an eye out for more updates

Planning for community listening session the night before

4:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned



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Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, May 13, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Arlington Economic Development

1100 N Glebe Road #1500

Arlington, VA

Agenda

12:00pm	Welcome Call to Order Meeting Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
12:05pm	Committee Breakouts <i>Working lunch</i>	Business Civic Engagement & Social Justice Education & Workforce Health Housing
1:00pm	April Meeting Minutes Approval May Meeting Agenda Adoption	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:05pm	Public Comment	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:20pm	April Meeting Minutes Approval May Meeting Agenda Adoption	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:20pm	Administrative Update	Suzanne Holland <i>Director of Advisory Board Administration</i>
1:35pm	Committee Reports and Listening Session Recap	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
2:15pm	Chair's Report	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
2:30pm	Guest Speakers	Dr. Dalia Tejada <i>VA Department of Medical Assistance Services</i> Dipti Pidikiti-Smith <i>Legal Services of Northern Virginia</i>
3:30pm	Board Discussion and New Business	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
4:00pm	Closing Remarks and Announcements <i>Adjournment</i>	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>



Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2022
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arlington Economic Development
1100 N Glebe Road #1500
Arlington, VA

Announcements:

- **Next Board Meeting:**
 - June 24th TBD Charlottesville
- **Next Committee Meetings:**
 - TBD virtual or in person; coordinated by Committee Chairs
- **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - March-June: Drafting committee report sections; gathering data to support recs; meeting with agency/expert informers; getting ready to compile recs into report document
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- **Board Email:** VLAB@Governor.Virginia.Gov

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
 Friday, May 13th, 2022
 12:00-4:00pm
 Arlington Economic Development
 1100 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22201



VIRGINIA
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Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Aranda	Edgar		Leiva	Manuel		Rimola	Sergio
Berry	Paul		Luna-Jimenez	Max**		Romero	Carmen
Brown	Diana		Medina	Yahusef		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia**
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

***attended remotely via WebEx*

Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator, Michael Perez, Special Assistant

12:00 p.m. - Committee Breakout Sessions - Committee Chairs

Business, Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Education & Workforce, Health, and Housing

1:00 p.m. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Overview - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Greetings to guests, time to go around the room for all present to introduce themselves

1:05 p.m. April Meeting Minutes Approval, May Meeting Agenda Adoption - Eduardo Zelaya

December Minutes Approval, Paul Berry motioned, Rodrigo Soto seconded.

Discussion: Walewska Watkins - remove her votes because she was not present

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

April Minutes Approval, Lyons Sanchezconcha motioned, Sergio Rimola seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

May Agenda Adoption, Paul Berry motioned, Lyons Sanchezconcha seconded.

Discussion: Lyons Sanchezconcha - remove a typo, 1:15 item was repeated

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

1:10 p.m. Public Comment - Eduardo Zelaya

Dr. Rebecca Vargas-Jackson: works in health care equity issues in northern Virginia and joined to speak to the Health committee today and offering to partner (peruanos@rcn.com)

Matt deFerranti: Arlington County Board Member attended listening session and joins today to learn and offer collaborations with VLAB in reaching common goals and serving Arlington

Edgar Gonzalez: Legal Services of Northern Virginia listened in remotely (egonzalez@lsnv.org)

Eduardo Gil: Learning & Development Advisor/Consultant listened in remotely

Charlie Zenker: Legal Services of Northern Virginia listened in remotely (czenker@lsnv.org)

1:20 p.m. Administrative Update - Suzanne Holland

General Updates to Virginia Latino Advisory Board

- Reviewing reimbursement process

- Reminding to check VLAB email and respond promptly

- Updates on Outreach with Facebook and otherwise

- Using vlab@virginia.governor.gov

Answer any administrative questions from the board

- Promoting engagement and work in committees

1:35 p.m. Committee Reports and Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva

Business - Lourdes Morales

- Priorities to align with Governor's Agenda

 - Create more jobs, tax cuts, economic development, tourism & hospitality

- Recommendations

 - Revise and increase the Enterprise and Opportunity Zones

 - Revise and edit requirements to be SwaM certified

 - Revise requirements to obtain a VA Contractor's License with DPOR

 - Facilities process to obtain surety bonds

 - Rescind minimum wage increases

 - Partner with state colleges, Small Business Development Centers (SBA), or VA Cooperative Extensions to education and coach small businesses about tourism

- Administrative Pieces

 - Committee has not been able to meet consistently

 - Diana Patterson to become new Committee Chair

- Discussion

 - Hoping to invite Kathy Dolan from VDH to next board meeting (Lyons)

 - Cross-Board SWaM Registration Initiative (Suzanne)

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - Rodrigo Soto

- Committee has not had the opportunity to meet, nothing to report

- Initiatives revolve around legislative priorities

 - Sent an [official VLAB letter](#) to General Assembly Budget Conferees advocating for language access

Discussion

Lyons recommends vocal advocacy for only items on our report

Education - Diana Brown

Welcoming new members Yahusef Medina and Paul Berry to committee

Recommendations

Advocating for support to ELL students in the Commonwealth

Looking at disproportionate graduation rates

Advocating for licensure accessibility for qualified educators who immigrated here and taught in their state

Looking at Dual Language schools and increasing implementation

Identifying a new chair for committee should Diana not be reappointed

Health Committee - Sergio Rimola

The healthcare committee had two virtual meetings prior to the general board meeting and were able to identify the following priorities:

Healthy Literacy among our communities

Increase Representation of Latinos in the healthcare workforce:

Doctors, Nurses, Healthcare Educators and Mental Health Professionals.

Recommendations:

Increase the number of **IMGs** residency programs slots for Latino physicians in Virginia.

Develop initiatives for Middle and High School minority students to motivate them to pursue healthcare careers

Start a pilot program like the **GEMS program**: Georgetown Experimental Medical Studies

Housing Committee - Walewska Watkins

Walewska was appointed Housing Committee Chair

Carmen is up for reappointment in June

Discussed Housing related issues brought to light at last night's listening session in committee break out

Tenant and Workers United concerns regarding living conditions in Northern Virginia's lowest income populations (Serrano Apartments)

Recommendations

Looking at jurisdictions' approaches available for landlord grants

Housing options for foster children and looking at effects of evictions and housing stability on children

Looking at ways to work with VDOE & McKinney Vento offices

Work with the Department of Housing and Community Development

Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva

Along with Alex Guzman shared notes on who was present and what was shared

Partnered with VACOLAO

Opened the line for collaboration on various efforts brought up

Continuing the conversation

Sharing the notes with committee chairs

2:30 p.m. Guest Speakers - Dr. Dalia Tejada & Dipti Pidikiti-Smith

Dr. Dalia Tejada Halter - Virginia Department for Medical Assistance Services

Introducing herself and mapping out DMAS initiatives

Goals for increased outreach in VA's Latino population

Answer questions from Board members

Expanding access to dental care and mental health needs

Email: dalia.tejadahalter@dmass.virginia.gov

Dipti Pidikiti-Smith - Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Introducing herself and summarizing work and trends in the population served

Looking to expand ways to serve housing needs for Latino demographic

Answer questions from Board members

Expanding opportunities to serve minors charged with evictions

Email: dpidikiti-smith@lsnv.org

3:40 p.m. Board Discussion & New Business - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Engagement with the community

Going beyond the VLAB email and Facebook

Considering a VLAB Twitter - Rodrigo volunteers

Preparing for the Report

Looking at sending drafts to Lyons from Committee Chairs

Final Draft by August

3:50 p.m. Chair's Report - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Meeting composition and vision for board

Encouraging committee to meet and work together

Need Governance Committee Volunteers - Carmen Interested

Discussing Reappointments

Encouraging all up for reappointment to apply again

8 members end their term this June

Carmen, Aida, Gloria, Manuel, Edgar, Diana B., Max, Lourdes

6 can be reappointed (5 want to be)

Carmen, Edgar, Diana B., Max, Lourdes

Thank you for your service on VLAB

Latino needs are Virginian needs - seguimos perseverando

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks & Announcements - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Announcements

Reminder, next meeting on June 24th in Charlottesville (Listening Session night before)

Motion to adjourn by Lyons Sanchezconcha & Seconded by Carmen Romero

Motion passes unanimously



Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, June 24, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virginia Humanities - 946 Grady Ave. Ste. 100
Charlottesville, VA 22903

ZoomGov meeting. When: Jun 24, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-yrDorHVD34wB6Ccr3RGKQp-KFT00>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Agenda

12:00pm	Welcome Meeting Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
	Introductory Remarks	Matthew Gibson <i>Executive Director, Virginia Humanities</i>
12:05pm	Committee Breakouts <i>Working lunch</i>	Business Civic Engagement & Social Justice Education & Workforce Health Housing
1:00pm	Call Meeting to Order Opener	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:05pm	May Meeting Minutes Approval June Meeting Agenda Adoption	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:10pm	Public Comment	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:25pm	Administrative Update	Suzanne Holland <i>Director of Advisory Board Administration</i>
1:40pm	Listening Session Recap	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
2:00pm	Guest Speaker	Sergio Aguirre Poloche <i>Office of Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney</i>
3:00pm	- 10 minute break -	
3:10pm	Committee Reports	Business Civic Engagement & Social Justice Education & Workforce Health Housing



Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, June 24, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virginia Humanities - 946 Grady Ave. Ste. 100
Charlottesville, VA 22903

3:45pm	Board Discussions and New Business	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
4:25pm	Chair's Report	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
4:40pm	Farewell to Outgoing Members Thoughts & Remarks	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
5:00pm	Closing Remarks and Announcements <i>Adjournment</i>	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>

Announcements:

- **Next Board Meetings:**
 - August 5th – Blacksburg, VA
 - Hispanic Heritage Month Meeting/Reception – Richmond, VA
 - *September 16th or October 7th*
 - December 7th – Virginia Beach, VA
- **Next Committee Meetings:**
 - TBD in person; coordinated by Committee Chairs
 - Hold one before August 5th
- **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - July – First Draft
 - August – Final Draft
 - September – Present to Governor
 - Winter – Publicizing and Feedback on Report
- **Board Website:** VLAB.Virginia.Gov
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Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, June 24, 2022

12:00-5:00pm

Virginia Humanities

946 Grady Ave, Suite 100

Charlottesville, VA 22903



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Meeting Minutes

Attendance

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De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

***attended remotely via Zoom*

Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator

12:00 p.m. - Committee Breakout Sessions - Committee Chairs

Business, Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Education & Workforce, Health, and Housing

1:10 p.m. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Overview - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Greetings to guests, time to share any professional or personal updates

1:15 p.m. Review May Meeting Minutes & June Meeting Agenda - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Did not meet quorum for a vote to adopt agenda or approve minutes

1:16 p.m. Public Comment - Lyons Sanchezconcha Zelaya

No public comment

1:17 p.m. Administrative Update - Suzanne Holland

General Updates to Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion Office Staffing Update

Governor's Fellow assigned to the appointments team. Utilize for research

Using vlab@virginia.governor.gov

1:22 p.m. Public Comment - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Returned to public comment

Frank Valdez, works with Youth Justice Program for LAJC. Also works with Latinx youth organization (Creciendo Juntos?). Thanks VLAB for the work of the Board. Big common issue with Latinx community is special education with English Language Learning, specifically students with autism and the difficulties of making a diagnosis with those populations. Creates challenges navigating school system and burden of disciplinary action against them. Concern with number of immigrants entering the foster care system– barriers for undocumented families being reunited with their children. Support for general wrap-around services for immigrant families integrated into the schools.

1:27 p.m. Administrative Update (continued) - Suzanne Holland

Return to Administrative Updates

Budget Updates

Request from the Governor to state universities to freeze tuition rates

Free speech on college campuses

Gas tax is not part of the signed budget

Violent Crime Task Force– local law enforcement agencies meeting with state officials. Suzanne has asked for better public input and community voices

Advisory Board Meeting Security– Disruptive event at a virtual meeting of the LGBTQ

Advisory Board Meeting . Secretary of the Commonwealth issued a letter condemning the hateful, disruptive actions at the meeting. Now utilizing Zoom after a review of security procedures, deemed most secure platform for virtual meetings. Admin also gathered all the

Advisory Board chairs to brief them. OAG working on guidance for online meetings in response.

Travel reimbursement

1:47 p.m. Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva

Thank you to Max Luna for organizing the event with 45 attendees

Joshua, Lyons, Gloria and Max from VLAB all in attendance

Spanish-language event with translation available

Breakout groups that mirrored our working committees

Lyons provided introduction to VLAB and the recommendation process

Joshua provided summary of breakout group reports

2:00 p.m. Guest Speaker - Sergio Aguirre Poloche

Victims/Witness Assistance Specialist at Norfolk CA Office

Provided overview of Victims/Witness Assistance Program

Possible follow up items: Ask Virginia Victims Fund about Spanish speaking staff; advocate for state funding for victim advocacy programs in state Commonwealth Attorney's Offices

Protection of information of undocumented victims to prevent not reaching out due to fear

3:00 p.m. Break

3:16 p.m. Attorney General Update - Justin Bell

Update on ramifications of new budget to application of virtual meetings

FOIA and Meeting Guidelines are forthcoming. The FOIA Council is still in the process of drafting those guidelines and receiving feedback, encouraging members to participate in that process.

3:28 p.m. Committee Reports - Committee Chairs Present

Business - Diana Patterson

Revisit Enterprise and Opportunity Zones

Minimum wage increase– does not recommend increase to \$15 by 2025 due to impact on small business and considering labor shortages

Substantiating this with literature or research

Statutory requirements for when minimum wage kicks in

Support for SBSB

8.1% of small business owners are Latino, more entrepreneurs

Transforming the process so that it's accessible to more

Not enough Spanish speakers to assist as well

Inviting SBSB to a future Business Committee meeting

Construction companies and hospitality industry as most popular among the Latino community - making code components easier (available in Spanish)

DPOR Test only available in English

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Credential for ELL graduates as barrier

Housing Committee - Walewska Watkins & Alex Guzman

Three guest were invited to participate in their committee meeting today

Judy Chang - Shelter House in Northern Virginia

Krysta Aguilar - Shelter House in Northern Virginia

Kathleen Doyle - Charlottesville Public Schools

Shared lived experiences of the service providers and what they see in the field

77% of people captured in Fairfax County Point In Time Count are

Latinx

Looking at housing instability among Latino Youth

Health Committee - Cecilia Williams

Committee priorities and how to translate them into recommendations

1) Health literacy

2) Statewide Latino Health Assessment

3) Women's Health– how to respond to reversal of Roe v. Wade

4) Continuing education requirement for working with diverse populations

Next meeting will be a working meeting to refine recommendations

Education - Diana Brown

Did not meet today - No Updates

Yahusef Medina will serve as the new Chair of the Education Committee

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - Rodrigo Soto

Did not meet today - No Updates

Chair consideration to dissolve committee and turn into a work group

Committee Members would join other committees

Business, Education, Health, & Housing would each have 5

3:45 p.m. Board Discussion & New Business - Joshua DeSilva

Language Access Conversations

Looking at collaborations with Office of New Americans

Providing services in Spanish

Language Justice as a career and role for organizations

New Commissioner of Health made comments

Expressed doubts the structured disparities among race/ethnicity

What is VLAB's role in responding to this

Virginia Department of Health

Write this into the health committee report

Work for Secretariats (Health & Commonwealth) for support

If the committee pens a letter, we can send it on behalf of VLAB

Bi-lingual Pay Differential among various fields

How can you leverage being bilingual yourself

Bi-lingual preferred as a pay bump

4:33 p.m. Chair's Report - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Goals as Chair

Meeting Goals

Committees should meet before August 5th

VLAB Meetings are for convening and sharing/collaborating on work

Cross-Board Work

AAAB, LGBTQ+, AAB, Council on Women

Office of New American

Heightening VLAB's Work

Relationship with the Administration

Meeting with Secretary James

Office of DOI - Michael Perez

Advocacy

Legislation (veto)

Amendment 8

Accessibility & Representation

Priorities & Recommendations

Transitions

High expectations for talented new members

Press release comes out one week from today, July 1st

4:40 p.m. Farewell to Outgoing Members Thoughts & Remarks - Joshua DeSilva

Thank you to Max Luna

Served 8 months with VLAB

Present with gift of appreciation

Thank you to Gloria Rockhold-Peña

Served 8 years with VLAB

Present with gift of appreciation

Both will continue to serve as advisors to the board

4:49 p.m. Closing Remarks & Announcements - Lyons Sanchezconcha



Virginia Latino Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, August 26, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virginia Tech Office of Undergraduate Admissions

925 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Join Virtually:

<https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1615472455?pwd=cXRYZURQTlZySmJtNytsZGVjWkNwUT09>

Agenda

12:00pm	Welcome & Call to Order Meeting Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
	Introductory Remarks	Juan Espinoza , <i>Associate Vice Provost</i> & <i>Director of Admissions at Virginia Tech</i>
12:05pm	Committee Breakouts <i>Working lunch</i>	Business Education Health Housing
1:00pm	Convene General Meeting Introductions	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:15pm	May & June Minutes Approval August Meeting Agenda Adoption	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:20pm	Public Comment	Eduardo Zelaya <i>Secretary, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
1:30pm	Administrative Update	Suzanne Holland <i>Director of Advisory Board Administration</i>
1:45pm	Listening Session Recap	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
2:00pm	Guest Speakers	Dr. Sergio Barrera , <i>Associate Professor,</i> <i>Department of Economics at Virginia Tech</i> Gabriella Vazquez , <i>Program Administrator,</i> <i>Dept. of Housing & Community Development</i>
3:00pm	Virginia Office of Diversity, Opportunity, & Inclusion	Dr. Rosa Atkins <i>Chief DOI Officer</i>
3:15pm	Report Approval Overview	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>

- 10 minute break -



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3:30pm	Approve 2022 Annual Report	Civic Engagement & Social Justice <i>Rodrigo Soto, Work Group Lead</i> Business & Workforce Committee <i>Diana Patterson, Committee Chair</i> Education & Career Training Committee <i>Yahusef Medina, Committee Chair</i> Health Committee <i>Sergio Rimola, Committee Chair</i> Housing Committee <i>Walewska Watkins, Committee Chair</i>
4:30pm	Chair's Report	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
4:40pm	Board Discussion and New Business	Joshua DeSilva <i>Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>
5:00pm	Closing Remarks and Announcements <i>Adjournment</i>	Lyons Sanchezconcha <i>Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board</i>

Announcements:

- **Hispanic Heritage Month:**
 - Office of the Governor events to be shared as they are confirmed
 - Share other community events with fellow board members/FB page
- **Next Board Meetings:**
 - October 7th – Richmond
 - December 16th – Northern Virginia
- **Next Committee Meetings:**
 - In-Person Meetings Coordinated by Committee Chairs
- **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - Present Approved Report to Governor Youngkin's Administration in Fall 2022
- **Board Website:** VLAB.Virginia.Gov
- **Board Email:** VLAB@Governor.Virginia.Gov



VIRGINIA LATINO ADVISORY BOARD

2021-2022 Annual Report

APPENDIX B

Listening Session Notes

August 2022

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Listening Session

Agenda



Setting:

Thursday, May 12th, 2022
6:30pm-8pm

4444 Arlington Blvd
Arlington, VA 22204

Set-Up:

Arrive at 6pm

- A. put up signage
- B. arrange tables
- C. sign in sheet
- D. QR code to our 2021 report

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions—Lyons Sanchezconcha, Chair, VLAB
 - A. Thank you: Unitarian Universalist & VACOLAO (remarks?)
 - B. Board member intros (Joshua DeSilva, Vice Chair, will moderate)
 - 1. Reminder to Sign In
 - C. Comment on interpretation and accommodating it
- II. VLAB—Annual Report Cycle and Current Recommendations—Joshua DeSilva, Vice Chair, VLAB
 - A. Discussion among Board members about Board's process for creating recommendations for the Governor and General Assembly
 - B. Highlighting key successes from previous years' reports
 - C. Current committee work (for those present)
- III. Discussion
 - A. Community member intros or invite intros prior to sharing a question
 - B. What are the community's priorities **for the coming year?** (e.g., COVID-19, implementation of in-state tuition)
 - C. Challenges/Issues & Opportunities/Solutions
 - 1. Low-hanging fruit, how can VLAB assist.
 - D. Suggestions for how VLAB can better engage the community
 - 1. Support your work/partner with VLAB
 - E. Perhaps divide priorities by committees
 - F. What questions do you have for us?
- IV. Closing
 - A. Plug upcoming VLAB openings in June (QR Code to application)
 - B. Folks can attend committee meetings (remotely)
 - C. Follow us on Facebook: Virginia Latino Advisory Board
 - 1. Next Meeting tomorrow 12-4 (1pm for public)
 - 2. June 24th - Charlottesville (June 23rd for listening session)

VLAB Listening Session
May 12, 2022 -Arlington, VA

Notes from: Alex Guzman

Insist on having a Latino liaison who speaks Spanish so we can continue having a direct conduit with the Governor's Office (Beatriz, VACOLOA)

Michael, LIBRE Initiative— empower Hispanics to reach their American Dream. Inflation is major issue effecting Latino families.

Tenants and Workers United: Expanded to Prince William and Fairfax. Living conditions— quality of housing. Majority are renters. Tenants do not have many rights. How to have more protections. Rent control is a dream. High cost of housing, many businesses entering the state, putting pressure on rents. Much of the new housing stock does not meet low-income tenants. Education for ESL students. Drop-out prevention. Mental health impacting young people. More security and policing, but not root-cause solutions.

Standard dedication is \$2.6 billion in the biennium

Arlington County Board: Workforce vs. 40% and below AMI, not addressed in Arlington. Quality of housing. Serrano Apartments, unacceptable living conditions. Housing trust fund is key. Lots of resources in this year's budget for eviction prevention bc state is stepping back. Whatever we can do to slow the pace of moving away from rental relief. If you go from full support to zero support, displacement is going to be a real concern.

Business and health care broker: Small businesses do not know how to leverage their healthcare. Unsure how to apply. Solutions for their business. Certain limitations in terms of immigration, there is a mix, law excludes certain portions of the population. When businesses are growing, unsure how to provide benefits. Construction businesses— attempting to grow, but challenged by multinational corps. Business and healthcare literacy is lacking.

Beatriz, VACOLOA: Medicaid access to services. Not enough providers. No list of providers that speak Spanish. Behooves Governor to know community is here to partner. A lot of the dental providers do not take Medicaid. School nurse should be a conduit for dental health. Oral health board. Suggestion that VLAB compile list of service providers in Spanish across the state.

Sergio comments on health literacy; number of Latinx children without health insurance is very high; need for Latinx, Spanish-speaking medical professionals. Cannot solve issues without linguistically competent medical professionals.

Julio, part of the Serrano Apartment organizing. Seeing everything going on in housing. No one was speaking up for community. Mice, pests, asbestos. Breathing conditions was bad. Pattern of undocumented mothers unable to access services.

Sen. Warner's Office— support for senior capstone— a way for senior class to go out and engage community. At VCU, partnered with Casa de la Salud and community health workers.

Beatriz— there are areas in our community that are almost forgotten. Pay attention to the farm workers. There are no businesses that can succeed without workers. Drive Virginia Forward as a community resource. Latino Festival in June (invitation). New DMV Commissioner needs to be out in the community.

Virginia Latino Advisory Board y Organizaciones Latinas de Charlottesville

Charla y Consulta Comunitaria

Charlottesville, 23 de junio 2022

Agenda

- I. Presentaciones y Propósito de la reunión
- II. Que es el Virginia Latino Advisory Board- VLAB?
- III. Algunas organizaciones locales que sirven al Latino
- IV. Retos y recomendaciones prioritarias para la comunidad Latina, previas y actuales.
 - a. Estatales VLAB
 - b. Locales
- V. Discusión en grupos
 - a. Educación y Formación Profesional
 - b. Compromiso Cívico y Justicia Social
 - c. Vivienda
 - d. Salud
 - e. Negocios y formación profesional
- VI. Reflexión en grupo plenario
 - a. Necesidades prioritarias locales y estatales
 - b. Soluciones locales y estatales
- VII. Comentarios de Cierre
 - a. Como nos movemos hacia el futuro?

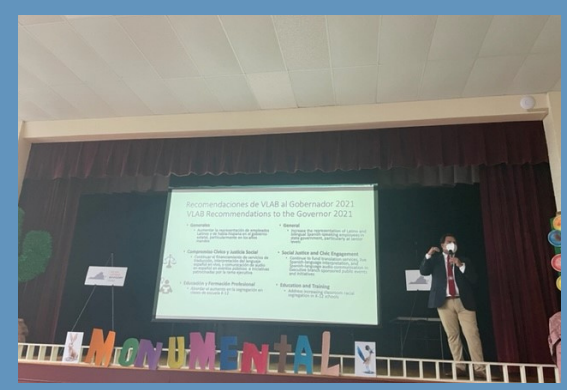
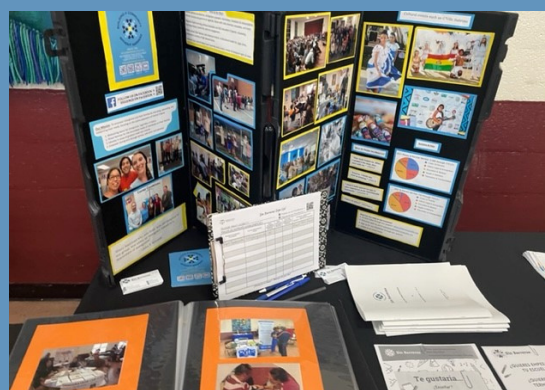
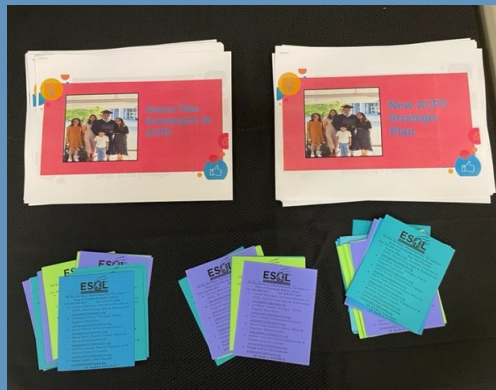
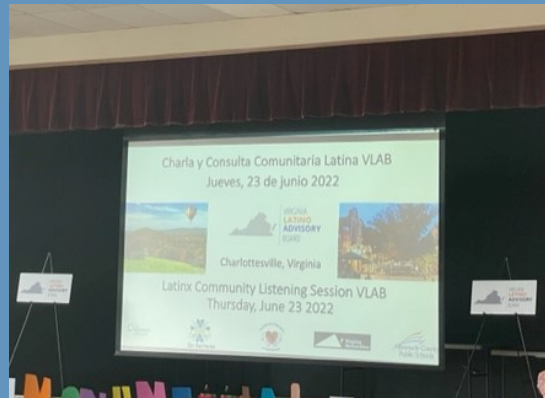
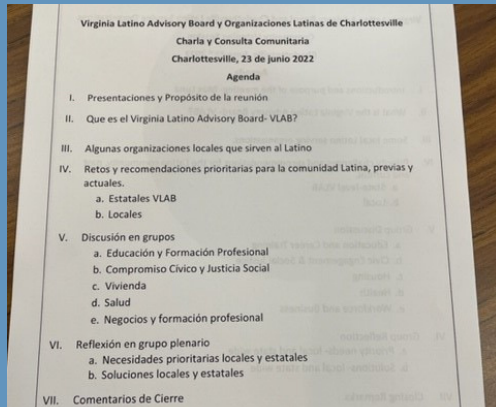
Virginia Latino Advisory Board and Charlottesville Latino Serving Organizations

Community Listening Session

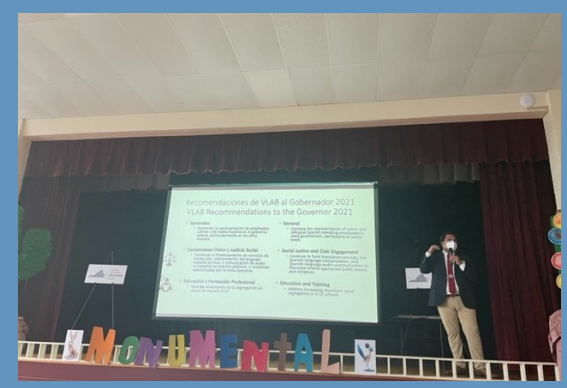
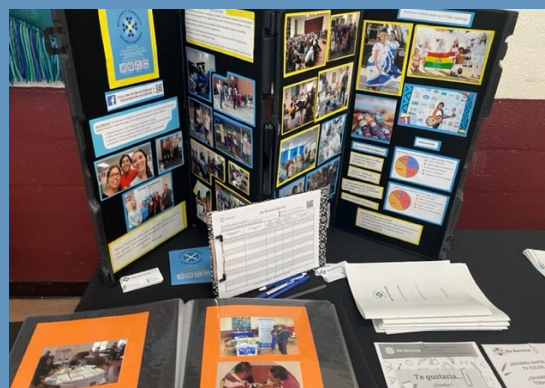
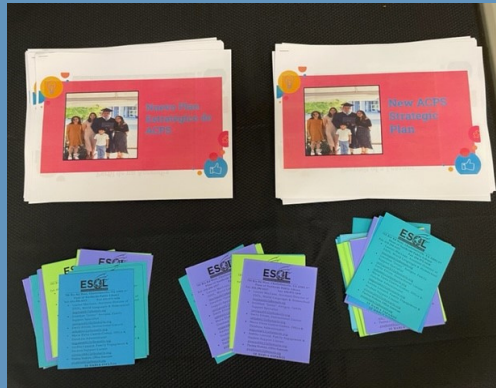
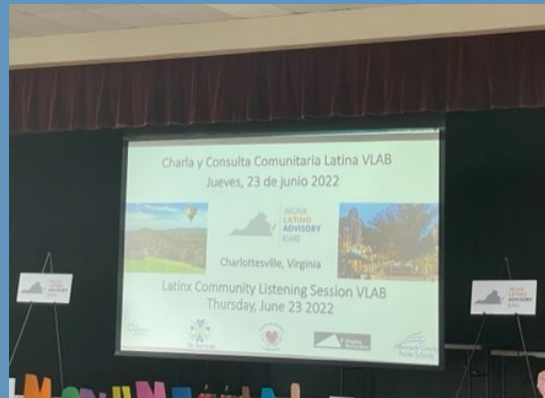
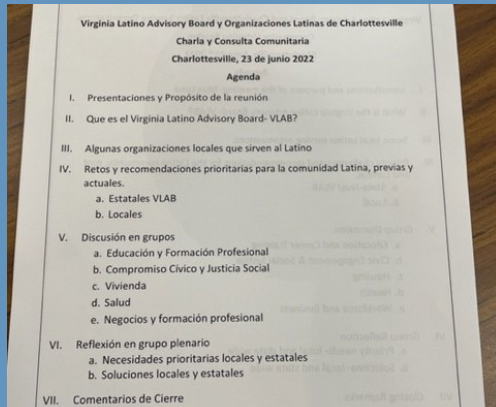
Charlottesville, June 23rd 2022

Agenda

- I. Introductions and purpose of the meeting- Max Luna
- II. What is the Virginia Latino Advisory Board- VLAB?
- III. Some local Latino serving organizations.
- IV. Priority challenges and recommendations for the Latino community, past and current.
 - a. State-level VLAB
 - b. Local
- V. Group Discussion
 - a. Education and Career Training
 - b. Civic Engagement & Social Justice
 - c. Housing
 - d. Health
 - e. Workforce and Business
- VI. Group Reflection
 - a. Priority needs- local and state wide
 - b. Solutions- local and state wide
- VII. Closing Remarks
 - a. How do we move forward?



VLAB Charla Comunitaria (Charlottesville) Junio 2022



VLAB Community Listening Session (Charlottesville)

June 2022

Charlottesville Area Latinx Community Listening Session with the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB)

Date: June 23, 2022

Meeting

Area of Focus: Civic Engagement and Social Justice

Participants: Edgar Lara, Laura Cornelio, Brittney Guzman, Monica Luna, Jessica Sanchez-Flores

Question #1

What are three local priority issues that deserve attention from VLAB and local organizations?

1. Not just language access but language justice: eliminate hierarchy of English speakers above those that don't speak the language.
 - a. A post/position to assure that the community is included (and represented) (ei: VLAB)
 - b. For Hispanics to have a voice
 - i. The problem: the current administration is not very progressive.
2. Funding for events in Spanish
 - a. Difficulty to include Hispanics, if the information is not in Spanish.
 - b. Educate about the importance of providing services in Spanish.
 - i. Educate and raise awareness
 - ii. Members of the community have good ideas, but they don't feel comfortable sharing them due to language barriers.
 - iii. "Language justice": person able to communicate without the language hierarchy, avoid having levels if not knowing language.
 - iv. Question of how much progress has been made since last year's recommendations.
 - v. The community is the solution, and it requires a process to reach other communities

3. Community problems: members do not exercise their power to vote etc. (civic engagement), do not feel part of the English-speaking community (for people who are citizens)
4. It is important to educate young people to participate.
5. Guidance for youth and adults; not only at the school level.
 - a. Promote the importance of the electoral process and that the community has confidence in it.
6. Many of the suggestions may not be approved by the governor. Suggestions need to be made with a compelling story and impact in community and economy.
7. DACA, Teaching about racism.

Area of Focus: Education

Participants : Lyons Sanchezconcha, Maria Terri, Carmen Chandross, Frank Valdez, Rosaura Gonzalez, Ingrid Chalita, Jasmine Fernandez

Question #1

What are three local priority issues that deserve attention from VLAB and local organizations?

1. Translation

- a. Translation in Spanish is not culturally responsive; sometimes the message and usage of terms in English don't always properly translate in Spanish
- b. ESOL Office appears to be short staffed and overworked
- c. Richmond Public Schools- Had a recent sports announcement that used Google Translator, which resulted in offensive language. An example of how the importance of Language is simplified and address with automated translations.
- d. We need to distinguish interpretation (oral) versus translation (written); we need to recognize these are distinct responsibilities that require different skills and time

2. Lack of bilingual, bicultural staff

- a. Funding among school districts is not equitable, which results in more disparities.
- b. Smaller school districts are having to compromise their budgets
- c. We need more bilingual school counselors
- d. We need more school staff who represent the culture and identities of our students; there is a difference between knowing how to speak the language and understanding the culture

- e. Re-evaluate credentials to help improve workforce
- f. Recognize the skills of people who come here from other countries who have established careers back in their home country; affirm their expertise
- g. Lack of mental health services for educators - Latinx staff are dealing with lots of trauma

Question #2

What are the potential solutions to these problems at the state and local level?

1. Hire a Language Justice Coordinator (fully staffed position) in each school district, similar to Richmond Public Schools
 - a. Ensure school systems have a social media account that targets the Latino community, similar to Richmond Public Schools
2. Revisit credentials for various fields
3. Teacher prep program - Help people from other countries who have degrees get a provisional license; recognize their expertise, with the understanding they will still need to acquire the necessary hours/licenses to fulfill US standards.
 - a. Conduct more marketing in Spanish about workforce development programs
 - b. Leverage ethnic media, ads at transportation stops, and local churches
 - c. Create Welcome Centers for newly arrived Americans to access information about
 - d. school registration, work, housing, healthcare, and legal services
 - e. Establish more partnerships between schools and different local organizations

Area of Focus: Health

Members: Ingrid Ramos, Veronica Espinoza, Linda Leonard, Kristen Petros de Geaux, Daniela Negrete, Joshua DaSilva, Janet Arras, Max Luna

Question #1

What are three local priority issues that deserve attention from VLAB and local organizations?

Mental Health

1. Latinos are desperate for mental health services.
 - a. Mothers are depressed not only because of their children's problems but personal challenges
2. Health institutions occasionally do not accept patients due to language barriers
3. 4% Latino counselors nationwide, while 10% of Virginia population is Latino. Same problem in all other healthcare careers.
4. Partners for Mental Health case:
 - a. Family and patients don't even understand their mental health illness.
 - b. Some cultures have stigma against mental health. How can we better address this so we can actively educate them on this?
 - c. Hotline help in English is immediate, when a Spanish speaking person calls, usually it's recommended to call the next day.
 - i. Both Suicide Hotline Region 10 and National Suicidal Hotline
 - d. Mental health professionals need training and exposure to working with diverse communities
5. Women Services
 - a. Not much Spanish-speaking services for mental health
 - b. Spanish-speaking hotline available to not well known
6. Mental health for men (Cville)
 - a. No services available for men
 - b. Feel stuck, due to stigma (machismo)
 - c. Men treat mental health with work
 - i. If men feel bad, men will just find another job
 - ii. Excessive working affects their general health since they don't have time to treat their emotional health.
 - iii. Influence of this is emotional abandonment this on family

Medical Care

1. Cultural competency and humility
 - a. Institution assumed that the patient understood his own illness due to the presence of an interpreter.
 - b. Cultural competency training for providers and other even if the interpreter speaks Spanish or is Latino
 - i. Doctors, students, etc., need to be educated in diversity of cultures
2. Trauma informed care: community is better when trust is built and better treatment can follow
3. Many avoid attending to hospitals (for many reasons, economic, cultural, lack of knowledge etc.)
4. Culturally, Spanish-speaking patients are afraid to ask questions.
 - a. Emphasis on difference between interpretation vs translation

- b. Teach Back method: telling me what I just told you
 - c. Patient didn't understand the informed consent because the provider and interpreter didn't explain the procedure with cultural sensitivity and just translated.
- 5. Medical interpretation
 - a. Increase the availability of interpreters.
 - b. Institutions use conservatively the triangle of Medical Interpretation: transmission of message/words, clarification of message, cultural brokerage and advocacy
 - c. Some places will just want you to interpret words
 - d. Move beyond base of interpretation towards active patient advocates
 - e. Physicians may try to use minimal time with interpreting
- 6. Financial challenges
 - a. Some people need to pay \$200 in transportation to attend UVA and/or lose a day of work to receive care.
 - b. Non for profit, non-state Health Care Facilities need to transfer Latinos to state institution due to lack of funding to care for the uninsured Latino
 - c. Access to insurance or coverage
 - i. Asylum seekers aren't eligible for Medicare
 - ii. When applying for other families, were denied several times before children were accepted
- 7. Dental Care
 - a. Not one professor speaks Spanish in the only Dental School in the state, VCU.
- 8. Fear of patients lead to withholding information
 - a. Pediatrics especially if doctors will report it and children will be taken away.
 - b. Even said "I don't know how much I need to share"
 - c. Careful with not using an accusatory tone
- 9. COVID 19 Boosters are <50% in Latino community, because people lost trust in vaccines since they were infected with COVID after being vaccinated
 - a. Need to educate others that vaccines prevent death and serious illness from virus
 - b. Consistency of reaching out to community to build trust
- 10. International degrees are transferable from Latin American countries to the U.S. leaving valuable professionals in the shadows.
 - a. Ex. Psychologist in Latin America for 5 years, but here is considered a Bachelor's not a licensed psychologist

Question #2

What are the potential solutions to these problems at the state and local level?

1. Cultural competency training for interpreters/ healthcare workers; even if the interpreter speaks Spanish or is Latino.

- a. Exposure to working with diverse communities.
 - b. Training for empathy too in healthcare workers.
 - c. Trauma-informed care training.
 - d. Teach Back Method: teach me back what I just explained to you.
2. Spanish-speaking hotline for more services to provide for Latino community.
3. Emphasize mental health services for men
 - a. There's plenty on offer for women, but not for men.
4. Educating the general public on medical issues as preventative education.
 - a. So people can fully understand basic procedures.
 - b. Important that patients have informed consent.
5. Have requirements for interpreters to be trained not only in translating, but for advocating for patients and clarifying procedures/issues.
6. More interpreters in communities.
7. Expand financial support to non-state funded institutions and private institutions. VCU Dental School (only dental school in VA)

Area of Focus: Housing

Participants: Fannie Smedile, Virginia Osterman, Mariela Cadena Hernández, Laura Brown, Alejandra Cadiz, Mariela Cadena Hernández

Question #1

What are three local priority issues that deserve attention from VLAB and local organizations?

1. Eviction order, a lot of displacement and no resources for housing or even finding housing

- a. There is no housing and no affordable housing.
- b. During the time of the pandemic, the landlords have been increasing prices taking advantage of the situation instead of helping.
- c. Undocumented people have to pay \$500 extra.
- d. They are given 2 months to say whether they want to stay or not and have to go on 1-year contracts. If they do month by month, it's too expensive
- e. To have the IT number you need to have a license, but not everyone drives
- f. If you don't have a job permission you cannot enter
- g. In some housing complexes they are asking for IT numbers for the background and asking for SS number, but if they don't have, they are not allowed to enter
 - i. Putting barriers possible so they are not allowed to enter
 - ii. They add prices to everything, especially after covid, they take advantage of their need for housing and not being able to go anywhere else
 - iii. Take no responsibility
 - iv. Riorbroad?? Trailer Park
 - v. They can't do anything; they try to contact legal aid for help. But they don't help with every situation, on certain situations

2. Lack of communication

3. Lack of representation in legal aid, that does not allow them to access this help

4. Lack of accessibility to understanding the legal terminology and their rights

5. Not complete information.

- a. They ask for help, and they say they don't have lawyer that can help
- b. No pro bono work from lawyers

6. For dislocated families with children: are the children not protected from leaving by the schools

- a. Resources to pay their hotels, and they have the right to keep attending the same school
- b. There are children that have schools really far away because of this issue

Apartments, there are complexes where they are primarily latino/as and they have to pay whatever price is set. But landlords don't fix their living situation is anything breaks or any harmful situations, no renovations or things that don't work like bathrooms.

- a. If prices increase, they have to pay no matter what even if there is no necessarily renovations
- b. They don't answer when they are called
- c. There is not a set amount that landlord can pay, no regulation of rent prices
- d. There is money for people with an SS number that helps with housing, but not for those without the SS num.

RRP, there is no more help. It finished and so no alternative.

Churches that help with living? There are some but not enough funds

Learn room, children stay there when they have nowhere else

There is limited space in shelters

- a. Need them throughout the whole year, need shelters for emergency housing

They are not given warning when a contract expires, they trap them into new contracts that do not allow them to leave when they want. Prices when they want to leave

Need more housing

- a. Limited shelter space

Need a way to regulate contracts (landlords) and increase representation in landlords and lawyers

a. Landlords have nothing holding them accountable

Lack of accessibility to resources for understanding legal contacts or for accessing housing

Question #2

What are the potential solutions to these problems at the state and local level?

1. More legal representation for these people
 - a. Organize a group of lawyers that can work pro bono that can help and have the experience.
2. Creating laws, policies, and regulations to hold landlords accountable. Holding the landlords accountable for pricing and renovations.
 - a. Need to see who the landlords are.
 - b. Landlords need more responsibility and consequences.
 - c. Landlords should not ask for SS numbers and IT numbers, abuse in undocumented people.
 - d. More regulation of rent prices, more global regulations, need regulations for contracts and warnings for tenants.
 - e. Set increments from year to year.
3. Need shelters for emergency housing.
 - a. Limiting shelter space, especially when children are out of school.
 - b. Make more houses at lower prices.
4. Have a hotline to be able to give recommendation or comments in Spanish.

Area of Focus: Business & Workforce

Participants: Dela Alexander, Leonardo (Sin Barreras), Lilian G., Luz Monroy, Gloria Rockhold, Maria V.

Notetaker: Marcelo Sanabria (UVA 2nd Year Medical Student)

Question #1

What are three local priority issues that deserve attention from VLAB and local organizations?

Notes: GDP of US Latinos is higher than many other developed economies

1. Lack of information about available federal, state, and local services (EX. SWAM/Small Minority Business Owner Program)
2. There are many advantages that exist to which the community does not have access due to lack of information.
3. When you upload an application to any government site, your business takes precedence. This priority doesn't last forever, so we need to make sure people know this.
4. SWAM: RFPs of \$10,000 and below have priority. The problem is the lack of knowledge.
5. Mentorship: A way for people to learn how to open a business
 - a. Financial Literacy/Financial Education
 - b. Legal Aid has done a good job, but again, the information is not reaching the members of the community.
 - c. We can't learn about what we don't know exists
 - d. There are many federal benefits, but people don't know what they are or how to access the information.
 - e. Ex. SCORE:
 - i. Even when the services exist, we do not know if the services are in Spanish.
6. Central Virginia Small Business Development Center.
7. How do we find those organizations being a Latino?
8. Ex. Tax Reporting is also something different.
9. Ex. Insurance/Insurance services are very difficult
10. Ex. Retirement
11. Ex. Will the ITIN (Tax Number) credit pass to the SSN when you get the SS?
12. Ex. Difficulty obtaining professional licenses
 - a. Many members of our community come from other countries and do not know the ways in which licenses are processed.
13. Ex. Vulnerability to **scams**
 - a. Many complaints from immigrant workers who have had their money stolen or not paid because they have no papers or permission to stay (Ex. Fake check payments).
14. Hiring people without documents has many complications.
 - a. How to help them get an ITIN or SSN?
 - b. How to help get international or paperless student loans; how to increase the number of Hispanics within careers with a lot of preparation expenses (Ex. Medicine, Law, etc.)
15. Is there a tradition of waiting for the person to grow up so that they can immediately start working and helping with the house? And if so, how can we make it work?

Question #2

What are the potential solutions to these problems at the state and local level?

1. Create mechanisms through which the entry of Latino youth into higher income careers can be encouraged (Ex. Medicine, Medical Assistants, Nurse, Clinical Research Coordinator, Mental Health Professionals, Teachers)
 - a. Understanding the limitations in families that need their children to help with the family's economy
2. Educate people to understand and use all mechanisms available at the state and federal level (Ex. SWAM, SCORE, Central Virginia Small Business Development Center)
3. Educate people who seek to start businesses in the state of Virginia to facilitate the understanding of concepts that may be foreign to their own cultures such as paying taxes, insurance, hiring undocumented employees, etc.

Extra:

4. Strengthen our help and support institutions and form information centers that are constantly reviewing the available resources
5. Bring together experienced members of our community who can mentor people within our community.
6. Bilingual exams for license tests, as well as financial training for license test.
7. Help, through our institutions, to avoid vulnerability to scams (Education)
8. Concrete commitment on the part of local institutions to hire a certain number of Hispanics, and do this at the same time we commit through our local organizations to prepare those future employees

Health Discussion

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Community Listening Session—6/23/22, Charlottesville, VA

What are three local priorities that deserve attention from VLAB?

Mental health issues for undocumented folx, on waitlist at hospitals. Waiting days for hospital care during psychiatric emergencies. Mental health services are hard to access (local CSBs?). Financial assistance should extend to hospitals across the state. Expansion of funding to non-state institutions to fill healthcare gaps for the Latino community.

Example from UVA Clinic: Methamphetamine addiction, clinic wanted to offer him residential placement, limited English proficiency, no available bed due to language barrier. Considered San Antonio, TX.

Example from Partners for Mental Health: Person suffered from MH condition the family did not understand. I was able to help in this instance. Insisted that someone be present with him whenever decisions were made. Schizophrenia was misunderstood. It was said he refused all services, but that wasn't true. The providers assumed he understood his treatment, but he didn't because of the language barriers. Understanding of the culture is so important. Calling hotlines for help can be impossible for Spanish speakers. No available translators.

Community Service Boards are not equipped to provide services for our community. Our clinic is outpatient, but we know that appropriate emergency services for Spanish speakers does not exist. Advocating for a Spanish phone line at the CSB has fallen on deaf ears.

Mental health services for men are rare. There's nothing currently available. Incarceration and drug addiction sometimes result from lack of possible career trajectories.

President of the Hispanic Dental Association at UVA: Interpretation is not the same thing as translation. We don't have any Hispanic faculty at UVA Dentistry. Patients often defer due to fear and don't advocate for their health needs. Negatively affect treatment outcome. Training professors to be more culturally aware.

Educating health professionals on cultural competence.

Fear from patients about sharing information—fear about removal from home

Need for translation phone discourages providers from taking the time to do the translation work

Speakers to Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing about need for continuing education credits in working with diverse populations

Insurance access—children's medical care, asylum seekers were initially told they aren't eligible for services even though they are in fact eligible

Campaign about the importance of understanding procedures in Spanish

- Emergency, kids, youth, adults, mental health access in Spanish
- Funds to professionally train health promoters to serve the community

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Community Listening Session
Thursday, June 23, 2022
Charlottesville, VA**

VLAB Members in Attendance

Lyons Sanchezconcha (Chair), Joshua DeSilva (Vice Chair), Max Luna, Gloria Rockhold

The event began at 6pm with a welcome from VLAB Member Max Luna. He explained that this event will be entirely in Spanish with English translation available simultaneously via headset.

Max Luna introduced Chair Sanchezconcha and thanked the church for hosting the event. Max explained the format for the event, including table discussions about each community topic (health, civic engagement, business, health, education).

Chair Sanchezconcha explained the Commonwealth Advisory Boards and the process each Board goes through to draft recommendations. He noted that this is a point of transition for VLAB with the change of administration. He noted that eight current VLAB members will be departing after this month. He noted the growth of the Latino community and the need to highlight community priorities with leaders in Richmond. Additionally, he mentioned the Board's role in advocating for translation needs for state programs.

Each of the tables summarized their discussions:

Education

Programs for Spanish primary learners exist but they are not well advertised or attended.

Business

We need Spanish language license applications for every type of industry. Also want to bring attention to Latinos being victims of fraud

Social Justice and Community Engagement

We don't have new recommendations but want to reinforce three existing ones. VLAB should push a little bit to create change. Position in the Governor's office that covers the Latino community. It needs to be permanently funded.

Housing

We talked about the fact that we don't have accessible, affordable housing for the whole community. We highlighted the importance of finding a program that can find accessible housing.

Health

Mental health is a humongous problem. Programs exist to address mental health but they almost always lack Spanish language interpretation options. Training for health professionals on cultural competence is seriously lacking. Patients aren't getting to provide informed consent because of language barriers. We need more resources for mental health for men.

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Listening Session

Agenda



Setting:

Thursday, August 25th, 2022
6:00pm-8:00pm
At: **Casa Latina**
3110 Pioneer Rd. NW
Roanoke, VA 24012

Set-Up:

Arrive at 5/5:30pm
A. put up signage
B. arrange tables
C. sign in sheet
D. QR code to our 2021 report

Agenda:

-Incorporated time to mingle, snack, & delay start for late arrivals-

- I. Welcome and Introductions—Lyons Sanchezconcha, Chair, VLAB
 - A. Thank you: Latinas Network & Casa Latina (open remarks)
 - B. Board member intros (VLAB Member can moderate)
 1. Reminder to Sign In
 2. Comment on interpretation and accommodating it
- II. VLAB Overview—Board Member
 - A. Discuss Annual Report, mission, vision, and general applicable information
 - B. Highlighting key successes from previous years' reports
 - C. Committees & current committee work (for those present)
- III. Discussion
 - A. Community member intros or invite intros prior to sharing a question
 - B. What are the community's priorities **for the coming year?**
 - C. Challenges/Issues & Opportunities/Solutions
 1. Low-hanging fruit, how can VLAB assist.
 - D. Suggestions for how VLAB can better engage the community
 1. Support your work/partner with VLAB
 - E. Perhaps divide priorities by committees
 - F. What questions do you have for us?
- IV. Closing
 - A. All VLAB Meetings and work open to the public, stay involved
 - B. Reminder of QR Codes for latest annual report and boards & commissions app.
 - C. Follow us on Facebook: Virginia Latino Advisory Board
 1. Next Meeting tomorrow 12-5pm (1pm for public) in Blacksburg
 2. Oct 7th - Richmond, VA (Listening Session night before)



VIRGINIA LATINO ADVISORY BOARD

2021-2022 Annual Report

APPENDIX C

Housing Appendices

August 2022

Good Afternoon everyone. Thank you to my friend and former classmate Alex Guzman for the invitation to speak with you all today. I am a licensed clinical social worker finishing my tenth year working in Public Schools in Virginia. I am currently working at Buford Middle School here in Charlottesville, but spent the past 7 years working in Chesterfield County Public Schools. I speak decent Spanish, which gives me the privilege and responsibility to provide support that is not always available in schools.

I am not here today because of who I am. I am here today because of who I serve. These issues are not theoretical.

About a month ago, I went to speak with one of my students, I will call her G to respect her confidentiality. G is a student from Honduras who is a fiercely loyal friend, who is in her second year of learning English, who loves science class and fresh tennis shoes, and who is currently without permanent residence.

G had the courage to come forward to me earlier this year about an adult boyfriend of an additional house tenant making inappropriate sexual advances towards her. With support from her mother, G made a police report and the extra roommate chose to vacate the property. Since her mother cares for two younger siblings, does not have a social security number, and did not have access to education herself growing up, securing a stable source of income is very difficult for her. Without the additional roommate, they were unable to pay rent. Even in the face of possible eviction, G's mother was unwilling to further compromise her daughter's safety by seeking an additional roommate.

When I went to check in with G at school, she was absent. She had been absent for the past three days which was atypical for her as she generally enjoys coming to school. G's mother answered my call right away and let me know that they were currently staying with friends outside of city limits and G was unable to get to school. We made a plan for me to come by where they were staying, provide some community resources, and take G to school the next day. It was her graduation ceremony, and she deserved to be there alongside her peers. I was able to transport her again on her last day of school. Her mother welcomed me into a small two bedroom apartment which she was currently sharing with a single mother friend, and her two children. They were making it work as best they could, but I could certainly understand how excited G was to be out of the house and go to school for the day.

The last day of school is a difficult transition for many students for whom school is a safe space where they connect with friends, are treated kindly by adults, get a hot meal, and even learn a little something along the way. G was opening up to me about how hard it is to say goodbye, not knowing if or when she will see her friends again. She is hoping that her mother finds stable housing within the city so she can attend high school with her friends next year.

G meets the school system's definition of homelessness, and has protections under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Title IX, Part A of the *Every Student*

Succeeds Act defines homelessness as living in the following places due to a lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- In an emergency or transitional shelter
- In a motel, hotel, or campground due to lack of an adequate alternative
- In a car, park, public place, bus or train station, or abandoned building
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- In the above conditions and is a migratory child or youth

For more information and statewide statistics on students who fall under the educational definition of homelessness, please see Project HOPE which is housed at the school of education at the college of William and Mary.

During School Year (SY) 2019-20, public schools identified 1,280,886 students who experienced homelessness. This represents 2.5% of all students enrolled in public schools (NCES, 2021)

From my experience, I believe that this is a significant under-estimation of the students and families who are struggling with homelessness. For example in the case of G, if there hadn't been timely outreach by a school staff member who had already established trust with student and family, we would not have been aware of their circumstance. I would be remiss to mention that adequate funding for school mental health professionals and community engagement staff is important. One of the reasons I left Chesterfield Schools in order to work with Charlottesville City Schools is that in Chesterfield, the majority of social workers served three schools but here in Charlottesville I am able to be at just one school full time. Schools are a place where ALL people under 18 are required to be, by law, so investing in school resources is a strong option to earlier identification of students experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and the provision of supportive services to mitigate the impact of the associated trauma.

Many families also do not realize that even if their temporary residence is in another district, we can accommodate for their students to continue attending their current school for the remainder of the year. So, understandably, if they think they may be "kicked out" for living out of district or stigmatized for what their family is going through, that information will be kept private.

Hispanic and Latino students accounted for 28% of the overall student body but 38% of students experiencing homelessness; Black and African American students accounted for 15% of the overall student body but 27% of students experiencing homelessness (NCES, 2021).

The disproportionate effects of homelessness on students of color rings true with my experience in Virginia schools as well. It is one of the biggest factors associated with chronic absenteeism, or missing a significant amount of school. Missing a significant amount of school is the strongest predictor that a student will drop out of school. Dropping out correlates with poorer health

outcomes, financial outcomes, and a greater likelihood of being involved with the criminal justice system. So, all of that to say, housing instability is a leading equity issue and improvement in this area could lead to an interruption of intergenerational poverty.

When I think about the psychological impact of housing instability I think of D.

I worked with D for about a year and a half and during that time he was living with two parents in a small motel off Jefferson Davis Highway in RVA.

D's parents were not well. One had a variety of chronic health conditions and one was struggling with an addiction that eventually took his life. D often stayed home from school to care for his parents. He ate peanut butter and ramen noodles on a daily basis. He did not feel safe playing outside, nor did he want anyone to know where he was staying due to shame. Although there was a bus available to take him to school, he struggled to find the motivation to come. In this case, parents were pursuing donations from churches and community organizations because they did not want any additional layers of accountability, or folks related to government agencies or programs, to intervene in any way. Due to his lack of regular school attendance, the courts became involved and there was a high degree of resentment about mandated services. For the reason that Child Protective Services involvement and court involvement can be complicated; it is best to offer supportive services as early as possible when families are at risk.

I sat outside on the curb outside with him once to complete a suicide threat assessment. D certainly met the criteria to be diagnosed with clinical depression, which is a natural response to the environment he had been living in for the past year and a half.

You may be familiar with research on Adverse Childhood Experiences, sometimes referred to ACEs. There are 10 family level ACEs which include abuse (emotional, physical, and sexual), neglect, household domestic violence, household mental illness, household substance abuse, parental separation or divorce, and having a family member incarcerated. Kids with high ACE scores are more likely to experience anxiety and depression as children, developmental delays, including negative cognitive and socioemotional health issues, academic challenges, behavioral health issues, and specialized health needs. ACEs also increase the likelihood of high school non-completion, not having a college degree, being unemployed as an adult, living below the poverty line, and experiencing homelessness.

The vast majority of students I've worked with who are without permanent housing would also have a high "ACE" score. I learned, in preparing for this conversation, that is consistent with research. There is a growing body of research to support the identification of "community ACEs" to include having experienced economic hardship, community violence, bullying, foster care, and discrimination. In other words there is a strong correlation with housing instability and both family level and community level adverse childhood experiences.

You can see that the cases of G and D are very different in what factors contributed to housing instability, and thus, would require different supports. I will share, and this is just my personal experience, that the majority of Latinx families I have worked with experience more structural

and systemic barriers as compared to other families. I am also thinking of a parent, let's call her M, who recently arrived to the US from Colombia where she was a school teacher, right before the school closures due to the pandemic. She was tremendously resourceful although she did not yet speak fluent English, pursued every resource recommendation offered to the full extent. Her own composure mitigated a great amount of the stress her kindergarten son would have otherwise likely experienced, and she did everything right, but it still took about 6 months to find marginally adequate housing.

I stand in support of all of VLAB's recommendations in the brief provided to me by Ms. Watkins. This is a complicated and nuanced social justice challenge which will require interdisciplinary collaboration. I am in no way an expert in policy development and as such I sincerely appreciate your willingness to seek my direct clinical experience and utilize it to support your advocacy work!

I am now happy to take any questions or elaborate on any points of interest to the best of my ability!



Responses to Virginia Latino Advisory Board on the effects of housing instability in the Hispanic population

1) What are the most frequent circumstances that lead households with children into housing stability? (Ex. mental illness, poor financial management, unexpected loss or reduction of income, unexpected increase in utilities charges, unexpected medical bills, unexpected increases in rent, loss of family member, intrafamily violence, non-renewal or termination of leases for failure to pay or misconduct, etc.)

Unexpected loss of income

Unexpected bills/costs (medical, transportation, etc)

Domestic Violence (financial, verbal, physical, stalking)/child abuse/intrafamily violence

Loss of family member; loss of family support

Inability to keep up with high housing costs due to low wages

Lack of stable income or ability to find livable wage, some due to undocumented immigration status

Maintaining balance of supporting children with disabilities/adult children with disabilities and housing

Overcrowding

Moving from outside this area, but the support they had here fell through

No formal lease/verbal agreement on housing arrangement due to documentation and eventually asked to leave

Sometimes families leave units because they don't know the laws about formal evictions and their rights to remain or the court processes they are allowed to go through

2) What are the most effective tools to help those experiencing housing stability to prevent homelessness? (ex. renegotiation of leases, grants for rent/utilities payment, employment referrals, moveout agreements and the location of new accommodations, family counseling, etc.)

Affordable Housing / Housing subsidies (of which there is not enough to meet the need)

Rapid re-housing – housing location assistance, financial assistance, case management

For families with chronic barriers to housing stability, permanent supportive housing

Flexible funding – which helps us to creatively spend on needs aside from rental assistance and utility assistance

Thoughtful & intentional case management for our clients

Low barrier approach: working with clients even if they have mental health, substance abuse, or other ongoing issues that may normally get them in trouble with their landlords; educating clients when a problem arises and learning to work with it rather than making clients feel ashamed or take punitive action. Example: if a client smokes marijuana in a unit, help clients to understand that smoking may not be allowed in your unit even if marijuana is legal in the state. Educating them on smoking outside the unit and where they won't be violating the terms of the lease.

3) What percentage of Shelter House's clients are households with children? What percentage are members of a minority group? To the extent you know, how does this compare or contrast to other organizations in the area?

In Fairfax County, the Point in Time count indicates that 77% of the homeless population identify as Hispanic-Latino. This does not distinguish between households with children or individuals without children

Link to data: [Point In Time Count Fairfax County](#)

At Shelter House:

Percentage of households with children served: 40%

Percentage of households with children identifying as minorities: 85%

Percentage of households with children identifying as Hispanic: 43%

4) What services do households with children generally receive at Shelter House? (ex. financial management classes, parenting classes, employment referrals, psychological therapy, play therapy, after school programs, etc.)

At Shelter House, we provide case management focused on setting goals towards housing stability, budgeting, and employment. We provide financial assistance mainly towards rent and utilities. Sometimes when funding allows, we can also provide financial assistance for educational and employment needs such as courses and certifications

For other needs, referrals are made to other resources and organizations; these are not provided directly through Shelter House

- parenting classes
- financial management classes
- therapy (for adults and children for anxiety, depression, severe mental illnesses)
- childcare

- employment and education services

5) What effects upon children does housing instability have that worry you most as a social worker? How likely are these effects to be long lasting?

Generational homelessness – this is something we do see

Housing instability can also impact a child's ability to protective factors- support network, school performance, involvement in community activities, etc.

The impact of trauma for children is really different for every child; there is no one predetermined outcome– it certainly has an impact, but the “outcome” is really dependent on protective factors and intervention

Bullying in school-aged kids because other kids might know they are in shelter

Short-term & long-term mental health, trauma, I.e. anxiety going to school

Educational effects: Data from Homeless Liaison's office – every time a child has to change schools, they lose about 3-4 months of schooling

Long-term effects on their development: self-esteem, self-confidence, willingness to access educational assistance in future

Regression in behavior from entering shelter: I.e. bedwetting, less engagement in social activities because they know they are in “shelter”

Pressure on the children to feel like they need to contribute: do their school work, while helping the family; wanting to help their parents with income

6) Which organizations does Shelter House usually partner with to provide services to children suffering from the trauma of housing instability?

- FCPS (tutoring, supportive services from the schools)
- Volunteers to provide activities
- Nonprofits
- CORE Foundation, athletic activities i.e. mini 5K and swimming activities
- National Charity League
- Young Men's Service League: mini-summer camps, Family Fun Night
- Taffy Presents: Theatres and games
- Cakes for Kids: to celebrate birthdays
- CSB for mental health and behavioral health
- Alice's Kids: to help pay for things like prom tickets and outfits, summer camps, instruments
- HomeAid: Night at ballpark, Disney on Ice

- Backpacks for kids for back to school
- Shop with the Sheriff to get back to school supplies and clothes
- Touch Heart Foundation: to do grocery and gift shopping

7) How do you believe our counties and the Commonwealth can better support children suffering this trauma?

Support an increase in affordable housing and housing subsidies

Increase funding for supportive services for households experiencing homelessness

Increase access to free mental health resources for children and adults

Creative way to kids involved in extracurricular or find more accessible ways to let them be involved (transportation issues, costs of extracurricular)

Structuring shelters to make the transition to their own housing more seamless; Making shelters feel more inviting, kid-friendly, posters to help empower and boost self-esteem, providing access to services in shelter

More access to summer activities for children, not enough slots for the families who need it

Childcare for the parents

8) What policy changes do you believe would most likely lessen the pervasiveness of housing instability in Virginia?

Increased funding for affordable housing and housing subsidies (vouchers in particular)

Change to HUD PSH requirements regarding chronic homelessness (some families in need don't meet the length of homelessness requirement. PSH also requires documentation of a disability, which highlights equity/access issues)

There are also some zoning barriers to affordable housing – number of units that can be put in a lot. This limits the ability to build affordable housing.

Restrictions on funding that we have to use in our own continuum; Many funding streams force us to only use the funding in county with limited assistance outside of the county; due to housing costs, sometimes it is more affordable for families to look for housing outside of the county

9) What roles does housing affordability (or the lack thereof) play in the housing instability of your clients?

Housing affordability is the biggest barrier to housing instability for our clients.

10) What percentage, if any, of your clients has received housing subsidies prior to requiring your services?

We don't currently track this- also hard to track because of movement between continuums

Generally when this happens, the household is in need of a higher level of service (like PSH) or is unable to maintain housing due to low wages and the high cost of housing

11) Are there any state funded, emergency housing subsidies targeted to households with children facing homelessness? If not, would such a program benefit your clients? What challenges would such a program likely encounter? In your experience, would state level or county level administration be most effective or responsive in overseeing such a program?

Lots of emergency housing subsidies at state level currently due to COVID, none that are specific to families with children. Not sure emergency subsidies specific to households with children would be helpful because it limits our flexibility to use funds across programs, but flexible funding to dismantle barriers to housing for homeless families would be helpful (childcare, mental health for children/parents, legal services for immigration).

FUP vouchers – targeted for families working with CPS and PPS. Downside is it doesn't come with case management support, Family Pass available for families with vouchers,

State vs. County – not a huge difference determined by who administers, the main issue tends to be the restrictions on the funding. To that end, the County tends to be more aware of local trends and needs- but they can only allow what the funding restrictions allow for.



VIRGINIA LATINO ADVISORY BOARD

2021-2022 Annual Report

APPENDIX D

VLAB Statements

August 2022

January 15th, 2022



The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Esteemed Governor Youngkin,

First, please accept the most sincere and hearty congratulations on behalf of the entire Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB) for your triumphant election as the 74th Governor of Virginia. As Commonwealth residents and Board members, we are honored to advise you and your administration on issues of concern affecting the health, economic, professional, cultural, and educational prosperity of the Latino/x community of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Latino/x folks make up a large and growing portion of our schools and labor market, driving our economy and shaping our future. Recent census data shows that, between 2010 and 2020, all but three Virginia jurisdictions experienced an increase in the Latino and Hispanic population. In six of these, the Latino population more than doubled. It is clear then that Latino needs and achievements are Virginian needs and achievements.

The nature of our Board membership is strategically poised to play a salient role in aiding your administration address these needs and celebrate these achievements through our statutory comment and advise authorities. Our membership includes parents, teachers, school administrators, and education policy analysts; physicians, nurses, mental health practitioners, and public health consultants; civil and criminal practice attorneys; small business owners and corporate executives; and professional experts in national security and intelligence, financial development, and immigration policy. It boasts of ample experience working with and for local, national, and international institutions as well as non-profit organizations and Fortune 10/200 multinational corporations. Your decision to trust us as the voice of our communities will be well founded and celebrated.

At the last Board meeting, we presented our 2021 annual [report](#) outlining the concerns and state of affairs of the Latino community. Several of our recommendations require your swift administrative action during the year ahead. As you review them, you should consider that

- Their implementation may require both policy-driven legislative action by the General Assembly and meaningful budgetary allocations from the executive branch.
- Their meaningful enforcement presupposes the continued embrace of Virginians of Latino/x or Hispanic descent into the folds of our Commonwealth's state boards and commissions as well as into the employment within your administration as classified and appointed staff.

Lastly, please consider that we meet six times a year and depend on administrative support from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's staff—especially from the Director of Latino Outreach, an office that we hope you will retain, staff, and fund. Every single year for the past 10 years, the sitting Governor joins our first meeting of the year. We cordially invite you to join our first meeting of 2022 which will be arranged with Secretary Jame's Office. The Board is eager to work with you to ensure that your administration will be renowned for its success among Virginians of Latino/x or Hispanic descent.

Respectfully,

Lyons Sanchezconcha
Virginia Latino Advisory Board Chair

Paul Berry
Outgoing Chair 2020-2022

March 11th, 2022



Governor Youngkin & Budget Conferees,

On behalf of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB), I am writing to ask for you to support a budget bill that funds improved language services across state agencies, one of the priorities outlined in our recent report¹.

With historic new revenues that lawmakers have available to use in the upcoming biennium, we have an opportunity to make significant progress on an issue that impacts many across Virginia: language access. For context, it has been widely reported that there were significant issues with information from the state government not being made accessible to people across Virginia. In one case, Google Translate was used by the Virginia Department of Health to say that the COVID-19 vaccine was *not necessary*, when they meant to say it was *not required*.² The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, [in a report published last year](#), breaks down who is impacted by the current lack of comprehensive and timely language access services in Virginia. About 212,000 people, according to census data, report that they do not speak English well or speak no English). Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean are among the top languages spoken for Virginia residents who speak little or no English.³

The current patchwork of language access policies is a significant barrier to our friends and neighbors who need information translated for them in order to get accurate information, access public benefits, vote, and so much more.

Many lawmakers in the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate agree, and both have provided some funding in their proposed budgets to improve language access. The Senate funds \$11.9 million in their proposed budget for improved language access, while the House cut funding from the introduced budget to a reduced \$6.1 million.⁴ VLAB strongly supports the full funding of \$11.9 million included in the introduced budget and asks that you work with budget conferees to ensure this level of funding is included in the conference report.

We stand ready to answer any questions on this or any other priorities relating to Virginia's fast-growing Latino community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lyons Sanchezconcha
Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board

¹ <https://www.vlab.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/vlab/documents/reports/2021-VLAB-Annual-Report.pdf>

² https://richmond.com/news/local/virginia-uses-google-translate-for-covid-vaccine-information-heres-how-that-magnifies-language-barriers-misinformation/article_715cb81a-d880-5c98-aac5-6b30b378bbd3.html

³ <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/the-half-sheet/virginia-needs-language-access/>

⁴ <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Key-Budget-Policy-Choices-2022-committees.pdf>



July 14, 2022

Robert Mosier
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Secretary Mosier:

Thank you for leading the important work the Secretariat of Public Safety and the Department of Criminal Justice Services do on behalf of the Commonwealth to maintain high quality policing standards throughout Virginia. The Virginia Latino Advisory Board would like to partner with you and Director Miller at VDCJS to address criminal justice issues facing our community.

I am writing to learn more about and hopefully join a taskforce created recently to address the uptick in violent crime in some of Virginia's major cities, including in the Hampton Roads region. As gubernatorial appointees charged with representing a diverse population that is growing across the state, the Members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB) are interested in contributing our perspective about the effects of violent crime on our community by having one of our members join the taskforce. We would like to advocate that an appropriate balance be struck between utilizing all available resources to address the increase in crime while also ensuring that the rights of Virginians of color are not compromised in the process. Additionally, VLAB has an important voice to contribute about the effects of language barriers on those who encounter the criminal justice system.

Separate from the task force, VLAB would like to invite you or your designee to attend our next Board meeting, which is scheduled for August in Blacksburg, VA on the campus of Virginia Tech. A presentation for the full Board on the Department's outreach to Latinx Virginians would be helpful as we work on crafting our 2022 Annual Report for Governor Youngkin.

Collegially,

Joshua C. DeSilva, Psy.D.
Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board
jdesilva.vlab@gmail.com
202-670-1605



July 11, 2022

Jamie Hoyle, Executive Director
Virginia Boards of Psychology, Social Work, and Counseling
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

Dear Director Hoyle:

Thank you for leading the important work you do to ensure that Virginia has a robust regulatory environment for mental health services.

I am writing to follow up on a 2021 Annual Report recommendation that the Virginia Latino Advisory Board submitted to the Office of the Governor. The Board recommended that the Boards of Psychology, Social Work, and Counseling consider adding regulations to require that licensed providers in each profession complete continuing education credits in working with diverse populations annually in order to renew their licenses. This would be in addition to the required ethics credits that the Boards currently require by regulation.

It would be very helpful to work with you to identify appropriate next steps to advocate that the Boards consider making this regulatory change. Would it be possible to attend the regulatory meeting of the Board of Psychology on September 26 at 1pm, for example?

Collegially,

Joshua C. DeSilva, Psy.D.
Vice Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board
jdesilva.vlab@gmail.com
202-670-1605