

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2020

Capitol Tower

110 W. Michigan Ave. Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48909
1:00pm

Attendance

Chair Chris Etienne, Vice Chair Muna Jondy, Commissioner Charity Dean, Commissioner Meg Wheeler Derrer, Commissioner Whitney Gravelle, Commissioner Renee Haley, Commissioner Catherine Hendrian, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Cathleen Knauf, Commissioner Barbara Land, Commissioner Alisha Meneely, Commissioner Kelli Saunders, MWC Executive Director Cheryl Bergman, and MWC Chief Strategy Officer Shannon Garrett were in attendance.

Commissioner JoAnn Chavez, Commissioner Krista Haroutunian and Commissioner Dr. Geneva Williams were excused.

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.
2. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.
3. Welcome and introduction of MWC Chief Strategy Officer, Shannon Garrett, by MWC Executive Director Cheryl Bergman.
4. Introduction of guest speaker by Commissioner Lambert-Bounds
5. Guest speaker, Peg Tallet, Industrial Sewing and Innovation Center (ISAIC)
 - a. ISAIC is based in Detroit, created to address needs in the community and to re-envision the apparel manufacturing industry.
 - b. Programs and partnerships that put employees, students and trainers central to the process.
 - c. Contracts to create product for large name brands.
 - d. "Greater efficiency. More jobs. Better best practices."
 - e. For more info, visit <https://www.isaic.org>.
6. It was motioned to approve the agenda and unanimously passed.
7. Executive Director's Report
 - a. The Commission office has held three more conversations on gender equity: one in Washtenaw County and two in SE MI (West Bloomfield and Detroit).
 - i. Governor is listening to outcomes from all gender equity conversations. She is hearing the women and using the information to inform her agenda. State of the State address is January 29, and we expect she will mention a couple of policy items coming out of these conversations.
 - ii. The Commission office will send a follow-up email to all conversation participants following the Governor's State of the State address.
 - iii. Several local projects are organically growing out of these conversations, including:
 - a. In Genesee County, several participants formed

- a partnership to mentor and bring up board-ready women for local nonprofits and foundations.
 - b. In Kent County, participants felt the event ended up being very White-centered, and a diverse group met to consider how to change this as the starting frame. As a result, the group is hosting "Understanding Our Role in Anti-Racism Work: A Conversation for White Women" on January 29 in Grand Rapids. This will be a facilitated discussion on examining White privilege, elevating marginalized voices, and acknowledging racism and bias. All Commissioners are invited to attend.
 - c. Next conversation is scheduled for February 28 in Traverse City. Possibly also Jackson in March. Commission office will continue to do these throughout the State throughout year.
 - b. The Commission will hold a Strategic Planning Retreat this spring to set policy priorities, goals and timelines for 2020 and beyond.
 - i. Commissioners should watch for an email attempting to nail down a date.
 - ii. Commissioner Saunders will assist with securing donated space.
 - iii. Chief Strategy Officer Garrett will outline retreat and desired outcomes, and work to secure outside facilitators if needed.
 - c. March is Women's History Month and the Commission has been asked to help prioritize events around the state for the Governor to attend and/or for Commissioners to attend.
 - i. Commissioners with knowledge about Women's History Month events should send them to Chief Strategy Officer Garrett with recommendations.
 - ii. Commissioner Dean is working on a Detroit city-wide Women's Summit to celebrate 2020 as a Presidential Election Year, a Census Year and the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. She will share ways that fellow Commissioners can get involved.
 - iii. Commissioner Gravelle asked that the Commission's social media be used throughout the month to highlight women not typically spotlighted. Chief Strategy Officer Garrett will work with Commissioners and other to ensure this happens.
 - d. Director Bergman is currently working on the annual report to the Governor.
 - i. Committee Chairs should expect requests for help and input on the final annual report.
8. Report of Committee on Women in Business (STEM, Resources, Boards, Leadership), by Commissioner Lambert-Bounds
- a. Representative Rebekah Warren and Sarah Triplett, Office of Public Affairs, State of Michigan, joined the committee meeting. Rep. Warren is working on a resolution and a bill to encourage MI public businesses to get more women on their boards.
 - b. The Commission has more STEM bookmarks available to

- distribute. Commissioners should feel free to request them for appropriate events they might be attending or sponsoring.
- c. The Committee is working with Executive Director Bergman to research options for a potential "Governor's Seal of Excellence," which would spotlight Michigan businesses that understand and practice gender equity.
9. Report of Committee on Women Veterans, by Commissioner Saunders
- a. Planning is underway for a Women Veterans 5k, on Saturday, June 13, at the Capitol Building in Lansing.
 - i. Erika Hoover, Women Veterans and Special Populations Coordinator at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, reported that they are partnering with Has Heart (a veteran-owned nonprofit that designs patches and t-shirts based on veteran stories) and that June 12 is the launch of the agency's She Is a Veteran campaign.
 - ii. The 5k planning team is almost ready for sponsorships and to open registration. All fundraising will go toward event operations and all registration fees will go toward this year's partner charity, Habitat for Humanity. The goal is 350 runners/walkers.
 - b. Commissioner Haley discussed how incredible it is to see this focus on women veterans finally come together, for this recognition to happen after years of spinning wheels. Commissioner Meneely is still working on two adventures from Moxie Wild.
 - c. Commissioner Haley reported that the Michigan Women's Veterans Forum private Facebook group is now over 200 women, providing a great way to share information and resources with female veterans around the state.
10. Report of Committee on Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault, by Commissioner Knauf
- a. Commissioner Knauf reported that the committee is now solely focused on human trafficking.
 - b. Commissioner Knauf reported that the Southwestern Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force has completed a grant that resulted in a comparison chart of human trafficking programs for Michigan healthcare providers. The State of Michigan has new medical rules requiring continuing education on standards for identifying victims of human trafficking. The chart is available on their website. The Health Curriculum was funded through the Berrien Community Foundations For Good Grant.
 - c. Yanfeng/Adient's Care and Share Program has provided training funds for the training of educators or those working with students with the Power Over Predators program.
 - d. Stickers have been made with the Task Force hotline to distribute throughout communities to help publicize the hotline.
 - e. The Task Force will be doing billboards before Memorial Day ahead of the PGA coming to southwest Michigan.
 - f. In March, they will have a community event training, broken out by industry, on what to look for to be alert to human trafficking.
 - g. Commissioner Gravelle reported that she is working with Michigan's 12 tribes to develop a listserv and model tribal code around trafficking. Sovereignty presents unique jurisdictional issues for law enforcement and some more intentional structure is needed, especially to support

casinos in the efforts to spot and end trafficking.

- h. Commissioner Gravelle shared that May is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women month. Watch for events drawing attention to this crisis.
 - i. Commissioner Meneely reported that the Michigan Human Trafficking Commissioner, housed within the Attorney General's Office, has put forward 31 proposals to reform and update Michigan's human trafficking laws. Chief Strategy Officer Garrett will work with Commissioner Meneely to track down the proposals and share with Commissioners.
11. Report of Millennial Advisory Committee, by Commissioner Hendrian
- a. Commissioner Hendrian reported the committee is pivoting on its prior strategy. Last year's actions were around women's health care with a focus on solutions at the point of treatment. After discussion today, in order to better connect with the Commission and with the Governor's agenda, the committee decided to shift focus to a summit on women's health. The summit will be in connection with University of Michigan Hospital, sometime this fall. The committee sees this as a way to continue its efforts on health care but free us up to support other committees.
 - b. The committee may also pick up some projects in the space of campus sexual assault. No specific path forward yet; will be determined after the Commission's larger strategic planning session.
 - c. It was suggested that committee representatives may want to meet with Debi Cain in DHHS or her staff around campus sexual assault.
12. Old Business
- a. None.
13. Approval of minutes of November 12, 2019 meeting
- a. It was motioned to approve the minutes and unanimously passed.
14. New Business
- a. Led by Executive Director Bergman, the Commissioners considered and agreed to locations for the remaining 2020 Commission Meeting Dates:
 - i. Tuesday, April 21, 2020 will take place in Muskegon.
 - 1. Commissioner Derrer will identify and confirm a speaker, and will work with the Commission office to secure a meeting space.
 - ii. Monday, August 10, 2020 will take place in the Upper Peninsula, likely in Brimley.
 - 1. Commissioner Gravelle will host, invite local groups and partners to join the Commission meeting, and arrange for a community tour. She is currently working on donated meeting space and discounted hotel space.
 - iii. Tuesday, October 6, 2020 will take place in Flint.
 - 1. Vice Chair Jondy will identify and confirm a speaker, and will work with the Commission office to secure a meeting space.
15. Commissioner Reports
- a. None.
16. Ex Officio and Liaison Reports
- a. Erika Hoover, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, announced that she has been promoted to Women Veterans Coordinator, a new division that encompasses women and special populations, such as LGBTQ,

Indigenous and homeless veterans. She thanked the Commission in advance for its support for the upcoming She Is A Veteran campaign.

- b. Tari Muniz, DHHS Aging and Adult Services Agency, introduced herself and shared about services for older women.
 - c. Anne Brown, Ingham County Representative for US Representative Elissa Slotkin, introduced herself as a resource to the Commission and others.
 - d. Chelsea Fraley, Mid-MI Regional Coordinator for US Senator Gary Peters, also introduced herself as a resource for help at the federal level.
17. Public Comment (Public Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.)
- a. None.
18. Meeting Ended at 2:55pm.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Chair Chris Etienne.