



Regular Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Present: Co-Chair Karin Lin and, Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Tsamchoe Dolma, Ashebir Gezmu, Jen Sparks, Aleksandra Ibrahim, and CIRC Staff: Executive Director Nancy Schlacter, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

Absent:

Co-Chair Karim Razzaz and Commissioners Ana Mejia, Elizabeth Badger, Subandha Karmacharya

1. Call to order:

Co-Chair Lin called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

2. Public comment

No public present at the start of the virtual meeting. There was no public comment.

3. Review and approval of September 2020 minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the September 24, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Sparks moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Dolma seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. New Business

ED Schlacter announced that Commissioner Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo resigned and CIRC staff will be reaching out to the Chairs about setting up interviews with the applicants.

5. Executive Director's (ED) report

Since the last meeting, CIRC and De Novo have served a total of 39 clients. There were 20 callers to the October virtual clinic and 19 callers to the November clinic. ED Schlacter is awaiting word from the Law Department regarding the new clinic agreement for 2021. The new agreement needs to be in place before the January clinic.

Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto Report

Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto provided a summary of her efforts during the COVID-19 shutdown. ISL Wabeto helped Cambridge Public School parents with EBT card activation through the phone. ISL Wabeto sent texts to Ethiopian and Eritrean families to join a virtual family discussion group session hosted by CET. People talked, connected and shared challenges about virtual learning and other pandemic stresses. It was a good opportunity for parents and guardians to connect with each other. Most of the challenges are similar, kids getting distracted with other things since they do not turn on the camera and the teachers cannot see them. It seems to be worse for middle schoolers who have phones. ISL Wabeto helped CPS families with the transition from virtual to in-person learning. This is for SEI, IEP of all grade students and JK- 3rd grade students. ISL Wabeto attended a CET outreach workers meeting, shared challenges, ideas and resources. ISL Wabeto attended a workshop on how to motivate students in virtual learning to help with focusing on appreciation rather than scoring A's and B's. ISL Wabeto shared immigration, college, public charge rule, housing, JVC's free job trainings, and other resource information with the outreach workers, families, schools, community members, and non-profit organizations. ISL Wabeto participated in CDD's CET leader hiring process by attending three presentations and commented to represent immigrant communities. ISL Wabeto helped families with pre-school lottery registration, JK/KG open house and B-3 application. This provides 80% scholarship for low income families and single parents to send their children to private preschools.

6. Ongoing Business

Strategic plan for 2020-2021

This topic was put on hold for the next meeting since the Chair was due at another meeting and the Commission would no longer have quorum with the Chair leaving the meeting.

Commissioner Macedo moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Gezmu.

The next commission meeting will be on Thursday, January 28, 2020, at 6 pm via a Virtual Zoom meeting.