



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Online Meeting
Microsoft Teams
January 22, 2021
Meeting Minutes No. 333**

Commissioners Present

Monica B. Reyes, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice-Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Trustee
Consuela Barber-Lopez

Floren시오 Hernandez
Jessica Cruz
Jeremiah Hernandez
Juan Marinez

Jesus Hernandez
Anthony Rubio
Jose Sanchez III

Staff Present:

Felipe Lopez-Sustaita (Executive Director)
Daniel Carreon-Camberos (Program Coordinator)
Fayrouz Saad (OGM Executive Director)

Start Audio Recording:

1) **Call to Order:**

Chair Monica B. Reyes calls the meeting to order at 12:12 PM.

Introduction: Chair Reyes calls the meeting to order.

2) **Roll Call:**

Commissioners Monica B. Reyes, Sonya Hernandez, Juanita Bocanegra, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Juan Marinez, Floren시오 Hernandez, Jessica Cruz, Jeremiah Hernandez, Jesus Hernandez, Jose Sanchez III, and Anthony Rubio were present.

3) **Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:**

Commissioner Esperanza Cantu, Abril Valdez Siewert, and Jesse M. Bernal were unable to join the meeting today. Commissioners Jose Sanchez III, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd, and Jesus Hernandez are new commissioners who are still working on paperwork, new commissioners cannot vote this meeting.

- a) Executive committee report: Commissioner Monica Reyes states that she does not have a report, except that the committee will be having meetings the first Monday of every month. The COVID-19 task force was also created at the end of the last year.
- b) Introduction of new commissioner: Commissioner Jesus Hernandez and Jose Sanchez III introduce themselves. Chair, Monica Reyes, would like to get the new commissioners on the committees that they are interested in.

4) **Approval of Agenda:**

Reading of the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved to approve the meeting agenda, with support from Commissioner Anthony Rubio. Motion was passed.

5) **Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2020:**

Minutes from the December 11 online meeting were approved with prior review from Commissioners.

Monica B. Reyes, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary
Esperanza Cantu, Trustee
Abril Valdes Siewert

Anthony Rubio
Celeste Sanchez Lloyd
Consuela Barber-Lopez
Floren시오 Hernandez
Jesse M. Bernal

Jessica Cruz
Jeremiah Hernandez
Jesus M. Hernandez
Jose Sanchez, III
Juan Marinez

MOTION: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra moved to approve meeting minutes, with support from Commissioner Sonya Hernandez. Motion was passed.

6) Public Comment:

- a) Dale Freeman: Provided an update on where MDHHS is right now. They are focused on testing and vaccination programs right now. Migrant workers will have access to vaccine by May. MDHHS is seeking to help individuals make informed decisions about whether they will receive the vaccine or not. He also gave an update on the isolation program that was extended until February 15 with the funding they currently have available. Individuals who move need to hold onto their vaccination card. Hector Arroyo Jr from LEO shared that the FMLA expires December 31, there is an extension through the end of February. However, it is voluntary by employer.
- b) Eva Alvares (MIRC): The employee assistance grant, the funds that are available to restaurant workers. The application for this grant closes on Monday, which is concerning because we want to ensure that our people are benefitting from this. She also brought up the vaccine priority in our state. She questioned the commission whether they have discussed pushing for agriculture workers to have access sooner. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez shared that Michigan United and MIRC are already working on this.
- c) Rick Olivares (Great Lakes Energy): Rick has been charged with diversity and inclusion at his agency. He is seeking to develop a contact list with Hispanic organizations. He would like to connect with the HLCOM to share the positions available. Commissioner Monica Reyes requests that he gets the postings to Felipe.

7) Chair Reyes Report:

- a.) Chair Reyes welcomes all the new commissioners again.
- b.) Chair Reyes discusses committee assignments. Chair of PR is Sonya Hernandez. Chair for the advocacy committee is Juan Marinez. Chair for the finance committee is Esperanza Cantu. Commissioners Sonya Hernandez and Consuela Barber-Lopez will cochair the Ad Hoc Covid 19 task force. Thanks to all the commissioners for stepping up. It is requested that all the committees agree on meetings to have those scheduled on teams.
- c.) Schedule of 2021 meetings were distributed last meeting. If you need them, please request them from Felipe.
- d.) Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will deliver her State of Address on January 27. Due to Covid 19, the state of the state address will be delivered virtually. It is important for us to hear what she has to say.
- e.) Last month, Consuela Barber-Lopez shared with us some of the work she does with human trafficking. We are pleased to announce that Governor Whitmer proclaimed January 2021 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Michigan and urges people to educate themselves on this topic. There is also a video they have provided to help us prevent human trafficking.
- f.) Provided an overlook on how COVID-19 has been impacting Michigan. Chair Reyes hopes the vaccine will help us. Also, shared each county has different access to the vaccine.
- g.) Welcome to Fayrouz. Fayrouz has a few updates: HLCOM has an amazing advocate in Sonya, she is working on trying to get DACA free tuition in colleges. Currently, they are fundraising for the program (have about half a million in commitments). Commissioner asked if it was possible to include HLCOM or/and people in higher ed when they begin making decisions about eligibility and Fayrouz agreed to this. Fayrouz also mentioned they are doing everything to push better categorization for the vaccine access of migrant workers.

8) Executive Director Report:

- a.) E.D. mentioned that he has been in contact with Fayrouz. He is willing to be more involved with this program for DACA recipients. We are here to support Fayrouz and are willing to share our knowledge.
- b.) Welcome to all the new commissioners. We are very excited for their contributions.
- c.) Thank you to Daniel Carreon-Camberos. Thank you for your dedication but also congratulations on his new position. To that point, welcome to Ana Manzano for joining the team again.
- d.) The 2020 achievements booklet has been sent out to all the senators and representatives so that they are informed about everything we are doing. Some have already reached out and want to connect.
- e.) There is a roundtable right after this meeting with 4 of our Future Leaders Scholarship recipients. They will be sharing their experience, so we invite everyone to join.
- f.) There was a meeting with DHHS to discuss the vaccine. Felipe asked to be part of the communication committee because there is a lot of mistrust in government. We can post leaders and community members to help ease the distrust in our communities. We also need to be providing information in Spanish.
- g.) Chair Reyes and Felipe will be presenting at the Civil Rights Commission Meeting on January 25. It will be a short 5-minute presentation to share about the work the commission does. Mariza Gamez shared that there is a new Hispanic commissioner joining the MDCR, her name is Gloria Lara.
- h.) We are also working on setting up monthly meetings for all the committees. Please be patient as we figure this out.

9) Committee Reports

- a) **Finance Planning:** ED shared that we have not received a finance report. Felipe should receive it by Monday and will email it to all the commissioners.
- b) **Public Relations:** Committee Chair Sonya Hernandez reported for the committee. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez shares we will move forward with a virtual statewide graduation. The date is April 9 at 6 PM. We will be doing a lot of collaborative work through google docs, phone, and zoom. Chair Hernandez has requested a budget to mail serapes to the students. Commissioner Hernandez shared that higher ed (HEER) is getting more money through the CARES act, but this time DACA and undocumented students will be eligible for corona relief. Chair Hernandez also recognizes Commissioner Bocanegra for her achievement of becoming the Honorable Bocanegra. People are also reaching out about where they can get tests, this is problematic because the whole process is all online and in English. We need to advocate for more accessibility.
- c) **Advocacy:** Commissioner Juan Marinez reported on behalf of the committee. Commissioner Juan Marinez shared that Guadalupe Ayala from Lansing was appointed as Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Lansing and suggests we invite her to meet and offer our support. Commissioner Cruz transferred to the finance committee and Angela Baldwin's term ended, so they are welcoming Florenio Hernandez to the committee. He also recommended that Oscar Castaneda be the speaker on Gerrymandering for today's meeting. He also gave an update that Commissioner Consuela, Sonya, Abril, and Celeste will take on the Ad Hoc COVID-19 task force committee. They will be responsible for providing information during the commission meetings on this issue. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez asked about the AG lawsuit against higher education and brought up that we need to advocate for better data on DACA students at colleges. Felipe shared they requested a lot of information we did not have. Commissioner Cruz shared that even in her role, she must infer sometimes with the data that they do collect, she agreed that this is something she can bring up at her next meeting.

d) Covid-19 Task Force Committee: They are meeting next week. We need to add them for next commission meeting.

10) Old Business:

- a. No old business at this time.

11) New Business:

- a. Presentation by Dr. Oscar Castaneda who is an MSU alum. He is an advocate for immigrants in the Greater Lansing area after getting stripped of his status. Oscar presented on the issue of Gerrymandering in Michigan. This is important because historically this system has been abused and has been used to steal elections. He shared there was a commission created to address this issue, but it can be a double edge sword. He suggests going to the commission's website and keeping up with what they are doing. Commissioner Juan Marinez brought up that the pie chart of those who applied to the position did not include Hispanic/Latinos, this needs additional conversation on why.

12) Announcements:

- a. Due to the time constraint, please email any announcements to Felipe.
- b. Our next commission meeting date will be on March 19, 2021. The staff will communicate to commissioners and constituents once a meeting flyer is made.

13) Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bocanegra and supported by Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez. Motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica B. Reyes, Chairperson Date

Juanita Bocanegra, Trustee Date