

MINUTES OF THE MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair

Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.

Bobbie A. Gaunt

Renee Haley

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officio and Liaisons included Geralyn Lasher, Community Health; Mary McLellan, Civil Rights; Donna Wilson, Civil Service; Heidi Washington, Corrections; Wendy Fitzner, Environmental Quality; Denise Stork-Phillips, Human Services; Ruthanne Okun, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; Jennifer Nelson, Michigan Economic Development Corporation; and Sgt. Julie Busch, State Police. Attendees included Tammy Melininski.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) State Representative Sam Singh, of East Lansing, welcomed the Commission and emphasized the importance of the commission's three issue areas.
- 3) Paulette Granberry Russell, Director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives and Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity, brought greetings on behalf of Michigan State University.
- 4) It was moved and seconded to adopt the October 21, 2013 meeting minutes, as corrected. Passed.
- 5) Elizabeth Thompson reported on the Symposium to mark the 50th Anniversary of President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women, held in Washington, D.C.
- 6) Susy Avery presented the 2013 Annual Report of the Commission. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2013 Annual Report, as presented. The motion passed. The report will be sent to the Governor.
- 7) Susy Avery reminded the commissioners that revisions to our current strategic plan will be presented, finalized and voted on at the April 9 meeting.
- 8) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:  
Comm. Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking: Commissioners are specifically targeting outreach efforts to health care providers. Commissioners, working with regional human trafficking task forces, conducted events and trainings, and facilitated use of public service announcements and a sample op-ed.  
Comm. Gaunt – Helping Michigan's Women Veterans: Commissioners listed outreach efforts to publicize the female veterans' survey, including targeting agencies specifically serving women (as women may not self-identify as veterans) as well as veterans service agencies and social media. Commissioners are working on an informational piece listing resources and services for female veterans.  
Comm. Etienne - Helping Women in Business; MWC social media: Commissioners are compiling lists of all Michigan publically traded companies and their board members, as well as nominating committee

members. Commissioners hope to develop a strategy to identify qualified women and share this information with nominating committees. No progress on website redesign was reported.

9) Tammy Melinski complimented the Commission on its FaceBook page and use of social media.

10) The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., April 9, 2014 at the University of Michigan-Flint campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brook Thompson, Chair

#### MINUTES OF THE MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

University of Michigan - Flint, 303 East Kearsley, Flint, MI 48502

#### PRESENT:

##### Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair

Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.

Bobbie A. Gaunt

Krista Harountunian

Jay Kommareddi

Cathleen M. Knauf

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Alyssa Martina

Kathleen Vogelsang

Mary P. Whiteford

##### Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program; Rachel O'Connor, Intern  
Ex-Officio and Liaisons included Ron Robinson, Attorney General; Geralyn Lasher, Community Health;  
Mary McLellan, Civil Rights; Donna Wilson, Civil Service; Wendy Fitzner, Environmental Quality;  
Ruthanne Okun, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; Amy Cell, Michigan Economic Development  
Corporation; Michelle Strobel, Secretary of State; Sgt. Julie Busch, State Police; Laura Mester,  
Transportation; Melissa Castro, Treasury; and Ingrid Tighe, Veterans Affairs. Attendees included Dr.  
Barbara Bolin, MI Stem Partnership; Lejiah Harris; Lynn Hendges, MVAA; Heather Laube; Bryanna  
McGarry, Sen. Ananich's office; Katrina Robinson; Tiffany Shebli; and Jessica Tischler, Ph.D. .

##### CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) David Lossing, Director for Government Relations, brought greetings on behalf of UM-Flint.
- 3) It was moved and seconded to adopt the January 11, 2014 meeting minutes, as corrected. Passed.
- 4) Rushika Patel, Ph.D., welcomed the Commission on behalf of the Women's Educational Center, UM – Flint. She introduced the panel of speakers from the University of Michigan – Flint: , Murali Mani, PhD, CSEP; Jill Witt, Ph.D., Biology, and Monque Wilhelm, DEEP. The panelists stressed the importance of increasing women's involvement in STEM careers and identified potential barriers, which include lack of mentors at the professional level, perception that STEM careers are not welcoming to women, and elementary school students' perceptions that STEM careers are not "feminine", that is, you can't be "girly" and a scientist.
- 5) Susy Avery stated that the revised strategic plan will be presented for approval at the August 11 meeting.

6) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:  
Comm. Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking: Commissioners are specifically targeting outreach efforts to health care providers. Commissioners, working with regional human trafficking task forces, conducted presentations, events and trainings, and facilitated use of public service announcements and a sample op-ed.

Comm. Gaunt – Helping Michigan’s Women Veterans: Commissioners listed outreach efforts that will be used to publicize the female veterans’ survey, including targeting agencies specifically serving women (as women may not self-identify as veterans) as well as veterans service agencies and social media. Commissioners are working on an informational piece listing resources and services for female veterans.

Comm. Etienne - Helping Women in Business; MWC social media: Commissioners are compiling lists of all Michigan publically traded companies and their board members, as well as nominating committee members. Commissioners hope to develop a strategy to identify qualified women and share this information with nominating committees. Website redesign is removed as a goal.

9) Reports from liaisons included Geralyn Lasher, MDCH liaison, reporting on the Healthy Michigan plan.

10) The next Commission meeting will be at 2:00 p.m., August 11, 2014, location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brook Thompson, Chair

#### MINUTES OF THE MICHIGAN WOMEN’S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bay Harbor Conference Center, 4000 Main Street, Bay Harbor MI 49770

#### PRESENT:

##### Commissioners

Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair

Jay Kommareddi

Janice Nearon

Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.

Cathleen M. Knauf

Kathleen Vogelsang

Meg Derrer

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Mary P. Whiteford

Renee Haley

Alyssa Martina

Carol Zimmer

##### Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officio and Liaisons included Wendy Fitzner, MDEQ; Laura Mester, MDOT; Jen Nelson, MEDC; Heidi Washington, MDOC; Michael Zimmer, Acting Director, LARA; guests included William Nearon, Margaret Stanton, Judith Varner, and Philip Vogelsang. By telephone: Comm. Bobbie Gaunt, Liaisons Ruthanne Okun, LARA and Capt. Monica Yesh, MSP.

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Etienne called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) William Fraser, Mayor of Petoskey, welcomed us to the region.
- 3) It was moved and seconded to adopt the April 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Passed.
- 4) Chris Etienne introduced our speaker, Cheryl Bachelder, president of Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen, who spoke on servant leadership. She stated that women need to “work on boldness.” Leaders must have a “bold ambition” for their organization, and track that ambition.
- 5) Susy Avery welcomed our new Commissioner, Meg Derrer.
- 6) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:

Comm. Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking:

40 awareness sessions have been conducted/facilitated, exceeding the plan’s measure. 5 health care entities and 4 entities in the education community have been contacted. In the coming plan period, commissioners will conduct/facilitate 20 awareness session, initiate contact with 5 new entities with an emphasis on health care, and initiate contact with a minimum of 3 new entities with an emphasis on education. On August 27, three county medical societies will joining to film a short educational video, “Doctors Against Trafficking” for the medical community. Comm. Knauf is exploring a middle school curriculum. Commissioners continue to work with regional task forces.

Comm. Haley – Helping Michigan’s Women Veterans:

The 2014 Michigan Women Veterans Survey has gone “live” and a press release has been issued. The link is: <http://www.research.net/s/michiganwomenveteranssurvey> . Commissioners will be encouraging their networks to respond. Commissioners also plan to attend the 2015 Ohio Women Veterans conference and hope to bring a similar event to Michigan.

Comm. Etienne - Helping Women in Business; MWC social media:

The group’s revised goal is to increase the number of women on corporate board. They have researched public companies in Michigan, and plan to focus on mid-size companies. They are exploring search firms, and finding out about university board readiness programs to determine future partnerships.

7) In public comment, Michael Zimmer, Acting Director, LARA, described Michigan’s outreach to skilled immigrants, and pointed out that many of those immigrants were women seeking a role in the economy.

10) The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m. , October 15, 2014, in Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair

Draft Minutes of the Michigan Women’s Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Radisson Downtown Lansing, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

Present:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.

Meg Derrer

Bobbie Gaunt

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officios and Departmental Liaisons

Ingrid Tighe (MVAA), Wendy Fitzner (MDEQ), Denise Stork-Phillips (MDHS), Heidi Washington (MDOC), Mary McLellan (MDCR), Cindy Fellner (MSP), Ron Robinson (AG), Ruthanne Okun (LARA), Lisa Shoemaker (SBO), Michelle Strobel (MDOS), Marchan Darby (MDTMB), Nancy Short (Office of the Governor) and others.

Call to Order:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the August 11, 2014 meeting minutes, as amended. Passed.
- 3) Chair Thompson introduced Jeff Barnes, Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), who, with Ingrid Tighe, MVAA Employment Analyst, gave an update on the agency's status and initiatives. The agency's focus is on four areas: employment, education health care, quality of life, as well as Michigan's veterans homes. See <http://www.michiganveterans.com/> . Women veterans are the fastest growing group of veterans, currently 7% of veterans. The proportion will increase to 20% in the coming years.
- 4) Executive Director Avery introduced Karen Phillipi, Deputy Director, Office for New Americans, who gave a presentation on the new agency's status and initiatives. See <http://michigan.gov/ona> .
- 5) Chair Thompson called for Advisory and Special Committee reports:
  - A) Commissioner Kommareddi reported on events attended and planned to raise awareness of human trafficking. The committee is working with medical societies to raise awareness in the medical community, including sponsoring a January visit to various Michigan cities by Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, from the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children, Atlanta, GA;
  - B) Vice Chair Etienne reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards;
  - C) Chair Thompson reported on recruitment efforts for the Michigan women veterans survey, and events attended;
  - D) Progress was reported on 2015 Young Women, Strong Leaders conference planning. The conference will be held on the campus of Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.
- 6) It was moved and seconded to adopt the updated Strategic Plan. Passed.
- 7) Matt Wesaw, Director of the Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights, was introduced.
- 8) Mary Lou Mason, one of this year's inductees into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, was introduced.
- 9) Chair Thompson called for reports from Ex-Officio Members and departmental liaisons, and public comment.

The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., January 13, 2015, at the Radisson, 111. N. Grand Ave., Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brooke Thompson, Chair