



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN  
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting  
Grand Valley State University Detroit Center  
163 Madison St. Detroit, MI 48226  
August 13, 2022, 1:00PM-3:00PM  
Meeting Minutes No. 342**

**Commissioners Present**

Dr. Jesse M Bernal, Chair	Celeste Sanchez Lloyd	
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair	Anthony Rubio	
Esperanza Cantu	Abril Valdes Siewert	
Jesus Hernandez	Monteze Morales	

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez (Executive Director)  
Francisca Garcia (Administrative Assistant)

**Start Audio Recording: 1:10 PM**

**1) Call to Order:**

Chair Dr. Jesse Bernal calls the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

**3) Roll Call:**

Commissioners Dr. Jesse Bernal, Sonya Hernandez, Anthony Rubio Esperanza Cantu, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd, Jesus Hernandez, Monteze Morales, and Abril Valdes Siewert were present. Commissioner Cantu left the meeting at 2:30pm.

**4) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:**

Commissioners Monica Reyes, Floren시오 Hernandez, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Angelita Valdez, Jose Sanchez and Aurora Saucedo were not present.

**5) Approval of Agenda:**

Meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert moved to approve the meeting agenda, with support from Commissioner Lloyd. The motion was passed.**

**6) Old Business:**

- a) Bylaws update from Commissioner Siewert. The edited version of the Bylaws will be sent to all the Commissioners by the Chair prior to the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for review. The Bylaws will be voted on at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**7) New Business:**

- a) Chair Bernal shared budget updates.
- b) Chair Bernal updated the Commissioners on the tentative agenda and structure for the September 16<sup>th</sup> retreat and meeting.
- c) Request for approval of a \$2,500 stipend for a facilitator for the retreat on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert moved to approve a \$2,500 budget to pay for a facilitator. The motion was supported by Commissioner Cantu. The motion was passed.**

Dr. Jesse M. Bernal, Chair  
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair  
Monica Reyes, Secretary  
Floren시오 Hernandez, Treasurer  
Anthony Rubio

Esperanza Cantu  
Consuela Barber-Lopez  
Abril Valdes Siewert  
Jesus M Hernandez  
Jose Sanchez, III

Celeste Sanchez Lloyd  
Monteze Morales  
Angelita Valdez  
Aurora Saucedo

d) Chair Bernal requested the Commission to approve 12 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each that would be awarded at the Hispanic Heritage Month event. The awardees would be voted on at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert moved to approve up to \$12,000 to award 12 \$1,000 scholarships. The motion was supported and seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. The motion was passed.**

e) The E.D. presented the venue and catering options for the Hispanic Heritage Month event. Discussion was had regarding the options presented and the cost. Commissioners Siewert and Lloyd expressed concerns about the cost and the limited options versus the amount of scholarships being given away. Commissioner Morales explained that there are concerns within the Latino community in Kalamazoo about WMU, Advia has been inclusive and supportive. Commissioner Morales will be following up with E.D. and Administrative Assistant with an updated quote from Nana's Café and a rental agreement from Advia.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert moved to allow Chair Bernal and the E.D. to have the autonomy to spend the donations budget as they see fit for the Hispanic Heritage Month event. The motion was supported and seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. The motion was passed.**

f) The E.D. presented the Drive Michigan Forward compact. Commissioners who did attend the presentation with the Drive Michigan Forward team had positive feedback and were in favor of signing onto the compact.

**MOTION: Commissioner Jesus Hernandez moved to have the Commission sign on to the Drive Michigan Forward compact. The motion was supported and seconded by Commissioner Cantu. The motion was passed.**

g) E.D. informed the Commissioners that there has been another grant opportunity in Ingham County presented to the Commission. It is a Diversity Equity Council. The Council will develop an RFP to reduce COVID disparities. The partner organizations would work together to design the RFP and to select the participants who will be granted the funds to carry out the work of reducing COVID disparities in Ingham County. Compensation to the Commission for working on the Council is around \$11,000. The workload for the E.D. will be somewhat heavy at the start of the project due to creating the RFP, designing what the program will look like, reviewing applications, meetings, etc. The E.D. is requesting a vote from the Commission to decide if they would like to participate in this grant opportunity given its time commitment and that it is limited to Ingham County.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cantu moved to allow the E.D. to attend the first meeting of the Diversity Equity Council and to assess the workload; pending E.D. assessment and what is discussed at the strategic planning session in September, E.D. will then decide what will be best for the Commission. The motion was supported and seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. The motion was passed.**

h) Chair Bernal put forth a request for a vote to fill Commissioner Bocanegra's vacancy as Secretary by Commissioner Reyes. Commissioner Reyes has communicated her acceptance of the nomination to the Chair.

**MOTION: Commissioner Jesus Hernandez motioned to elect Commissioner Reyes as Secretary with support from Commissioner Siewert. The motion was passed.**

i) E.D. requested from Commission permission to appoint an intern. The budget line item will not be decided and voted on until the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, but the intern would need to be appointed prior to that date.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert motioned to allow E.D. to appoint an intern prior to the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was supported and seconded by Commissioner Jesus Hernandez. The motion was passed.**

#### **6) Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2022:**

Minutes from the April 22, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**MOTION: Commissioner Siewert moved to approve the April meeting minutes. The motion was supported by Commissioner Lloyd. The motion was passed.**

**7) Executive Report:**

**a) Chair Dr. Jesse Bernal**

- a) Dr. Bernal reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting and retreat in Grand Rapids on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He will be working with the E.D. on drafting an agenda in the coming weeks and sharing that with the Commissioners.
- b) The Chair will be reporting on the evaluation of the E.D. at the September meeting. He will be reaching out to 2 Commissioners to conduct the evaluation with him. A completed evaluation along with a proposed salary increase will be shared with the Commission in September.

**8) Executive Director Report:**

**a) Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez**

- a) 2 focus groups for the REDI Grant have been conducted. One in Spanish, one in English. Additional focus groups will need to be conducted to meet the participant requirement.
- b) The census project in collaboration with LLEAD is complete. An electronic copy will soon be shared with the Commissioners. Mareclo Siles and Al Flores will be attending the September meeting to present on that project.
- c) The Statewide directory will be posted to the website soon.
- d) The Commission participated in the Michigan Nonprofit Association survey for nonprofit leadership. The survey was disseminated to nonprofits across the state. The E.D. will be reporting more on those survey results at the September meeting.
- e) The Commissioner Handbook has been posted to the HLCOM website.
- f) The top 3 sponsors for the HHM event are Grand Valley State University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Ford. Each have donated \$5,000.
- g) The E.D. participated in the selection of the recipients for the IME Becas program with the Mexican Consulate. There was an approximate \$20,000 that was divided among 4 different institutions.
- h) 2 meetings with MSHDA were held with the participation of several Commissioners. MSHDA is hoping to develop three programs with the feedback they received from the meetings. In addition, MSHDA also sent out a survey for all Commissioners to complete even if they did not attend the meetings to have input.
- i) Michigan Latino Legislative Day will be taking place on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Michigan State Capitol. The office staff has been meeting with representatives and their staff to organize the event. The Commission will have a slotted time to speak with constituents about the Commission as well as the priorities of the Commission. Commissioner Jesus Hernandez requested that the list of State Representatives and Senators and their availability be emailed to all of the Commissioners.
- j) Office staff attended the OMA workshop with Dana Nessel in Grand Rapids.
- k) E.D. sent an email to all Commissioners requesting their input for the State EIO's and their HHM event planning.
- l) Office staff and the Chair met with representatives from the State library to discuss potential collaborations to honor the stories of our older Latinos and Veterans across the state. E.D. is working with some people who marched with Cesar Chavez in Michigan.
- m) E.D. will be meeting with Ana Ramos and Dr. Irving Vega from the Alzheimer's Association. Meeting invitation will be extended to all Commissioners if they would like to participate.

**8) Committee Reports:**

- a) No committee reports.**

**9) Public Comment:**

Administrative Assistant, Francisca Garcia recited the Public Comment Protocol: Today's meeting is being recorded. All speakers must identify themselves by name and organization before speaking.

The Commission will only be accepting verbal public comments during public comment portion of the agenda. They will follow-up with responses to question or concerns via email or a phone call within 2-3 business days. I will call on speakers in the order in which they are signed in. The public comment timeframe for speaking is 3 minutes. The timekeeper will verbally remind each speaker when 1 minute remains.

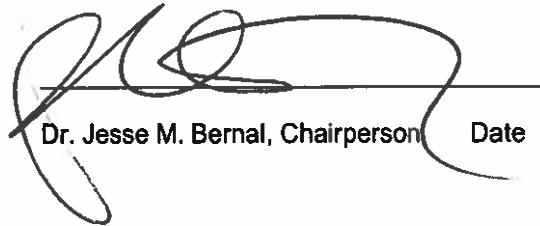
**a) Shannon Dulin, Comcast**

- a) Maria Holmes who has been in the role of Comcast philanthropic efforts will be retiring. Shannon will be moving into a new role and adding that to her responsibilities. She wanted to take the time to introduce herself to the Commission.
- b) Comcast has worked with a number of other Latinx organizations across the state.

**10) Adjournment:**

**MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Jesus Hernandez and supported by Commissioner Lloyd. Motion was passed and the meeting is adjourned at 2:41pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dr. Jesse M. Bernal, Chairperson      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Reyes, Secretary      Date 9/16/22