

Minutes of the Michigan Women's Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2015, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Radisson Downtown Lansing, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

Present:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair,	Renee Haley	Janice Nearon
Chris Etienne, Vice Chair	Jay Kommareddi	Kathleen Vogelsang
Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.	Cathleen Knauf	Mary Whiteford
Meg Derrer	Deidre Lambert-Bounds	Carol Zimmer
Bobbie Gaunt		

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officios and Departmental Liaisons

Wendy Fitzner (MDEQ), Denise Stork-Phillips (MDHS), Heidi Washington (MDOC), Mary McLellan (MDCR), Ruthanne Okun (LARA), Michelle Strobel (MDOS), Marchan Darby (MDTMB), Geralyn Lasher (MDCH), Maria Tysckiewicz (MDARD). Nancy Short (Office of the Governor), and others

Absent:
Commissioner Krista Haroutunian (participated by telephone), Commissioner Alyssa Martina

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) Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program, introduced Suzanne Pauley, Director, eMichigan and her staff, John Estill, Anne Nolan and Michelle Stiffler, to demonstrate our new website <http://www.michigan.gov/mwc>, and discuss eMichigan initiatives. eMichigan supports 113 agency/program sites and 4 web design experts. The Commissioners thanked them for the wonderful website design.
- 4) Susy Avery, Executive Director, introduced Oakland County Commissioner Marsha Gershenson, who spoke about a new Women's Advisory Group in the county.
- 5) Vice Chair Etienne reported on Advocating for Women in Business workgroup activities.
- 6) Commissioner Kommareddi reported on Awareness of Human Trafficking workgroup activities and awareness events, including the video produced by the Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County Medical Societies. See <http://macombcms.org/human-trafficking> to view the video. Dr. Jordon Greenbaum, expert on sex trafficking of children, made presentations for medical professionals in Flint, Detroit, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, as well as doing radio interviews, on a "tour" facilitated by the workgroup.
- 7) Chair Thompson reported on Helping Women Veterans workgroup activities, including attendance at meetings establishing Veterans Community Action Teams in mid-Michigan. The Michigan Women Veterans Survey will close at the end of January, 2015.

8) Executive Director Avery reported that a draft 2014 Annual Report will be sent to all Commissioners within the next ten days (it is delayed due to her work computer issues this year). She reported on the three 'Women Strengthening Michigan' conversations held in October that the MWC co-sponsored along with Governor Snyder, Inforum, MI Women's Foundation and others.

9) The Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference will be held at Central Michigan University on April 3.

10) Emily Fijol, Executive Director, Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame , <http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org/> explained the nominating process for the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and gave an update on the NUWARNE exhibit and reception that will be sponsored by the Commission.

11) Chair Thompson reported that our New Business will be to welcome and congratulate the women legislators attending our reception, immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

12) Chair Thompson called for Ex-Officio and Liaisons reports and public comment. Geralyn Lasher (MDCH) reported on the enrollment in Healthy Michigan, which has exceeded predictions. 52% of enrollees are women.

The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., April 13, 2015, at the Van Andel Institute, 333 Bostwick Ave. NE, Grand Rapids.

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

Respectfully submitted, Brooke Thompson, Chair

Minutes of the Michigan Women's Commission Meeting

April 13, 2015 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Van Andel Research Institute, 333 Bostwick Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Present:

Commissioners

Chair Brook Thompson

Krista Haroutunian

Cathleen Knauf

Joanne Dawley

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director

Vice Chair Chris Etienne

Kathleen Vogelsang

Janice Nearon

Jay Kommareddi

Bobbie Gaunt

Meg Derrer

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Mary Whiteford

Ex-Officios and Liaisons:

Mary McLellan(MDCR), Ruth Okun,(LARA); Tammy Flyn (TIA), Monica Yesh(MSP), Wendy Fitzner(MDEQ), Marchan Darby (M DTMB). Participating by conference phone: Patty Cantu (M DOE), Denise Stork-Phillips(M HHS), Melissa Castro(Treasury). Others present included Mary Drew and Colleen Pero (Attorney General), Jordan Hoyer, Jan Peabody and Diane Trombley

Absent

Commissioners Alyssa Martina (participated by conference phone), Renee Haley (participated by conference phone), Carol Zimmer (excused)

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) Chair Thompson introduced Dr. Jana Hall, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chief Operations Officer, Van Andel Institute, who welcomed the Commission to the Van Andel Research Institute. See <http://www.vai.org/>
- 3) Commissioner Vogelsang introduced Dr. Cindy Miranti, Ph.D. who discussed the challenges of women choosing a career in the STEM field and the opportunities provided by WISER (Women in Science, Education and Research), an ongoing program at the Van Andel Institute.
- 4) Executive Director Avery introduced Colleen Pero from the Attorney General's office, the Project Manager for the new standing Human Trafficking Commission, housed in the Department of the Attorney General. She explained the various issues that will be considered by the new Commission, which will also apply for grant funding in the near future. See http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-60857_67980---,00.html
- 5) Executive Director Avery introduced Mary Drew of the Attorney General's office who described the Attorney General's school anti-bullying initiative, entitled OK2SAY. It is a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. See <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say>
- 6) Chair Thompson called for Advisory and Special Committee reports:
 - A) Commissioner Kommareddi reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking group;
 - 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 that the Women Veterans group met with a West Michigan group. The woman veteran survey's raw data is being analyzed by a Data Analyst, with hopes that survey results can soon be published.
- 7) Executive Director Avery reported that Commissioner Nearon had been nominated for an Athena Award by the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce and that Commissioner Kommareddi will receive the Dr. Clement Alfred Humanitarian Award from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds had participated in a panel at the U.S. Army TACOM LCMC Warren facility for a celebration of Women's History Month.
- 8) Executive Director Avery reported that the Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference, held April 3 at Central Michigan University was very successful. 150 young women registered. Commissioners Etienne and Whiteford attended and helped at this year's conference.
- 9) Chair Thompson announced that since Elizabeth Thompson, Program Director, was on medical leave, the October, 2014 and January, 2015 meeting minutes would be approved at the August meeting.
- 10) Patty Cantu invited everyone to the MDOE 'Breaking Traditions' event on May 13th Wendy Fitzner invited everyone to MDEQ-sponsored activities on Earth Day, April 22nd, . Monica Yesh, MSP, reported on a recruiting

event in Detroit, and emphasized that the MSP are actively recruiting women and minorities to consider a career in law enforcement.

The next Commission meeting is on Monday, August 10, 2015 in Sault Ste. Marie. Details regarding the specific location will be announced shortly.

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

Respectfully submitted, Brook Thompson, Chair

Minutes of the Michigan Women's Commission Meeting
August 10, 2015 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, Sault Saint Marie, MI 49783

Present:

Commissioners

Vice Chair Chris Etienne	Joanne Dawley	Meg Derrer
Bobbie Gaunt	Renee Haley	Cathleen Knauf
Alyssa Martina	Kathleen Vogelsang	Mary Whiteford

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director
Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officios and Liaisons:

Destinie Shipman, MDOC; Lynn Hendges, MVAA (representing Kristina Leonardi)
Participating by phone: Capt. Monica Yesh, MSP; Patty Cantu, MDOE; Denise Stork, MDHHS; Tammy Newcomb, MDNR; Marchan Darby, DTMB; Melissa Castro, Treasury.

Attendees included The Honorable Wayne Schmidt, State Senator for District 37; The Honorable Anthony Bosbous, Mayor, Sault Ste. Marie; Danielle Branz, Special Assistant to Congressman Dan Benishek.

Absent:

Commissioners Krista Harountunian (excused), Jay Kommareddi (excused), Deidre Lambert-Bounds (excused, but participated by phone), Janice Nearon (excused)

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) The Honorable Wayne Schmidt, State Senator for District 37, welcomed the Commission to his district. He spoke about the expansion of health care services, a critical industry in his district, in Cheboygan and Sault Ste. Marie, and business school expansion at Lake Superior State University.
- 2) The Honorable Anthony Bosbous, Mayor, Sault Ste. Marie, welcomed the Commission to Sault Sainte Marie, which will be celebrating its 350th anniversary in 2018.
- 3) Danielle Branz, Special Assistant to Congressman Dan Benishek, brought greetings on behalf of Congressman Benishek and his thanks for the Commission's Women Veterans Initiative.

4) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.

5) Susy Avery introduced the speaker, Susan Puska, President & CEO, Kanava International, LLC, a woman-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, small business located in Sault Ste. Marie. After a 29 year Army career, she went back to school to get an MBA, and began her business in 2012.

Ms. Puska described Kanava, which focuses on opportunities that can link international and domestic economic development skills, knowledge, and experience to promote economic growth in communities around the world by providing offerings in management capacity building and global services. Her goal, in the Soo, is to help small businesses take advantage of global trade opportunities. She pointed out that Sault Ste. Marie has HUB-zone status (historically underutilized business area), helping businesses such as her to compete for federal contracts. The HUB zone is crucial in helping promote economic development in the area that can address the problems of Chippewa County: outmigration of people and businesses, and poverty. She mentioned the opportunities for Michigan businesses to do business on a global level. 70% of the world's purchasing power is outside the U.S., but less than 1 % of American companies export. She suggested working with federal contracts could provide great opportunities. Women-owned businesses can be self-certified. It is worth becoming certified if you wish to compete in the "government space." (See <https://www.sba.gov/content/women-owned-small-business-program>)

6) Vice-Chair Etienne called for Advisory and Special Committee reports:

A) Commissioner Gaunt reported on the preliminary findings of the Women Veterans survey. The three major areas of concern were housing/homelessness; jobs; and the health issues of PTSD and MST (military sexual trauma). Survey findings will be presented to stakeholders in the next month. The committee will explore doing a second survey in partnership with Grand Valley State University. The committee also discussed the need to create a registry of returning veterans, similar to that of Ohio. Commissioners Gaunt and Haley will be attending the Ohio Women Veterans Conference in Columbus. Destinie Shipman, MDOC, reported that the department is working on identifying veterans in the corrections system, to link them to veterans programs that can help with reintegration.

B) Commissioner Knauf reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking group, including Comm. Derrer's participation in a new task force in Kent County; a \$50,000 grant received by the Ottawa/Allegan County task force (Comm. Whiteford), , Comm. Lambert-Bounds and Nearon's involvement with Delta Sigma Theta's "Breaking Every Chain" program; Comm. Kommareddi's work with Dr. Greenbaum in validating a screening tool for health providers; Comm. Knauf's work with the SW Michigan task force on fundraising, and her planned meeting with the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association's board to ask for the support of a training program on recognizing human trafficking for the hospitality industry.

C) Vice Chair Etienne reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards. They developed a letter to be sent to heads of publically-traded companies in Michigan to thank them for putting women on their boards and ask for advice about getting more women placed on boards. The committee hopes to encourage further dialog on this question and will explore working with the Dean of the Business School at GVSU on this issue. Commissioners Dawley, Etienne and Vogelsang will be attending the Chicago meeting of the National Association of Corporate Directors and will report back to the Commission.

7) It was moved and seconded that the costs of transportation for the Allegan Veteran's Fair (Comm. Gaunt and Whiteford will be organizing this event)be provided by the Michigan Women's Commission. Motion passed.

8) The minutes of October, 2014, January, 2015, and April 2015 were approved, as corrected.

9) The following potential meeting dates were approved: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (Lansing); Monday, April 18, 2016; Friday, August 12, 2016; Thursday, October 13, 2016 (Locations: TBD)

10) The next Commission meeting is on Friday, October 16, in Livonia, at the Vis-Ta-Tech Center at Schoolcraft College.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair

Minutes of the Michigan Women's Commission Meeting
October 16, 2015 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Schoolcraft College, VisTaTech Center, Room 425
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152-2696

Present:

Commissioners

Vice Chair Chris Etienne	Joanne Dawley	Meg Derrer	Bobbie Gaunt
Renee Haley	Krista Haroutunian	Jay Kommareddi	Cathleen Knauf
Deidre Lambert-Bounds	Alyssa Martina	Janice Nearon	Kathleen Vogelsang

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director
Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Program

Ex-Officios and Liaisons:

Destinie Shipman, MDOC; Lynn Hendges, MVAA (representing Kristina Leonardi); Ruthanne Okun, MLARA;
Wendy Fitzner, MDEQ; Capt. Monica Yesh, MSP; Marchan Darby, MDTMB

Participating by phone: Patty Cantu, MDOE; Denise Stork, MDHHS; Melissa Castro, Treasury.

Attendees included Kate Logan, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency; Joyce Cade-Hitchye.

Absent:

Commissioner Mary Whiteford (excused)

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) Susy Avery introduced Ari B. Adler, Special Projects Manager, Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder. He reported on gubernatorial initiatives, including increased funding for K-12 education, pre-K programs, and training for skilled trades; the Healthy Michigan Initiative expansion of health care benefits to 605,000 Michiganders; the Healthy Kids Dental program now covering Wayne, Oakland and Kent Counties.; First Lady Sue Snyder's initiative to end sexual assault on college campuses; and clearing the backlog of untested rape kits, with a 7.5 million federal grant to help with processing and prosecution. The governor will be introducing a plan

to address the fiscal crisis in Detroit Public Schools, and forming a taskforce to develop a plan to counter the statewide problem of increasing heroin and opioid abuse.

3) Susy Avery introduced Karen Phillippi, Deputy Director, Michigan Office for New Americans. She reported on the Office's purpose, to make Michigan a more welcoming state. It is one of four such offices in the country. She noted their Global Michigan Initiative to retain and attract business to Michigan shares best practices. 20 guides have been created to help skilled immigrants obtain occupational licenses in Michigan.

4) Vice-Chair Etienne called for Advisory and Special Committee reports:

A) Ex. Director Avery and Commissioner Haley reported on their testimony before the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security Committee, on the preliminary findings of the Women Veterans survey. The three major areas of concern were housing/homelessness; jobs; and the health issues of PTSD and MST (military sexual trauma). Ex. Director Avery and Elizabeth Thompson presented similar testimony before the House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Haley reported on her attendance at the Ohio Women Veterans Conference in Columbus. 450 women veterans attended. She said that Ohio was able to contact so many women veterans as the result of a Veterans Bonus Program. When individuals applied for the bonus, the contact information provided allowed the veterans agency to then share information about available programs and benefits with the applicant. Also, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services has a permanent Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. Commissioner Haley recommended that Michigan work to hosting its own statewide women veterans conference and explore a permanent advisory committee. The committee will continue to explore conducting a follow-up survey in partnership with Grand Valley State University.

B) Commissioner Kommareddi reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking committee, including Commissioner Knauf's efforts that lead to a partnership between the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association (MLTA), the Michigan Women's Commission, the South West Michigan Human Trafficking Force and the Safe Action Project. The Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association has joined the Safe Action Project, a project to train hospitality employees about the warning signs of human trafficking, with a focus on child sex trafficking. Commissioner Kommareddi met with the new health care advisory board staff and members to advise on training for health care professionals on human trafficking. 3 MWC Commissioners attended the statewide human trafficking two-day conference. Commissioners met with Beth Emmet, of the Governor's Executive Office, to brief her on human trafficking awareness activities.

C) Vice Chair Etienne reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards. Commissioners Dawley, Etienne and Vogelsang attended the Chicago meeting of the National Association of Corporate Directors and gained valuable networking contacts. The committee sent letters to heads of publically-traded companies in Michigan to thank them for putting women on their boards and ask for advice about getting more women placed on boards. The committee worked with Dean Diana Lawson, Seidman College of Business, Grand Valley State University, to discuss a survey that faculty will be conducting in early 2016. The survey will target women who are members of corporate boards, and ask them how questions about how and why they gained membership on a corporate board.

5) The minutes of August 10, 2015 were approved.

6) Mary McLellan, Commission Liaison, Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights, reported on the activities of the other Commissions housed in the Michigan Department of civil Rights.

7) Patricia Majher, Editor, *Michigan History* <https://www.hsmichigan.org/publications/michiganhistory/> , spoke about her new book, *Great Girls in Michigan History* <http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/great-girls-michigan-history> , which features girls from Michigan's past who did amazing things before they turned twenty years old.

8). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at the Downtown Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, 48933.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Etienne, Vice-Chair